

HISTORY OF THE SOUTHEAST REGION of the WOCN® Society

Advancing Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Since 1976

“If we, in the Southeast Region, in our striving to achieve all of the benefits of a successful organization, forfeit gentleness, courtesy, and fineness of spirit of the past, then we have failed to achieve the lasting satisfaction of real accomplishment. The past has contributed its passions, its pains and its enthusiasm; its spirit you will see with us still.” Patricia M. Kynes, RN, ET - 1991

The Way It Was

Throughout America, the nation was celebrating the bicentennial of the American Revolution. A best-selling non-fiction book by Alex Haley, *Roots*, mesmerized millions and launched a new interest in genealogy. Test tube babies and nuclear power plant disasters were still the stuff of science fiction, but scientists warned about the destruction of the ozone layer caused, in part by the use of aerosol spray products. A southerner, James Earl Carter, Jr. from Plains, Georgia, was elected President of the United States for the first time since Reconstruction. Elsewhere in the world, North and South Vietnam were united under Communist rule, and the men and women of the Soweto ghetto in South Africa rioted in protest of the official government policy known as apartheid. This was the world as we knew it during the development of the organization now known as the Southeast Region of the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society (SER of the WOCN).

In 1976, Enterostomal Therapists (ETs) worked with patients who experienced urinary or fecal diversion surgery. The roles of wound and incontinence caregivers were yet to be developed. There were approximately 500 members of the organization known as the International Association of Enterostomal Therapy (IAET), most of them in the United States and Canada. A committee of four dedicated professionals (Anita Kotheimer, ET; Jane Walker, ET; Nell Perry, RN, ET; and Linda Gross, MA, ET) coordinated the affiliation of 18 Southeast Regional members with the IAET. The Southeast Region became the third regional group within the IAET on February 29, 1976 with 18 official members.

Early Leadership

Under the guidance of our first Regional President, Anita Kotheimer, bylaws were formulated, dues were set, and our regional newsletter, *Southeast Region News (SER News)*, was born under the watchful eye of Editor Bobbie Brewer, ET.

During the first year of operation, the regional leadership consisted of the four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and three Trustees. In February 1977, the region elected its second

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President, Carolyn Danson, ET. The group elected its first three Directors and one Trustee, Anita Kotheimer, who represented the region on the national level.

A major goal during the early years of the region was continued growth of the fledgling association. In 1977, Florida ET nurses sought recognition from the IAET as a constituent association through the Southeast Region, under the guidance of their State President, Mary Baum, LPN, ET. While endorsed enthusiastically by the Southeast Region, it was decided by the IAET Board of Directors that contingency state groups could not be officially recognized at that time. IAET felt that all resources were needed to stabilize regions, unify the organization, and gain strength. This proved to be a historic decision for the region. Since that time, members within Florida and several of the Southeast Region states have participated in statewide or local specialty groups, but nearly all have maintained their membership and loyalty to the Regional affiliate of the national organization.

A major decision by the national association to collect dues for the region, implemented in 1978, has also enabled the region to more easily recruit members and to grow. Within the first five years, the organization experienced a phenomenal 900% growth to 182 members in 1981. In 1985, membership topped 250, and in the 1990's it surpassed 500. As of 2020, the Southeast Region of the WOCN Society has one of the largest memberships of all regional affiliates with an average membership of approximately 700.

From Cookbooks to Compassionate Competence

Funding is always an important issue for a professional organization. Initial funding for regional activities was, in part, procured from the American Cancer Society (ACS) Divisions of Tennessee and South Carolina, including initial mailing costs of the SER News. It was apparent in 1976, as it is now, that the major source of funding must come through educational programs and services. An early venture into fundraising was the development of a regional cookbook, published in 1978. In 1982, Carolyn Cuttino chaired a committee which developed a set of ostomy care slides for sale to members and interested ET's. In 1996 and again in 1997, slide sets were released for sale by the region. Other educational products developed for members have included publications such as Basic Standards of Care for Enterostomal Therapy, written by Ellen Shipes, RN, MN, ET, and Inez Stanley, RN, MA, ET, published in August 1977 and a series of Professional Growth Program Organizers developed by Carol Publicover, ARNP, CWOCN in 1998. In the 2000's the SER developed educational power point programs on CD: Lower Extremity Ulcers, Ostomy, Pressure Ulcer and Fistula Management. In 2011, we held our first, highly successful, live webinar with Dorothy Doughty offering a certification review course.

Fundraising has sometimes meant "fun-raising" as well, with the region. In 1977, Ellen Shipes donated a handmade quilt that was raffled to benefit the region. Since that time, silent auctions, "split the pot" drawings, and other activities have also contributed to the financial stability of the region. In 2007 Alvin Word offered the membership and SER a matching scholarship challenge during which \$22,500 was raised which allowed the SER of the WOCN Society to offer larger scholarships to members furthering their education.

