

MID-ATLANTIC REGION OF WOCN (FORMERLY IAET) HISTORY

The I.A.E.T. was founded September 1968 , in Phoenix, Arizona, when a small group of skilled persons practicing Enterostomal Therapy decided to formalize themselves within an Association and established guidelines for its members. The growth of I.A.E.T. brought about regionalization in 1975, as it was felt such would improve action at the local level and between I.A.E.T. and its members. The regional line up of I.A.E.T. put the states of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, and the District of Columbia in the Mideast Region with five other Mideast states. The Mideast region was the first region to be officially recognized by I.A.E.T. in August 1975. At the first Mideast Regional Meeting in Dayton, Ohio on February 21, 1976, a proposal was made that the Mideast Region be divided into two regions. Its geographical size made it unfeasible for members to attend meetings and workshops.

Pioneers of the mid-Atlantic Region were seven E.T.'s, who while participating in an I.A.E.T. sponsored seminar in Bluefield, West Virginia, April 30-May 1, 1976, got together informally and began to plan for formulation of the region. By-laws were prepared, and the first organizational meeting was held at the 8th annual I.A.E.T. Conference in Pittsburg, August 7, 1976, with officers being elected. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Association was officially approved by the Board of Directors of I.A.E.T. for affiliation, August 12, 1976.

The Mid-Atlantic Region has been vibrant in growth and action since its formation. It hosted the 12th annual I.A.E.T. conference in Washington, DC on May 22-24, 1980, the theme being, "Quality of Patient Living - Our Purpose, Our Commitment". Even though members are relatively few in number, they work together, striving to add "Quality of Performance" to the ongoing commitment to "Quality of Patient Living". These are the ongoing goals of the Mid-Atlantic Region E.T.'s in their practice of Enterostomal Therapy.

1976

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On August 7, 1976, at the National Conference in Pittsburgh, the Mid-Atlantic Region was officially organized.

The meeting was called to order by Beryl Evans, acting in the absence of any elected officers. Attendance was 23. Bylaws were presented and officers elected. Marilyn Dunavant was chosen as our first president. Membership dues were \$5.00. Glenda Motta was appointed newsletter editor and regional trustee.

On August 12, 1976, the Board of Directors of the I.A.E.T. approved our application for affiliation and the Mid-Atlantic Region became official with 37 members.

1977

The first conference sponsored by the region was held in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The topic was "General Topics of Ostomy Care." Registration was \$15.00 with lunch included. 85 nurses attended. The I.A.E.T. Operational Manual was completed and distributed. I.A.E.T. now has 829 members.

Janet Long became the region's president.

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1978

The E.T. Foundation was established to benefit research and continuing education and further growth of our organization. National Conference was held in April in Atlanta, Georgia. Regional Conference was held in June in Norfolk, Virginia. The topic was "A Learning Experience, Care and Cares of the Ostomate". 50 nurses attended. Liz O'Connor became editor of the regional newsletter.

1979

Vancouver B.C. was the site of the annual national conference, "Learn to Live, Live to Learn." In September, the first certification examination was administered. 61 E.T's were certified. Joan Lerner became regional trustee.

1980

The Mid-Atlantic Region hosted the 12th annual I.A.E.T. conference in May at the Capitol Hilton, Washington, D.C. At the annual business meeting, Jean Fitzgerald became regional president. The Mid-Atlantic Region was selected as a pilot area for a program by Anita Kotheimer of United Surgical, on reusable appliances for Ostomates.

1981

As membership in the region continued to grow, the membership committee initiated a "Buddy" system so that new members would have an older member to care and share with them.

The I.A.E.T. national conference was held in June in Chicago, Illinois. Mid-Atlantic Region members were wearing new button pins with a logo to serve as identification of regional members. The annual fall continuing education meeting was held in Williamsburg, Virginia in October. "Crackerjacks, Washbasins, and Sawdust Beds" (otherwise known as Innovative Techniques for E.T.'s) was presented. Many manufacturers and sales representatives attended. Bonnie Cunningham was elected Regional Trustee.

