



The Western Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing

Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2021

President's Message

Dear Fellow West Penn Alumni:

I am in my fourth year as president and am so glad that last year is behind us! While this year has started to slowly open up more, things are not completely back to normal. We have continued to discuss issues amongst alumni who attend the quarterly meetings and members are still going full force with 2022 reunion planning.

Thankfully the School of Nursing graduation was still able to take place! Since the number of attendees was limited, students, parents and teachers were still able to come together to celebrate this special day of achievement. The alumni did not attend graduation to allow for the maximum number of students' guests, but did provide financial support for a senior luncheon and flowers at graduation.

Members of the alumni association have continued to carry on with traditions to show support to alumni and current students. We currently have a core group meeting of about six to ten members, but please remember we can only accomplish our goals with your continued support, both financially, on our Facebook group, and keeping your

home and email addresses up to date. To ensure as many alumni as possible receive information regarding the 2022 reunion we are asking everyone to send us their updated names, addresses, emails and those of their classmate and colleagues in which they keep in touch. The Board continues to seek ways to enhance communications with our members. The fall newsletter will be sent via email as well as through the mail. Please let us know if you would like only to receive an email copy of the newsletter. This will help us save on postage.

Sincerely,

Patti Black, RN

President

2021 Board and Executive Committee

Patti Black, President

Alyce Duffus, Treasurer

Janet Shadle, Secretary

Mary Rodgers Schubert, Immediate Past President

Board Members: Mirella Ferraro, Kathy Frechione

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Upcoming Alumni Meetings

Our final meeting for the year will be held on
Tuesday, December 7, 2021. We hope to see you there!

Mark your calendar! Below are the dates for our 2022 meetings. Check our Facebook group for more details, including times and locations. We encourage all alumni to join us for networking and camaraderie!

Upcoming 2022 Dates

All 2022 meetings for the year will be held at 5:30 p.m.

March 1, 2022

June 7, 2022

September 6, 2022

December 6, 2022

The 2022 Reunion is being planned to be live.

More information on reunion events may be found on page 3.

127th Commencement of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing

Commencement was held on May 28, 2021. There were 52 graduates this year. Initially, graduates only received 4 guest tickets due to the COVID-19 guidelines. As we got closer to the date, restrictions were lifted and the capacity at both the ceremony and the *Soldiers and Sailors* event were able to have a larger audience. Alumni were not invited this year to assure that family and friends of the graduates were all able to attend.



We did continue the tradition, however, by happily providing one rose per graduate and flower arrangements on the stage.

Congratulations to the class of 2021!

Alumni Association Updates

Bylaws

Revised bylaws were completed in December 2020. We had not made any revisions for several years. During our review, we noted one important update needed to provide allowance for digital meetings, especially when making board decisions.

After a lot of discussion; 1) We need to complete the process for a new EIN number; 2) We need to have financial and organizational help with alumni business; 3) We have not increased dues for a long time.

These changes were discussed, moved and approved, and we are now increasing our annual dues to \$50.

Alumni Scholarship

The recipient of the Fall 2021 Alumni Scholarship was Ryker Crow.

Congratulations Ryker!



The Western Pennsylvania School of Nursing



The school maintained its momentum and transitioned to an online/simulation platform from March to May. In-person classes and clinical resumed for 2021 fall term. The school is preparing students to live and practice nursing during a pandemic now and for the future.

The school is always recruiting students. There were 65 students and several recruits for the July 2021 term.



Are you a member of our group on Facebook? This is an excellent way for alumni of all graduation years to interact year round. Request to join today to start connecting and reconnecting:

[Facebook.com/groups/WPHSONAA](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WPHSONAA)

2022 Alumni Reunion

We welcome all West Penn Alumni to reconnect with classmates and friends at our 2022 reunion. You won't want to miss these events as they only occur every five years. Registration for events will open in January. Stay tuned for more information in the future!

Friday, April 29, 2022 - We welcome all alumni and their guests to attend

The National Aviary
6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

700 Arch Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

\$75/person

Includes dinner, habitat access, and parking

Cash Bar

Saturday, April 30, 2022 – Traditional All-Alumni Reunion Luncheon and Awards Celebration

The Fairmont Pittsburgh

510 Market Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

\$50/person (Alumni from 1972 and before are complimentary, but registration will be required.)