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The leadership of the Southeast Region of the WOCN® Society has been progressive in the use of operating funds to strengthen the association. Financial support for Officer and Board member travel to regional meetings has been continuous since 1978. The SER of the WOCN® Society is currently funding several board members travel and attendance to the leadership meeting at for the WOCN® Society Conference each year. The region's newsletter has undergone many transformations since 1976, including a name change to Therapist on Call before returning to the SER News. In 2009 a new Board position for Director of Communications was developed and we joined the "green movement" by posting our newsletters on our website with blast email notifications. In 2016 the content of the newsletter was revamped to include only pertinent professional news of the members. Over the years the website has become the hub for Regional information and updates. For this reason, the newsletter was discontinued in 2018. A State News Page was created on the website for State Reporters to share news from their state.

The Southeast Region of the WOCN® Society has also used its funds for charitable purposes. Scholarships have been provided to nurses interested in studying for ET/WOC nursing practice since 1982. In 1983, the region sponsored its first child to attend the Youth Rally, a summer camp program offered by the United Ostomy Association. Both of these traditions continue today. Also, in 1983, the region contributed \$1,000 to the national ET Foundation for Nursing Research. In 2005 we named the Scholarship fund to honor role model Dorothy Doughty. Since 2008 the SER has awarded conference attendance scholarships to non-WOC nurses interested in learning more about the practice and to encourage additional education in WOCNEPs. In 2015, the SER of the WOCN Society instituted scholarship programs for WOC Nurse and Advance Practice tuition.

Producing Leaders Near and Far

The Southeast Region of the WOCN Society has been fortunate to have strong leadership among its ranks. During the first year as an affiliate organization (1976), two members of the Southeast region served on the national Board of Directors: Betty Jackson, RN, EdD, ET, and Jane Walker, ET. Nine Presidents of the national association have been from the Southeast Region: Bonnie Bollinger (1979-1981), Debra Broadwell-Jackson (1981-1985), Dorothy Doughty (1999-2001), Laurie McNichol (2001-2004), Margaret Goldberg (2005-2007), Phyllis Bonham (2009-2011) and Phyllis Kupsick (2013-2015). Carolyn Watts from Tennessee served as President Elect 2013-2015, and as President 2015-2017. Stephanie Yates, from North Carolina is the current President (2020-2022). Patricia Kynes served as editor to the IAET Journal from 1982 until 1987. She also served as National Conference Planning chair as has Carolyn Cuttino from SC and Carolyn Watts from TN. Other Southeast Region of the WOCN Society members who have served on the national board include Mary Kay Wooten, Ben Peirce, Alvin Word, Regina Holmes, Mary McNeil and Trudy Huey.

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Four regional members have been recognized at the national level for exemplary service to the specialty of ET/WOC nursing and the organization. The President's Award is given at the national conference at the discretion of the President of the national association. Southeast Region of the WOCN recipients of this highest honor are Patricia Kynes (1987), Debra Broadwell-Jackson (1988), Norma Mash (1989), Dorothy Doughty (1994), Laurie McNichol (2006), Margaret Goldberg (2008) and Barbara Dale (2016).

Unity Despite Disagreements

While the Southeast Region of the WOCN Society has consistently provided leadership within the national organization, its members have also expressed dissension over key national issues during its history. A 1990 proposal to change the name of the national organization was defeated in the House of Delegates at the annual meeting in Las Vegas, largely due to the efforts of the Southeast Region. The change was later approved at the 1992 annual meeting, also in Las Vegas, and the association became the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society™. In 1993, the organization adopted a new structure that eliminated the House of Delegates and the eleven Regional Trustees. Members were also given the option of joining any region, regardless of their residence. Although some members of the Southeast Region of the WOCN® Society were opposed to these changes, they recognized the importance of remaining active in the one specialty organization devoted to education and practice of WOC/ET nursing. In 2010, the American Nurses Association (ANA) recognized WOC nursing as a specialty.

Educational Excellence

Throughout its history, educational conferences have been an integral part of the region's activities. The Southeast Region of the WOCN Society has hosted many National Conferences, two in Atlanta, GA, one each in Miami, Tampa, Orlando, FL, one in Charlotte, NC (2012) and two in Nashville, TN (2015 & 2019). However, the crowning achievement for the organization has been the consistent presentation of an annual regional conference. In 1980, the first annual meeting featuring continuing education for members was held in Mobile, Alabama. It was financially successful and enthusiastically received by those in attendance. Successful conferences followed in major cities throughout the region, a tradition that continues each year. Each of the six SER of the WOCN Society states share in hosting the conference, which has resulted in diverse and stimulating conferences.

In 2001, the conference was scheduled to begin in Greenville, South Carolina on September 13th. Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on America, regional leadership considered canceling the conference for the first time in the region's history. Conference planning committee members urged the Board to continue with the conference. The decision proved to be a sound one. Despite a nationally crippled mass transit system,

the conference was a success. The 2003 conference brought record breaking attendance with over 250 attendees.

The three hundred attendee mark was surpassed with the 2005 conference.

One week before the 2018 Southeast Region of the WOCN Society “Navigating the Waves of Change” Conference held in Myrtle Beach, SC, a major Category 3 hurricane came ashore 75 miles north of Myrtle Beach in Wilmington, NC. North Carolina saw 25 to 30 inches of rain causing extensive flooding in both North Carolina and South Carolina. Once again, the regional leadership considered canceling the conference. As the conference hotel experienced no damage and the roads were safe to travel for most attendees, the conference went on as planned. In the end, the conference was a huge success with less than 15% of the registered attendees unable to attend.

