

SUMMER 2023

WVUOV Chapter AALNC



WVUOV-AALNC

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, West Virginia Upper Ohio Valley Chapter! Summer is officially in full swing, and we hope you are soaking up every moment!

I hope everyone had a fantastic time at the AALNC's Forum Conference in Kentucky in April! We would love it if whoever went could share their experience with us at the next meeting on June 13th. Don't forget that our chapter is on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram. We would love for you to share your photos from the conference with us!



We have had some great webinars so far this year, including Legal Nurse Consulting for the U.S. Military, presented by Tristan Ashly Wristan, Necrotizing Enterocolitis: Tips for the LNC by Joan Early, and Life Care Planning 101, presented by Mila Carlson. Just to remind you, if you missed any webinars, they can be purchased later on our site in our Library section. In our library, you will find OVER 70 excellent on-demand webinars with a broad range of topics to suit your interest! Make sure to check them out! And as always, if you are interested in presenting a topic, please get in touch with us at hello@wvuov-aalnc.com.

We are actively calling for volunteers for our education co-chair position. This position would involve working hand in hand with the education chair, Keli Heskett, for the rest of the year 2023. The co-chair would move into the chair position in 2024. Please reach out if you are interested or have more questions about what the role entails.

Make sure to mark your calendars for August 25th and 26th for our 3rd annual WVUOV virtual symposium! This event is a two-day event packed full of great information. Don't miss the opportunity to network, learn about different areas of practice, and earn continuing education credits!

Thank you for being a part of the WVUOV-AALNC chapter. I look forward to growing and learning with you! As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Justine Hanna RN, BSN, RNC-NIC
President of the WVUOV-AALNC Chapter 2023

FIRST AALNC FORUM

By Jennifer Dizon, BSN, BA, RN-WCCM, CCM, Sky Nurse Consulting, LLC

I attended my first AALNC Annual Forum in Louisville, Ky., this April 2023. In the past, the cost and taking time off work deterred me. It had also been years since attending any conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, I changed my mind set and jumped on the chance to introduce myself as a legal nurse consultant.

After dropping off my senior chihuahua with his new dog sitter, I embarked on a memorable trip to Louisville. I arrived early to check into my hotel room on the 13th floor! The front desk agent assigned me to room 1313; she and I agreed that it was a lucky room. I informed my mother, and she bought lottery tickets to ensure my luck during the conference.

Attending pre-Forum workshops on criminal case consulting and audit trails reignited my desire to enter the sub-specialty of forensics. A panel discussion on observing independent/defense medical examinations boosted my confidence in offering this service as I had experience in coordinating and attending IME/DMEs as a worker's compensation nurse case manager. To show my interest, I chatted with speakers after their presentations.

The two sessions on systemic errors and liability of nurses confirmed that checks and balances were still needed in the hospital/clinical setting. Listening to nurse experts, attorneys, and physicians on topics such as deep vein thrombosis, obstetrics, orthopedic surgeries, healthcare fraud, and litigation confirmed limitless opportunities for LNCs to become involved.

I met seasoned LNCs from WVUOV and Greater Orlando chapters, with whom I only previously interacted through email, Zoom calls, social media, or online LNC education/training. I also met rising LNCs who shared similar experiences and aspirations; we bonded during networking socials and lunch breaks. I met LNC neighbors from Texas, where I moved in October 2022. As a new Texan, they alerted me to state laws, malpractice caps, and suggestions for my existing cases.

Matching faces with names beyond the computer screens, post-pandemic hugs, and handshakes made this experience heartwarming. If I recognized LNCs from the virtual world, I happily approached them. Returning to my home office became more exciting, and I no longer felt alone because of these in-person connections made at the AALNC Annual Forum.

DAY BY DAY AT THE FORUM

AALNC 2023 Annual Forum

April 27-29

Louisville, KY

Omni Louisville Hotel

Pre-Forum: April 27

Wednesday, April 26:

The Board (and HQ staff) met all day and welcomed two new Directors at Large, Barbara Gaynor from Cincinnati, OH, and Kenyetta Christmas from Douglasville, Ga.

Thursday morning, April 27:

The Board (and HQ staff) met again and said farewell to our outgoing Secretary/Treasurer, **Erin Gollogly**.

Thursday afternoon, April 27:

Attendees took advantage of two half-day workshops. **Elizabeth Murray** and **Barbara Davis-Monte** offered a comprehensive session on report writing and chronologies (and much more), including one-on-one sessions with seasoned LNCs providing additional “speed coaching. “CSI Louisville” had three speakers, **Denise Kilburn**, **Shelly Combs**, and **Teresa Devitt-Lynch**, who presented a well-rounded look into LNC Forensics.

Thursday evening, April 27:

Time to kick back, enjoy adult beverages and live music, and network with many legal nurse consultants.

Friday, April 28:

Two Breakout sessions with **Stephen Cohen, MD**, and **Dennis McWeeney, DO**, both back by popular demand. AALNC President **Lisa Mancuso** then officially welcomed everyone to the 2023 Forum. A general session followed with **Suzanne Smithwick** (an in-house defense LNC), who presented a fascinating, yet so tragic, case in which she played an integral role in resolution—the morning ended with two more Breakout sessions. **Jaimee Gerrie** introduced the world of pre-trial mediation and how an LNC fits so well there, and **Jacquelyn Maki** taught us all the many barriers when marketing yourself (and how to overcome them).

