

Certification NEWS

FALL 2007 - VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

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The Gold Standard for Certification™

WOCNCB®

Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board

Congratulations on Being Board Certified!

NEWLY CERTIFIED Congratulations to all of you for earning WOCNCB credentials! You are part of more than 5,000 certified nurses in wound, ostomy, continence, and/or foot care. The following individuals have certified from July – September 2007.

Cecilia Almaguer, RN BSN COCN CCCN
Joann Armstrong, RN BSN CWCN
Melody Austin, RN BSN CWOCN
Miriam Baron, RN BSN CWCN
Madeleine Beal, RN BS CWCN
Sondra Blythe, RN BSN CWCN
Melanie Breunig, RN BSN CWCN
Teresa Brooks, RN CFCN
Michael Byars, RN BSN COCN CCCN
Michele Cantrell, RN BSN CWCN
Curlene Clarke, RN BSN CWOCN
Sue Cszmadia, RN BSN CWOCN
Theresa Daggi, RN MSN CWOCN
Jennifer Davis, RN BSN CWOCN
Annis Deaton, RN BSN CWCN
Marypat Dwyer, RN MSN CFCN
Christopher Fleming, RN CFCN
Jennifer Gengo, RN CWOCN
Darlene Gillotti, RN MSN CWCN
Eric Goodman, RN CFCN
Deborah Greener-Orr, RN PhD CWOCN
Gail Haddad-Swenson, RN BS COCN CCCN
Vicki Hartley, RN BSN CWCN
Haya Hecht, RN MSN CWCN
Samantha Helinski, RN BSN CWCN CCCN
Sheila Howes-Trammel, RN MSN CCCN
Joan Jacoby, RN BSN CWOCN
Dawn Julian, RN MSN CWON
Darinka Kantcheva, RN CWCN
Joseph Kisanga, RN BSN CWOCN

Cristina Kraiter, RN BSN CWCN
Amber Lea, RN BSN CWOCN
Catherine Madden-Harper, RN CWCN
Jane Matthees, RN BSN COCN CCCN
Lydia Meyers, RN BSN CWCN
Dianne Moody, RN BS COCN
Gaylene Moore, RN BSN CWOCN
Lori Mullen, RN BSN CWOCN
Paula Murphy, RN BSN CWCN
Sharon Nielsen, RN BSN CWCN
Brenda Patterson, RN BSN CWON
Minami Pennington, RN BSN CWCN
Sharon Pursi, RN CFCN
Amy Reeb, RN MSN CWCN
Barbara Roark, RN BSN CWOCN
Wendy Robinson, RN BSN CWCN
Caitlin Rodman, RN BSN CWCN
Deborah Schlieter, RN BS CWOCN
Theresa Shenk, RN BSN CWCN
Lori Shrawder, RN BSN CWCN
Robert Spencer, RN MSN CWCN
Angel Sutton, RN CFCN
Alijandra Tokar, RN BSN CWOCN
Julie Turkelson, RN CWOCN
Carol Walter, RN BS CFCN
Tonya Warmbrod, RN BSN CWOCN
Erica Webber, RN BSN CWOCN
Rachelle White, RN BSN CWON
Kristine Wilson, RN BSN CWOCN
Nancy Woodward, RN MSN CWCN
Estrella Yabes-Untalan, RN BSN COCN

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RECERTIFIED Thanks to all of you for maintaining WOCNCB credentials! We are proud you have chosen to continue serving patients with wound, ostomy, continence and/or foot care issues. The following individuals have recertified from July – September 2007.

Julie Alderfer, RN BS CWOCN
Anita Arline, RN BSN CWOCN
Joyce Avery, RN BSN CWCN
Carole Bauer, RN BSN CWOCN
Linda Bell, RN BSN CWON
Lesley Black, MS APRN CWOCN
Rhonda Bossie, RN BSN CWCN
Patricia Brennan, RN BSN CWOCN
Vicky Bryan, RN BSN CWON
Carl Burroughs, RN BSN CWCN
Kirk Carlos, RN BSN CWCN CCCN
Rebekah Carlson, RN MSN CWCN CFCN
Cynthia Cashmere, RN MSN CWCN
Kathleen Cheslik, RN BSN CWOCN
Ron Cole, RN BSN CWCN
Melissa Cooper, RN BSN CWOCN
Candice Cotton, RN CWON
Mary De Fazio, RN BSN CWON
Gaynell Denova, RN BSN CWOCN
Jessie Dickerson, RN MSN CWON-AP CFCN
Marvel Donovan, RN BS CWOCN
Margaret Driss, RN BSN CWON
Claire Eloshway, RN BSN CWOCN
Laurie Everts, RN BSN CWOCN CFCN
Suzi Follett, RN BSN CWOCN
Debra Frank, RN BSN CWON
Kathleen Gibson, RN MSN CWOCN

