

2014
ABNS
ORGANIZATIONAL
REPORT

INTRODUCTION

This report reflects the accomplishments and activities of ABNS for the period March 2014 – February 2015. The ABNS Report is formatted using the ABNS Success Markers as the organizing framework.

The ABNS Fiscal Year 2015 began July 1, 2014. Members of the ABNS Board of Directors are:

- Maria Shirey, President (AACN Certification Corp);
- Leslie Anne Patry, President-Elect (formerly of Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) and now, National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA);
- Rick Meadows, Secretary/Treasurer (American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP));
- Chris Hunt, Member at Large (Infusion Nurses Certification Corporation (INCC));
- Carol Zupancic, ABNS Public Member;
- Dottie Roberts, (ONCB), ABSNC President, is an Ex-Officio member.

Staff members are Bonnie Niebuhr, Chief Executive Officer; Melissa Biel, Deputy Director; Barbara Glennon, Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant; and Monika Cornelius, Meeting Planner.

ABNS Member Organizations – ABNS has 34 Regular Member Organizations.

Regular Member Organizations:

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Cert. Corp. (AACN Certification Corp.)
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Cert. Program (AANPCP)
American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses (ABCGN)
American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN)
American Board for Occupational Health Nurses, Inc. (ABOHN)
American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification, Inc. (ABPANC)
American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation (AHNCC)
American Legal Nurse Consultant Certification Board (ALNCCB)
American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)
Addictions Nursing Certification Board (ANCB)
American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
American Organization of Nurse Executives Credentialing Center (AONE)
American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS)
Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN)
Board of Nephrology Examiners Nursing & Technology (BONENT)
Competency and Credentialing Institute (CCI)
Canadian Nurses Association Certification Program (CNA)
Certified Nurse Life Care Planners Certification Board (CNLCPCB)
Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center (HPCC – formerly NBCHPN)
Infusion Nurses Certification Corporation (INCC)
Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB)
National Alliance of Wound Care (NAWCCB)
National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA)
National Board for Certification of School Nurses (NBCSN)
National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE)
National Certification Corporation for the Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing Specialties (NCC)
National League for Nursing (NLN)
Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)
Orthopaedic Nurses Certification Board (ONCB)
Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)
Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)
Rehabilitation Nursing Certification Board (RNCB)

Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB)

ABNS Member Organizations – ABNS has 13 Affiliate Member Organizations.

Affiliate Member Organizations:

Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc.
Castle Worldwide, Inc.
Center for Nursing Education and Testing, Inc.
Citizen Advocacy Center
CGFNS International
Heuristic Solutions
Institute for Credentialing Excellence
Pearson Vue
Professional Examination Service
Prometric
PSI Services, LLC
SeaCrest Consulting Company
Schroeder Measurement Technologies, Inc.

SUCCESS MARKER I

ABNS is the authoritative resource and voice for issues of specialty nursing certification.

- ❖ **New Affiliate Member:** Seacrest Consulting Company, LLC, became a new Affiliate Member in 2014.
- ❖ **ABNS Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy:** During Nurses Week in May 2014, ABNS President Maria Shirey presented the 2014 ABNS Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy to Suburban Hospital Johns Hopkins Medicine, Bethesda, MD. Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital, Allentown, PA, received an honorable mention. Information about the award recipient and the honorable mention recipient is found on the ABNS website under the Awards tab.
- ❖ **Janel Parker President’s Award:** At the Spring 2014 ABNS Assembly meeting, the Board of Certification for Emergency Room Nursing (BCEN) received the Janel Parker President’s Award for their work with State Boards of Nursing to recognize nursing certification in lieu of continuing education or continuing competency requirements when renewing an RN license. In order to support this project, BCEN developed an advocacy toolkit that can be used at the grassroots-level to obtain the support of policymakers and the employer community in this endeavor. Each tool was developed to be particularly suited to diverse, coalition efforts and can be customized to a specific state. C. Lynne Grief, Immediate Past President of BCEN, received the award on behalf of BCEN.
- ❖ **ABNS Webinar Program:** In the Fall of 2012, the ABNS Board of Directors approved a plan to offer webinars free of charge to our members through CommPartners. The webinars are a way to provide additional educational content for our members, and are an efficient way to take advantage of current technology and expand education opportunities beyond Assembly meetings. In 2014, ABNS offered two webinars:
 - April 16, 2014: Board Member Recruitment, sponsored by the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)
 - June 25, 2014: Board Evaluation, sponsored by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Corporation (NNCC)These webinars are archived on the Members Only section of the ABNS website and are available for viewing.
- ❖ **ABNS Task Force on the IOM Report on the Future of Nursing:** In 2013, ABNS conducted a survey of ABNS members to determine what actions had been undertaken to address the IOM *Future of Nursing* Key Messages and associated Recommendations. We also asked the respondents to share what they felt still needed to be done to implement the Key Messages and Recommendations. The findings of the survey were summarized in a report and the findings were shared with the ABNS members at the Fall 2013 Assembly meeting. There was considerable support for facilitating continued dialogue about the

