

Message From the President

— MARY WALDEN, RN, MSN, CWOCA

As I reflect on my priorities post-Katrina and Rita, it is amazing how perspectives can change in the face of a tragic event. Conversations with co-workers, friends, and family have a common theme. Did you see the news? When do you think people will be allowed to return home? How long do you think it will take to re-build the coast (Mississippi)? Katrina has brought out the very best in many, the worst in a small percent, and an appreciation for the norm in all of us. As nurses, we are accustomed to seeing the good and the bad in people during times of crisis. The nurses in the affected areas put patients first! Nursing is a noble caring profession, I am proud to say I am a nurse!

As a Mississippian, I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your thoughts, prayers, donations and assistance during this tragedy. The generosity of the nation is greatly appreciated and has been incredible. To the many of you who have donated personal time to provide professional services in the affected areas, thank you. Your willingness to give of yourself has allowed the nurses in the affected areas to care for their own families.

It will take years for Mississippi to recover, hopefully the Louisiana coast will fare better. We will all be stronger and better prepared for future events as a result of Hurricane Katrina and Rita.



Three New WOCNCB® Board Members Elected

The WOCNCB® Board of Directors extends its thanks to all certificants who took the time to vote in the 2005 WOCNCB® elections. The percentage of certified WOCN's participating in the election process has increased once again this year (nearly 12%). All five candidates of this year's election were well qualified to represent WOC certificants.

Carol Calianno, Diana Gallagher, and Donna Loehner were elected. At the fall Board meeting they will be introduced to the Board and oriented to Board duties. We are looking forward to working with these three experienced, focused, and energetic women and extend a warm welcome to them. They were elected from an outstanding slate of nominees.

● *continued on page 2*

*I*t is with heartfelt sympathy that we are including this message. The **hurricane** aftermath has left many things on hold and forced new beginnings for countless people. The WOCNCB® realizes in this difficult time that it is necessary to shift priorities. The WOCNCB® will be automatically extending certification credentials for candidates from affected areas keeping them valid through March 31, 2006. We sincerely hope this will lend some assistance. Please contact the WOCNCB® with any questions or concerns.

what's inside . . .

President's message	cover
Elections results	cover
New appointments	2
Online verifications	2
New Exam Outline	2
Farewells	3
Discount CFCN™ fees	3
SAE for Foot & Nail	3
Survey results	4
PGP recertification	4
Legally Defensible	5
Exam Pass Rates	5
FAQs	6
Advanced Practice	7
Products	7

WOCNCB® Elects New President —KATHLEEN D. WRIGHT

The Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB®) welcomes Kathleen D. Wright, RNC, BSN, CWOCN as its newly elected President, to begin a two-year term in January 2006.



Kathy has more than 25 years experience in nursing, including service in the Air Force Nurse Corps, expertise in the medical-surgical, gerontology and oncology arenas. Kathy has been a wound, ostomy and continence nurse for more than 10 years. She has been a member of the WOCNCB® Board since 2003, as well as chair of WOCNCB's APN Task Force. We welcome and look forward to her leadership of the WOCNCB® Board's activities.

WOCNCB® Appoints New Public Member —J. FRANK PERDUE

The Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB®) welcomes J. Frank Perdue as its newly appointed Public Member, to begin a two-year term in January 2006.



As its public member, Mr. Perdue will represent the interests of the consumers who utilize the services of wound, ostomy and continence nurses. Mr. Perdue is employed at the Delaware National Bank as its Senior Vice President. He is a board member with various chambers of commerce, serves on the Council on Real Estate Appraisers for the State of Delaware, and is an active member and officer of the Nanticoke Rotary. We look forward to him contributing his input and insight into the WOCNCB® Board's activities.

Three New WOCNCB® Board Members Elected, *continued from page 1*

Carol Caliano, RN, MSN, CWOCN is an educator at Jeanes Hospital in Philadelphia where she serves on the Ethics Committee and is involved in new program development, process improvement and product evaluation. She founded the Abington Chapter of the Philadelphia UOA, and has written and peer-reviewed numerous articles on skin and wound care.