1982

The 14th annual I.A.E.T. Conference was held in New York in June. Canada separated in January, forming it's own national organization, C.A.E.T. The House of Delegates concept consisting of delegates elected at large from each region to represent their members was approved at annual conference to be functional at the National Conference in 1983. Mid-Atlantic put in a bid to host the annual conference in 1983 in Baltimore, Maryland. The region sponsored a raffle during the conference to generate revenue. Jean Fitzgerald assumed the presidency. The fall meeting of the region was held in Virginia Beach in November. The topic was "Individual Effectiveness at Work". Delegates to represent the region in the I.A.E.T. House of Delegates were elected. Mid-Atlantic was entitled to representation by five delegates.

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1983

The annual I.A.E.T. Conference was held in Kansas City, Missouri in June. The House of Delegates became functional and began conducting business. The Mid-Atlantic Region co-hosted, with the Northern Virginia Ostomy Association, a conference for Ostomates and health professionals in March. The theme was "Gateway to Understanding". The fall meeting was held in October in Columbia, Maryland. The program was a pilot project sponsored by the I.A.E.T. open to nurses. "Pressure Sore Management - State of the Art". The project was highly successful and the I.A.E.T. plans to present it several times a year at different locations. Liz O'Connor was elected President. A Regional Public Relations Committee was established to increase public awareness within a framework of objectives set forth by the communications committee of W.O.C.N. There are 91 members in Mid-Atlantic.

1984

Jean Fitzgerald became I.A.E.T. National secretary. National Conference was held in June in Las Vegas, Nevada. I.A.E.T. Membership stands at 1,700. The regional fall meeting was held in Columbia, Maryland. "Management of Incontinence and Public Speaking" were two topics presented. Following the business meeting, a wine and cheese reception was held. Our new operational manual for the region has been developed.

1985

I.A.E.T. National Conference was held in Miami, Florida. "Beyond Our Boundaries" being the conference theme. Many pointers were presented on risk taking and creative ways to expand our scope. The National Bylaws were changed to approve regional affiliate groups. These groups will be responsible for reporting to the regional trustee. The Directory of Outpatient Ostomy Resources and Services (DOORS), was distributed. The I.A.E.T. will now require a baccalaureate degree with a nursing major for acceptance into an E.T. program as of June 1, 1985. There are now 2,000 members in the I.A.E.T. E.T. Nurse Day will continue to be held with Digestive Disease week. The fall regional conference was held at the Marriottsville Spiritual Center. The continuing education committee presented a varied program with dermatological problems, and wound and pressure sore management. Sue Currence was elected Regional Trustee.

1986

Once again, Washington, DC was chosen for the site of our National Conference. Our region became very involved with committees. At conference our region was recognizable with our straw hats and red, white and blue banners. Bonnie Cunningham was elected national treasurer and Harriet Pilert received the national president's award for her many contributions to I.A.E.T. Under her direction as National Continuing Education Chairperson, our organization achieved status as a provider of CEU's.

The E.T. Foundation Writers Award was established and the E.T. Nurse Practice Standards were completed. The fall regional meeting was held in Airlie, Virginia, with Psychological Implications of Ostomy Surgery as the major topic. Regional membership was 96. A joint ostomy management program was co-sponsored by our region and the Anne Arundel U.O.A. in Annapolis, Maryland, at which the first free stoma clinic was held. The Metro-Baltimore group became an affiliate.

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1987

E.T. Nurse Day in April was a successful occasion with a reception at the U.S. Capital for House and Senate members. A "Quality of Life Award" was presented to the congressman most supportive in health care regulatory activities. Our region was well represented as well as officers and staff members from the national level. National Conference returned to Las Vegas with the theme of "Emerging Prospectives, Patient Centered Care and Professional Practice." Mid-Atlantic's Glenda Motta was elected national president and Jean Fitzgerald received the first E.T. Nurse of the Year award. National membership reached 2,130. Regional fall conference was held in October at Marriottsville, Maryland. Nancy Clark was elected President. The conference was expanded to two days for sharing and to allow manufacturers to exhibit. Joan Selekof and Carol Carrico assumed the task of newsletter co-editors from Linda Hennessey. We began advertising solicitation for our publication to defray costs. Regional membership was 101.

1988

A position statement was released on the national level, in regard to the issue of E.T. Nurses affiliated with industry and the ineligibility of these nurses to serve on the Board of Directors of the I.A.E.T. Dallas, Texas was the site of the national conference. It was also the anniversary of 20 years of the I.A.E.T. Mid-Atlantic Regional conference entitled "Current Concepts in Ostomy and Wound Care" as held in Fredericksburg, Virginia in October. The program was open to R.N's. Liz O'Connor received the Mid-Atlantic Region's award of E.T. Nurse of the Year.