work being done around the Key Messages. Therefore, ABNS focused its Fall 2014 Assembly meeting around the theme of how the *Future of Nursing* is driving nursing certification and recertification. We showcased what member organizations are doing and fostered discussion about what still needs to be done.

- ❖ **Representation at the IOM Future Directions of Nurse Credentialing meeting – September 3-4, 2014:** ABNS was represented at this very important meeting held at the Institute of Medicine, Washington DC, by ABNS President, Maria Shirey, Chief Executive Officer, Bonnie Niebuhr, and ABNS Deputy Director, Melissa Biel.
- ❖ **Representation at the Citizen Advocacy Center (CAC) Annual Meeting:** Carol Zupancic, ABNS Public Member, represented ABNS at the CAC Annual Meeting (*Effective Regulation Through Collaboration* held October 23-24, 2014, in Baltimore, MD).
- ❖ **ABNS President asked to provide a Guest Editorial:** ABNS President, Maria Shirey was asked to submit a guest editorial, “Never Stop Improving” which appeared in the Sept/Oct 2014 issue of the *Journal of Infusion Nursing*. The editorial focused on specialty nursing certification being one way to challenge ourselves to grow professionally.
- ❖ **Established Relationship with the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS):** Through the outreach efforts of Bonnie Niebuhr, ABNS CEO, ABNS and ABMS have formed a relationship and are dialoguing about common issues. The ABMS CEO, Dr. Lois Nora, was a speaker at the Fall 2014 Assembly meeting, which was also attended by Carol Clothier, ABMS Vice President for State Health Policy and Public Affairs. In addition, ABMS representative, Dr. Davis Price, is serving on the ABNS Planning Group for the Value of Certification Convening meeting being held in March, 2016.

SUCCESS MARKER II

ABNS ensures organizational vitality with sustainability.

- ABNS provides benefits that delight its members.
- ❖ **Assembly Meetings:** A total of 154 participants attended the Spring and Fall 2014 Assembly meetings.
 - **Recognition of Member Anniversaries:** ABNS continues to recognize the special anniversaries of member organizations at Assembly meetings. In 2014 the following ABNS members celebrated anniversaries: ABPANC, AMP, ANCC, CNA, PNCB, and RNCB.
 - **Sponsorships:** ABNS members continue to provide very generous sponsorships to support the Assembly meetings. The following organizations provided sponsorships of \$22,175 for Assembly meetings in 2014: AACN Cert. Corp., ABSNC, AMP, Castle Worldwide, Inc., INCC, NBCHPN, NBCRNA, ONCB, PSI Services, and Seacrest Consulting Company.
 - **Posting of Powerpoint Presentations given at Assembly Meetings:** ABNS posts the Powerpoint presentations of speakers granting permission to do so on the ABNS Members Only website.
 - **The ABNS University** educational programs at the Assembly meetings are consistently evaluated highly. Based on participant feedback, we have continued programming that has delighted our members (i.e. ExpressSessions, Organizational Sharing, nationally recognized speakers).
 - **Approval of Contact Hours:** The Program Committee planned and implemented the educational programs for the certification Assembly meetings for Spring and Fall 2014.
 - At the Spring 2014 meeting, CNE approval was granted by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) for 5.5 contact hours; Participants who are CAE certified by ASAE could apply 8.75 contact hours towards CAE renewal.
 - At the Fall 2014 meeting, CNE approval was granted by AACN for 6.5 contact hours; Participants who are CAE certified by ASAE could apply 8 contact hours towards CAE renewal.
- ❖ **The Leaders’ Legacy Lecture Series:** This is a program designed to provide an opportunity for organizations to recognize the contributions of specialty nursing certification leaders and honor their

insights, contributions, and dedication to nursing certification. The donation submitted in the leaders' names provides funding to support education at ABNS Assembly meetings by providing a wider range of speakers on leadership issues and other topics of interest. Unfortunately, no submissions were received in 2014! This program is a valuable source of speaker funding and ABNS hopes to receive the names of individuals for recognition in 2015.