Diana Gallagher, RN, BSN, CWOCN is the Clinical Director of the Regional Wound Care Clinic at Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Diana is active in the WOCN's South Central Region affiliate and has served in both appointed and elected positions for that affiliate. She currently is the Chair of the WOCNCB's Foot & Nail Examination Committee and was part of the planning group that developed the WOCNCB's PGP.



Donna Loehner, RN, BSN, CWOCN is employed as a WOC nurse at Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Massachusetts where she developed the Skin Care Team. She speaks nationally about WOC issues and has worked on research projects with industry to improve ostomy and skin care products.



If you are interested in getting involved in board service, a great way to prepare is to serve on a committee. The board seeks tri-, dual-, and single-specialty certificants to assist in its activities. Contact the WOCNCB® office at 1-(888) 496-2622 for information about serving on a committee or to run for a board position. Serving on a committee or the Board "stretches" you as a professional and contributes to the success of the WOCN nursing profession.

New Exam Outline to be Available in Spring 2006

The Examination Committee has completed the job analysis survey of nurses certified by the WOCNCB®. The survey is a series of statements about current WOC nurse practice, and nurses are asked to evaluate the statement's relevance to their practice. The survey was sent to a random sample of nurses, and the company who manages our examination, AMP, evaluated the results from a statistical perspective. The Exam Committee then looked at the

results and determined the content that should be included in the exam. From that content a new outline for the exam has been written. The exam is now being revised to reflect the changes to the outline. The new outline and revised exam will be available to applicants for testing in the Spring of 2006. Thanks to all of you who filled out the survey and helped us to make the exam as current and relevant to practice as possible.

NEW! Online Credential Verification Available

The WOCNCB® now has online credential verification on its website. This resource will allow employers to quickly access credentialing information. It will also benefit certificants who want to check on the expiration date of their credentials. This new service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by visiting the www.wocncb.org website.

Fond Farewells to Outgoing Board Members



Miki Felsenburg, J.D., MBA
Public Member 2002 – 2005

Miki has truly been a mentor, and a very valuable resource while serving as WOCNCB's Public Member during the last four years. The WOCNCB® is stronger today because of dedicated individuals like Miki who have volunteered their time and shared their experiences as patients who have used the services of WOC nurses. Miki's intelligence, wit and logic served the board well, as we know they'll continue to do in her personal and professional life. We wish her health and happiness in the coming years.



Cathryn Vogeley, RN, MSN, CNS, CWOCN
Board Member/Treasurer 2002 – 2005

Cathryn has always brought with her a wonderful insight, and given the Board a fresh viewpoint on issues. Her service as WOCNCB's Treasurer, dedication to teamwork, the mission

of the WOCNCB®, and participation on the Advanced Practice Task Force has been appreciated and valued. We will truly miss Cathryn and hope her future holds great things.

Beth Hawkins Bradley, RN, MN, CWOCN
*Board Member/Foot & Nail Exam Liaison
2002 – 2005*

Beth is an intelligent and dynamic person who has worn many hats during her tenure on the Board, and with whom we were able to accomplish many new things. Her leadership brought to fruition the new foot and nail care credential, CFCN™. Beth's positive attitude and generous support was an asset to the WOCNCB®. We hope she has gained as much as she has given.

WOCNCB® Offers Discounted Fees for Certified Foot Care Nurse (CFCN™)

The WOCNCB® is offering four certification exams for the price of three. CWOCNs who qualify for this discount are essentially earning a **FREE** CFCN™ exam.