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Registration with Coffee/Tea

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Luncheon and Awards Celebration

A block of rooms will be available for \$229/night

"West Penn Nurses Alumni" 1-888-270-6647

Call for: Outstanding Alumni Award Nominations

An added feature for the 2022 Reunion is the recognition of West Penn School of Nursing Alumni who have excelled in the areas of leadership, community service, innovation/entrepreneurial, and education. There are thousands of West Penn Nurses practicing around the world and doing exceptional work. Submissions may be self made or you may nominate a fellow colleague or classmate.

We will recognize outstanding West Penn School of Nursing Alumni who have excelled in one or several of the following categories:

Innovation/Entrepreneurial | Leadership | Community Service | Education



Qualifications:

- Be a graduate of The Western Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing
- Be able to satisfactorily demonstrate the qualities outlined for the selected award
- Only fully completed nomination packets will be reviewed. Packet must include: current resume/CV; answers to the 3 questions for the specific category, and three letters of support

Timeline:

- Nomination deadline: **February 4, 2022**
- Nomination packets can either be mailed or submitted online.

[Online Form](#)

Mailing Address:

Claudia Hardy
2400 Ardmore Blvd.
Suite 302
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

- Nominations reviewed: **February 7–25, 2022**
- Award finalized at alumni meeting: **March 1, 2022**
- Awardees notified: **Week of March 7, 2022**
- Awards given at reunion: **April 30, 2022** (recipients are expected to attend the luncheon)

Innovation/Entrepreneurial

Nominee has been an **integral** part of creating/implementing an innovation at their place of work or within their community that has advanced patient care and/or a healthcare outcome, or provided significant cost savings, and solved a workflow problem.

- Describe the innovation (500 words maximum)

Or

- Nominee is a nurse entrepreneur who has created an innovative business, product or service advancing health care.
 - What is your business, product or service? (250 words maximum)
 - What need does it serve? (250 words maximum)

Submit three letters of support for your nomination. Letters must be from individuals who have first-hand knowledge of your involvement with the innovation or entrepreneurial endeavor. Letters may be from supervisors, colleagues, staff members, partners, funders, etc.

2022 Alumni Reunion: Award Nominations Cont.

Leadership

Nominee shows a track record of leadership for five years or more, and demonstrates several of the following attributes:

- Held position(s) of leadership that are responsible for directing/supervising individuals/groups.
- Works collaboratively within complex environments.
- Facilitates innovation; advocates for safety and wellbeing of those whom they are responsible, e.g.: colleagues, employees/staff, or clients/patients.
- Proactively utilizes critical thinking and data to implement change.
- Recognized as a role model, coach and/or mentor by colleagues/staff.
- Advocates for the nursing profession.
- Maintains membership in professional organization(s).
- Play(ed) a key role in the development of projects/programs within the facility/organization/community that has enhanced agenda/goal/mission.
- Promotes/practices effective stewardship of financial and human resources.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Describe how your leadership advanced the strategic plan, mission or goal of a facility or organization or community. (250 words maximum)
2. Provide an example of a positive impact you had on a colleague, employee or mentee. (250 words maximum)
3. Share a special story that demonstrates how you advocate for the nursing profession. (250 words maximum)

Submit three letters of support for your nomination. Letters must be from individuals who have first-hand knowledge of your leadership abilities. Letters may be from supervisors, colleagues, staff members, mentees, etc.

Community Service

Nominee shows a track record of community service for five years or more, and demonstrates several of the following attributes:

- Held position(s) within a community service organization(s) where being a nurse was required or provided an added benefit to the organization.
- Community service organization may include but not limited to: governmental or social service agencies, religious organizations, military, not-for-profit health related clinics, volunteer organizations, etc.
- Works collaboratively within the organization; is seen as a team player and a valuable member of the organization
- Facilitates for safety and wellbeing of those within the organization.
- Recognized as a role model, coach and/or mentor by others.
- Advocates for the nursing profession.
- Participated in the development of projects/programs within the organization that has enhanced its agenda/goal/mission.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Describe what attracted you to this type of community service. (250 words maximum)
2. Provide an example of a project or activity you were directly involved with that by being a nurse provided an added benefit. (250 words maximum)
3. Share a special story that demonstrates the benefits of this community service. (250 words maximum)

Submit three letters of support for your nomination. Letters must be from individuals who have first-hand knowledge of your community service. Letters may be from supervisors, colleagues, staff members, mentees, etc.

