

# Central Focus

Volume 52, Issue 4

December 1st, 2015

4th Quarter Newsletter

A publication of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society



## Target Audience:

Novice and experienced care providers who are interested in the care and management of oncology

## Inside this issue:

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Presidentially Speaking            | 2 |
| From the Editor                    | 2 |
| A Message from our President-Elect | 3 |
| 2015 Chapter Achievements          | 4 |
| Chapter Reminders                  | 5 |
| Mark Your Calendars                | 6 |

Editor:

Sirena Shaneyfelt  
BSN, RN, OCN

GKCCONS\_Newsletter@yahoo.com

## Happy Holidays Members

This has been another great (busy) year with the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society. It has also been an emotional year for nurses everywhere. Although there are still individuals that misunderstand and undervalue our profession it is important that we continue, in 2016, to perform our jobs with professionalism, compassion, and excellence. The characteristics nurses are really known for. In doing so, we help more individuals understand just how valuable we truly are.

“The trained nurse has become one of the great blessings of humanity, taking a place beside the physician and the priest.” -William Osler

## Great Opportunity for Chapter Leadership in 2016

ONS has announced the following 8 locations for Regional Chapter Officer Programs in 2016. Please note all programs are held on a Saturday from 11a to 3 p local time. Exact dates, times and locations to be announced.

Austin, Texas (February 20)  
Nashville, Tennessee (March 26)  
Kansas City, Missouri (May 21)  
New York City, New York (June 11)  
Southern/Central Michigan (September 17)  
Phoenix, Arizona (October tba)  
Napa Valley, California (November 12)  
Central Florida (December tba)

The Regional Chapter Officer Programs are open to all chapter board members regardless of position. There is no cost to attend other than your own personal travel costs. ONS will provide lunch and refreshment breaks. RSVPs are required. For more information please contact [chapters@ons.org](mailto:chapters@ons.org) or call (412) 859-6403.

# Presidentially Speaking



Melody Alexander  
RN BSN OCN  
President of the  
GKCCONS

*Mission: To promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality care*

*Vision: To lead the transformation of cancer care*

*When all else changes, values endure.*

First of all, this has been an enjoyable year for me as President. I enjoyed seeing so many faces at our meetings across the metropolitan area. Our general membership is comprised of individuals from bedside nursing, outpatient nursing, advanced practice, nursing leadership, hospice, palliative care, clinical research, education, and many other industries that support our oncology patients. Also, with a variety of experiences, the 2015 board members brought a unique set of strengths to the table. Thank you to those that volunteered their time to keep this chapter going strong and committing to make it better for our membership.

Serving in a role such as this can be difficult. Our chapter has been an ongoing vision for decades, shared, and put into action each year by various individuals. As a membership, we rely on leadership to keep it all going. We trust the Treasurer to manage our budget, the President to renew our chapter charter annually, the Director-at-Large to plan our annual banquet, and the Programs Chair to ensure we receive our continue education hours. So many tasks occur behind the scenes year after year to maintain our chapter status.

*When all else changes, values endure.*

I love this phrase, for so many

reasons. For the sake of this article, I am going to focus on how the phrase relates to our chapter. Leadership in the Oncology Nursing Society, nationally and locally, is ever changing. It is the values that remain the same year to year, decade to decade. Whenever a new team of leaders come aboard, one of the first things they do is review the core values and vision of the organization. If the values are used as guidance year to year, we will continue to move forward as an organization. The trick though, is having individuals, willing and able, to put those values into action for our chapter. To keep those values alive, I want to encourage each member to seriously consider serving on the board in the coming years. We have over 375 members in our chapter. If each member volunteered for a term (2 years), we would have a full board for the next 53 years. I know that isn't feasible to think, so if only 1/4 of our members committed to one board term, that is still 15 years of a fully stocked board to continue the vision of the chapter, without repeating any terms.

