

# The Bi-County Bulletin

A publication of the Los Angeles/Orange County Chapter  
of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses

Volume 21 Number 4

December 2011



## President's Message

Dale Wong BSN, RN, CRRN

Wishing one and all a very Happy Holiday season. I hope things are not too chaotic and you are able to spend some quality time with friends and family.

Regretfully, I was unable to attend our Winter Social Holiday Brunch held at Saka Seafood Buffet on December 3, 2011. I trust Aries Serafin; President Elect was *the perfect hostess!* Hope the food exceeded your expectations and you had a great time mingling with new friends and getting caught up with old friends.

Since our last newsletter, lots of things have happened. Our very own Darlene Finocchario, PhD, CRRN, PHN was selected to present "*Spiritual Well-Being - Predictor of Quality of Life for Persons with Paraplegia*" at the 37<sup>th</sup> ARN Annual Educational Conference in Las Vegas. She graciously agreed to give us a preview of her presentation at our Fall Educational Program. The program was held at Health South Tustin Rehabilitation Hospital on September 21, 2011. Polly Martin and Stephanie Vaughn did a fabulous job to ensure the evening would be a huge success, from the ambiance to the scrumptious Italian dinner. We had more than 50 attendees! Darlene shared her knowledge and findings with all of us, and everyone had a chance to participate. Thank you so much, Darlene, for a great presentation!

The other highlight of the evening was the drawing for ARN Bucks \$\$\$! Historically, each year, all LAOC ARN members who attend Chapter meetings and educational offerings are automatically entered into a drawing for ARN \$\$\$\$. A raffle is held at the conclusion of the Fall Educational Program. This year our winners are: Susan Grady who won \$100, Polly Martin, winning \$200 and Darlene Finocchario won the grand prize of \$400. Congratulations to all the winners!!!

Many LAOC ARN members from years past and current attended the 37<sup>th</sup> ARN Annual Educational Conference in Las Vegas. The 4-day Conference was held at the Rio Hotel. We are so proud of Stephanie Vaughn, who was the Chair of the Annual ARN Conference Planning Committee. Lynn Wetherwax and Paddy Garvin-Higgins along with others across the nation were members of the planning committee. The conference was a huge success. There was a record 980 registered attendees!!

Thanks in great part to Crystal Barker's commitment to submit nominations, once again LAOC ARN was the proud recipient of an award at the Annual Conference. This year, we were recognized for the "2011 Chapter Membership Award".

Congratulations to Stephanie Vaughn who was elected to the National ARN Board of Directors, which is a great honor. This means she will not be a permanent member of our local Chapter Board, however, she is has agreed to provide us with pertinent updates.

Looking forward to the new year, I encourage everyone to participate in Chapter events; come meet and network with other Rehab nurses. Take advantage of the educational opportunities that we have planned for 2012. Some dates to keep in mind are: January 18, 2012, our Annual Dinner and Business Planning Meeting will be held at St. Jude Centers for Rehabilitation and Wellness in Fullerton. Come for a great meal and give your input for educational topics and socials.

Tentatively, we will have our annual Potpourri at Rancho Los Amigos on March 10, 2012. We had contemplated not hosting a PRN Course in 2012, however, the Board decided that we need to keep our commitment to our mission which is to: "promote and advance professional rehabilitation, nursing practice through education, advocacy, collaboration and research to enhance the quality of life for those affected by disability and chronic illness". Based on feedback from staff members and interested people, we are now considering offering a 3-day PRN Course instead of our usual 4-day course sometime in April of this year. We would love to hear your thoughts! Stay tuned for details! Details regarding the course dates and registration information will be posted on our website, [www.laocarn.org](http://www.laocarn.org), as they become available. Please plan to attend and invite your friends. Your participation is needed to keep our Chapter strong and flourishing!

Once again, enjoy the holiday season, make fond memories with friends and family and I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and even better 2012!!!

## LA/OC ARN Chapter Calendar

**Who:** LA/OC ARN members/Non members  
**What:** Annual Business Meeting  
**When:** **January 18, 2012**  
**Where:** St. Jude Centers for Rehabilitation and Wellness in Fullerton  
**Why:** Planning for the new year.

**Who:** LA/OC ARN members/Non members  
**What:** Potpourri  
**When:** **March 10, 2012**  
**Where:** Rancho Los Amigos Nat. Rehab Center  
**Why:** Education, Networking

**Who:** LA/OC ARN members/Non members  
**What:** PRN Course  
**When:** **TBD**  
**Where:** TBD  
**Why:** Preparation for CRRN exam, Education

## ARN & Others Calendar

**Who:** ARN Members/ Non members  
**What:** 7th Annual Brain Injury Rehabilitation Conference . *Sponsored by the Rehabilitation Center at Scripps Memorial Hospital Encinitas*  
**When:** **March 16-17, 2012**  
**Where:** San Diego Marriott La Jolla La Jolla, California  
**Why:** Education, Networking  
**Link:** <http://www.scripps.org/events/brain-injury-rehabilitation-conference>

**Who:** ARN Members/ Non members  
**What:** Documentation for Rehabilitation: A Guide to Clinical Decision Making  
**When:** **Anytime**  
**Where:** Webcast  
**Why:** Education  
**Link:** <http://www.rehabnurse.org>