- ❖ **Financial News:** The ABNS accounting firm, Ciuni and Panichi, completed a review of the financial statements as of June 30, 2014, and 2013 and were not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements.
 - **ABNS received large donation from NBCRNA:** ABNS was the recipient of a large donation from NBCRNA which will be used to fund strategic initiatives. Thank you to NBCRNA for their generosity!
- ❖ **ABNS/ABSNC Newsletter:** The ABNS/ABSNC Newsletter is distributed electronically on a quarterly basis to membership via email and is posted on the ABNS website.
- ❖ **2014 ABNS Elections:** The following individuals were elected at the Spring 2014 Assembly meeting:
ABNS Board of Directors:
 - Secretary/Treasurer - Rick Meadows– American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP) – 2nd term**Nominations and Elections Committee:**
 - Adele Foerster – Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB) – 1st term
 - Karen Nason – Rehabilitation Nursing Certification Board (RNCB) - 2nd term
 - Jennifer Sulanke – American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN) – 2nd term
- ❖ **2015 Call for Nominations:** A Call for Nominations for an ABNS President-Elect and one Nominations and Election Committee member was disseminated in Fall 2014. The Slate of Nominees was disseminated to the Regular Members in January 2015. Elections will occur on March 6, 2015, during the ABNS Assembly's business meeting.
- ❖ **Groupsite:** Poll questions continue to be posted by members on Groupsite. This is a valuable resource for members and while *responses* to questions posed have been low we are seeing an increase. Members are encouraged to respond to questions so that information on a specific topic is communicated widely to benefit members. Responses to questions also serve a benchmarking purpose. Groupsite is also frequently used to communicate information to the ABNS member representatives.
- ❖ **Organizational Profile:** The Member Organizational Profile survey, conducted annually, was completed in April/May 2014 and posted on the ABNS website under the Members Only section.
 - 28 Member organizations offering a total of 136 credentials reported a total of 718,492 certified RNs and APRNs (up from 653,074 in 2013). This represents a 10% increase in the number of certificants.
 - In addition, 3 organizations offering 8 credentials for non RN team members, reported 39,420 non-RN team member certificants (up from 30,610 in 2013). This represents a 29% increase in the number of non RN team member certificants.
- ❖ **New Website Design Underway:** ABNS is in the process of updating the website and moving it to a WordPress platform. INCC has generously offered to sponsor the development of the new website. We anticipate a reveal date of Spring 2015.
- ❖ **Succession Planning Work Team Appointed:** Bonnie Niebuhr, ABNS and ABSNC CEO informed the boards when the 2013-2016 contracts were signed that she would be retiring as of June 30, 2016. A Succession Planning Workteam comprised of board members of both organizations has met to ensure the timely and seamless transition to new management services and staff. A RFP will be disseminated in the near future describing the types of services that each board is seeking.

SUCCESS MARKER III

ABNS advances knowledge regarding specialty nursing certification through research.

- Encourage and facilitate the conduct and dissemination of research on certification and patient outcomes, continued competence, employer support of certification, and the impact of certification in the workplace.