The WOCNCB® began offering a certification exam in Foot and Nail Care in January 2005. Many nurses who hold other WOCNCB® credentials have expressed an interest in earning the CFCN™ credential. In an effort to make this affordable, the Board is offering discounts for certificants who want to sit for the CFCN™ exam. Beginning immediately and until December 31, 2007, discounts will be offered to nurses who qualify. Please review the information below to determine if you qualify for the Foot and Nail Care exam discount:

- The Foot and Nail Care certification exam must be taken within one year of the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence exams.
- Applications must be submitted between November 15, 2005 and November 15, 2007 and applies to candidates testing between January 1, 2006 through December 23, 2007.
- If applying for all four exams prior to taking the tests, indicate the discount offer code: [WOC403](#) on your application in Sec-

tion 2 of the WOC Examination Application. Payment is for three exams (\$440 if sending credit card payment, or \$425 discounted price for check payments.) *This means your Foot and Nail Care certification exam is **FREE**.*

- If applying for the Foot and Nail care certification exam within one year of successfully passing the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence exams, indicate the discount offer code: [WOC403](#) on Section 2 of your Foot & Nail Care Examination Application. A copy of your current WOC certification must also be submitted as proof of discount eligibility. *Previous payment for three exams will be verified by AMP upon receipt of application. This means your Foot and Nail Care certification exam is **FREE**.*
- If applying for the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence exams within one year of successfully passing the Foot and Nail care certification exam, indicate the discount offer code: [WOC403](#) on your application in Section 2 of the WOC Examination Application. Payment of \$75 for the cost difference of three WOC exams (\$425) and foot/nail exams (\$350) must be included. *This means your Foot and Nail Care certification exam is **FREE**.*

SAE Under Development for the Foot and Nail Care Certification Exam

The WOCNCB® continues to get "fan mail" regarding the Self Assessment Examination (SAE) for the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence exams. Certificants tell us that it helps to guide their study and decrease test stress. So, by popular demand, the Foot and Nail Examination Committee is developing an SAE for

candidates who wish to use it to guide their study for the CFCN™ exam.

The practice test is being reviewed by the committee and is slated to become available in January 2006. Watch the www.wocncb.org website for the availability of the new CFCN™ SAE.

We Asked You...

Results from the WOCNCB® Conference Survey

The WOCNCB® takes your opinions seriously and uses the information to guide future decision-making. We asked you to complete a survey during the recent WOCN Conference and are including the results here. Thank you for your valuable input.

Nursing Experience / WOC Certification

If you are currently certified, do you plan to recertify?	
Yes: 94% (317)	No: 6% (20)
Do you plan to recertify as a:	
CWOCN: 77% (248)	CWCN: 15% (48)
COCN: 7% (23)	CCCN: 1% (2)
If you are planning to recertify, do you plan to recertify via:	
Exam: 47% (132)	PGP: 53% (151)
If you are not currently certified, do you plan to become certified?	
Yes: 93% (56)	No: 7% (4)
Do you plan to become certified as a:	
CWOCN: 70% (74)	CWCN: 20% (21)
COCN: 8% (8)	CCCN: 2% (2)

Foot & Nail Certification

Do you currently perform foot & nail care?	
YES: 33% (122)	NO: 67% (245)
Do you plan to take the WOCNCB's new foot and nail care exam (CFCN)?	
YES: 33% (109)	NO: 67% (221)

Advanced Practice Certification

Are you interested in an Advanced Practice Certification?	
YES: 45% (146)	NO: 55% (179)
Do you have a Master's Degree and practice as an AP Nurse (NP or CNS)?	
YES: 23% (75)	NO: 77% (247)

Volunteer Service

Are you interested in serving on the WOCNCB® Board?	
YES: 17% (54)	NO: 83% (260)
Are you interested in serving on a WOCNCB® Committee?	
YES: 33% (109)	NO: 67% (219)

Other

Do you precept?	
YES: 57% (216)	NO: 43% (163)
Does your employer promote or require WOC certification?	
YES: 78% (306)	NO: 22% (86)
Please rate the value your employer places on WOC certification:	
Very important: 60% (236)	
Important: 25% (99)	
Neutral: 11% (42)	
Not important: 4% (14)	
How important is certification to you?	
Very important: 91% (364)	
Important: 7% (26)	
Neutral: 2% (6)	
Not important: 1% (2)	

Recertification by PGP

—PATTI BURKE, RN, CWOCN

If you've ever recertified by the Professional Growth Program, then you know the value of the activities which go beyond routine WOC practice and the recognition you've been given. Compiling your portfolio can prove to be rewarding as you look back on all that you have accomplished over five years.