Caryn Goolsby, RN BSN CWOCN
Judith Gregor, RN BSN CWOCN
Barbara Hahler, RN CS MSN CWOCN
Laurie Hambrecht, RN BSN CWCN COCN
Jill Hennelly, RN BSN CWOCN
Edmond Hiatt, RN BS CWCN COCN
Luanne Houser, RN BS CWOCN
Eileen Huie-Stevenson, RN BSN CWOCN
Susan Johnson, RN BSN CWOCN
Penny Jones, RN CWCN
Gretchen Klein, RN BSN CWCN
Neva Lattimer, RN BSN CWON
Susan Lendacky, RN BSN CWCN
Amy Locke, RN BSN CWOCN CFCN
Billie Ann Lott, RN MSN CWOCN
Mary Lyons, BSN RN CWON
Bettina Magliato, RN MS CWCN
Sherry Marchi, RN BSN CWOCN
Margo Mazzeo, RN BSN CWOCN
Jane McDaniel, RN CWOCN
Kimberly Minns, RN BSN CWOCN
Kathleen Monahan, RN CRRN CWOCN
Beverly Moors, RN BSN CWOCN CFCN
Ann Navage, RN MSN CS CWOCN
Julie O'Banion, RN BSN CWOCN
Sharon Osgood, RN BSN CWON
Judith Papen, RN BSN CWOCN

Pamela Peirsol, RN BS CWON
Carolyn Pettus, RN BSN CWCN COCN
Diane Pogmore, RN BSN CWOCN
Kay Raxter, RN CWOCN
Karen Riemenschneider, RN MSN CWOCN
Tracy Robinson, RN BSN CWOCN
Daniel Ruiz, RN BSN CWON
Brenda Ruthruff, RN MSN CWON
Eva Sauls, RN BA CWCN CCCN
Nancy Sayles, RN BA CWOCN
Jane Schneider, RN BSN CWOCN
Leslye Selway, RN BSN CWON
Colleen Spiller, RN BSN CWOCN
Deborah Stueve, RN BSN CWCN COCN
Suzanne Thompson, RN CWOCN
Melisa Tiffany, RN MSN CWOCN
Yvonna Tozier, RN BSN CWOCN
Ellen Tyree, RN BSN CWOCN
Stephanie Wagner, RN BSN CWOCN
Christine Wallace, RN BSN CWON
Mary Weingart, RN BSN CWCN COCN
Maritess Wieland, RN BSN CWOCN
Dasie Wilson, RN BA CWCN CCCN
Sandra Wright, RN BSN CWCN COCN
Janice Young, RN BSN CWON



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kathleen D. Wright, RN, MS, CWOCN, APRN

I hope the crisp Fall Days and resumption of back-to-school routines finds each of you renewed and refreshed after a fun summer! While the last of my four children is starting her final year of college (and Mom & Dad are heaving a sigh of relief as the end of those tuition bills is in sight!), I am starting coursework toward my PhD. These additional letters after my name may not bring me a new job title, or even a few more dollars in my paycheck, but completion of this terminal degree in our profession will fulfill a personal goal for me! I thoroughly enjoy the life-long learning process, and as I know most WOCNs do, try to give life "all I've got"!

As I complete my term as WOCNCB President, I can affirm that the entire Board and our associated committees are

of a similar mindset... serving with tireless energy to maintain our credentials as the "gold standard in certification"! Our incoming Board President, Patti Burke, has fully committed herself to the variety of roles that she has held on the Board thus far, including that of our Financial Officer, PGP Committee Liaison and Marketing Committee Liaison. I move into the Past President role with confidence that Patti will lead our Board in a direction consistent with our mission of promoting the highest standards of consumer care and safety via credentialing in the areas of wound, ostomy, continence and foot care nursing.

We are moving forward with a very aggressive marketing plan to educate employers about the differences in wound care certification programs and the importance of employing Board-certified specialty nurses in their care settings. We are also working to put the tools in our certificant's hands that they need to market themselves ef-

fectively! I encourage each of you to do your part in educating all those around you about who you are and what your credentials mean! If you are passionate about what you do for your patients, consider how you contribute to the growth of our specialty...be it through volunteerism, research and publication, and perhaps, most importantly, giving "all you've got" on a daily basis in your work setting!

As I close my last President's message, I share with you a thought from American philosopher, William James:

"Most people never run far enough on their first wind to find out they've got a second. Give your dreams all you've got and you'll be amazed at the energy that comes out of you."

Happy running...enjoy that second wind!



Commonalities and Differences

WOCN Certification Board and the WOCN Society

by Janice C. Colwell RN, MS, CWOCN President WOCN Society and Kathleen D. Wright, RN, MS, CWOCN, APRN President WOCN Certification Board

The purpose of this editorial is to clarify the roles of the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses (WOCN) Society and the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB). There has been some confusion about the mission and function of these organizations. The WOCN and WOCNCB are two separate and distinct entities that work collaboratively to support wound, ostomy, and continence nursing practice. Each organization has its own unique mission and goals and is governed by a separate Board of Directors. This editorial will focus on the role that WOCN plays in ensuring quality education for entry level into WOC nursing practice and in the delivery of continuing professional education, which is necessary for on-going competence of specialty nurses. Additionally, the discussion will address how the WOCNCB functions

to promote high standards of consumer care and safety through its credentialing process.

The Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

The Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society is a professional nursing society of over 4,000 members. The WOCN Society supports its members by promoting educational, clinical and research opportunities to advance practice and guide the delivery of expert health care to individuals with wounds, ostomies and incontinence. Membership in WOCN is not limited to certified specialists or graduates of accredited programs, but is open to any individual who supports the purposes, mission and goals of the Society.

To insure the quality of patient care,



WOCN supports the development of Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing Education Programs (WOCNEP) through accreditation of programs that reflect the philosophy, mission and goals of WOCN. A variety of WOCNEPs exist to prepare the registered nurse with a BS degree or equivalent, for entry into specialty practice in wound, ostomy, continence nursing. Accredited educational programs may provide a full scope curriculum (core concepts/role

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COMMONALITIES AND DIFFERENCES Continued from page 3

implementation, wound, ostomy, and continence nursing) and/or specialty courses that offer core concepts/role implementation and one or more of the following: wound, ostomy or continence nursing.

Each of the WOCNEPs is independently owned and operated and does not have any formal affiliation or organizational ties with either the WOCN or WOCNCB. Accreditation by WOCN is a voluntary process that must be requested and paid for by the individual WOCNEP. The Directors of the WOCNEPs meet informally at least annually and a member of the group is selected to serve as a liaison to the WOCN Board of Directors and Accreditation Committee to foster communication and collaboration.

To insure that quality and high standards of education are met, the Accreditation Committee of the WOCN establishes a mechanism for accreditation of educational programs. Accreditation provides a systematic review of the WOCN Educational Program using the WOCN Accreditation Policy and Procedure manual, which identifies specific criterion that programs must meet. The accreditation process is an extensive and comprehensive review of the education program and includes several steps: application, self study report, site visit, site visitor report, Accreditation Committee recommendations, and final approval of the Accreditation Committee's recommendations by the WOCN Board of Directors. Programs seeking initial WOCN-accreditation must first submit a feasibility study.

The achievement of WOCN accreditation status indicates that a WOCN program has met the established criteria, including but not limited to: clear and appropriate educational goals and objectives, adequate scope and depth of the curriculum to prepare beginning WOC nurse practitioners, appropriate qualifications of the program director, faculty, and clinical preceptors, adequate clinical and administrative resources, teaching and evaluation strategies that are based on principles of adult learning, and adherence to established testing methodologies. Programs that meet all critical criteria as set forth in the WOCN Accreditation Policy and Procedure manual

receive a full accreditation for five years.

To protect the integrity and fidelity of the credentialing process, graduates of accredited WOCNEPs are not certified by the education programs but rather are eligible to take the national board examination offered by WOCNCB to become certified in the specialty area(s) in which they received their education.

The WOCN supports continuing education in wound ostomy and continence care by providing a yearly national conference and educational offerings online. The yearly conference is three days of education provided in each of the specialty areas, as well as in a professional practice tract, which incorporates issues such as reimbursement, organizational skills and time management. WOCN applies for contact hours for the continuing nursing education offerings from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) who insures that the education provided meets national standards. All conference sessions including pre conference and reviews are offered to the WOCN membership on CDs and selected sessions have contact hours available upon completion of examination. In this way, the WOCN Society offers conference educational content to those who cannot attend the annual conference. The WOCN hosts the Global Learning Center on the WOCN website that offers continuing education in several formats including Power Point presentations from selected annual conference presentations, and a certification review course in each of the tri specialties.

Quality continuing nursing education is beneficial for recent WOCNEP graduates as well as new and experienced certified specialists to maintain expertise and competence. Contact hours are recognized by most state licensing boards, and may be necessary for re-licensure and/or can be used by members who wish to re-certify by the Professional Growth Program offered by the WOCNCB as an alternative to testing. For those who wish to re-certify by examination, the national conference offers a variety of learning opportunities including certification review courses, lectures, research and skills sessions that are presented by national and international experts that reflect the state of the art and science necessary to update the specialty as well as an interactive certification review

course at the Global Learning Center at www.wocn.org.

The Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board

The WOCNCB is a non-profit certifying organization dedicated to the promotion of the highest standard of consumer care and safety through the provision of credentialing in the areas of wound, ostomy, continence and foot care. In 1978, the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB) was established to promote excellence in the profession of wound, ostomy and continence nursing through the development, maintenance and protection of the certification process. The WOCNCB is incorporated as a distinct and financially independent entity from the WOCN Society and from the specialty educational programs.

The WOCNCB® exists to:

- Set, maintain, and evaluate national standards for certification and re-certification in wound, ostomy, continence and foot care nursing.
- Promote the certification program for wound, ostomy, continence and foot care nursing practice.
- Encourage continued professional growth in this specialized nursing practice.
- Provide formal recognition of individuals who meet the certification requirements.
- Provide identification of nurses who have achieved WOCNCB certification to employing agencies, the public and other healthcare professionals.