1989

I.A.E.T. Conference was held in Washington, D.C. The Honorable Tip O'Neill gave the keynote address. Kristy Wright was elected president. The fall conference was held at the Inner Harbor, Baltimore, Maryland. The topic was "Focus on Aging - Implications for Nursing Practice." The retired E.T. Nurses were honored. Ruth Kules was chosen as E.T. Nurse of the Year. Penny Shettle assumed the role of Regional Trustee. Our region now had three affiliate groups: Metro-Baltimore, Metro-Washington and Hampton Roads.

1990

National Conference was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Topic was "Embrace the Scope". A marketing plan for E.T. nursing was being developed. A name change was discussed. The fall conference was held in Williamsburg, Virginia with "Nursing Directions for the 90's", as the topic. Membership was 124.

1991

The Journal of Enterostomal Therapy became The Journal of E.T. Nursing. National Conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia in June. Fall regional conference was held in November in Ocean City, Maryland. The program was geared toward a review of E.T. Nursing Scope of Practice. The certification examination was held in conjunction with the conference. Joan Selekof was chosen as E.T. Nurse of the Year. Mary Lou Thomas became newsletter editor.

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1992

The I.A.E.T. National Conference was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The House of Delegates voted to change the name of the I.A.E.T. to W.O.C.N. (Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nurses' Society - An Association of ET Nurses). Harriet Pilert became our President. Regional Conference was held in Wintergreen, Virginia. Membership now totaled 142 with 121 active members.

1993

The W.O.C.N. National Conference was held in San Antonio, Texas. It was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization and the theme was its History. Norma Gill-Thompson, the First ET, received the President's award. Dr. Rupert Turnbull, the father of Enterostomal Therapy, was honored. His family accepted the plaque in his memory. It was voted in to have a year's trial of eight Area Directors, with two representing each of four geographical areas of the country. The House of Delegates voted itself out and Regional Trustees were eliminated. Decisions on all major issues were to be made by the entire membership by mail vote. Open forum meetings would replace the House of Delegates. That Fall, Harriet Pilert, our Regional President, was voted in as a Director. Edi Lecates, our Regional Vice President, assumed the duties of President. A new logo for the Mid-Atlantic Region was selected by contest and Harriet Pilert was the winner. Membership now totaled 161. Kay Ascani received the Mid-Atlantic Region's award for ET Nurse of the Year. The Fall Conference Was held at the University of Maryland, College Park.

1994

The W.O.C.N. National Conference was held in Baltimore, Maryland. Sue Currence and Beverly Canby coordinated our role as Host Region. They did an excellent job. Regional members willingly cooperated. We had sun visors made with a crab imprinted on them to identify us to the members. Edi Lecates was elected to continue to serve as President. Membership now totaled 155. Juliette B. Crichton received the Mid-Atlantic Region's award for E.T. Nurse of the Year. The Fall Conference was held at Virginia Beach, VA.

1995

The W.O.C.N. National Conference was held in Denver, Colorado. Edi Lecates continued to serve as President. Harriet Pilert continued to serve as a Director. The position of President-Elect was voted on, to begin in 1996. Betty Swap was named Mid-Atlantic Region's ET Nurse of the Year. Janet Long, the Washington area's first ET nurse, died in Norfolk, VA. A tribute to her legacy to ET nursing was published in the WOCN Journal (Sept. '95). The Fall Conference was held in Easton, Maryland. We thanked Ruth Kules, Historian, for updating the history in 1992.

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1996

The W.O.C.N. National Conference was held in Seattle Washington. Carolyn Corazza was elected to serve as Regional President. Sue Currence was voted to be the first President-Elect. Mary Dalton was chosen as the Mid-Atlantic Region's ET Nurse of the Year. Fall Conference was held in Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia. Harriet Pilert was the Chairperson for the conference which included a special 20th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Mid-Atlantic Region. She and her committee did an OUTSTANDING job with both the educational and the social parts of the conference. Many of the original founding members and the original company representatives were on hand to add to the occasion. Ruth Kules, one of the area's first E.T. Nurses, received the UOA ET Nurse of the Year award in Boston. Ruth had served as our historian for many years. She was too ill to attend Fall Conference and died shortly afterwards. A tribute to her contributions to ET Nursing was published in the WOCN Journal the following spring.