In 2011, the SER of the WOCN Society ushered in a new management company for the SER, Corecare Associates, Inc. Corecare assisted the board and planning committees with conference preparation and execution. In 2015 the SER of the WOCN opted for a paid event planner and association manager/webmaster.

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Ostomy surgery has advanced dramatically since 1976, with surgical options and continent diversions becoming increasingly available. Ostomy products have also advanced with innovations such as extended wear barriers, moldable barriers, and low-profile pouching products.

Wound care has effectively and appropriately become a major part of the health care industry improving the quality of life for patients across all care settings. A proliferation of products and multidisciplinary wound care professionals now offer solutions for those who previously may have not survived their chronic wounds.

In the realm of continence care, clinical practice and research is offering new hope to consumers, and the subject of incontinence has been brought out of the closet for the American public.

Foot care has also been added to the arsenal of services many WOC nurses offer. Board certification has been established for this niche specialty.

In concluding the first history of the Southeast Region of the WOCN Society, past President Patricia Kynes wrote:

“We have come a long way and yet have room to grow. Regionalization invites professionals with divergent ideas to join with common interest. The leadership resources within the Southeast Region will guide the destiny of our region, as well as our national organization, with a spirit of enthusiasm and ability. The theme of the Southeast Region continues to be one of unity and strength -- together there is much we can do.”

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Her words are as appropriate today as they were more than two decades ago. We have much to celebrate, and still more to envision and achieve.

Susan E. Steele, RN, MS, CWOCN

Vice-President, 2001 – 2002

Alignment with WOCN® Society

In an effort to streamline all regional and affiliate relationships with WOCN® Society, the Society created an Affiliate/Region Charter agreement. This was signed by Martha Davidson, President SER of the WOCN® Society January 8, 2015. With the signing of the Charter agreement, came the change of WOCN Society's brand standards and trademarks. A task force was assigned to meet the Society's brand standard to update the SER of the WOCN Society's logo. There was significant effort to update all of the SER of the WOCN Society documents to meet the current Society trademark standards. The Society required new Bylaws be passed by each affiliate/region per the Charter agreement. The new bylaws were passed by the membership September 12, 2015.

Jennifer Anderson, MBA, MSN, RN, CWCN, CFCN

President-Elect 2015 - 2016

Updated 2004/2005/2006 per Ann Marie Kahl, MS, RN, CWOCN, VP

Updated 2010/2011/2012 per Mary McNeil, RN, BS, CWOCN, VP

Updated 2013 per Martha Davidson RN, MN, CWOCN, President-Elect

Updated March 2016 per Jennifer Anderson, MBA, MSN, RN, CWCN, CFCN, President-Elect

Updated January 2017 per Jennifer Anderson, MBA, MSN, RN, CWCN, CFCN, President

Updated 2019/2020 per Glenda Brunette, MSN, RN, CWON, President-Elect

Southeast Region of the WOCN® Society Conferences

1983	Charleston, South Carolina, Carolyn Cuttino, Chair
1984	Birmingham, Alabama, Jackie Doubleman, Chair
1985	Tampa, Florida, Gloria Simonzi, Chair
1986	
1987	Atlanta, Georgia, Paula Freedman and Elizabeth Emick, Co-Chairs
1988	Greensboro, North Carolina, Catherine Propst, Chair "ET Nursing: A Folk Art"
1989	
1990	Mobile, Alabama "Love, Laughter and Healing the ET Way"
1991	Orlando, Florida, Barbara Bohannon, Chair "The Universal ET"
1992	Memphis, Tennessee "Building on the Past"
1993	Charlotte, North Carolina
1994	Savannah, Georgia, Laura Shafer, Chair "Sailing the Waves of Change"
1995	Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Cindy Epps, Chair
1996	Birmingham, Alabama, Michelle Crocker and Dot Tuggle, Co-Chairs "Positioned for Change"
1997	Orlando, Florida, Carol Publicover and Dot Weir, Co-Chairs "The Magic of Caring"
1998	Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, Claire Eloshway, Chair "Putting the Pieces Together"
1999	Knoxville, Tennessee, Julia Bithorn, Chair "Plotting a Course for the Future"
2000	Atlanta, Georgia, Marie Thompson and Jo Ann Waldrop, Co-Chairs "Spotlighting Key Issues in Practice"
2001	Greenville, South Carolina, Chappy Manning and Elaine Rush, Co-Chairs "2001 – WOCN to the Future"
2002	Birmingham, Alabama, Deborah Thedford, Chair "Stars Fall on Alabama – Shooting for Excellence in Clinical Practice"

