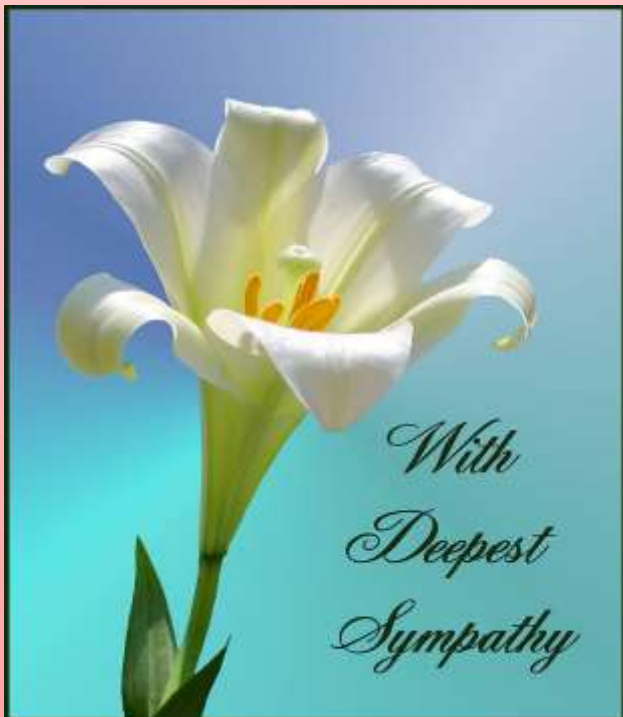




**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY  
TO: JOY HEPKINS**

It is with sadness that I have to let you know that **Joy Hepkins' brother** (Abby Forif) passed away suddenly June 30th. Joy's brother was living in South Africa and caring for their parents at the time of his passing. **Please keep Joy and her family in your thoughts and prayers.**

Rosemarie Tucci RN, MSN, AOCN



**Upcoming Events  
Save the Date**



PennsWood ONS

**Wednesday August 14, 2013**

**at 6:00pm**

**Dilworthtown Inn**

**1390 Old Wilmington Pike**

**West Chester, PA 19382**

**Myelofibrosis:**

**Disease Overview, Role of the JAK  
Pathway, and Current Therapies**

**Julie Wu, MS, PhD**

**Medical Science Liaison, Incyte Corp.**

**Sponsored by Incyte Corporation**

**RSVP by August 9**

**Susan Lorah : 610-983-1833 or**

**Email: [susan\\_lorah@chs.net](mailto:susan_lorah@chs.net)**

## Legislative News



**HR 1661** is a reactivation of the bill of 2012 requesting a single payment for RN education for cancer patients. This teaching session is to be done on an oncology visit, separate from either day of diagnosis or first day of treatment. Specific language of this bill can be found by highlighting the title, on the ONS website under Legislation and Advocacy. This bill is supported by multiple cancer agencies, and currently has 18 co-sponsors (none of whom are from the Delaware Valley area). ONS hopes to have a similar bill introduced in the Senate in this congressional session.

In order to move this bill forward for discussion in committee, we, as oncology nurses, need to educate legislators about the importance of this bill to our patients. The most direct way to do this initially is by sending an email to your federal legislator or by a telephone call to the legislator's aide for health policy issues. It is extremely important to encourage legislators in our home areas to cosponsor this bill, because as the number of cosponsors increases, the likelihood of this bill making progress toward passage in the 2013 congressional session increases.

Nurses are trusted members of the health care arena. Only by speaking up about the cost savings of preventing unnecessary hospitalizations can we hope to encourage our federal representatives to cosponsor this House resolution. By educating patients about diagnosis and appropriate treatment regimen in a setting which is conducive to patient learning, we stand a better chance of accomplishing the goal of preventing unnecessary hospitalizations.

Continued on page 3

## Navajo Service Project:

### What It Is and Can Be

When Penns Wood and PACONS took on the service project to assist nurses with needs for the Navajo nation in 2010, little did we realize what it would blossom into. We expected to send books, patient education materials and gas cards. We thought we might be able to help out sending Christmas gifts. Well, we've done that and so much more!



At this year's ONS National Congress in Washington, D.C., our 2 chapters were recognized for the project with the Pearl Moore "Making a Difference" Team award, which allowed us to bring Ruth White from the reservation to join us in Washington for Congress. It also gave us the opportunity to share with many others not only that we did the project but the hows and whys – including that the definition of community is people and not location, through a poster presentation that Pat Frank, Peg Rummel and Ro Tucci spent time discussing over the course of 3 days. We spoke to many people interested in the idea – even through the course of the 4 day conference in a variety of settings and hopefully inspired a few to consider doing something similar with their ONS chapter or work organization.

Continued on page 3

## **Legislative News, Hr 1661**

Either personally or professionally, each of us at one time has experienced how difficult it is to learn when under stress. An educated patient will react appropriately at the first sign of a problem and report it to a health care provider, who can act at once, before the problem worsens.

As your legislative liaison, I am happy to answer any questions you may have about the process. I am also willing to attend a visit to a local legislative office with you, if you like. Please copy any responses to your efforts to me for Pennswood records. As a constituent, you are a valuable asset to your representative regarding this issue and other health issues on which a legislator is asked to vote. The importance of congressional decision making and its ramifications come to light by your stories. If you have the ear of your representative or the legislative aide in the office, you will realize the importance of your role. A succinct presentation of the effect of proposed laws in the home community is valuable information to one who is bombarded with hundreds of proposals for legislation.