The volunteer board members are experts in the wound, ostomy, continence and/or foot care nursing fields, and are elected by WOCNCB certificants. The Board is assisted in daily functions and on-going operation by an Executive Director and Certification Manager, in collaboration with the association management firm Executive Director, Incorporated (EDI). In addition, the Board's work is accomplished with teams of knowledge-expert volunteers including the Wound Ostomy Continence Exam Committee, the Foot and Nail Exam Committee, the Professional Growth Portfolio Committee, and the Marketing

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Online Credential Verification Available

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



COMMONALITIES AND DIFFERENCES Continued from previous page

Committee.

Credential(s) Offered:

- CWCN® – Certified Wound Care Nurse
- COCN® – Certified Ostomy Care Nurse
- CCCN® – Certified Continence Care Nurse
- CWON™ – Certified Wound Ostomy Nurse
- CWOCN® – Certified Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nurse
- CWOCN-AP™ – Certified Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse - Advanced Practice
- CWCN-AP™ – Certified Wound Care Nurse-Advanced Practice
- CWON-AP™ – Certified Wound Ostomy Nurse-Advanced Practice
- CFCN® – Certified Foot Care Nurse

The WOCNCB is currently exploring the feasibility of offering a new credentialing program for LPNs/LVNs or RNs with an Associate or Diploma-level education. Role delineation/job analysis studies are in progress; the title or credential to be offered has not yet been determined.

Accreditation: The WOCNCB certification examinations are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, which is the accreditation body of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA). The WOCNCB is a full voting member of the NOCA. In addition, the WOCNCB has earned accreditation from the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS). ABNS, the only accrediting body specifically for nursing certification, sets a very stringent and comprehensive accreditation process. WOCNCB provided extensive documentation demonstrating that it has met the 18 ABNS standards of quality.

Quality Testing Oversight: The WOCNCB contracts with Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) to assure the psychometric soundness and legal defensibility of the certification exams via role delineation

and job analysis research studies, exam blueprint development, item development/analysis/maintenance, exam structure and standard setting, exam administration and scoring, score reporting and analysis.

Eligibility Requirements: To be eligible for the WOCNCB® examination(s) an applicant must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Be currently licensed as a Registered Nurse, and
2. Hold a baccalaureate degree, and
3. Fulfill ONE of the following requirements:
 - a. Accredited Education Program Track
 - Complete a WOC Nursing Education Program that is accredited by WOCN.
 - b. Graduate Level Track
 - Complete a graduate-level program in nursing with documentation of graduate clinical course work equivalent to two semester credit hours in each specialty for which certification is sought.
 - c. Experiential Track
 - Have 50 contact hours (CEU) over the last five years within each specialty for which certification is sought.
 - Have 1,500 clinical experience hours over the last five years within each specialty for which certification is sought. At least 375 of those hours must be completed within the year prior to certification application.

Exam preparation: Some WOCNEPs publish review books in preparation for the certification exam. The WOCN Society often offers a certification preparation course associated with their annual conference; CD-ROMs of the conference presentation are available for purchase via the WOCN Society website. The WOCNCB also offers an on-line self-assessment examination (SAE), which provides practice and preparation for the certification exam.

Examination, Certification Maintenance and Recertification:

The computer-based certification exam is offered in quarterly cycles at testing centers across the United States. Recently the exam has been offered in Canada and Korea, and requests have been made for additional test sites internationally. The multiple-choice exam is based on recall and application of specialty-related practice principles, as outlined on the published content outline. The exam outline is based on a role delineation/job analysis which is conducted on a regular basis by the testing company to assure that current, evidence-based practice is reflected by test questions. Successful completion of the exam results in credentials awarded for a 5 year period. Recertification can be achieved via re-examination and/or the Professional Growth Program, which involves submission of a portfolio with specified specialty-related components of continuing education, programs/projects, research, publication, teaching, professional organization leadership and/or academic education.

The clinician who practices in the wound, ostomy and/or continence specialties will greatly benefit from membership in the WOCN and certification by the WOCNCB. The authors hope that this article provides clarification on the role that each organization plays in professional nursing practice and growth. Readers are encouraged to explore websites of the Society (www.wocn.org) and the Certification Board (www.wocncb.org). Additional information can be obtained by contacting the respective organization's offices or members of the Board. The WOCN and WOCNCB look forward to serving those who travel the exciting and challenging journey in wound, ostomy and/or continence nursing practice!

WOCNCB Certification Grant

The Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB) will be awarding up to 3 certification grants in 2008 to qualified candidates to cover the cost of certification, up to \$450, depending on the specialty credentials being sought.

