Greetings members.

The past several months has been exciting for our Chapter with ONS Congress news and activities, a wonderful Oncology Nurse Month dinner meeting highlighting GYN cancers, a Relay for Life event and an Advocacy Group coming together as an action committee. And this is only half way through our Chapter activity year! In proclaiming all these wonderful venues, these activities occur because of a dynamic Board who provides each member the opportunity for professional growth and prosperity. Our Chapter could use your assistance, creativity, and a few hours of your time to continue as a Chapter of Excellence. As a working Board member did you know:

You have first availability to attend all Chapter Dinner meetings
All Chapter dinner meetings are free to active Board members including our members only Crab Feast.
You could attend the yearly ONS Leadership workshop (a 2.5-day event) in Pittsburgh all expenses paid
You have priority in our President’s recommendation to attend ONS Hill Day in D.C.

As President, GBCONS supports attending the ONS Congress with $1000.00 for expenses and if those funds are not used by the President, they are divided among Board members who are attending.

All Board meetings are held where there is free, ample parking and near I 95 and the Beltway for easy access. A light dinner is always provided. We meet 5 times a year, including a half day planning retreat and our regular Board meetings last no more than 2 hours (6-8pm).

You’ll have a voice in planning activities, dinner meeting topics and dates, as well as, representing our membership and charting the future coarse for GBCONS.

Members of our Board, like MaryEllen McFadden, Trisha Kendell, Rebekah Adams enjoy giving to our Chapter by getting involved in our Annual Bus Trip to New York City, advocating for our patients and their caregivers by attending grassroots activities, and supporting our community by participating and representing our chapter in such activities as Relay for Life. These are all activities spotlighting the ONCOLOGY NURSING PROFESSION. Won’t you please consider becoming a part of this team as our future will be truly amazing.

For more information about opportunities on our Board please contact me at RuthEDEvans@msn.com. I would love to hear from you.

See you at the Crab Feast in August.

Sincerely,

Ruth

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Congratulations to the Chapters Newest Graduate:

Amanda Jayne Konopka, BSN, RN, OCN, MSN, AGPCNP-BC
Our Chapter Members climb to the top in presentations and awards at Denver Congress:

GBCONS wishes to extend congratulations and acknowledge the following members who participated as poster and/or podium presenters during the 2017 Congress in Denver. This is quite an honor for these individuals to be selected to showcase their evidence-based topics and we’re proud they call GBCONS their home Chapter.

To view abstracts go to CJON~ 2017 Oncology Nursing Society Annual Congress Podium and Poster Abstracts

- Trish Greene Memorial Quality of Life Lectureship: “Decision Making: How You Can Impact your Patient’s Quality of Life” by Barbara Biedrzycki PhD, CRNP, AOCNP
- Best of ONS Abstracts: “Successful Training to Impact Care” by Danielle Crump RN, BSN, OCN
- “What’s Up What’s Down? Identifying Signs of Sepsis” by Brenda K. Shelton DNP, RN, APRN-CNS, CCRN, AOCN
- American Association for Cancer Research/ONS Bench to Bedside: “Immunotherapy: Think Smarter, Treat Better” by Joanne Riemer RN, BSN
- “Cancer Concerns in Veterans: Are you Asking the Right Questions” by JoAnn Coleman RN, BSN, OCN
- “Improving Staff Responsiveness: A Unit Initiative to Improve Call Bell Response Times” by Gail Zephyr BSN, RN, OCN; Laurie Bryant MSN, RN, OCN, ACNS-BC, and Colleen Apostol RN, MSN, OCN
- Characteristics associated with Severe Sepsis in Hematologic Malignancy Patient Admissions for Possible Infection” by Brenda K. Shelton, DNP, RN, APRN-CNS, CCRN, AOCN
- “Improving Education for Leukemia Patients: Development of a New Educational Platform” by Jaclyn Merkel-Bryant BSN, RN
- “Social Group Messaging in Electronic Health Record Implementation” by Kim Peterson, MSN, ACCNS-AG, OCN; Barb Van de Castle, DNP, ACNS, OCN, RN-BC and Monica Wilt, BS, RN
- Putting an Old Oncology Nursing Practice to Bed: A Hospital Wide Initiative Using Evidence Based Practice to Standardize the Administration of Vinca Alkaloids Using a Mini-bag, Side-arm Technique” by Mikaela Olson MS, APRN-CNS, AOCNS
- “Vincristine Mini-bag Administration: A Proactive Strategy to Enhance Chemotherapy Safety through Simulation” by Nancy Corbitt BSN, OCN, CRNI