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2003	Tampa, Florida, Michelle Rollo-Rice, Chair "Making A Splash in Tampa Bay"
2004	Raleigh, North Carolina, Cyncere Neal, Chair "Fall Feels Finer in North Carolina"
2005	Chattanooga, Tennessee, Alvin Word, Chair "The Stage is Set for You"
2006	Augusta, Georgia, Rhonda Holbrook, Chair "Celebrating our proud PAST, our exciting PRESENT, and our bright and shining FUTURE"
2007	Greenville, South Carolina: Dorothy Lawson and Elizabeth Jones, Co-Chairs "WOC'N On the River"
2008	Huntsville, Alabama: Deborah Thedford, Chair "Achievement Through Excellence"
2009	Jacksonville, Florida: Karen Larkan, Chair "Sun, Sea and Science: Art and Science in the practice of WOC Nursing"
2010	Concord, North Carolina: Trudy Huey, Chair "Closing the Gap: Evidence, Knowledge and Practice"
2011	Chattanooga, Tennessee: Martha Davidson, Chair "We Go with the Flow"
2012	Savannah, Georgia: Merrill Fraser and Cynthia Timms, Co-Chairs "WOC Nurses: Embracing Change with Southern Grace"
2013	Charleston, South Carolina: Elizabeth Jones and Dorothy Lawson, Co-Chairs "Let's Do the Charleston: Choreographing New Steps in WOC Nursing Care"
2014	Montgomery, Alabama: Jennifer Anderson, Michael Byars, Karen Eubank, Co-Chairs "The Future of WOC NURSING in the Capital of Dreams"
2015	Orlando, Florida: Charlene Demers, Chair "Experience the Magic: Blending the Art & Science of WOC Nursing"
2016	Greensboro, NC: Karen Sanders, Chair "WOC Nurses Soaring to New Heights"
2017	Knoxville, Tennessee: Anne Rodgers, Chair "Choose to Shine. . . Change the World! WOC Nurses – Leading the Way!"
2018	Myrtle Beach, South Carolina: René Epting, Chair "Navigating the Winds of Change: WOC Nurses Anchored in Research and Practice"
2019	Columbus, Georgia: Susan Fincher, Chair

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	Enhancing WOC Nursing: Bridging our past to our future
2020/ 21	Orlando, Florida: Megan Shipman, Chair 20/20 Vision: See the Wonder of WOC Nursing
2022	Birmingham, Alabama: Misty Edwards, Chair “ Write Your Own Story”
2023	Winston Salem, North Carolina: Susan Dunzweiler, Conference Chair. “Bouncing Back.”

Leadership of the Southeast Region of the WOCN® Society

1976	President	Anita Kotheimer, ET
	Vice President	Jane Walker, ET
	Secretary	Lloyd Fowler, ET
	Treasurer	Pat Porcher, ET
	Trustees	Donna Roulic, RN, BS, ET
		Joyce Loveless, RN, ET
Nell Perry, RN, ET		
1977	President	Carolyn Danson, ET
	Vice President	Nell Perry, RN, ET
	Secretary	Lloyd Fowler, ET
	Treasurer	Pat Porcher, ET
	Directors	Ellen Shipes, RN, MN, ET
		Freda Roberts, RN, ET
Harriett Scott, RN, ET		
Trustee	Anita Kotheimer, ET	
1978	President	Nell Perry, RN, ET
	Vice President	Patricia James, RN, ET
	Secretary	Pat Porcher, ET
	Treasurer	Linda Goss, MA, ET
	Directors	Mary Kay Langston, RN, BSN, ET
		Freda Roberts, RN, ET
Harriett Scott, RN, ET		
Trustee	Carolyn Danson, ET	
1979	President	Ellen Shipes, RN, MN, ET
	Vice President	Norma Short, RN, ET
	Secretary	Pat Porcher, RN, ET
	Treasurer	Billie Sue Broadman, RN, ET
	Directors	Thomasena Wilson, LPN, ET
		Marcia Connelly, RN, ET
Mary Kay Langston, RN, BSN, ET		

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1979	Trustee	Nell Perry, RN, ET
1980	President	Norma Mash, RN, BSN, ET
	Vice President	Carolyn Cuttino, RN, ET
	Secretary	Sylvia Illick, LPN, ET
	Treasurer	Billie Sue Broadman, RN, ET
	Directors	Thomasena Wilson, LPN, ET
		Paralee Davis, LPN, ET
		Mary Kay Langston, RN, BSN, ET
	Trustee	Nell Perry, RN, ET
1981	President	Norma Mash, RN, BSN, ET
	Vice President	Carolyn Cuttino, RN, ET
	Secretary	Velma Bragg, RN, ET
	Treasurer	Betty Broadhurst, RN, BSN, ET
	Directors	Carolyn Danson, ET
		Cathryn Bratton, RN, ET
		Harriett Scott, RN, ET
	Trustee	Nell Perry-Squires, RN, ET
1982	President	Norma Mash, RN, BSN, ET
	Vice President	Carolyn Cuttino, RN, ET
	Secretary	Velma Bragg, RN, ET
	Treasurer	Betty Broadhurst, RN, ET
	Directors	Cathy Bratton, RN, ET
		Harriett Scott, RN, ET
		Barbara Muller, RN, ET
	Trustee	Patricia Kynes, RN, ET
1983	President	Norma Mash, RN, BSN, ET
	Vice President	Carolyn Cuttino, RN, ET
	Secretary	Sue Schindler, RN, ET
	Treasurer	Gretchen Thompson, RN, ET
	Directors	Paula Freedman, RN, BSN, ET

HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE WOCN® SOCIETY

1983	Directors	Chris Martin, RN, ET Barbara Muller, RN, ET
	Trustee	Patricia Kynes, RN, ET
1984	President	Carolyn Cuttino, RN, BSN, ET
	Vice President	Cathryn Bratton, RN, ET
	Secretary	Sue Schindler, RN, ET
	Treasurer	Gretchen Thompson, RN, ET
	Directors	Paula Freedman, RN, BSN, ET Barbara Muller, RN, ET Nell Perry-Squires, RN, ET
	Trustee	Norma Mash, RN, BSN, ET
1985	President	Carolyn Cuttino, RN, BSN, ET
	Vice President	Cathryn Bratton, RN, ET
	Secretary	Sue Schindler, RN, ET
	Treasurer	Gretchen Thompson, RN, BSN, ET
	Directors	Paula Freedman, RN, BSN, ET Barbara Muller, RN, ET Dona Knight, RN, BSN, ET
	Trustee	Norma Mash, RN, BSN, ET
1986	President	Carolyn Cuttino, RN, BSN, ET
	Vice President	Sheri Barnes, RN, MSN, ET
	Secretary	Sue Schindler, RN, ET
	Treasurer	Gretchen Thompson, RN, ET
	Directors	Paula Freedman, RN, BSN, ET Dona Knight, RN, BSN, ET Ellen Shipes, RN, MSN, ET
	Trustee	Norma Mash, RN, BSN, ET
1987	President	Carolyn Cuttino, RN, BSN, ET
	Vice President	Sheri Barnes Smith, RN, MSN, ET
	Secretary	Julie Phelps, RN, ET

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1987	Treasurer	Lois Petrie, RN, BSN, ET
	Directors	Dot Tuggle, RN, ET Elizabeth Emick, RN, BSN, ET Ellen Shipes, RN, MSN, ET
	Trustee	Norma Mash, RN, BSN, ET
1988	President	Cathryn Bratton, RN, BSN, ET
	Vice President	Elizabeth Emick, RN, BSN, ET
	Secretary	Julie Phelps, RN, BSN, ET
	Treasurer	Lois Petrie, RN, BSN, ET
	Directors	Dot Tuggle, RN, ET Catherine Propst, RN, BSN, ET Jackie Doubleman, RN, BSN, ET
	Trustee	Norma Mash, RN, BSN, ET
1989	President	Cathryn Bratton, RN, BSN, ET
	Vice President	Elizabeth Emick, RN, BSN, ET
	Secretary	Julie Phelps, RN, BSN, ET
	Treasurer	Lois Petrie, RN, BSN, ET
	Directors	Dot Tuggle, RN, ET Catherine Propst, RN, BSN, ET Jackie Doubleman, RN, BSN, ET
	Trustee	Norma Mash, RN, BSN, ET
1990	Nominations	Thomasena Wilson, RN, ET
1990	President	Sandra Kirkland, RN, MSN, ET
	Vice President	Deborah Taylor, RN, BSN, ET
	Secretary	Stephanie Yates, RN, BSN, ET
	Treasurer	Lois Petrie, RN, BSN, ET
	Directors	Dot Tuggle, RN, ET Catherine Propst, RN, BSN, ET Rose Wynne, RN, BSN
	Trustee	Sue Schindler, RN, BSN, ET

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1991	President	Sandra Kirkland, RN, MSN, ET
	Vice President	Deborah Taylor, RN, BSN, ET
	Secretary	Stephanie Yates, RN, BSN, ET
	Treasurer	Lois Petrie, RN, BSN, ET
	Directors	Dot Tuggle, RN, ET
		Catherine Propst, RN, BSN, ET
		Rose Wynne, RN, BSN
Trustee	Sue Schindler, RN, BSN, ET	
1992	President	Sue Schindler, RN, BSN, ET
	Vice President	Deborah Taylor, RN, BSN, ET
	Secretary	Stephanie Yates, RN, BSN, ET
	Treasurer	Lois Petrie, RN, BSN, ET
	Directors	Jackie Doubleman, RN, BSN, ET
		Vi Poteete, RN, CETN
		Dot Weir
Trustee	Lynne Woods, RN, BSN, CETN, CDC	
Nominations	Dot Tuggle, RN, CETN	
1993	President	Sue Schindler, RN, BSN, ET
	Vice President	Deborah Taylor, RN, BSN, ET
	Secretary	Stephanie Yates, RN, BSN, ET
	Treasurer	Lois Petrie, RN, BSN, ET
	Directors	Laura Shafer, RNC, CETN
		Brenda Rutland, RN, BSN, CETN
Vi Poteete, RN, CETN		
1994	President	Sue Schindler, RN, BSN, CETN
	Vice President	Ruth Wilson, RN, MSN, CETN
	Secretary	Stephanie Yates, RN, BSN, CETN
	Treasurer	Beth Hawkins-Bradley, RN, MN, CETN
	Directors	Vi Poteete, RN, CETN
		Brenda Rutland, RN, BSN, CETN
Laura Shafer, RN, BSN, CETN		