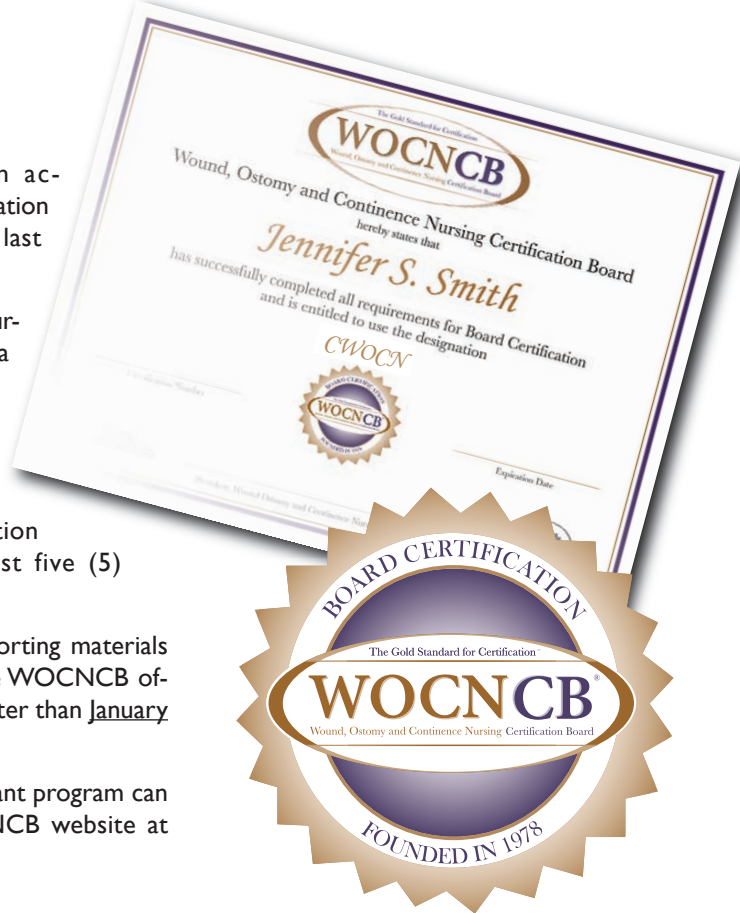
Certificants are eligible for a certification grant in the following ways:

1. Applicant must be in the process of becoming (re)certified by either:
 - having applied for (re)certification, or
 - scheduled an exam date for (re)certification, or
 - recertified or submitted application via the Professional Growth Program (PGP), or
 - earned (re)credentialing within the last calendar year, or

- have completed an accredited WOC education program within the last calendar year
2. Applicant must be currently working as a WOC or Foot & Nail Care Nurse.
3. Applicant cannot have applied for and received a certification grant within the last five (5) years.

The application and supporting materials must be submitted to the WOCNCB office and postmarked no later than January 31, 2008.

Full details on the new grant program can be found on the WOCNCB website at www.wocncb.org.



Eligibility Requirement / Policy Changes

The WOCNCB recently discussed and approved changes to its eligibility requirements. Please be aware of these updates when preparing to recertify, or inform others of the change in order to become certified:

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2008

If your credentials lapse:

Any certificant with lapsed credentials greater than two years are required to prove eligibility via the Experiential Pathway.

Certifying after Graduating from Program:

Candidates will be required to successfully complete exam(s) within five years of graduation from a Wound, Ostomy, Continence Education Program, or they must then prove eligibility via the Experiential Pathway.

Credential Extension Policy

Applicants currently certified by the WOCNCB may request an extension of their credentials for serious medical reasons only. If the applicant has registered for the current examination cycle, the fee may be transferred to the next examination cycle.

The following rules apply:

- Must be currently certified by WOCNCB.
- Must request the extension prior to expiration of current certification.
- Must be seriously ill (or member of immediate family seriously ill). Documentation may be requested.
- Must request the extension in writing to the WOCNCB Office, located at 555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Once the extension request is received, it will be reviewed by the Credentialing and Review Committee whereby, a vote will take place to determine if the applicant's credentials will be approved for extension.

If the extension is granted, it is only for a maximum of six months. Only one extension request will be granted per applicant, per five years.

Late Exam/Portfolio Application Policy

Late applications will be accepted if postmarked no later than 30 days following the pertinent Application Postmark Deadline, published in the current handbooks and

on the WOCNCB website. A late fee of \$75 applies, and must be added to the application fee.

A late application beyond the 30 days will need to be approved by the Credentialing and Review Committee. A request and rationale needs to be in writing to the WOCNCB Office by email at info@wocncb.org.

Once the late application request is received, it will be reviewed by the Credentialing and Review Committee whereby, a vote will take place to determine if the applicant's application will be approved for extension, totaling 60 days maximum.

Approval will only be granted up until the start of the examination cycle published in the current handbooks and on the WOCNCB website. A \$100 fee applies, and must be added to the application fee.

WOCNCB Employer Recognition Award

Does your employer know the true meaning of Board Certification? Does your employer fully support your efforts in maintaining your certification and professional development?

The WOCNCB has now created the opportunity for you to recognize these fantastic organizations that appreciate the value of a WOCNCB certified nurse. Nominate your employer for the 2008 WOCNCB Employer Recognition award!

The recipient of the award will receive:

- WOCNCB certification or recertification award in the amount of \$1,000.00.
- Award plaque presented to a representative of the awarded organization at the WOCN Society Conference.
- Announcement of awarded organization in an upcoming WOCNCB newsletter.
- Announcement of awarded organization on the WOCNCB website (www.wocncb.org).
- A press release sent to WOCNCB media contacts, and a press release to be used by the organization.