In addition, 2 Chapter members were recognized for Achievement Awards

Mary Nowotny Excellence in Cancer Nursing Education Award to

Barbara Van de Castle, DNP, ACNS-BS, OCN

And

Susan Baird Excellence in Clinical Writing Award to

Brenda K. Shelton, DNP, RN, APRN-CNS, CCRN, AOCN

Let us never consider ourselves finished nurses.... We must be learning all our lives. Florence Nightingale
ONS Congress 2017 Denver: The Mile High City

Submitted by: Nancy Corbitt BSN, RN, OCN, CRNI

This year’s Congress opening ceremonies started out a bit different. There wasn’t the huge parade of attendees trailing down the aisles blowing horns, shooting off confetti guns as done by many of the international attendees. Could be because the main hall was stadium style versus what we have been used to in the past. One thing that did stand out was the crowd. There were over 4000 attendees, the most in 10 years, which I for one was thrilled to see. I was also impressed with our chapters presentations way too many to name; award winners, podium, poster and stand-alone sessions.

One of my highlights was my up close accidental seating very close to Patrick Dempsey at The Cure Dinner. I must say that he really is as hot as he is on television, not that I really watch him, but I just about melted when he turned and gave me a big smile…. OK, that was for a just a few seconds of my time in Denver, but it still brings a smile to my face.

Getting back to reality, one of the most interesting sessions for me, was the Up Close and Personal with Fatigue Biomarkers. During this session we learned that certain biomarkers have been used to document cancer-related fatigue and their effects. We need to have more research in this area, so that we can identify fatigue phenotypes to address what pathways are identified by various means of treatment example chemotherapy and radiation. Sounds like a great nursing research project.

I returned from Congress feeling rejuvenated, engaged and empowered to continue our mission, the mission of all oncology nurses to improve patient outcomes and stamp out this disease! I hope to see you all at next year’s Congress taking place on May 17-20th, 2018 in Washington, D.C. The theme is: One Nurse, One Moment, One Action. I, again have the privilege to sit on this upcoming year’s Congress Planning Team’s Clinical Practice Track. If you have any thoughts, suggestions or ideas for this track or Congress in general, please email me at NCorbitt@umm.edu

Opening Session Gives Voice to Cancer Survivor and Notes How Nurses Are an Important Part of Care

May 04, 2017

The opening session at the 42nd Annual Congress in Denver, CO, was a lively one, featuring a talk from ONS President Susan Schneider, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN, recognition of the 2017 ONS award recipients, and a discussion from ONS Foundation President Deborah K. Walker, DNP, FNP-BC, NP-C, AOCN®, who talked about the Foundation’s goal of raising $130,000 at Congress, with $80,000 in donations already in the books. Schneider also commented that the 2017 Annual Congress has more than 4,000 attendees, which is the most the meeting has seen in a decade.

The keynote speaker, Sung Poblete, RN, PhD, president and chief executive officer of Stand Up to Cancer, focused on immunotherapy and how oncology nurses can accelerate the use of these “extraordinary treatments,” Schneider said. “It is nurses who unfailingly keep patients first,” Poblete said. “The passion nurses share for patients connects all of us in this room. I know that there are days we all wish we went into real estate instead, but we know that our calling is so much greater.” She noted that it is important to break down silos and accelerate new treatments from the laboratory to the patient. “As nurses, we are closest to patients. We listen, we advise, we advocate, we champion, and we lead.”
After attending my first Congress, I can say that I found this year's slogan, “Elevate Your Passion; Advance Our Profession”, to be extremely appropriate. Where else but at Congress do you have the opportunity to gather with over 4,000 oncology nurses from around the world? If that isn’t enough to elevate your passion, the numerous presentations throughout the week certainly should. Opening ceremony started with David Gobin, a retired Baltimore police officer, sharing his story and the impact nurses have had on his care. Mr. Gobin was diagnosed with late stage lung cancer and given three months to live. Now, seven years later (yes, I said seven), he is hoping that he will be part of the cure. You can read more about his story at standup2cancer.org. Patricia Jakel shared her story during the session titled ‘When the Oncology Nurse Becomes the Oncology Patient: The Terror of the Cancer Diagnosis’. Whether through laughs or tears, these stories remind me that although we as nurses have a significant impact on the patients and families we care for, we can’t deny the impact they have on our own lives. I have always felt extremely privileged to care for my patients when things are most difficult for them and find myself being reminded of my gratitude to them for helping to shape me into the nurse I am today.