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1994	Nominations Communications	Suzanne Valencia, RN, BSN, CETN Lynne Woods, RN, BSN, CETN, CNC
1995	President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Directors Nominations Communications	Stephanie Yates, RN, MSN, CETN Ruth Wilson, RN, MSN, CETN Eydie Gibson, RN, BSN, CETN Beth Hawkins-Bradley, RN, MN, CETN Laura Shafer, RN, BSN, CETN Brenda Rutland, RN, BSN, CETN Vi Poteete, RN, CETN Suzanne Valencia, RN, BSN, CETN Lynne Woods, RN, BSN, CETN
1996	President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Directors Nominations Communications	Stephanie Yates, RN, MS, CETN Barbara Munson, RN, BS, CETN Eydie Gibson, RN, BSN, CETN Beth-Hawkins Bradley, RN, MN, CETN Vi Poteete, RN, CETN Brenda Rutland, RN, BSN, CETN Chappy Manning, RN, BSN, CETN Carol Publicover, ARNP, CETN
1997	President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Directors Nominations Communications	Stephanie Yates, RN, MSN, CETN Barbara Munson, RN, BS, CETN Kathy Kwiatkowski, RN, CETN Beth Hawkins-Bradley, RN, MN, CETN Terry Coggins, RN, BS, CETN Chappy Manning, RN, BS, CETN Brenda Rutland, RN, BSN, CETN Carol Publicover, ARNP, CETN
1998	President	Stephanie Yates, RN, MS, CETN

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1998	Vice President	Barbara Munson, RN, BS, CETN
	Secretary	Kathy Kwiatkowski, RN, CETN
	Treasurer	Carol Publicover, ARNP, CETN
	Directors	Terry Coggins, RN, BS, CETN Georgene Hadley, RN, MSN, CETN Susan Steele RN, MS, CETN
	Nominations	Melanie Mabry, RN, BS, CETN
1999	President	Vi Poteete, RN, BS, CWOCN
	Vice President	Barbara Munson, RN, BS, CWOCN
	Secretary	Kathy Kwiatkowski, RN, CWOCN
	Treasurer	Carol Publicover, ARNP, CWOCN
	Directors	Susan Steele RN, MS, CWOCN Phyllis Kupsick, RN, MS, CWOCN Georgene Hadley RN, MSN, CWOCN
	Nominations	Melanie Mabry, RN, BS, CWOCN
2000	President	Vi Poteete, RN, BS, CWOCN
	Vice President	Barbara Munson, RN, BS, CWOCN
	Secretary	JoAnn Waldrop, RN, MS, CWOCN
	Treasurer	Carol Publicover, ARNP, CWOCN
	Directors	Susan Steele, RN, MS, CWOCN Phyllis Kupsick, RN, MS, CWOCN Georgene Hadley, RN, MSN, CWOCN
2000	Nominations	Ann Marie Kahl, RN, BS, CWOCN
2001	President	Vi Poteete, RN, BS, CWOCN
	Vice President	Susan Steele, RN, MS, CWOCN
	Secretary	JoAnn Waldrop, RN, MS, CWOCN
	Treasurer	Carol Publicover, RN, ARNP, CWOCN
	Directors	Phyllis Kupsick, RN, MS, CWOCN Georgene Hadley, RN, MSN, CWOCN

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2001	Directors	Rosalia Martin, RN, BS, CWOCN
	Nominations	Ann Marie Kahl, RN, BS, CWOCN
2002	President	Vi Poteete, RN, BS, CWOCN
	Vice President	Susan Steele, RN, MS, CWOCN
	Secretary	William Burns
	Treasurer	Alvin Word
	Directors	Phyllis Kupsick, RN, MS, CWOCN Georgene Hadley, RN, MSN, CWOCN Mary McNeil, RN, BS, CWOCN
	Nominations	Ann Marie Kahl, RN, BS, CWOCN
	Communications	Denise Groh
2003	President	Susan Steele
	Vice President	Phyllis Kupsick
	Secretary	William Burns
	Treasurer	Alvin Word
	Directors	Mary McNeil Kim Kehoe Deborah Thedford
	Nominations	Ann Marie Kahl
	Communications	Denise Groh
2004	President	Susan Steele
	Vice President	Ann Marie Kahl
	Secretary	William Burns
	Treasurer	Alvin Word
	Directors	Mary McNeil Kim Kehoe Cyncere Neal
	Nominations	Rhonda Holbrook
	Communications	Georgene Hadley
	Clinical Practice Chair	Elaine Rush

HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE WOCN® SOCIETY

2005	President	Susan Steele
	Vice President	Ann Marie Kahl
	Secretary	William Burns
	Treasurer	Alvin Word
	Directors	Mary McNeil
		Cyncere Neal
		Marie Thompson
	Nominations	Rhonda Holbrook
	Communications	Georgene Hadley
Clinical Practice Chair	Elaine Rush	
2006	President	Susan Steele
	Vice President	Ann Marie Kahl
	Secretary	Elizabeth Jones
	Treasurer	William Burns
	Directors	Cyncere Neal
		Marie Thompson
		Elaine Rush
	Nominations	Terry Barton
	Communications	Georgene Hadley
Clinical Practice Chair	Mary Roberts	
2007	President	Mary McNeil
	Vice President	Ruth Gordon
	Secretary	Elizabeth Jones
	Treasurer	Charlene Demers
	Directors	Regina Holmes
		Cyncere Neal
		Elaine Rush
	Nominations	Terry Barton
	Communications	Laura Shafer
2008	President	Mary McNeil
	Vice President	Ruth Gordon

HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE WOCN® SOCIETY

2008	Secretary	Elizabeth Jones
	Treasurer	Charlene Demers
	Directors	Regina Holmes
		Dot Lawson
		Elaine Rush
	Nominations	Terry Barton
Communications	Laura Shafer	
2009	President	Laura Shafer
	Vice President	Mary McNeil
	Secretary	Elizabeth Jones
	Treasurer	Charlene Demers
	Directors	Regina Holmes
		Dot Lawson
Elaine Rush		
Nominations	Patti Haberer	
	Terry Barton	
2010	President	Laura Shafer
	Vice President	Mary McNeil
	Secretary	Merrill Fraser
	Treasurer	Charlene Demers
	Directors	Regina Holmes
		Dot Lawson
Sharon Traylor		
Nominations	Patti Haberer	
	Marta Bullard	
2011	President	Laura Shafer
	Vice President	Mary McNeil
	Secretary	Merrill Fraser
	Treasurer	Charlene Demers
	Directors	Cindy Norris
		Trudy Huey

HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE WOCN® SOCIETY

2011	Directors	Sharon Traylor Patti Haberer
	Nominations	Marta Bullard
2012	President	Laura Shafer
	President-Elect	Mary McNeil
	Secretary	Merrill Fraser
	Treasurer	Martha Davidson
	Directors	Cindy Norris
		Trudy Huey
		Sharon Traylor
Nominations	Patti Haberer Michael Byars	
2013	President	Patti Haberer
	President Elect	Martha Davidson
	Secretary	Merrill Fraser
	Treasurer	Pam Whitley
	Directors	Cindy Norris
		Trudy Huey
		Sharon Traylor
Nominations	Kathy Boyle Michael Byars	
2014	President	Patti Haberer
	President Elect	Martha Davidson
	Secretary	Trena Beckman
	Treasurer	Pam Whitley
	Directors	Cindy Norris
		Trudy Huey
		Renee Epting
Nominations	Jennifer Anderson Terry Barton	

HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE WOCN® SOCIETY

2015	President	Martha Davidson
	Past President	Patti Haberer
	President Elect	Jennifer Anderson
	Secretary	Trena Beckman
	Treasurer	Pam Whitley
	Directors	Nancy Scott
		Trudy Huey
Renee Epting		
	Nadine Mulligan / Colleen Spiller	
Nominations	Terry Barton	
2016	President	Martha Davidson
	President Elect	Jennifer Anderson
	Secretary	Angela Graham
	Treasurer	Pam Whitley
	Directors	Nancy Scott
		Elaine Rush
		Renee Epting
	Collen Spiller	
Nominations	Terry Barton	
2017	President	Jennifer Anderson
	Past President	Martha Davidson
	President Elect	Laura Shafer
	Secretary	Angela Graham
	Treasurer	Pam Whitley
	Directors	Nancy Scott
		Elaine Rush
Renee Epting		
	Glenda Brunette	
Nominations	Terry Barton	

HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE WOCN® SOCIETY

2018	President	Jennifer Anderson
	President Elect	Laura Shafer
	Secretary	Angela Graham
	Treasurer	Martha Davidson
	Directors	Nancy Scott
		Elaine Rush
Lori Borja		
Glenda Brunette		
Amy Armstrong		
Nominations		
2019	President	Laura Shafer
	President-Elect	Glenda Brunette
	Secretary	Angela Graham
	Treasurer	Martha Davidson
	Directors	Angela Dye
		Elaine Rush
Melanie Jacobs		
Lori Borja		
Amy Armstrong		
Nominations Chair		
2020	President	Laura Shafer
	President-Elect	Glenda Brunette
	Secretary	Cyncere Neal
	Treasurer	Martha Davidson
	Directors	Angela Dye
		Angela Graham
Melanie Jacobs		
Amy Armstrong		
Donna Byfield		
Nominations		

HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE WOCN® SOCIETY

2021	President	Glenda Brunette
	President-Elect	Angela Graham
	Secretary	Cyncere Neal
	Treasurer	Martha Davidson
	Directors	Angela Dye
		Cordelia Lucas-Sherrod
		Sharon McCarthy
		Amy Armstrong
		Nancy Scott
	Elections	
2022	President	Cyncere Neal
	President-Elect	Vacant office
	Secretary	Amy Armstrong
	Treasurer	Deborah Nelson
	Directors	Angela Dye
		Cordelia Lucas-Sherrod
		Sharon McCarthy
		Stephanie Garcia
		Nancy Scott
	Elections	
2023	President	Cyncere Neal
	President-Elect	Cordelia Lucas-Sherrod
	Secretary	Amy Armstrong
	Treasurer	Deborah Nelson
	Directors	Donna Byfield
		Angela Dye
		Angela Graham
		Stephanie Garcia
		Nancy Scott
	Elections	