Helen DuBois received the honor of being elected as President of United Ostomy Association for 1996-98.

1997

The WOCN National Conference was held in Nashville, Tennessee. Carolyn Corazza continued to serve as our Regional President and Sue Currence continued as President-Elect. Fall Conference was held in Charlottesville, VA. Harriet Pilert & her committee again planned & conducted an excellent program of educational and social events.

1998

The WOCN National Conference was held in Salt Lake City, Utah. The scenery was beautiful and we will long remember the streets being torn up in preparation for the future Olympics! Sue Currence automatically became our Regional President after serving for two years as the President-Elect. Brenda Hensley was voted in as the new President-Elect. Diane Krasner was the recipient of the 1998 ET Nurse of the Year award for the Mid-Atlantic-Region. Fall Conference was held in Berkley Springs, W. Virginia and was a retreat for our WOC (ET) Nurses. Harriet Pilert and her committee had prepared and conducted a wonderful Conference. The theme was "Alternative Medicine". It was an excellent learning experience as well as a relaxing time for all

1999

WOCN National Conference was held in June in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was very successful. Mid-Atlantic Regional Fall Conference was held in Williamsburg, Virginia. It was a joint venture with Medical College of Virginia. The title was the 8th Annual Wound Care Symposium. Sue Creehan from MCV and Harriet Pilert from Mercy Hospital in Baltimore worked very hard to ensure its success. It was an outstanding educational event. Sue Currence continued to serve as Regional President and Brenda Hensley continued as President-Elect. Betty Swap served a second term as secretary. Mari-Jo Soloman, outgoing treasurer, was thanked for her faithful service for two terms. Her organizational ability greatly enhanced the role. Carol Hawkins was installed as the new treasurer. Donna McMullen, outgoing Trustee, had conducted very successful fundraising events for the region. Her efforts were appreciated. Katie Hudson was installed as a new Regional Trustee and Lolly McCance continued as a Regional Trustee and we thanked her for the wonderful job as newsletter editor. Helen Watson had preceded her and had been a great editor also. Carolyn Corazza was the recipient of the ET nurse of the Year Award, due to her many new innovations in wound, ostomy, and continence nursing. We were very proud of her.

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2000

In June of 2000, the WOCN & the CAET (Canadian Association for Enterostomal Therapy) collaborated on the Annual Conference. It was the first conference jointly sponsored by the two professional organizations. It was an exciting one and provided a unique opportunity to compare practice patterns and professional challenges faced by the WOC (ET) nurses in the US and Canadian systems. It included a joint session with the Wound Healing Society and a continued focus on our jointly developed Professional Guidelines for the Care of Chronic Wounds. It was held in Toronto, Canada. Bernie Cullen, Past President of WOCN, & Maria Garces, Executive Director of WOCN, both received the President's awards. Bonnie Cunningham was thanked for her many years of OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS THE CONFERENCE PLANNING CHAIRPERSON FOR WOCN! At the Mid-Atlantic Meeting, Liz O'Connor was honored for her many years of service to the organization. She was presented with a retirement gift of a beautiful engraved clock/compass. It was announced that an annual scholarship to the UOA Youth Rally would be given in her honor.

2002

This year's Fall conference was held in Norfolk, Virginia October 11 through the 13th. The title of the conference was Wounds-Ostomies-Incontinence Waves to the Future. Some of the topics discussed were ARDS, Nutrition in individuals with chronic wounds, assessment of pain in wound care, skills labs, and continence lectures by Dorothy Doughty. The keynote speaker Rear Admiral Thomas Steffens, USN reminded us that "we can sleep because our navy is awake". It was the first conference where a golf tournament was held. It is hoped that this will become an annual fundraising event. New or continuing officers were sworn into office. Brenda Hensley as President, Jolie Blankenship as secretary and Sue Creehan as President-elect. Brenda Hensley was the ET of the year.