The PGP Committee is responsible for the ongoing evaluation of the process and specifications of recertification by the PGP pathway. It is the PGP Committee who is responsible for updating the process to reflect the most current clinical practices. The PGP Handbook is reviewed every two years to meet these ongoing changes.

So, watch for announcements on the www.wocncb.org website about the next edition coming your way in 2006!

I would like to thank the PGP Committee members for their hard work, dedication and valuable input.

Joan M. Culley, RN, MS, MPH, CWOCN
 Tammy Holloway, RN, CWOCN
 Sandra G. Wilusz, RN, BSN, CWOCN
 Catherine Walsh, RN CWCN, COCN
 Dawn Bechtold, RN, CWOCN

The Board would like to especially thank Tammy Holloway and Dawn Bechtold who will be completing their term on the PGP Committee. We truly appreciate your time and dedication to the PGP Process.

Welcome to the newest members of the 2006 PGP Committee – we are sure their contributions will be invaluable.

Julie L. Roskamp, RN BS CWOCN
 Mary L. Meier, RN BSN CWOCN

“Legal Defensibility” of Certification Credentials Defined at WOCN Conference

At a presentation during the recent Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Society's (WOCN) 37th Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Cathy Thomas Hess, RN, BSN, CWOCN, discussed the importance of being certified by an organization whose credentials are “legally defensible.”

Cathy, a board member of the WOCNCB®, told the audience that to offer legally defensible credentials the certifying body must have stringent standards and procedures in place and scrupulously follow them.

She explained that the process for developing a legally defensible credential is complex and arduous. It begins with sending a job analysis survey to certified and non-certified individuals in the specialty to determine what they do in their day-to-day practices. “A job analysis can be thought of as a detailed job description,” said Cathy. “Only after the job analysis data have been thoroughly analyzed, can the certifying board begin writing questions for its certification examination,” she continued. Job analyses are typically performed every three to five years because new technologies, procedures or therapies can change nursing practices that were once accepted but have been replaced by newer ones.

To ensure the finished examination is reliable and valid, psychometric principles must be applied to each exam question. (Psychometrics is the scientific study of testing.) Certification boards usually hire a professional testing company to perform the psychometric analysis. The testing company also guides individuals on the certification board's examination committee to write clear and concise questions and answers for the exam.

“Being able to legally defend the validity of an examination's objectives are crucial in the United States, whenever there is the potential for a hiring decision to be made based on criteria such as certification,” explained Cathy. “There is the potential that someone might file a lawsuit against the certifying body claiming that the exams are biased and constructed in an unfair manner. The job analysis survey is critical in proving the legal defensibility of the exam objectives and blunting any criticism of bias.”

To help individuals determine if a certifying body's credentials would be legally defensible and valid, they should ask the following questions:

1. Is the credentialing organization accredited by an independent, national certifying body?
2. Was a job analysis or role delineation study performed prior to creating the examination?
3. Was the examination created by a committee of content experts in the field?
4. Does the certifying organization's mission agree with the mission of the work environment of the individual seeking certification?
5. Does the certifying organization provide self-assessment (or practice) to measure professional knowledge and prepare test-takers for the actual credentialing exam?
6. Does the certifying organization require that the coursework be completed by an outside, accredited program focusing on the specialty being tested?

If you would like to review the full presentation, visit the www.wocncb.org website on the “Market Yourself” page.

