About AAHFN

The AAHFN is a specialty organization dedicated to advancing nursing education, clinical practice and research to improve heart failure patient outcomes. Heart failure is our exclusive interest and passion. Our goal is to set the standards for heart failure nursing care.

We unite the full spectrum of nurses and other health professionals interested in heart failure. We serve as the interface for sharing ideas, translating research findings into practice and setting priorities for the future. We welcome and value all professionals involved in heart failure care. We focus on patients across all environments of care from the hospital, to the clinic, to home.

Mission Statement:
Leading nurses in heart failure care.

Vision Statement:
To be the foremost nursing association across the heart failure continuum.
From the President

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the AAHFN Board of Directors, we take pleasure in presenting to you the 2014 AAHFN Annual Report. The purpose of this report is to communicate an overview of accomplishments, advancements, current state-of-the-association, and new initiatives over the last year.

2014 was a historic year for the association in many ways. AAHFN celebrated our tenth anniversary in style in Los Angeles during the annual meeting. Founding members, past Presidents and key contributors were acknowledged and we were all reminded and inspired by how AAHFN was born. To hear the whole story, view the Happy Anniversary AAHFN video posted in the History section of the AAHFN website.

This past year also brought many advancements in education (both for nurses and patients), membership, certification, research, and advocacy. AAHFN continues to be the go to resource for heart failure nurses and as we continue to grow, the needs of our members is what drives the association.

All of AAHFN’s success over the course of ten years and through 2014 would not be possible without the help and support of many. Thank you to all of the volunteers, members, industry supporters, staff, and everyone else who helped make 2014 a historical year.

Connie Lewis, MSN, ACNP-BC, NP-C, CCRN, CHFN
President 2014 – 2015

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Education

10th Annual Meeting: Los Angeles—Celebrating the Past, Defining the Future
AAHFN celebrated their 10 year anniversary. Over 650 attendees gathered to learn the latest advances in heart failure care. Special Events were planned for new members and CHFNs. Highlights from the meeting included keynote speakers Dr. Nancy M. Albert, Mary Jane Mapes, and Dr. Mariell Jessup, moderated poster presentations, and great debates focused on heart failure quality measures and the use of ultrafiltration with HF algorithm. In addition, industry sponsored dinner symposia and product theaters were available.

Advanced Heart Failure Symposium
AAHFN held the second annual Advanced Heart Failure Symposium in Tampa, Florida. This unique 2-day program led by Cindy Bither was attended by 157 attendees and concentrated on the management of advanced heart failure patients - from screening and selection to post-op care.

Heart Failure Readmission Symposium
Hospital readmissions continued to be an important topic across all of healthcare in 2014. Three 1-day symposiums were held. In the spring, AAHFN traveled to Atlanta, GA to present the symposium. The 1-day symposia were also held in Dallas, TX and Columbus, OH in the fall. These symposia help professionals with practical and applicable strategies. Over 350 healthcare professionals attended to hear Keynote, Dr. Nancy M. Albert and Chair, Angie Schadler discuss the impact of healthcare reform of heart failure care and novel strategies to reduce avoidable readmissions.

Heart Failure Disease Management: From Planning to Implementation – 1st Edition
AAHFN published the first edition of the Heart Failure Disease Management: From Planning to Implementation in 2014. The information in this book is based on the Heart Failure Disease Management workshop that has been presented by the American Association of Heart Failure Nurses. The material is written by leading nurse experts in heart failure care, sharing knowledge and experiences. This is not a book about managing heart failure, but rather, it is a book about developing and implementing systems to better organize the care of heart failure patients. It describes the processes involved: from creating a budget, to managing end-of-life complications, and everything in-between. Over 150 copies were sold in the first year.

Educational Activities
AAHFN is continuously looking to provide members with various ways to access learning opportunities and continuing education hours through live webinars, video cast, and recorded sessions. In 2014, the Education Committee worked diligently to produce 7 live webinars, which averaged over 50 participants per call, 2 promotional webinars, 5 live meetings, 2 CE for independent study, and 3 CE newsletters. There are over 30 CEU activities posted for members to access for free through the Education Center.