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## Los Angeles/Orange County-ARN Chapter Board Roster 2011/2012

### President

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### President Elect

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### Secretary

**Lynn Wetherwax**  
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### Treasurer

**Christiana Lassen MS, RN-BC, CRRN**  
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### Past President

**Paddy Garvin MN, RN, CRRN, CNS**  
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**Ex-Officio Chapter Board Member**  
**Marilyn Pires, MS, RN, CRRN, FAAN**

### Members at Large

**Ruby Bains, MS, RN, CRRN - Historian**  
**Crystal Barker MSN, RN-BC, CRRN**  
**Pat Jurado, BSN, RN, CRRN**  
**Rayhena Karim RN, CRRN**  
**Vance Shaw BSN, RN, CRRN- Webmaster**

### LA/OC ARN FALL EDUCATIONAL EVENT

On September 21, 2011, over 50 Chapter members and guests attended our Fall Educational Event at Healthsouth Tustin Rehabilitation Hospital. After enjoying a delicious Italian meal, and networking with old and new friends, Darlene Finocchiaro, PhD, CRRN, PHN gave her presentation: *“Spiritual Well-Being - Predictor of Quality of Life for Persons with Paraplegia,”* which she also presented at the ARN Annual Educational Conference in November.



### LA/OC ARN MEMBER PROFILE :

Vance Shaw BSN, RN, CRRN



Vance Shaw has been a registered nurse in the specialty of rehabilitation nursing for thirty one years. He is currently the nursing clinical educator for the inpatient rehabilitation unit at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center in Long Beach, California. As a clinical educator, Vance coordinates the orientation of new employees,

facilitates developmental opportunities, updates nursing staff on new equipment and procedures, and coordinates nursing performance improvement on the inpatient rehabilitation unit.

Vance is currently enrolled in the MSN program, in the clinical nurse specialist track, at CSULB, through a contract program that Long Beach Memorial Medical Center has with the university. He encourages his colleagues to pursue career development through the educational program at CSULB, as well as through the nursing career ladder program that the medical center has.

In addition to his work responsibilities and academic endeavors, and in collaboration with his colleagues, Vance has authored articles published in the journals; *Rehabilitation Nursing* and the *Journal of Spinal Cord Injury Nursing*, and has assisted in writing a chapter of a textbook for Physiatrist residents entitled, *“Rehabilitation of the Spinal Cord Injured Patient.”*

Vance’s personal mission is to facilitate the optimal recovery of individuals, and assist them to adapt to their environment through rehabilitation. He has operationalized this mission through direct patient care and coordination, and a thorough education of nurses in the principles and practice of rehabilitation nursing.



## A Winning Combination in Vegas!!!

*Submitted by Paddy Garvin Higgins, RN, MN, CRRN, CNS*

A great time was had by all at the recent 37<sup>th</sup> Annual ARN Educational Conference held at The Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas from November 2-5, 2011. This year's conference was one of the highest for attendance at an ARN conference – over 1000 rehabilitation nurses were there! Stephanie Vaughn was the Conference Programming Planning Committee Chair this year and did an excellent job in pulling it all together with the help of a committee that was represented across the United States including current LA/OC ARN board members Lynn Wetherwax and Paddy Garvin Higgins.



In addition to the Pre Conference Workshops, there were many informative sessions including a great Chapter Leader's Reception in which Chriss Lassen and Marilyn Pires facilitated roundtable discussions. Chriss facilitated Membership/Recruitment and Marilyn spearheaded the Education/Meeting Topics table. It was a great opportunity to learn about other chapters. Many board members were able to attend and will be sharing some great take away ideas to help our chapter grow even more!

The conference itself opened with a rousing entertainment troupe who presented a musical tribute to Elvis! Only in Vegas! Over the course of the week there were great sessions to choose from that included the newly proposed CARE tool to new therapies in the treatment of brain injury. Our very own LA/OC ARN members, Laura Ferber and Darlene Finocchiaro, also presented during the conference and received rave reviews! There were also several special interest groups that met over the course of the 3 days to network and share ideas with one another.



The exhibit hall provided attendees with access to state of the art products and services. The poster presentations were many and addressed hot bed issues such as bedside rounding, fall prevention and patient safety, rehab nursing documentation, stroke/brain injury/spinal cord injury care, and female sexuality to name a few. In addition, there was a "Meet the Author" session in the exhibit hall for the introduction of the newly revised rehabilitation nursing core curriculum. Paddy Garvin Higgins was a chapter author this time around and participated in the book signing. Several of our chapter members were also chapter reviewers. Check out "The Specialty Practice of Rehabilitation Nursing: A Core Curriculum (Sixth Edition)". We know you will find it to be a valuable resource in your rehabilitation nursing practice.

Our final endnote speaker for the conference was Deirdre Mercer, LBSW, who presented an inspirational talk on "Creating a Culture of Gentleness". All attendees were left with a wonderful feeling knowing that the type of special care provided to our rehabilitation clients is both rewarding and fulfilling. It was the perfect ending to a conference with the theme title of "Rehabilitation Nursing and Best Practice: A Winning Combination"!

We hope you can join us next year when the Annual ARN Educational Conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee from October 3-6, 2012! Stay tuned for more information as we go forward into the New Year!