2022 Alumni Reunion: Award Nominations Cont.

Education

Nominee shows a track record of being in education for five years or more, and demonstrates several of the following attributes:

- Held position(s) in education (academic or service) being responsible for teaching individuals/groups.
- Demonstrates knowledge of current clinical and educational methods.
- Demonstrates evidence-based practice in teaching.
- Instills critical thinking, critical reasoning and critical judgement in all activities.
- Creatively stimulates students to pursue advanced knowledge and skills.
- Recognized as a role model, coach and/or mentor by colleagues and/or students.
- Advocates for the nursing profession.
- Maintains membership in professional organization(s).

Please answer the following questions:

1. Describe how your ability to teach advanced the strategic plan or mission or goal of a facility or organization or community. (250 words maximum)
2. Provide an example of a positive impact you had on a colleague or student. (250 words maximum)
3. Share a special story that demonstrates how you advocate for continuing nursing professional development. (250 words maximum)

Submit three letters of support for your nomination. Letters must be from individuals who have first-hand knowledge of your teaching abilities. Letters may be from supervisors, colleagues, students, etc.

In Memoriam: Remembering Our Fellow Nurses

It is with sadness that we share the loss of the following alumni. We thank them for their countless years of service and dedication to the field of nursing!

Eleanor Heckman Shafer, (1941) | Passed away Nov. 11, 2020

Harriet Jean Clapper Boore, (1944) | Passed away Mar. 23, 2019

Rosalyn Schneider Blumenfeld, (1945) | Passed away May 4, 2020

Jean Bohn Weirich, (1945) | Passed away June 23, 2016

June Stewart, (1946) | Passed away Jan. 12, 2021

Esther Sjoblom Letzler, (1947) | Passed away Sept. 7, 2020

Ethel Stearns Burgett, (1947) | Passed away Dec. 23, 2020

Virginia Jones, (1948) | Passed away May 18, 2021

Shirley Miller Hawk, (1950) | Passed away Jan. 14, 2021

Elizabeth Waitseck Cook, (1952) | Passed away Jan. 20, 2021

Marian Livingston Bieno, (1954) | Passed away Oct. 12, 2020

Kay Kiehl Budzowski, (1957) | Passed away Jan. 4, 2017

Patricia Wolfgang Sanderson, (1957) | Passed away Mar. 18, 2020

Sara Jane "Sally" Sherbondy Yates, (1958) | Passed away Jan. 11, 2021

Judith White Cort, (1959) | Passed away Feb. 22, 2020

Johnna Rae Fyfe Minniti, (1960) | Passed away Aug. 25, 2020

Jacqueline Betcher, (1961) | Passed away Feb. 12, 2021

Betty Panton Bianculli, (1962) | Passed away Dec. 14, 2019

Terrence Gumbert, (1964) | Passed away Feb. 26, 2021

Robert Burk, (1966) | Passed away May 5, 2016

Rita Gregorchik Kania, (1968) | Passed away Mar. 8, 2021

Celeste A. D'Antonio, (1978) | Passed away Sept. 6, 2020

Janice Gray, (1978) | Passed away Apr. 25, 2021

Diana Kenner, (2010) | Passed away May 2020

In Gratitude

Alumni greatly appreciate donations made in honor or in memory of members of the alumni, both living and deceased. These donations are used to continue the alumni's efforts to support the school of nursing, the faculty and students.



The Western Pennsylvania Hospital
School of Nursing Alumni Association
2400 Ardmore Blvd, Ste 302
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Western Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association 2022 Membership Dues

Every graduate is a member of our alumni association, but providing dues enables the Association to fulfill its mission. We ask that you be as generous as you can. Thank you!

Select a membership dues contribution level.

☐ Regular Member \$50

☐ Supporting Member \$50+ Amount Included _____

Current Name _____

Name at Graduation _____

Address _____

Class Year _____ Phone Number _____

Email (future newsletters will be sent via email) _____

Please make check payable to the Alumni Association of West Penn Hospital School of Nursing.

Send to: WPHSONAA 2400 Ardmore Blvd, Ste. 302 Pittsburgh, PA 15221