

Conference Committee Report  
10/2/2010  
33rd Annual Conference  
Salishan Resort  
September 30-October 3, 2010

The Conference committee met in January to begin the planning session for this year's conference. We carefully reviewed the evaluation forms from the 2009 conference to make sure that we responded to your feedback and included topics that you felt were pertinent. We also carefully reviewed your other comments about why you attend our conference. As a result, we did eliminate the "free afternoon time" this year. The conference schedule is really full to give you the opportunity to obtain as many CE as possible.

This year's conference offers up to 25.25 continuing education hours which includes live CE, self study modules, and poster presentations. There are over 200 registrants in attendance. We tried something new this year and contracted with a professional conference planner, Susan Thornton of Acute Care Education Associates, to provide you with the best educational experience possible. We spoke with several different conference and event planners before deciding on Acute Care Associates. Susan is an Acute Care NP and has been providing education designed for acute care RNs and Nurse Practitioners for over 10 years. From 2003-2005 she worked with ONA/NPO to prove the Inpatient Management Program, educating primary care NPs on acute and inpatient care. Acute Care Education Associates has diligently adhered to ANCC conference guidelines to provide our ANCC contact hours for the conference.

This has really taken a burden off of the all-volunteer Conference Committee and, we hope, has given you a more professional educational experience. We raised nearly \$30,000 in grants, sponsorships, and exhibitor fees to help with speaker honorariums and providing meals and breaks. There are approximately 42 vendors on exhibit for you to visit.

We are again offering a pre-conference session and dinner, on Thursday evening, for those who arrive early. The complimentary dinner is sponsored by Forest Pharmaceuticals. There are also several pharmaceutical-hosted dinners to choose from on Friday evening.

Again this year we are honored to have Margaret Fitzgerald, DNP of Fitzgerald Health Education Associates present for us, sponsored by Evercare. Dr. Fitzgerald is doing 2 plenary sessions on Friday morning of the conference. This is the third consecutive year that we have been able to have Margaret Fitzgerald, DNP as our headlining plenary speaker, thanks to the generous support of Evercare, Oregon.

Because of the positive feedback from last year, we again offered on-line registration. We also, again, provided the conference materials in CD format. As we continue to strive to be environmentally aware, we encourage you to recycle any paper at the registration desk. We will continue to look for ways to use technology to streamline conference registration, materials and evaluation. To that end, the evaluation format this year is available on line. See the conference packet for more details and instructions, or stop by the registration desk for help.

At your request, we are again facilitating a social event separate from the NPO business meeting. This year's event will be Saturday evening and will include "heavy hors d'ouvres and a no-host bar. Join your colleagues for relaxation and social networking.

We have worked hard to keep the conference cost down, in this time of economic strain on all of us. When you compare the cost of attending our conference, with most other 3-day conferences, you can really see what a great value you get in the NPO conference. And please note that as a NPO/ONA member there is an added cost savings. If you are not already a member, please consider joining today so that next year you can pay that discounted conference registration fee.

On behalf of the NPO Conference Committee, we thank you for your attendance and hope you enjoy the conference and your visit at Salishan Resort. We are already planning the 2011 conference which will take place in Portland at the Governor Hotel October 20-22, 2011. Please let us know how we can continue to improve our conference and meet your educational needs, by completing the evaluations.

Larlene Dunsmuir- Chair  
Corlyn Caspers- Scheduling  
Marilee Dea  
LuAnn Cook  
Meg Portwood  
Tawnya Tompkins