2003

The conference in 2003 was held at the Tyson's Marriott in Vienna, VA. from October 24 to 26th. Topics included surgical management of IBD, larval therapy, hereditary colon cancers, bariatrics, recent innovations in diabetes care, telemedicine in home care. Golf tournament is an annual event now, serving as a fun way to network with our vendor colleagues while generating revenue for the region. Due to personal commitments, Brenda Hensley has stepped down as President, and President-Elect, Sue Creehan has moved into the President's position. CeCe Rund accepted the role as President-Elect.

2004

WOCN National Conference was held in Tampa Bay Florida. The National WOCN web site has lectures from the conference for which you can apply for CE credits. The recipient of the Presidents award was a Mid-Atlantic member Catherine Ratcliff from Charlottesville, VA. The Mid-Atlantic regional conference was held in Richmond, Va. October 1-2.

Titled: "Hospital to Hospice: Challenging Spaces and Trading Spaces". The speakers lectured on; wound care, lower leg ulcer treatment, wound pain management, fistula management and palliative care. Our web page under the direction of Kathy Wright and Custom Association Management, Inc. has had a great first year. It is linked to the WOCN national web site. MAR fall conference information will be available for members and vendors. The following officers were installed: Cynthia Sylvia as President -Elect, Joanne Shirley as Secretary and Karen Mirson as Member-at-Large Communications. The new membership chair is the outgoing President Sue Creehan. Rotation lists have been developed for conference affiliate sponsorship and member attendance to NIWI. All regions and members will have the opportunity to host the conference and send a member to Capitol Hill. All of the affiliates have been busy with local meetings and programs. Details are in our on-line newsletter.

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2005

In October of 2005 the Mid-Atlantic conference was held at Rocky Gap Lodge and Golf Resort in Western Maryland. The conference was titled " Wound, Ostomy, and Continence: Bridging the Gap". The conference educated and refreshed all the members and guests. As the golfers returned to the hotel there was a spectacular double rainbow provided by the Western Maryland affiliate. One of the guest speakers was Karen Schankweiler who taught many of our members at Harrisburg Hospital ET School. The new officers who were installed are as follows: Dot Goodman as Treasurer and Lidia Garner as Member-At -Large Fund raising. The local affiliates continue to grow. There are educational and networking meetings for their members as well as one day conferences designed to educate local health care providers.

2006

The conference was held in Ocean City, Maryland at the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel. There were 154 registered. The conference was titled, "Riding the Waves to improve Patient Outcomes". There were six poster presentations and speakers who improved our knowledge of, wound infections, urinary incontinence and nutrition. The MAR region will use the web site as a way to communicate with members. The affiliate reports and links to resources can be found at marwocn.org. The web will be faster and less expensive than a newsletter. The affiliates are busy presenting conferences to educate local nurses and sending young osteomates to the national youth rally. These are the six affiliates, named for their locations in the region.

Hampton Roads
Greater Baltimore
Central Virginia
Eastern Shore
Washington DC
Western Maryland

The By-laws were rewritten and approved at the business meeting. The operations manual will be updated to reflect the bylaw changes. The "ET Nurse of the Year" is Celeste McDonald. She is the clinical coordinator of the Carroll Hospital Wound Center. New officers installed:

President-Elect	Lidia Gardner
Secretary	Joanne Shirey
Member-at-Large	Ce Ce Rund

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2007

This year's conference was held in Baltimore at The Sheraton Inner Harbor. Titled "Catch the Nursing Spirit". 129 nurses were available on line. The new conference planner is Agora Occasions Inc. The conference planning chair as of Jan 2008 will be Ann Rooney.

We give hart felt appreciation to the out going chair Carolyn Peterson. The annual golf tournament was held at the Mount Pleasant Golf Course. In March Gary Williams started as our new web master. He has been doing a great job for the DC affiliate.

Cindy Sylvia stepped down as President and President-Elect Lidia Garner assumed the positions as the new President. Joan Sullivan is the President -Elect until a new candidate is elected. CeCe Rund resigned as Member-at-Large for Communications and was replaced by Ann Williams. The region has 275 members. As a Region we sent money for scholarships to educate ET nurses and for UOAA camper sponsorship. New operation manuals were given to voting members of the board at the Board meeting.

The "ET of the Year Award" was presented to Lolly McCance. Lolly is a member of the Washington DC affiliate. She has worked for many years as a WOCN at The Washington Hospital Center and Howard County General. She has been a mentor to many area ET nurses.