The Connection – The AAHFN Newsletter
The quarterly newsletter continued to provide members with timely information covering all the key clinical areas of heart failure and challenges specific to nurses. Important topics covered through The Connection in 2014 included unusual causes of cardiomyopathy, pharmacology and the older adult with heart failure, cardiac rehabilitation in heart failure, recap of the 10th annual conference and anniversary, and reducing heart related readmissions. Three out of the four issues in 2014 readers were able to earn continuing education hours after reading and completing the necessary steps on the AAHFN website.
Membership Highlights

Membership
As our organization continues to grow, now over 2,300 members, AAHFN continues to provide a wealth of benefits to our members. See the graph on page 8 for more information on the breakdown of membership. AAHFN continues to expand our presence in social media. We currently have over 907 likes on Facebook, 1,418 LinkedIn group members, and 1255 followers on Twitter. We’re constantly looking for new ways to communicate to members. Please connect with us in one of these outlets if you haven’t yet already.

Heart Failure Awareness Week Campaign – Keep Your Heart At Home
In 2014, AAHFN addressed and raised awareness of educating the heart failure patient to reduce the readmission to hospitals. The yearlong campaign, launched during Heart Failure Awareness Week, offered numerous resources for the nurse, caregiver and the patient. These resources included a poster and tip sheets for nurses and patients.

Advocacy
The Advocacy Committee has been busy researching and bringing pertinent topics to the forefront for AAHFN members to review. The committee encourages members to contact their senators on active bills that are in the Senate that directly impact nurses and their patients. Our members can see the position statements, bills they are in support of and endorsements on the AAHFN website.

Patient Education
The AAHFN Patient Education Committee has created several easy to follow tip sheets to help patients and family members maintain a healthy lifestyle while living with Heart Failure. Topics include: Healthy Snacking, Eating Out, Ethnic and Regional Eating. The committee also played a large role in the 2014 Heart Failure Awareness Week campaign: “Keep Your Heart at Home”. The focus of the campaign was that proper patient and caregiver education can help prevent early readmission by up to 25%.
Awards & Honors

Congratulations to all of the deserved award recipients from 2014:

Distinguished Member Award
In Memory of Donna Petruccelli, MSN, CRNP, NP-C, CNS, CHFN

Certification Travel Award
Angelina Mendivil, CHFN

Robin J. Trupp Scholarship
Robin Braun, RN

30-Day Readmission Award
Small Size Medical Facility
Verde Valley Medical Center
Cottonwood, AZ

30-Day Readmission Award
Medium Size Medical Facility
Stanford Hospitals and Clinics
Stanford, CA

30-Day Readmission Award
Large Size Medical Facility
Allina Health
Minneapolis, MN
Certification Highlights

Certified Heart Failure Nurses (CHFN)
There are currently a total of 931 certified heart failure nurses (CHFNs). Over 1200 have taken the exam since the first one was administered June 2011, with an average of an 82% pass rate. The computer based test (CBT) continues to be the choice for many seeking the CHFN certification. There were 317 CBT exam applicants and an additional 65 people elected to take the exam during the annual meeting in Los Angeles. Seventy Six percent of the first group CHFNs recertified in 2014. Most of them recertified through the Option 1 – professional development. Three opted to take Option 2 – retake the exam. An Item Writing Task Force was select and the exam was updated to reflect the 2013 heart failure guidelines. The first updated version was administered June 2014.

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Membership & Financial Information

Total Members

New Members Per Year

Total Income/Expenses

CHFN Exam Participants

INCOME  EXPENSES
Volunteers

Thank you to the countless, passionate volunteers who have made all of 2014’s accomplishments possible.

Advanced Heart Failure Symposium Planning Committee
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Janet Arlene Dunn, CHFN
Pat Draper, CHFN
Karen Yehle, PhD, MS, RN

Heart Failure Readmission Symposium Task Force
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Juanita P. Reigle, RN, MSN, ACNP, CHFN

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