Southeast Region of the WOCN® Society Newsletter Editors

1976 – 1979	Bobbie Brewer
1979 – 1983	Patricia Kynes
1983 – 1986	Sue Schindler
1986 – 1994	Lynn Woods
1994 – 2000	Donna Mellon
2000 – 2001	Kathryn Dere
2001 – 2003	Denise Groh
2003 – 2007	Georgene Hadley
2007 – 2009	Laura Shafer
2009 – 2012	Patti Haberer
2012 – 2014	Kathy Boyle
2014 – 2015	Jennifer Anderson
2015 – 2015	Nadine Mulligan
2015 – 2016	Colleen Spiller
2017 – 2018	Glenda Brunette
2018 – 2019	Melanie Jacobs

HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE WOCN® SOCIETY

SER of the WOCN® Society WOC Nurse of the Year Recipients

The Outstanding ET Nurse of the year award began in 1989. Nominations for the award may be made by fellow members or by consumers. The selection of the final award recipient from among the nominees is made by the Board of Directors.

The award name was changed to the Outstanding WOC Nurse in 2000, in recognition of the multiple specialties of wound, ostomy, and continence nursing that are represented within the society.

1989	Judy Zink
1990	
1991	
1992	Lois Petrie
1993	Jan Hale
1994	Kathryn Kwiatkowski
1995	
1996	Linda Dickerson and Marie Thompson
1997	Jill Fowler
1998	Vi Poteete
1999	Phyllis Bonham
2000	Laurie Lovejoy McNichol
2001	Jane Fellows
2002	Jan Johnson
2003	Sister Genevra Baer
2004	Melanie Johnson
2005	Marie Oren Sosbee
2006	Prebble Smith
2007	Theresa Kelechi
2008	Jackie Doubleman
2009	Ann Moore
2011	Carolyn Parker
2011	Regina Holmes
2012	Marie Gehling
2013	Angela Richardson
2014	Vicky Bryan
2015	Jamie Parker
2016	Joanna Burgess

HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE WOCN® SOCIETY

2017	Trudy Huey
2018	Kimberly Benton
2019	David Crumbley
2020	Nancy Scott
2021	Cynthia Timms
2022	Kathie Fuller
2023	Lauren Mixson

SER of the WOCN® Society Rookie of the Year

Nomination for Rookie of the Year is made by a fellow SER of the WOCN Society member. The final award is made by the board from among the nominees. The Rookie of the Year is recognized for their outstanding clinical and professional practice for less than 2 years.

2006	
2007	Amy Surrett
2008	Michael Byars
2009	Elliott Douglas
2010	Alice Lowery
2011	Angela Dye
2012	Ramona Chism
2014	Julie Ross
2014	No Applicants
2015	Maria Kotula
2016	Amanda Eltz
2017	Katie Smith
2018	Jason Pratt
2019	Sarah Gibson
2020	Hannah Cleveland
2021	Michelle Gehring
2022	Elsie Murray
2023	Kristen Cowperthwait

HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE WOCN® SOCIETY

Southeast Region of the WOCN® Society State Recognition Award

Starting in 1982, the state hosting the annual conference had the opportunity to designate a member who is honored by having the region's donation to the WOCN scholarship fund named in his or her honor for the year. Currently, the state holding the annual conference recognizes one outstanding WOC nurse from the state.

1982	Anita Kotheimer, ET
1983	Jane Walker, ET
1984	Norma Mash, RN, ET
1985	Debra Broadwell, PhD., RN, ET
1986	No award
1987	Edith Sykes, RN, ET
1988	Dorothy Doughty, RN, MN, CETN
1989	Norma Mash, RN, BSN, CETN
1990	Carolyn Cuttino, RN, BSN, CETN
1991	Lois Petrie, RN, BSN, ET
1992	Dorothy Tuggle, RN, ET
1993	Jan Hale, RN, BSN, CETN
1994	B.J. Woodward, RN, BSN, CETN
1995	Laura Shafer, RNC, BSN, CETN
1996	Sheri Smith, RN, Ph. D., CETN Michelle Crocker, RN, CETN
1997	Norma J. Short, RN, ET Harriet Scott, RN, ET
1998	Stephanie Yates, RN, CETN
1999	Julie Bithorn
2000	Prebble D. Smith
2001	Carolyn Cuttino, RN, BSN, CETN
2002	Sheri Smith, RN, Ph. D., CETN, CWS
2003	Jane Fellows
2004	Laurie McNichol
2005	Beryl Evans
2006	Vi Poteete
2007	Phyllis Bonham
2008	Deborah Thedford
2009	Mary Lou Boyer

HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE WOCN® SOCIETY

2010	Leanne Richbourg
2011	Carolyn Watts
2012	Dorothy Doughty
2013	Phyllis Bonham
2014	Deborah Thedford
2015	Charlene Demers
2016	Brenda Rutland
2017	Martha Davidson
2018	Katherine Jeter
2019	Lucinda Bufford
2020	NA
2021	Kathryn Dere
2022	Cynthia P. Hill
2023	Cordelia Lucas-Sherrod