Now, I know with that statement, many of you are going to push yourself into the other 3/4 category. We like to assume someone else is going to take care of it. At the end of the day, organizations, groups, and communities struggle when members assume someone else will always be there to fix

things or make things happen. Currently our chapter is thriving, but we are in a place that we are asking past board members to come back and serve another term. Fortunately for us they are willing and able to serve. As a current leader, it is somewhat disheartening to think out of 375 members, we continue to use the same 20-30 people for leadership. That is the same 20-30 minds making decisions and interpreting the vision of the chapter year after year. Eventually, this can turn into a rut. Having new perspectives and strengths brought to the table enhances the chapter's services to general membership.

As I mentioned at the beginning, we are a chapter full of members from all different backgrounds. I hope in the years to come, we are able to find more members willing to volunteer and carryout the action of our values despite the ongoing changes around. Personally, I found significant value in serving as a board member over the last two years. It is a small time commitment, but the connections made are invaluable. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president and I look forward to my ongoing interactions with chapter members in the future!



## From the Editor

A special thank you to Melody Alexander, Sharon Lewis, JoAnn Adams, Amanda Mautino, Kim Clark, Kerry Campbell, Julia Sprague, Yvonne Ward, & Beth Lynn for their contributions to these newsletters.

Thank you to all of our hard-working and dedicated members especially those who volunteer their time to serve on the board for this organization.

I hope next year we continue to improve and make this organization a great resource for oncology nurses in the greater Kansas City area. To all our members I hope you have a wonderful holiday season with your families and friends and look forward to seeing you in 2016!



Sirena Shaneyfelt  
RN BSN OCN  
Newsletter Editor of the  
GKCCONS



## 2015 GKCCONS Achievements

### Membership

This year, chapter membership increased from 303 in January to 387 by the end of October. Amanda Mautino reached out to multiple area nursing schools, disseminating chapter membership information, invitations to our annual fair, and chapter challenge information. I emailed all the major nursing schools with meeting information, our fair invite and the chapter challenge information. The hope is that getting these young nurses involved early will help drive continued oncology education that improves patient outcomes and may even influence their decision to work in the oncology field when they graduate.

Yvonne Ward – Membership Chair

### Director at Large

My name is JoAnn Erickson RN BSN OCN. I am the Director at Large for The Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society. I had the great pleasure of working with Julia Sprague last year. I believe that the Spring Banquet was something that we work hard on and was very successful. It was held at the Boulevard Brewing and was catered by the Portable Chef. We also had an amazing speaker that made you cry and laugh at the same time. All the comments that Julia and I received were very positive. I look forward working on next years.

I am hoping that we can continue to grow as a Nursing Society in Kansas City. I hope that we can encourage nurses to want to be certified and be members of the chapter. I have seen positive action over year. I believe that reaching out to smaller community hospital and centers will be very beneficial. My job gives me the opportunity to reach these nurses that work in cancer centers. There is not one day that goes by I do not mention Oncology Nursing Society to nurses in the field. I am very proud to be a member of The Greater Kansas City Chapter.

JoAnn Erickson – Director at Large

Here's looking  
forward to a  
great 2016!

### Treasury

Our chapter's financial status is very stable. It is important to recognize how revenue goes back to our membership- directly or indirectly. To date in 2015, the chapter has allocated \$1010 in scholarship to our members. This was done by application as well as recognition. To maintain licensure and certification status, obtaining CEU is important to membership. This year \$630 was spent to deliver CEU at all chapter meetings. Dinner at meetings has been an important perk, according to our members. Dinners, depending on the caterer and number of members attending, range from

\$492 at a monthly meeting to more than \$5300 at our annual banquet. To maintain our chapter status, ONS is reimbursed for their oversight of detail and maintenance; this is completed by paying our professional organization \$700 annually. Due to our good financial standing, we were able to donate an additional \$500 to ONS at Leadership Weekend. Our chapter was recognized for this as Sharon Lewis, president elect, was able to deliver the check in person. At survivors' day in June, hand sanitizer was purchased and provided to the community from our chapter by members present.

