



Spring 2014 BONUS Newsletter

Hello BONUS members! As I write this I am hoping spring is right around the corner (as is our conference) and we'll soak up the sun in beautiful South Carolina! The Steering Committee met earlier this year to plan the 2014 conference and we are anticipating another great event in Charleston. Our October Steering Committee planning session incorporated a lot of discussion around feedback you provided from the 2013 conference (so please keep sharing!). We hope the changes we've made enhance the program and your overall experience, especially as we continue transition to a more flexible, interactive agenda. We were fortunate this year to have a number of you volunteer to lead discussions with your peer groups. For those of you who have volunteered, we thank you! And for those of you who are interested in engaging more fully in the conference, please let one of us know, there are always opportunities.

For new members, Welcome to BONUS! This is a truly great professional organization that is tailored to the joys, challenges and trials and tribulations of business officers in Nursing programs. There is a wealth of knowledge within the BONUS membership and we hope that you walk away from the conference more knowledgeable and potentially with a new connection or two.

I would encourage everyone to **please plan on attending the annual BONUS Business meeting on Thursday morning April 24th.** It will not be a long meeting and it is very important, as it is your opportunity to help make decisions that will impact the future of the BONUS organization.

We thank all of you for your support, knowledge, opinions and willingness to put yourself out there; we know that the members are what make BONUS a success.

Katharine Bonneson & Deidre Wesley
BONUS Chair & Chair Elect



The **Steering and Planning Committees** have put together an instructive and engaging program entitled “Bridging for the Future: Connecting Past Experience to Inform Future Leaders” for the **2014 BONUS ANNUAL MEETING at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina on April 23-25, 2014**. We have outstanding speakers, member facilitated break-out sessions, and a panel of past BONUS Steering Committee Chairs sharing lessons learned and answering your burning questions. You can register at: www.aacn.nche.edu/conferences; the deadline for early registration is April 11, 2014. For hotel reservations, call 877-756-2121. Visit the AACN website or BONUS Facebook page for other options.

Dress for the conference is casual and **everyone is encouraged to wear their school’s T-shirt and/or colors to the opening session on Wednesday**. Remember to **bring a giveaway from your school** for the exchange table. This is a great way to see the promotional materials used by other schools and be able to bring something fun home from another school.

There will be a poster session on Thursday afternoon from 4 to 5 p.m. Please share your knowledge and expertise on topics such as practice, research, workload, educational programs, employee relations, business school management, or other areas of interest by creating a poster and sharing it during this session.

New attendees are encouraged to attend the **BONUS 101 Orientation Session** on Wednesday, April 23rd at noon. This session will help orient you to the BONUS organization and networking opportunities. I hope to see everyone at the opening session when we will reveal the new BONUS “wordle” based on your input of words that signify BONUS to you!

Charleston South Carolina is a visitor’s delight with lots to see and do. “Evening tours and late afternoon beach walks are a must!” according to Lynn Shull, Assistant Dean of Finance & Administration at the Medical University of South Carolina. Check out the following links: <http://www.charlestonfarmersmarket.com> and <http://www.charlestoncvb.com/visitors/>. Restaurants you may want to try Wednesday night at the group dinners include: Rue de John (French), Old Towne (Greek), Fleet Landing (Seafood), Mellow Mushroom (Pizza), South End Brewery (Brewpub), and Blossom Café (Continental). Thursday evening you may want to join a group at a restaurant, go on a ghost tour, take a dinner cruise or partake in other activities ranging from cooking classes to comedy clubs listed on the Charleston Visitors’ Bureau website. If you are staying over Friday night, the Farmers’ Market in Marion Square across from the Francis Marion Hotel is a “must do” according to Lynn.

Susan Perez
BONUS Planning Committee Chair



The **Membership Committee** is busy contacting AACN universities and colleges that currently do not have a BONUS representative. We hope to reach numerous business colleagues who have not attended a BONUS conference before and share the exciting news about BONUS. Thank you to the Membership Committee members Cynthia Allshouse, Kate Brannon, Kwabena Kankam, Lynn Murphy, and Jeannette Russell for their hard work. We look forward to seeing everyone in my home state of South Carolina in April. Safe travels to all!

Mary Androne
BONUS Membership Committee Chair



The **Nominating Committee** just sent out a call for nominations. Please start thinking about who you would like to nominate for the open positions and complete the forms to nominate a peer or yourself. Becoming part of the BONUS Steering Committee is an excellent opportunity to become more involved with BONUS and to better acquaint yourself with your peers. The Steering Committee does take a small time commitment to help with the planning of the future conference, but it is also a fun and an energizing experience. If you don't feel that you are ready to take a leadership position, please consider volunteering to be a member of one of the committees. We could really use your help and your ideas.

At the April meeting in Charleston, we will be filling the following positions:

- Chair Elect**
- Membership Committee Chair**
- Special Projects Committee Chair**
- Planning Committee Chair**

Nominations are due Monday, March 24th. Information on candidates will be sent out prior to the conference, as well as at the conference. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Delores Armstrong
Nominating Committee Chair



Cheryl McPherson was hard at work with the **Special Projects Committee** to line up vendor and local business support for the spring 2014 conference, but unfortunately due to personal reasons she was forced to resign from the Committee. We wish Cheryl the best and will be looking for someone to take over the lead in this committee. Thanks to all the committee members who assisted Cheryl this year!

The **Communications/Networking Committee** has been working on ways to encourage and expand communications and networking opportunities for, and between BONUS members. The [Business Officers of Nursing Schools Facebook page](#) is up and running and waiting for your comments, pictures and informal conversations with BONUS members. You are welcome to share your feedback on postings, as we are trying to post useful information on the site including information about webinars and other learning opportunities, as well as other important information related to BONUS activities and the conferences. Please however remember that it is a public format, so please keep postings professional.

Some BONUS members have also taken advantage of the [AACN Online Collaboration Community](#). The main draw for us to this site was the ability to archive questions and responses. While the BONUS listserv has been an important tool for BONUS members to be able to ask each other questions, it does not however allow us to store conversations or posts for future reference. Please make sure that you share your thoughts and feedback on these new technologies with us so that we know what path we should pursue in the coming year.

We would welcome anyone with interest in expanding communications and dialogue within the BONUS membership to join this committee. Let us know if you liked this newsletter, as well as any suggestions for the future. I would also like to expand my thanks to all who have served on this committee over the past year.

Christina Kilduff
Communications Committee Chair

See you in Charleston! It will be here before you know it.