With renewed passion comes the desire to advance our profession. Congress had a wealth of ideas presented in a variety of formats. From attending formal poster sessions to panel discussions, there was an opportunity to gain practice ideas based on what nurses at other institutions are working on. I gained insight into several topics of interest such as Cdiff prevention, staff:patient ratios, end of life care, new grad orientation, and chemo error prevention to name a few. However, the one topic that stood out for me was the presentation on end of life care. When an oncology patient dies in the hospital, both family and staff feel the loss. One technique that can bring comfort to all is a ceremony to honor the patient’s life. Whether using a ‘pause’ in which family and staff gather at the patient’s bedside for a moment of silence or participating in the honoring ceremony outlined in the May 2016 issue of Oncology Nursing Forum, we have the unique opportunity to share with families in their loss. Seemingly small things such as this along with escorting the family out of the hospital, can provide a sense of closure and are reminders that we too feel their loss and empathize with them.

In closing, for those of you who have never attended Congress, what are you waiting for? For those of you reading this who attended in 2017 or in years past – I hope to see you in Washington D.C in 2018!

Submitted by: Christina Boord, BSN, RN, OCN

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GBCONS Members Attending Congress 2017

- Bunny Kohn
- Julie Mcnelis
- Christina Boord
- Danielle Crump
- Katrice Royster
- Christine Tapley
- Lisa Thomas
- Dawn Stefanik
- Sandy Beam
- Anne Belcher
- Karen Wickersham
- Kim Peterson
- Joanne Riemer
- Timothy Cameron
- Jaclyn Merkel-Bryant
- Gail Zephyr
- Laura Hearson
- Brenda Shelton
- Nancy Corbitt
- Ruth Evans

Certification Makes a Difference

Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation

The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) Board of Directors is seeking nominees for one position on the ONCC Board of Directors that will be open for election in late 2017. The position is for a three year term that will begin in May 2018.

http://www.oncc.org/about-oncc/leadership/election?
ONS Congress 2017 Denver: The Mile High City

Submitted by: Tim Cameron, RN, BSN  May 17, 2017

As we flew over Denver on my arriving flight, my anticipation of the upcoming weekend was high and exhilarating. This was my first time coming to Denver and the stark contrast in landscape was the first noticeable difference from Maryland. The circles and squares of green and brown land were expansive and I was surprised to see multiple small bodies of water as we approached Denver.

During Congress, I decided to choose mostly discussions that were targeted towards nurses at the bedside and providing direct care. One of the highlights of these forums was actually given by a Maryland-based nurse at Johns Hopkins Hospital. The topic was on implementing a program for children receiving radiation treatment and how to decrease the use of anesthesia while providing their care. They are using multiple modalities including iPads, meditation, and even superhero masks to calm children during such a stressful time in their lives. It is a prime example of how nursing intervention can shape the care of patients, decreasing costs and increasing patient satisfaction and outcomes.

Another topic of great interest to me was how cognitive function is affected by chemotherapy and immunotherapy. The nurse researcher discussed the study in great detail and ultimately showed how exercise alone can greatly change how a person reacts to their chemo treatment. Patients who were active and exercised showed less cognitive decline and consistently performed better on cognitive testing. This helped me to understand the significant importance of instructing patients to try to do some daily activities during treatment, even if it's just a brisk walk.

I was also able to attend an ancillary event, CURE magazine's Extraordinary Healer Award for Oncology Nursing. The event’s guest speaker was Patrick Dempsey, who lost his mother to cancer. He started the Dempsey Center in Maine, which provides patients and 1 caregivers with resources and support during and after their cancer treatment. The room was full of love for the profession of nursing. The event acknowledged nurses who have gone the extra mile to take care of their patients and made a lasting impression. As nurses, we have all experienced this first hand and it was great to have a night dedicated to the profession of nursing and to remember what nurses truly do everyday. We nurture patients and families through some of the hardest times in their lives.