At a time when nurses have a huge opportunity to influence health care policy, please act in concert with your professional nursing organization and send that email or make that phone call to your federal legislator's health policy aide. Nurses provide ongoing education throughout the course of any therapy without any reimbursement. Your patients deserve this educational session apart from day of cancer diagnosis or first day of cancer treatment of any type. Nurses deserve a onetime reimbursement for a job well done educating each and every patient throughout the treatment course.

Elizabeth Tiger Email: [tigers628@hotmail.com](mailto:tigers628@hotmail.com)

Or cell (610-220-9970)

## **Navajo Service Project...**



Along with the poster presentation, since we had published an article on the project in [Oncology Nurse Advisor](#), on October 2012 – we were asked to be interviewed and videotaped at Congress by a team from [Oncology Nurse Advisor](#) that will be linked to the on-line version of the article. Peg Rummel did a wonderful job discussing what was done and why and how we are continuing the project.

As a final wrap-up to all of this news, we have been contacted by several individual nurses and the Easton/Bethlehem area who would like to assist us and the Delaware Diamond ONS chapter has expressed interest as well.

**So Well Done Ladies and Gents!**

Rosemarie Tucci RN, MSN, AOCN

## What I Learned at the Leadership Conference

ONS National -July 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

Pittsburgh, Pa

Martha Kline, RN, BSN, OCN

I attended the ONS Leadership Conference held over the weekend of July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012. I came away with many new ideas for the Penns Wood chapter. After listening to the keynote speaker, Vernetta Walker from BoardSource, (see [www.boardsource.org](http://www.boardsource.org)) a Board Building consulting company based in Washington D.C., and talking to other chapter members from all over the country, I became enthused about the future of our chapter. I am looking forward to how I can take what I learned from Ms. Walker and the other chapters, and put the ideas to use with our chapter.

### Ms. Walker pointed out 4 different types of Boards:

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Dysfunctional | 3. Responsible |
| 2. Functional    | 4. Exceptional |

I am happy to see our chapter reaching out to the Navajo Indian reservation. Since our venture into helping the Navajo Indians, we have now become a more functional chapter. Before this outreach, other chapters far exceeded our chapter in their community outreach. For example, the Columbus Chapter has a Community Outreach Committee, which led the participation in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk. We can also learn from them with regards to education. Their chapter has a scholarship committee, and its virtual community is equipped with links to programs which makes it easier for its members to apply for scholarships.

Some of the ideas given by other chapters to help with recruiting and maintaining membership included:

Continued above...

- Stationary with logo
- Banners with Penns Wood logo at events
- Better use of the Virtual Community
- Facebook page specifically for our chapter
- Stories in Local Newspapers about work our chapter has done
- Member profiles in the Chapter Newsletter
- Nurses' week celebration by the chapter
- Adopt a family for Christmas
- Field trips to Washington, D.C. with regards to health care legislation
- Open our meetings to the floor nurses in the hospitals- make sure they know that Penns Wood and ONS exist.
- Community outreach- presence at health fairs, colleges, nursing schools and job fair days at high schools.
- Speaking to elementary children about the dangers of smoking.

Moving forward we could tap into the resources that we have in our membership and put them to good use. There are several nurses who would be more than qualified to lead discussions or present a lecture at our chapter meetings.

There are so many resources for nurses, and the Penns Wood chapter has just touched on the tip of what exists to help further the education of oncology nurses. As I learned from the session "Chapter 101- Running a Successful Chapter" led by the Columbus chapter, these are examples of resources they use for their chapter:

(<http://columbus.vc.ons.org>)

1. American Cancer Society
2. Central Ohio Men Against Prostate Cancer
3. Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc
4. Columbus Cancer Clinic Columbus Community
5. Clinical Oncology Program
6. Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
7. Gamma Zeta Zeta Chapter

Cont. page 5

### Leadership Conference ...cont.

8. Latino Empowerment Outreach Network
9. Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
10. National Cancer Institute
11. Ohio Nurses Association
12. Ohio Nursing Student Association
13. The OSU CCC Diversity Enhancement Program
14. The OSU James Cancer Hospital
15. Sisters Network, Inc
16. Susan G. Komen Foundation
17. The Zangmeister Center
18. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

We could be partnering with other programs such as the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the NCI, and the ACS, just to name a few. Reaching out to programs such as these for new material and ideas will further the education of Oncology nurses, and in turn they will take better care of their patients.

As a Board we could strive harder to mentor our newer oncology nurses, and assure they have the funds to attend programs such as ONS Congress. We could also use funds that may be available, to help members pay for web programs offered by ONS. We should encourage and provide them with the means to achieve their certification, be it a study partner, or navigating through the certification process. Our membership committee is key in building our membership. New members should be mentored and encouraged to attend. One idea is to provide him or her with a "big sister/ big brother". This person would be available to encourage the member to attend the monthly meetings, answer questions, and also help with filing for foundational grants to attend Congress, APN/Research, and Connections conferences.

The more engaged the member is with the chapter, the deeper a sense of pride they have for their chapter, their profession, and their career. This in turn leads to a more functional and engaged chapter overall.

I learned that our chapter is a live, growing entity, and we can always improve, and can evolve into a chapter that is thriving, and giving to the community and the our fellow oncology nurses.



### Editor Note:

I thank you all for your Love, thoughtfulness, prayers and support, It means so much during these difficult times.

Many Thanks,

Joy Hepkins RN OCN

*Oncology Nurse Navigator/Coordinator*

*610-237-2648 Office*

*610-237-4589 Fax*

Please continue to send articles for this Newsletter. If you have anything to post or articles, please send it to:

[woodpileneletter@gmail.com](mailto:woodpileneletter@gmail.com)