For an organization/institution to be nominated, the follow guidelines must be met:

1. A current WOCNCB Certificant or Certificants must nominate an organization for consideration.
2. Nominees must meet one or more various requirements and documented evidence must be submitted.
 - WOCNCB credentials are mentioned in advertisements, web postings, and/or job descriptions when recruiting WOC nurse positions (e.g., CWOCN is preferred, desired, or required).
 - Financial support for certification or recertification is provided.
 - Organization-wide recognition of achievement of the WOCNCB credentials are published or otherwise communicated.
3. Nominators must submit an essay describing the organization's other methods of recognition, appreciation, encouragement and advancement of the WOCNCB credentials.
 - Salary recognition upon attainment and maintenance of the WOCNCB credentials is awarded to the certified nurses.
 - Other ways the organization recognizes/supports certification.

The application and supporting materials must be submitted to the WOCNCB office and postmarked no later than January 31, 2008.

Full details on the submission guidelines can be found on the WOCNCB website at www.wocncb.org.

Fond Farewell

Kathleen Wright
RN, MS, CWOCN, APRN
President 2006-2007

Serving as Immediate Past President in 2008, will wind down Kathy Wright's presidency and leadership of the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board. Kathy's vision and objectivity served the Board well in new initiatives and resolutions. The Board and staff witnessed the passion she has shown for the WOCN specialty and we thank her for sharing that committed enthusiasm! We look forward to the coming months and know she will continue to serve us well.

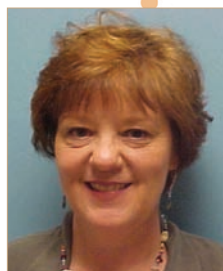


Jane Fellows
RN, MSN, CWOCN
Board Member/ WOC Exam Committee Liaison 2004-2007

Jane Fellows spent many years on the WOCNCB Exam Committee, and then became a member of the Board in 2004. Her knowledge and expertise were evident during all her years as a WOCNCB volunteer. She has been single-handedly instrumental in the development of our new committee of Evidence-Based Practice. We look forward to working with her of this new endeavor! Thank you Jane, for your vision and commitment, and your years of dedication and devotion to the WOCNCB mission.



2007 WOCNCB® Election Results Congratulations!



Patricia S. Collins
RN, MSN, APRN-BC, CWOCN
Santa Fe, New Mexico



Amy Schaffner
RN, MS, CWOCN
Spokane, Washington



Donna L. Thompson
MSN, CRNP, BC, CCCN
Media, Pennsylvania

Patricia, Amy and Donna were selected by a vote of their peers to serve on the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board. Their term of office is from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2011. Please join us in welcoming them all to the WOCNCB!

The future of the WOCNCB is exciting, as the Board is involved in marketing initiatives and decision making that will take WOCNCB certification to new heights. We know that the new additions to the Board will make a significant difference in the direction and goals of the WOCNCB that will maintain the credibility, validity and visibility of the wound, ostomy, continence and foot care certifications.

Call for Survey Respondents

Alternative Level of Certification

The Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB) is currently exploring the feasibility of providing a unique and different credential. This would be an opportunity for LPNs/LVNs or RNs with an Associate or Diploma-level education to demonstrate proficiency in wound, ostomy and/or continence nursing with formal classroom education and precepted clinical experience. The knowledge and skill level of the clinician can then be validated by a psychometrically sound and legally defensible examination.

If you are an LPN or LVN or RN with an Associate or Diploma-level education, or have a team member working in the areas wound, ostomy and/or continence, we invite participation in a job analysis survey regarding current practice. Please send contact information to Kathy Meyer via email to info@wocncb.org or call 1-888-496-2622.

We Need You!

Call for Committee Participation

The WOCNCB is seeking volunteers for committee positions. Committee participation is not only a great way to contribute to the WOC specialty, but it will also enhance your personal professional growth.

Qualified candidates must:

- Hold a current WOCNCB credential.
- Hold a minimum of a baccalaureate degree.
- Have the skills and attributes necessary to assist in completing the objectives of their Committee by accepting and collaborating on specific task assignments and work to meet established deadlines in order to advance their Committee's objectives.
- E-mail and Internet capabilities.
- Attend conference calls and/or in-person meetings as requested.

Please contact the WOCNCB office to request a Statement of Interest form, either by e-mail (kmeyer@wocncb.org) or calling 1-(888) 496-2622.

Awards News

If you or someone you know has received an award that demonstrates they are exceptional in their WOCN role, please submit your newsworthy item for future publication in WOCNCB "Certification News." (Email: info@wocncb.org; or mail or fax: (414) 276-2146.)