Overall, the 2017 ONS Congress was a great success for me. I was able to network with other nurses from around the country, learn, and deepen my love for nursing. It was awesome to see so many nurses being at the top of their game and bringing new energy into our profession everyday. For me, it also ignited a desire to continue to expand my knowledge and become involved in contributing to evidence-based practice.

I want to thank the GBCONS Board of Directors for giving me the opportunity to attend this year's Congress and also my nurse manager, Marie Swisher, for encouraging me to apply for the grant. It was a great experience to attend my first Congress in Denver and I'm looking forward to attending next year!
Do you have a talent that you can share with us? Are you looking for a way to give back?

Please Join Us

We are an organization made up of volunteers. One of our goals this year is to increase participation from our members. We believe that we become better as a result of our combined efforts, and we are looking for renewed energy.

It will take some of your time, but the reward is worth it!

See one of our GBCONS Board of Directors volunteers for more information

Do You Have an Interesting Topic to Share?

Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing; Safety Column

Safety provides readers with information on safety issues affecting patients with cancer and those caring for them. Length should be not more than 1,000 – 1,500 words, exclusive of tables, figures, insets, and references. If interested, contact Associate Editor Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing:

David G. Glenn RN, MS, at, David.glenn@umaryland.edu

https://cjon.ons.org/content/columns-and-editorial-board
First step is to complete your ILNA needs assessment shortly after successfully certifying or recertifying. The needs assessment provides information about the number of ILNA points and in which categories you will need to recertify.

Then how do you obtain points in addition to conferences. ONS does offer education online programs and the ONCC has links to online CE programs, some FREE.

ILNA points are awarded for academic credits and publications:

Have you submitted an article to GBCONS for publication in the Harbor Herald? Was it more than 250 words? This is good news on several levels. First, you may have received funding from GBCONS, 2nd you provided knowledge to fellow oncology nurses and 3rd, you should be eligible for ILNA points.

According to the ONCC 2017 Oncology Nursing Certification Renewal Options (website address below), if you have had an article published in a newsletter or magazine, you can receive ILNA points. They may be general points, but you may need some general points. Articles of 250 to 1,000 words are worth 1 ILNA point. Articles more than 1,000 are worth 5 ILNA points. If you were awarded an educational grant and you submitted your 250 word article, you should be able to claim 1 point in addition to the education that you received. Remember to maintain a copy of the publication.

What happens when the conference/symposium awards multiple CE for successful completion, but has presentations of topics that you need? ONCC has a solution for that. You are able to evaluate the program to determine what the conference is about at a high level by reviewing the title, content outline/description and objectives/learning outcomes. If 4 CE’s or less are awarded to the entire program, the ILNA points may be awarded to one category. If more than 4 CE’s are awarded, then the applicant is able to evaluate the topics and determine how points should be awarded. This can be done by the individual. The organizing group is not required to provide the ILNA points. This information is located on the ONCC.org website.

This link takes you:  http://www.oncc.org/files/RenewalOptionsBook2017web.pdf
This information is available on the ONCC web site (ONCC.org)

In 2018, the content outline for OCN, BMTCN and CBCN is going to change. If you are planning to test for certification in 2018, the ONCC encourages you to prepare for the test using the new Test Content Outline.

Currently there are 9 sections of the OCN Test Content Outline. Beginning in 2018, there will be 7. The topics Treatment Modalities, Oncologic Emergencies and Psychosocial Dimensions of Care remain. The percentage of content has changed very little for these topics. The other 6 subjects have been merged.

Care Continuum (19%) includes topics such as, health promotion, disease prevention, screening, early detection, navigation (new), advanced directives (new), epidemiology, survivorship, treatment-related considerations (new), and end-of-life

Oncology Nursing Practice (17%) includes: scientific basis, site-specific cancer considerations, (pathophysiology, common metastatic locations, diagnostic measures, prognosis, staging, etc), scope, standards and related issues (standards of care, documentation, accreditation, self-care), and standards of professional performance (ethics, education EBP, quality of practice, leadership, collaboration, etc)
ONCC Certification Update: Need a few ILNA points?