Examination PASS Rates 2004

The following statistics reflect the percentage of test-takers who passed the wound, ostomy, and continence exams in 2004. These numbers reflect pass rates of all exams taken, that is, the number of passing scores divided by the number of tests administered. Candidates taking the test on their second attempt (i.e., repeat candidates) tend to pass at rates around 50%. Our testing company, Applied Measurement Professionals, releases these statistics annually.

There are more than 4,300 WOC nurses currently certified by the WOCNCB®.

TESTING	Wound	(#tested)	Ostomy	(#tested)	Continence	(#tested)
1 st Quarter	63.5%	(197)	61.4%	(140)	63.4%	(112)
2 nd Quarter	77.4%	(358)	74.7%	(273)	63.5%	(211)
3 rd Quarter	67.6%	(275)	69.1%	(204)	68.8%	(160)
4 th Quarter	72.3%	(365)	72.7%	(282)	63.1%	(217)
Annual Pass Rate	71.3%		70.7%		64.6%	

Watch our website for the most up-to-date information

www.wocncb.org

Frequently Asked PGP Questions Answered

—PATTI BURKE, RN, CWOCH

Why can't we count more PGP Points under Category A, CEUs?

Continuing education is important in the growth of a clinician, but it does have its limitations when assessing one's competency. When taking a course, an individual sits down, listens to the course content, fills out an evaluation and receives a CEU certificate. Without a pre and post test, the individual's content knowledge cannot be adequately assessed. Then there are those individuals who do not stay for the entire educational session or may not be listening to the lectures, but are awarded a CEU. Those clinicians that have the opportunities to attend educational offerings may fail to integrate the new concepts into their practice.

Utilizing knowledge gained through attending continuing education seminars is demonstrated through teaching, research, and other projects that candidates can do to obtain PGP points. As more certifying bodies are offering portfolios as a means to becoming certified, they too are faced with this issue. Many like

the WOCNCB® have chosen to limit CEUs and allow their candidates to earn points through other activities that truly demonstrate their knowledge and expertise.

In the future, you will begin to hear more about competency and documentation of competency. The Citizens Advocacy Center is presenting regulation to Congress demanding documentation of competency of healthcare providers. Although, this has not become mandatory at this time, the goal is to continue introducing the recommendation until it becomes law. The American Medical Association has taken a proactive approach and will connect competency with certification. The WOCNCB® has taken this approach to recertification. Self-regulation of competency is preferred to mandated competency measures. The WOCNCB® is actually setting the standard by allowing fewer CEUs and requiring more activities that demonstrate professional growth.

Frequently Asked WOCNCB® Exam Questions Answered

Q. "When will I receive my Certificate?"

A. Certificates are mailed on a quarterly basis, about a month following each of the quarterly testing cycles. For example, if you tested during the April-May-June quarter, the certificate would be mailed the end of July. Candidates who successfully pass all three specialty examinations within the same testing quarter are awarded the tri-specialty CWOCH® credential. Therefore, sending the certificates after each quarter will assure candidates receive the correct information.

Q. "How can I obtain an exam application?"

A. The WOCNCB® Candidate Handbook and Exam Application are both found on the www.wocncb.org website. Simply click on "Certification by Exam" and then "Handbook" to download the information for printing. The application indicates that you are to send it to our testing service, Applied Measurement Professionals.

Q. "I've applied for the exams, how can I check the status of my application and schedule the tests?"

A. Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) receives and processes all WOCNCB® exam applications. After the application has been processed, you should receive a postcard mailer instructing you to call AMP and schedule your exam(s) date(s). It typically takes about 21 business days from the time you send your application to AMP until you receive confirmation from AMP. You may call AMP at 1-888-519-9901 to ask about the status of your application.

WOCNCB® B o a r d

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WOCNCB® Advanced Practice Credential Now Offered

The WOCNCB® now offers an Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) certification in the wound, ostomy, and continence specialty. The CWOCN-AP credential is one way you can demonstrate your advanced specialty knowledge and your commitment to continued growth in the WOCN profession.