Exam Questions

Anyone can submit items (test questions) for use in the WOC examination and we encourage individuals to do so. Draw on current clinical experience to write questions, which must fit into the exam content outline and/or be entry-level questions. Acceptance letters are sent to those qualifying, and can be used for PGP portfolio points. The Examination Committee will review and edit as necessary. All submissions become the property of the WOCNCB®. Please submit your items to the WOCNCB® National Office. To obtain an item writing form call (888) 496-2622 or access a copy by downloading from the www.wocncb.org website.

Farewell to Outgoing Committee Members

by *Diana Gallagher, RN, MS, CWOCN*

There are countless benefits to serving on a WOCNCB committee and even more when you serve at the board level. I have had the pleasure of doing both over the past four years. Among all of the advantages that serving has afforded me, there is one that reigns supreme. That “platinum level” perk – at least for me --is the people you meet along the way. Introductions are made, responsibilities are divided, work is shared, and in the process, friendships are forged. Meetings are more than just an opportunity to work collaboratively and accomplish great things, they are an opportunity to visit old and very dear friends.

With the close of this year, it is time to say goodbye to two members of the WOCNCB Foot Care Examination Committee. Both Jim McLean and Kathy McDonald will be moving on to new challenges and new opportunities. Both have been wonderful resources to the committee and wonderful friends.

Jim McLean joined the Foot Care Examination Committee when it was little more than a concept. At that time, the idea of a brand new specialty for certification was no more than a foundation to build upon. It was Jim’s efforts that led to this specialty being built from the ground up. Jim helped develop multiple versions of the certification tests, the Self Assessment Examination, and most recently the Professional Growth Portfolio for Foot Care Nurses. Jim has served his peers well.

For all of us who have had the pleasure of working with Jim, it is hard to envision Jim without his trademark cowboy boots, jeans and hat. We know that his presence has lightened the load for his fellow committee members and has made the work enjoyable. Because of Jim, it has been four, very good and very productive years.

Saying Goodbye to Good Friends and Colleagues

by *Donna L. Loehner, RN, BSN, CWOCN*

Volunteering for a professional organization takes commitment, dedication and at times, quick response. Along with critical thinking and collaboration, this makes for a successful team when involved with PGP. Our committee has had the opportunity to work with three wonderful ladies who have exemplified all the above qualities. I cannot thank them enough for those times when the emails kept coming with no end in sight. Joan Culley (served 2004–05 and 2006–07), Catherine Walsh (served 2004–05 and 2006–07), and Sandra Wilusz (served 2004–05 and 2006–07) have done a wonderful job while on our PGP committee and will be truly missed. We wish them well and hope to see them again using their wonderful expertise in the WOCN certification arena.



We are also losing Kathy McDonald, a certified foot care nurse who has been with the committee for the past two years. Kathy has traveled from Oregon to make our meetings and has consistently contributed her expertise. Kathy has served the committee well and is leaving to pursue other service opportunities in her community. Her talents go beyond nursing. She has quilted at an expert level for years and her expertise is now being honored with an opportunity to serve her local quilt guild as President. There is no doubt that she will be as successful in this endeavor as she has been with the Foot Care Examination Committee.

Although we are losing two valued members of our committee, they have left a strong foundation on which we and our successors will build the future of our specialty.

Thank You and Farewell

by *Jane A. Fellows, RN, MSN, CWOCN*

Three members of the WOC examination committee have completed four years of service. Donna Rositani, BSN, RN, PHN, CWOCN is from San Marcos, CA and is employed by Palomar Pamorado Health. Donna has been the chairperson of the committee for the last 2 years. Julie O’Neill BSN, RN, CWOCN from Leavenworth, WA works at Central Washington Hospital. Rachel Rockafellow MSN, RN, CWOCN teaches nursing at Montana State University and lives in Bozeman, MT. Also leaving the committee in the spring of 2008, after four years of service is Karen Larkan MS, RN, CWOCN of Coconut Creek, FL. She is employed by Boca Raton Community Hospital. The Certification Board thanks these members for many hours of service to assure that the examination is legally defensible and psychometrically sound.

The Importance of Having a Public Member on the Board

by J. Frank Perdue

I have enjoyed being the Public Member on the WOCNCB for the past 2 years and am now serving my final two years. I wanted to give my perspective on why a public member is needed on the board. First, I would like to give you a little history on my life. When I was 11 years old I became very ill and the local doctors couldn't figure out what was going on. The local hospital sent me to the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore where a team of doctors met me and put me through the wringer. I had gotten down to 47 pounds and they didn't give me much of a chance to live. They finally determined that I had ulcerative colitis. They performed a colostomy in hopes of reversing this in 9-12 months. After 72 days in University of Maryland Hospital I went home to recover and returned in about 10 months to find out that they could not reverse this situation. Going through school, dating and finally getting married had many challenges. I have been blessed with a wife of 40 years, two sons and daughter-in-laws plus 4 grand children with another on the way.