Submitted by Sally Brown

Treatment Modalities (19%) now includes vascular access devices for treatment administration

Symptom management and Palliative care (23%) includes etiology and patterns of symptoms, anatomical and surgical alternations, pharmacologic interventions, complementary modalities, palliative considerations and alterations in functioning

Oncologic Emergencies (12%) content remains basically the same.

Psychosocial Dimensions of care (10%) content remains basically the same.

While I have not found this in writing, but I feel that the fewer and broader areas in the Content Outline will help when completing the ILNA needs assessment. By combining Blueprint sections, you may decrease the number of ILNA points needed for recertification.

Charity Column ~ Where do our generous contributions go

GBCONS Chapter members consistently demonstrate their generosity by donating to charitable organizations sponsored at our programs and dinner meetings. At the May 17th meeting, GBCONS raised funds for two charitable groups, Meals on Wheels and the American Cancer Society.

Meals on Wheels is an organization that provides home delivered meals, a group meal program and grocery assistance. Meals on Wheels is recognized for their delivery of nutritious meals to homebound individuals. This program supports independent living and quality of life for people who wish to remain in their homes. The Group Meal Program serves meals to senior centers and adult day care centers. The Grocery Assistance Program, of which I was unaware, provides a grocery shopping and delivery service to homebound elderly and disabled clients who cannot shop for themselves. A volunteer does the shopping at no charge for the service. GBCONS raised $117.00 for Meals on Wheels. Way to go chapter members!

In May, donations were also collected to support the American Cancer Society. This is the first year the chapter participated in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life fundraiser which was held at Dundalk Community College on June 3rd. Relay for Life donations help fund cutting edge cancer research, patient care services, education and prevention projects and many other initiatives. We raised $53 at the dinner meeting towards the event and a grand total of $1088. We are proud that this large sum earned us a title of “Rising Star Team.”

For more information on both charities, visit the websites below:
http://relay.acsevents.org/site/PageServer?pagename=relay_learn

Submitted by: Lisa Malick, MS, RN, OCN
GBCONS is proud to announce that we reached our fundraising goal for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life in Dundalk on June 3rd, 2017.

We were a small though mighty group……

Together we raised $1,088! We were the 6th highest leading team in fundraising earning us the 'Rising Star' award.

Thank you to all those who participated and donated. We hope to make this an annual outreach event to support our cancer patients and survivors!

SURVIVORS LAP  CAREGIVERS LAP  LUMINARIA CEREMONY  CLOSING CEREMONY

The GBCONS to NYC is scheduled for Saturday 10/21/2017~ Have you reserved your seat....... 

The average temperature for that time of year is around 70. The potential for a wonderful day to visit and explore NYC with friends and family. 

A recent visitor to NYC continues to marvel at his visit to the Museum of Modern Art or MoMA at 11W 53 Street. MoMA contains much more that just the abstract art. There is currently a Frank Lloyd Wright display. I think that the bus stops near W 46th Street.

Bette Midler is performing in Hello Dolly. A matinee allows time for lunch and a little shopping before the play and a dinner after. The theater is near the drop off and pick up location in NYC. The Book of Mormon, Chicago, Hamilton, Lion King, Miss Saigon, On your feet (Emilio and Gloria Estefan story), and Wicked are some of the other shows open. 

Interested in Hamilton, the person? There is a tour of Hamilton sites in NYC.

Want a show without the show price? See potential Broadway stars sing for your dinner at Ellen's Stardust Diner at 1650 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. The waitstaff performs all day. 

9/11 memorial is only a short subway ride away. Like to eat? There are food tours, take a boat tour to see sites.

Reserve your place on the bus. Ride up with people you know. 

Departure from the Park and Ride at Cromwell Bridge Road at 7 am.

Are you certified by the ONCC? The 1st 50 ONCC GBCONS members ride for free.

Please see the attached flyer for the information and registration.

