

Wisconsin State Association of Occupational Health Nurses

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Website: wsaohn.nursingnetwork.org

2016

Governing Board and Membership

- Board Members: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary plus 4 Directors representing each of the 4 state chapters
- WSAOHN Board Members are all occupational health nurses
- The WSAOHN Board of Directors meets 5 times/year
- Cost of membership - \$240
- Number of members – Current membership is 123

Mission/vision

- The mission of WSAOHN is to support Occupational Health Nurses and other occupational health professionals in their practice and ensure that they have the tools, education and resources available to provide best practice programs and care for their employees and customers.

Strategic Plan Goals

- Sponsorship of an annual, multidisciplinary, educational event, to promote lifelong learning necessary to lead change and advance the health and safety of the workforce from a Total Worker Health perspective.
 - Maintain the offer of a free day of conference to new association members in addition to newly certified occupational health nurses.
- Maximize the WSAOHN website to better meet the needs of WSAOHN members for both state-wide and local chapter information while serving as the communication hub for the annual education conference.
 - Explore the creation of networking/practice exchange linkages.
 - Explore methods to recognize colleagues/sharing accomplishments.
- Identify and implement strategies to increase the pool of applicants for the association awards that recognize and support creative practice, nursing leadership and lifelong learning.
- Make a personalized outreach to each new member within the first 2 months of membership to welcome, connect, and invite their participation in state and local offerings.

Important Action Steps to Support the Strategic Plan Goals

- The WSAOHN education committee developing programming to support initial certification/periodic recertification as an occupational health nurse as well as other credentialing/CEU support for providing quality care.
- WSAOHN has budgeted to support the 'free day' scholarship for new members, newly certified members, and recipients of awards.
- WSAOHN Board will brainstorm and investigate strategies that would recognize and then motivate more occupational health nurses to apply for association awards and scholarships intended to promote life long learning.
- WSAOHN board members voted to support the cost of one of the WSAOHN board members to attend the Annual AAOHN Conference, intended to develop and advance leadership skills of those board members.
- The WSAOHN board plans to actively manage initial outreach with new members and utilize available AAOHN and WSAOHN resources to build engagement from the start.

Strategy Alignment

- WSAOHN demonstrates visionary and strategic alignment with the 2011 Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report and Wisconsin's Workforce issues framework in the following ways: (See website, pages 7-11:
http://www.wicenterfornursing.org/documents/2013WIStateWorkforce_new.pdf)
 - WSAOHN establishes annual goals, incorporating language directly from the initiatives identified by IOM and Wisconsin's Workforce issues framework.
 - WSAOHN is committed to providing cost effective opportunities for occupational health nurses to engage in life long learning and while having occasions for interprofessional networking, thus strengthening the ability to collaborate well in practice.

Final Thoughts

- How does WSAOHN position itself to meet the needs of Wisconsin's nurses?
 - WSAOHN is sensitive to the limited time and resources nurses have to manage their personal and professional development. We have committed to offering as much value in the course of a few days through an interest-driven, educational venue which also supports networking and personal rejuvenation. The Midwest Regional Occupational Health Conference offering demands significant volunteer resource, we would welcome partnering with another organization(s) that would share similar needs/interests and would contribute resources/value towards mutual benefit.