When I was asked to be the Public Member, I wondered what it would entail. The primary duty is for the public/patients to have someone to be involved to make sure we are being protected and get the

best treatment. We are in very good hands as patients. It gives me pride to witness the hard work of the Board to keep the "Gold Standard." It amazes me the Board works almost 24/7 to protect the quality of care given. As a patient, you must trust someone that you probably have never met to take care of you when you are in their care. I applaud all of you that have taken your valuable time and resources to become a CWOCN. Knowing someone cares and wants to give us the best treatment makes patients feel much better. If the need arises, I know now to ask for a board certified WOCN. I would like to assure the public that if they are being cared for by a CWOCN, they are getting the best care possible.

There have been discussions about the WOCNCB developing a certification for non-BSN nurses. My view on this is mixed. Would I prefer a board certified WOCN caring for me rather than someone with less credentials? The answer is 100% yes, however, there are other LPNs/non-BS RNs in the system that are providing care without this certification. Many facilities don't have the resources to hire a board certified WOCN nurse. That's unfortunate, however, it's reality. If I end up in a nursing home, I want the best care. I can



again assure you that IF this board does something to make sure these folks are trained and certified in any way, it won't lessen the "Gold Standard" that's already been set. Some of the caregivers are getting online courses or one week seminars and say that they are certified. To me as a public member/patient that's not enough. Unfortunately, most patients don't realize this and have to take the care that's given. Public safety is utmost and foremost for this organization and this issue needs to be EXPLORED.

Website Progress!

Thank you to all that participated in providing feedback to the WOCNCB Website Survey distributed in September. The Marketing Committee is utilizing the valuable feedback to create a more user-friendly website for nurses, administrators and patients.

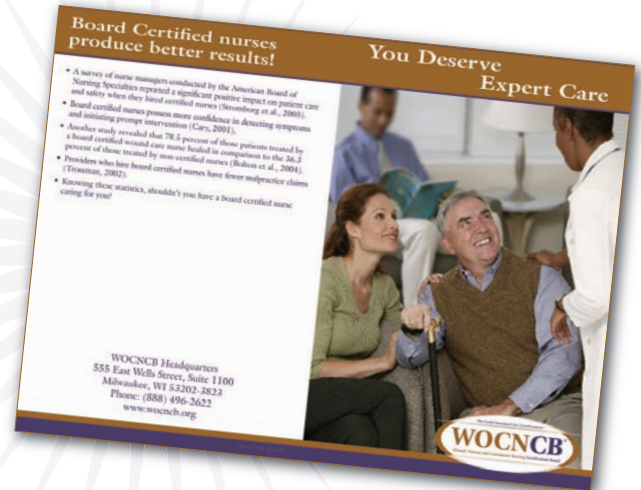
Be on the look out for the new site, by the end of the first quarter, in 2008.



Promote Your Certification with WOCNCB Products

The WOCNCB is committed to representing our certificants with up-to-date and user-friendly marketing materials! We are pleased to present you with samples of several newly-designed products for use in your facility or office-based practice. Contact us for your **free sample packet of 25 brochures**, "Are Your Nurses Board Certified" and "You Deserve Expert Care."

(Email: info@wocncb.org Phone: 1-888-496-2622.)



The Results are In Results from the WOCNCB Survey

The WOCNCB takes your opinions seriously and uses the information to guide future decision-making. Those individuals attending the recent WOCN Society Conference completed surveys providing the following information. Thank you for your valuable input.

- I plan to become certified as a:

CWOCN	57%	(104)
CWCN	12%	(21)
COCN	5%	(9)
CCCN	2%	(4)
CWON	14%	(26)
CFCN	10%	(18)
- I plan to recertify as a: _____
AND I will recertify via:
(specify credential)
Exam 51% (169) PGP 49% (161)
CWOCN (229)
CWON (40)
CWCN (17)
CCCN (2)
COCN (4)
CWOCN, AP (2)
CWOCN, CFCN (7)

ADVANCED PRACTICE CERTIFICATION

- Do you have a Master's Degree and practice as an AP nurse? (NP or CNS)

YES	28%	(114)
NO	72%	(293)
- Do you plan on obtaining the WOCNCB Advanced Practice Certification?

YES	29%	(97)
NO	71%	(232)
- If yes, will you seek Advanced Practice Certification in:

Wound	44%	(102)
Ostomy	35%	(82)
Continence	21%	(48)

NEWSLETTER

- Would you like to receive 2 written newsletters and 2 online newsletters so that you will receive news every quarter from the WOCNCB?

YES	92%	(435)
NO	8%	(38)
- If No, how frequently would you prefer to receive news from the WOCNCB?

Quarterly	84%	(97)
Monthly	16%	(18)

- Would you be willing to contribute an article that pertains to certification that will be published in an upcoming Board's Bulletin Newsletter or e-Newsletter?

YES	32%	(116)
NO	68%	(250)

ORGANIZATION

- Does your employer promote or require WOC certification?

YES	81%	(395)
NO	19%	(90)
- Please rate the value your employer places on WOC certification:

Important	79%	(366)
Neutral	17%	(80)
Not important	4%	(18)
- Does your organization reimburse the cost of the certification fee?

Yes, only initial certification	16%	(73)
Yes, partial	8%	(37)
Yes, initial and recertification	32%	(148)
No	44%	(202)



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