Associated file:  NY bus trip flyer 20172.doc
10 EXPANSION OF AN ONCOLOGY URGENT CARE CENTER (OUCC) TO REDUCE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS AND HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS. Sharon Krumm, PhD, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD; Dawn Miller, MEd, MBA, PA-C, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD; Kristen Reeb, CRNP, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD; Mikaela Olsen, MS, APRN-CNS, AOCNS®, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD; Gina Szymanski, MSN, RN, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD; Bradley Burton, PharmD, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD Oncology patients often experience acute symptoms and toxicities following medical interventions or radiation treatments. Without alternatives readily available, emergency (ED) visits are the only resource. Establishment of an Oncology urgent care clinic staffed by Oncology nurse practitioners (NP) and physician assistants (PA) and Oncology Registered Nurses can effectively decrease ED visits and focus our attention on a patient centered model of care delivery, while improving patient safety, continuity of care, and patient satisfaction. The purpose of this project was to evaluate whether an Oncology urgent care clinic (OUCC) decreased ED visits and hospital admissions, and length of stay among oncology patients undergoing radiation treatment +/- chemotherapy or within 90 days of completing treatment. Demographics of all patients treated in the OUCC will be presented with reason for visit and disposition from the OUCC. In April 2015 this OUCC was expanded to rapidly respond to medical and radiation oncology patients requiring acute care at an urban academic hospital. Hours of operation were lengthened to 12 hours per day, Monday thru Friday. Radiation oncology patients were identified as a population previously not served by this OUCC for study. Radiation oncology patients identified as being managed by the ED were analyzed and compared to monthly data post intervention, March to June 2015. ED visits, ED visits with admissions, and direct admissions were reduced in the initial three months of the expansion of the OUCC while a significant increase in OUCC patient volume was observed. An OUCC staffed with experienced Oncology Advanced Practitioners and RNs can provide a safer and more patient driven encounter; this will also deliver a more satisfying patient experience with decreased wait times and oncology specific attention. Future study includes an analysis of outcome measures regarding morbidity and mortality and patient satisfaction.

ONCOLOGY NURSING FORUM • VOL. 44, NO. 2, MARCH 2017

May 17th, Dinner Meeting: Topic: Ovarian Cancer Where: Linwood’s

Ovarian Cancer: Cancer Genetics and Targeted Treatment: Presented by Dr. William Lowery, MD Gynecologic Oncologist Walter Reed National Medical Center

GBCONS would like to Maurine Bennett, Clinical Oncology Specialist Astra Zeneca for hosting this event. https://www.astrazeneca.com
On June 22, 2017, the United States Senate released the Better Care Reconciliation Act, its version of the healthcare reform legislation that would replace the Affordable Care Act. In May, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Health Care Act (AHCA, HR 1628), which is that chamber’s version of the same bill.

Lack of insurance or inadequate healthcare coverage adversely affects health, and uninsured individuals are less likely to receive preventive care and more likely to receive inadequate or delayed treatment. Quality care requires safety, efficacy, timeliness, a patient-centered approach coordinated by a multidisciplinary team, and the integration of evidence-based practice to continuously improve care.

Advocacy Corner:

I am still reeling from the announcement this week from President Trump that the US will be exiting the Paris Agreement. In this agreement, each country is able to determine what contributions it would make to reduce its carbon footprint in order to achieve a lower temperature increase and therefore mitigate global warming.

As nurses, we work to bring health and wellness to our patients and communities, so that they can have a better future. The future of generations to come is at risk as our planet’s temperature rises. In our own backyard, the Chesapeake Bay is at risk, due to defunding of “green” programs in Trump’s budget.

What is the issue that gets under your skin and ready to speak out? The beauty of advocacy is that we don’t all have to agree. The opinions I have about environmental health may not be yours. But, we all care deeply about something, and I urge you to get informed and speak out.

I will be attending a nursing conference on Climate Change this month, in order to learn all I can and find out how I can help in spreading the word and educating others. Advocacy is about speaking up and taking risks. What will you speak out about?

Come join our Advocacy Committee, so that we can build skills together and plan for the legislative session in 2018. Get involved and learn more about advocating at the federal level with ONS’s Hill Day. Let us know how we can help you get active!

Have a great day!
Trisha Kendall, MS, RN, OCN
GBCONS Legislative Liaison
Gbcons2014@gmail.com

The proposed legislation in the U.S. Senate’s Better Care Reconciliation Act, would:

- Reduce the Medicaid expansion efforts to the states for those most in need;
- Reinstate the annual and lifetime coverage caps, which impacts patients with cancer;
- Eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund that provide screenings; and
- Limit essential health benefits to access for care and treatment.

This legislation will have a disproportionately negative impact on patients with cancer. ONS joins the nursing and cancer community, along with more than 50 national nursing organizations in opposing this legislation.