The CWOCN-AP certification, which is offered only by the portfolio method, was developed in response to many WOC nurses who voiced an interest in an advanced level credential. This certification demonstrates contributions to the art and science of WOC nursing, validates personal achievement, and recognizes advanced knowledge in the WOC specialty.

If you pursue this credential to meet regulatory requirements, it is advised that you contact your state board of nursing to determine if this will meet those regulatory requirements.

To be eligible for the Advanced Practice certification by the WOCNCB®, a certificant must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Hold current RN licensure. (A copy of the current license must be submitted with your application.)
2. Possess current entry-level WOCNCB® certification. (A copy of your certification certificate must be submitted with your application.)
3. Have graduated from a WOCN program. Program must be currently accredited by the WOCN Society or have been accredited at the time of candidate's graduation. (A copy of certificate or letter verifying completion must accompany application.)
4. Completion of Graduate level NP or CNS program. (A copy of diploma and transcripts must accompany application.)

To find out more about the requirements necessary to obtain the CWOCN-AP credential or to obtain the handbook, visit the www.wocncb.org website.

Promote Your Certification WOCNCB® Products

To order any of these products, call the National Office at (888) 496-2622 or visit the www.wocncb.org website to access the order form.

NEW – WOCNCB® Credential Pins

actual size 1"



Just introduced during WOCN Conference – these new WOCNCB® credential pins are **only \$10 each**. They are attractive purple enamel and polished metal pins, with a die-struck cut-out that is perfect for holding your eyeglasses and/or photo i.d. badge.

Land's End WOCNCB® Polo Shirts

- perfect for work

These shirts are made of the highest quality, all-cotton, waffle-knit from Land's End with the WOCNCB® logo and "Certified Nurse" stitched on the left side. These heavy-duty, easy-care, white shirts can be worn straight from the dryer without ironing. Order any size from Small through XX-Large. **\$35.00 per shirt, including shipping and handling.**



WOCNCB® Mirrors

\$5.00 Per Mirror

This durable tri-fold mirror measuring 4-1/2" x 3-3/4", has an easel to allow it to be free-standing. Nurses have commented it's a handy tool to use for debriding wounds/calluses on patients' feet, and that it's very useful in patient education.



WOCNCB® PGP Binders

Track and organize your PGP materials in a snap!

If you plan on recertifying by the Professional Growth Program (PGP), we have a **handy** tool for you: a PGP organizer binder. Using this organizer will allow you to keep all your PGP materials in order – easily and efficiently. Gone will be the days when you're scrambling at the last minute to get everything in order.

The three-ring binder contains:

- 5 durable plastic pocket folders in translucent colors which hold up to 20 sheets of paper (non-stick and won't lift print off paper)
- 5 durable plastic view tab dividers, in translucent colors which allow you to see your subject titles through the tabs
- Diskette with all the forms in electronic format, so you can customize and fill out your PGP point logs and verification forms, and easily print them in final format. **Cost: \$30**



THE BEST INITIAL IMPRESSION A CLINICIAN CAN MAKE

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Update

Information

If your name, address and/or phone number have recently changed, please fill out the form below. Thank you for helping us keep our information current. Note: You must complete a separate form for the WOCNCB® even if you've notified the WOCN Society as the two organizations are completely separate entities.

PLEASE PRINT.

Your name: _____

If different from when you last certified, enter "old" name here:

My address and/or phone number has changed

From: _____
(Street address)

_____ (City, State, ZIP)

_____ (Phone)

To: _____
(Street address)

_____ (City, State, ZIP)

_____ (Phone)

Return to Kathy Meyer, WOCNCB® Executive Office, 555 E. Wells St., Suite 1100 Milwaukee, WI 53202-3823 or send the information by e-mail to kmeyer@wocncb.org.



THE BEST INITIAL IMPRESSION A CLINICIAN CAN MAKE

The Board's BULLETIN

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