- ❖ **Certification Bibliography:** The certification bibliography was updated to include 2014 certification-related documents. The updated bibliography has been sent to members via Groupsite and will be made available on the ABNS website under the Resources tab.
- ❖ **Partnership with ICE:** ABNS and ICE have formed a formal partnership for research. Dr. Jim Stobinski serves as the ABNS liaison to ICE. He serves on both Research Committees and facilitates communication and joint projects.
- ❖ **NDNQI Research Project:** Dr. Diane Boyle, NDNQI Principal Investigator, led a two-phase research project that began in November 2010. Both phases have been completed. Phase II found that as nurse specialty certification rates increased, fall rates decreased or increases in falls slowed. A manuscript will be submitted to the journal *Nursing Research* for the publication of Phase II findings. Last year ANA sold NDNQI to Press-Ganey. We are in contact with the researchers at NDNQI to determine the potential for future research projects given the change in ownership.
- ❖ **New research correlates Direct-Care RN Specialty Certification and Surgical Patient Outcomes:** A study published in the November 2014 issue of *AORN Journal*, showed specialty nursing certification may contribute to improved surgical patient outcomes in hospitals nationwide. The research was conducted by the staff at the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI) and the University of Kansas, and was sponsored by CCI. The research showed higher rates of CPAN® and CNOR®/CRNFA® certification in perioperative units were significantly associated with lower rates of central-line associated bloodstream infections in SICUs—notably, a 10 percent higher rate of CNOR/CRNFA and CPAN certification in perioperative units resulted in 16 and 8 percent (respectively) lower rates of central-line associated bloodstream infection rates in SICUs. Aside from looking solely at what occurred within the OR, the data also assessed how those actions impacted patients as they moved from the OR into other areas of the hospital.
- ❖ **Maria Shirey, ABNS President, was invited to serve on ANCC’s Research Council.**
- ❖ **IOM Standing Committee on Credentialing Research:** A workshop on Credentialing Research in Nursing was held September 3-4, 2014 in Washington, DC. ABNS, along with 18 of the Regular Member organizations and one Affiliate Member organization provided sponsorships for this Workshop. Dr. Lynne Grief served on the workshop planning committee. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has released the summary of the workshop, “Future Directions of Credentialing Research in Nursing.” This report is available [online](#) on the IOM’s website.
- ❖ **Synthesis of Certification Outcomes Studies:** A subgroup of the Research Committee examined the current published research studies that look at nursing certification and patient outcomes. A report has been written and posted on the ABNS website as a Research reference document.
- ❖ **Nursing Certification Database Work Group:** The ABNS Board of Directors committed to exploring the concept of a nursing certification database. We have engaged with speakers on the topic at our Assembly meetings. At the IOM Workshop on Credentialing Research in Nursing, the need for a database was discussed at length as a prerequisite to conduct meaningful research on nursing certification. ABNS has convened a Work Group whose purpose is to explore the options available to ABNS to develop a nursing certification database. The Work Group will:
 - Determine the benefits of developing a certification database;
 - Identify database options;
 - Detail the pros and cons of each option;

- Outline the components needed to undertake a database project (include costs, data sharing, data ownership, privacy, timeline, etc.);
- Make recommendations to the ABNS Board of Directors in regard to next steps.

Members of the Work Group are: Martha Bergren, NBCSN; Melissa Biel, ABNS; Maureen Cahill, NCSBN; Linda Harrington, AACN Certification Corp.; Peg Harrison, PNCB; Chris Hunt, INCC; June Lunney, HPCC; and Ali Neal, Heuristic Solutions.

- ❖ **Value of Certification Convening:** Measuring the value of certified practice is a strategic imperative for credentialing organizations. ABNS and its member organizations have undertaken research that measures the value of nursing certification to the individual certificant. ABNS is now poised to take the next steps in measuring the value of certification beyond perceptions of value and to supporting a research agenda that will build a business case for the value of certification. The recent IOM Workshop on Credentialing Research in Nursing provided a clear direction for future credentialing research. ABNS will host the Value of Certification Convening in March 2016. Since the value of certification extends beyond nursing, the Value Convening will be a multidisciplinary conference. The goal of the Value Convening is to provide ABNS organizations with a research agenda that they can choose to pursue individually or in partnership with others. The focus will be on the value of a certified workforce, continuing competence, and the work of certified team members in team practice. We will also consider the availability of funding and data to conduct research.

SUCCESS MARKER IV

ABNS supports continuing competence as a means for ensuring patient safety.

- ❖ **State Boards' Recognition of Certification:** BCEN continues to support advocacy efforts to encourage state boards to reference nursing certification in state practice acts. States that do consider certification as a component of relicensure are listed on the ABNS website.
- ❖ **Monitoring Continuing Competency Work:** The ABNS Board, Program Committee, and Research Committee continue to monitor initiatives regarding continuing competency and include program content and updates to our members regarding such work.

SUCCESS MARKER V

ABNS promotes accreditation and recognition of quality specialty nursing certification programs.

- Recognize and support the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC).
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- ❖ **ABSNC activities continue in conjunction with the ABNS Assembly meetings.**
- ❖ **Accreditation information found on the ABNS website under the tab - Accreditation.**
- ❖ **Opportunities for LACE members to network while at ABNS Assembly meetings is provided as well as regular educational programming about APRN issues and initiatives.**
- ❖ **As part of the ABNS and ABSNC Strategic Planning activities that occurred in 2014, opportunities to partner around common issues were identified.**