Our finances are reported frequently at general meetings and always at board meetings. Fiduciary responsibility is an element of each board members' job description. It is important that our chapter members are aware of the how the money is used as well---primarily back to them through endeavors described. Your input in priorities and events that our chapter oversees or participates in, is always important. Please feel free to contact me if any questions, concerns, or comments. Thank you for your continued chapter support.

Cath Glennon—Treasurer



## Big Change Starts at ONS Congress—Register Now

Are you ready to make a big change in your nursing practice? Registration is now open for the ONS 41st Annual Congress, April 28–May 1, 2016, in San Antonio, TX.

Congress is the most comprehensive oncology nursing conference in the country—don't miss this chance to learn, network, and celebrate your profession with more than 3,000 of your peers.

New for 2016! We're introducing four session tracks to help you determine which Congress sessions are most relevant to your practice. No matter your experience level, you'll find content that meets your learning needs.

**Register now** to meet us in San Antonio, and take advantage of early-bird pricing!



## Reminder: ONS Chapter Recruitment

Don't forget to keep recruiting! A Chapter Recruitment Challenge is still underway across the National ONS membership. Chapters have been challenged by our national leadership to bring new members on board. Chapters who recruit 25 or more new members will be recognized at Congress 2016 in San Antonio. New members can simply enter the code CHAPCHAL15 on the application when they join. ONS is also extending a complimentary one-year student membership to all new student members (CHAPSTDNT15). Along with a free membership, these individuals will also receive a complimentary registration for the online on-demand Cancer Basics course. This challenge runs through December 31, 2015. Recruit away!

## Annual OCN Review Course Update

Save the dates March 3 & 4, 2016. The review course will be current with the 2015 OCN Test Blueprint and the new *Core Curriculum for Oncology Nursing* text. Please watch your emails for registration details from the chapter over the next few months.



**Promoting and Advancing  
Quality Cancer Care Through:**

**Education**

**Innovation**

**Advocacy**

**& Clinical Practice**



**Goals and Objectives**

This Oncology Nursing program is dedicated to:

1. Encouraging nurses to specialize in the care of oncology patients, from the time of their diagnosis through end-of-life.
2. Developing and disseminating knowledge of evidence-based practice leading to quality cancer care.
3. Promoting and providing diverse continuing education for the seasoned as well as the entry-level oncology nurse.
4. Continuing to provide opportunities for the exchange of information, resources,

Please remember to check e-mail or website for meeting locations and dates.

Meetings are timed:

5:30-6pm Networking and Dinner

6-7:30pm Program

RSVP for all meetings and events to Wendy Lyles at [w2lyles@gmail.com](mailto:w2lyles@gmail.com)

ONS Members attend meetings and may obtain offered CE's without charge.

Non-ONS Members will be charged a \$10 fee to cover meal and CE.

**Check us out on the internet**

Our Virtual Community is at <http://greaterkansas.vc.ons.org/> and were on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Greater-Kansas-City-Chapter-Oncology-Nursing-Society/>



**Mark Your Calendars**

**KC HOLIDAY EVENTS**

*16th Annual Holiday Luminary Walk*

**December 4-5**  
Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

*Festival of Lights Parade*

**December 5th**  
Historic Downtown  
Lexington, MO

*Gardens by Candlelight:  
Luminary Walk*

**December 12-13**  
Powell Gardens

*Winter Solstice Celebration*

**December 19**  
Ernie Miller Nature Center

**MUSICAL PERFORMANCES**

*Kansas City Symphony's  
Christmas Festival*

**December 17-20**  
Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center

*Music in the Museum*

**December 20**  
The National Museum of  
Toys and Miniatures

*Trans-Siberian Orchestra  
presents "The Ghosts of  
Christmas Eve"*

**December 26**  
The Sprint Center

**HOLIDAY SHOWS**

*"A Christmas Carol"*  
**Through December 24th**  
Spencer Theatre

*"The Best Christmas  
Pageant Ever"*  
**Through December 26th**  
H&R Bloch City Stage, Union Station

*Handel's Messiah*  
**December 3-6**  
Kauffman Center

*Seamless Dance Company  
presents "Fables in Frost"*  
**December 4-6**  
H&R Bloch City Stage, Union Station