Make your voice heard, tell your U.S. Senators to vote against the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

Thank you,
Oncology Nursing Society
Board Meetings:  *are held quarterly and we meet at MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center*

Upcoming meetings: start at 6:00 pm and a light dinner is served

- Tuesday, April 4, 2017
- Thursday, June 15, 2017
- Thursday, September 14, 2017
- Thursday, November 9, 2017

Dinner Meetings:  *held throughout the year with some CEU opportunities*

Upcoming dinner meetings: start at 6:00 pm and include a brief meeting

- Thursday, August 17, 2017  Topic: All about the Crab, (no speaker) Members Only  Where: Conrad’s, Belair Road
- Tuesday, October 3, 2017  Topic: Leukemia  Where: TBA
- Wednesday, December 6, 2017  Topic: TBA  Where: Ruth’s Chris Steak House, Pikesville

*Information: Nancy Corbitt does a fantastic job with programs and asks that you sign up early which can be done through PayPal or Credit Card via: [http://gb.vc.ons.org/calender](http://gb.vc.ons.org/calender)  Sign up early: spaces go quickly.  Cost of the meetings are $15.00.  Come prepared to support our Community Outreach and the 50-50.*

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday and Sunday, September 23-24th, 2017 **GBCONS OCN Review**~ share this information with your coworkers, it is an exceptional program.
- Saturday, October 15, 2017 **Susan G. Komen Race For The Cure®**
- Saturday, October 21, 2017 **GBCONS 14th Annual NYC Bus Trip**~ contact: mcfaden.maryellen@gmail.com
- Friday, November 17, 2017 **GBCONS Basket Bingo**~ Where: St. Joseph Church, Fullerton
GBCONS Board Members 2017

President                              Secretary
Ruth Evans                            Mary McQuaige
Treasurer                             Directors at Large
Gina Szymanski                        Rebekah Adams, Peggy Torr, Mary Ellen McFadden

And meet the rest of the board:
Sallie Brovitz-Palmer, Nancy Corbitt, Lisa Malick, Sally Myers, and Barb Van de Castle, Trisha Kendall, and Sally Brown

Board meetings: Held quarterly at Franklin Square and are open to chapter members

GBCONS now in its 34th year: As Ruth has stated so eloquently we can really be proud of our chapter. We continue to have such great work come from our respective institutions. I hope that everyone can take the time to read the abstracts that were submitted, accepted and presented at the 2017 Annual Oncology Nursing Congress. Did you take note of how many GBCONS members attended congress? We continue to donate substantial amounts of money to our charities for which we are always looking for new suggestions. Remember to come to our dinner meetings prepared to help with this cause, a little goes a long way. Our Relay for the Cure was a really nice event, and met one of our goals to get out and be seen in the community. The board would love to know your ideas of things that would get more of the membership engaged. We put in a lot of time and energy over the past year trying to come up with “fun” events that would cover your interests. We talked about bowling and or a ball game which did not seem to raise any excitement. Again, we really want to know what you want. This years Crab Feast~ All About the Crab is being sponsored by us, GBCONS no speaker so you can enjoy the night while cracking a beer, a crab and networking with all the amazing Oncology nurses within the chapter. Take the time to view the upcoming events so you have time to plan. The OCN review received great reviews last year and also a great way to acquire ILNA Points. Volunteers, we are still looking for you. Please join us at a board meeting. This is a great way to see what we do and get you thinking about your future role in GBCONS.

Editor: Peggy E. Torr RN, BSN, OC Contact me: pegtorr@comcast.net

Announcement: ONS Charter Chapter Renewal

Dear Ruth:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors, I am pleased to inform you and your members that the charter for the Greater Baltimore chapter has been renewed for 2017.

The ONS Board greatly appreciates your continued support of and affiliation with ONS. As each member of the ONS Board is fully aware from our own chapter activities, achieving and maintaining the ONS chapter charter represents extraordinary commitment and effort on the part of the chapter’s leaders and its general members. The ONS Board hopes your chapter continues to thrive and that your members experience the rewards that accompany the meaningful collaboration at the local level.

ONS chapters are of vital importance in helping to achieve the goals and mission of the Society. The entire ONS Board looks forward to working with you to further the future of cancer care.

Warmly,

ONS Members and Component Relations