DAY BY DAY AT THE FORUM

Following a boxed lunch break and more networking, attendees could choose from Dr. Michael Amendola, who spoke about current modalities when recognizing and treating DVTs, or Rhonda Sullivan, who “dissected” avoidable limb loss and what the LNC needs to know. We enjoyed another networking break before our annual awards presentations. Our Distinguished Service Award went to **Cheryl Gatti**. There were two deserving Volunteers of the Year, Alyssa Brandeberry and your very own **Stormy Green**. Marilyn McCullum won the *JLNC* Article of the Year.

Friday’s sessions ended with **Dr. Kayur Patel**, who presented a fascinating general session on Systemic Errors in health care. Scary and very enlightening at the same time.

Saturday, April 29:

RaDonda Vaught told her story of her highly publicized criminal prosecution. You could hear a pin drop as she went step by step and day by day of her ordeal. This session was profoundly personal and compelling on the heels of **Dr. Patel’s** the previous day.

Saturday morning included two breakout sessions. **Jane Heron** gave a presentation on TBI, and **Jennifer Parks** (and panel) taught us about DMEs. A general session with **Jane Shufro** and her attorney-client followed. They walked us through how a firm prepares an expert before testifying.

After another networking lunch, nurse attorney **Richard Bays** spoke about healthcare fraud while **Judy Young** (and the panel) prepared interested LNCs on how to publish a manuscript.

Our fun annual **Passport to Prizes** was held before the final sessions. Several lucky attendees won terrific prizes, including complete registration for the 2024 Forum in **Pittsburgh**.

Since it was Derby Week, the home stretch was neck and neck with **Dr. Emma Patterson** (back by popular demand) speaking about bariatric surgery litigation. At the same time, the attorney/LNC combo of **Jordan Stanton** and **Barbara Levin** had us on the edge of our seats, untangling a case they successfully worked on together.

See you next **April 18-20, 2024**, at the **Omni William Penn** in **Pittsburgh**!

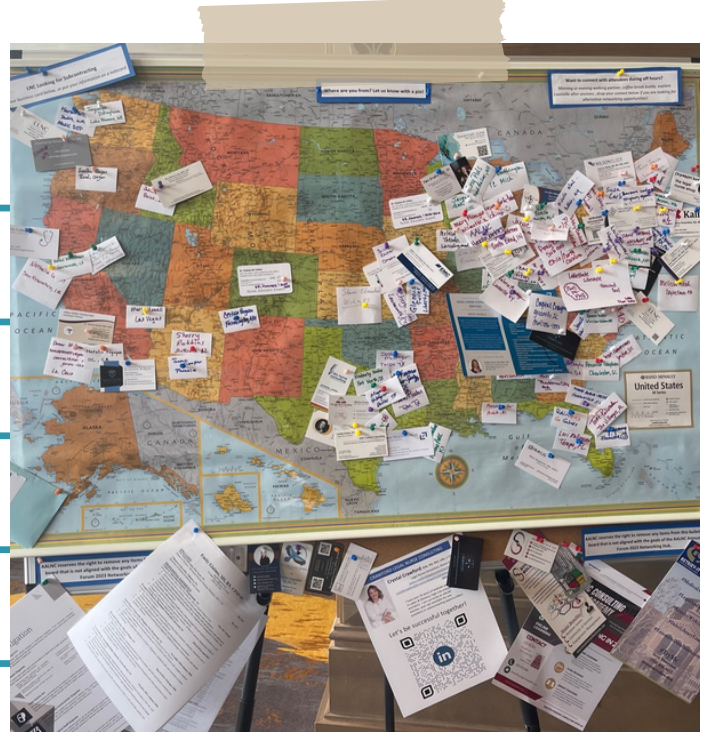
Mary K. Flanagan, BSN, RN, CNOR(E), LNCC

Certified Perioperative Nurse Emeritus

Legal Nurse Consultant Certified

Past President, American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants

AT THE FORUM



MEMBERS NEAR AND FAR

Katie Clark, MSN, MBA, RN

Legal Nurse Consultant/Owner, KC Consultations

In-House LNC, Hannah Campbell Powell, LLP



Katie Clark, MSN, MBA, RN is a Legal Nurse Consultant and Owner of KC Consultations. She also works as an in-house LNC at Hannah Campbell Powell, LLP, in the Greater Cleveland Area. Her LNC specialty areas comprise medical malpractice and personal injury. She has 20 years of clinical experience in trauma/surgical critical care. Katie holds a Master of Science in Nursing focusing on Nursing leadership and a Master of Business Administration. Her recent accomplishment includes providing Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for the Federal Bar and Ohio Bar.

Katie has planned road trips with her teenager from Ohio to Washington State this summer! Katie can be reached at kcconsultations@outlook.com or (567) 224-3366.

Kami McEntee, BSN, RN, LNC

2023 Social Media Chair, WVUOV-AALNC

Owner, Priority Legal Nurse Consulting, LLC



Kami McEntee, BSN, RN, LNC, is the 2023 Social Media Chair of WVUOV-AALNC and Owner of Priority Legal Nurse Consulting, LLC. She is based in Hagerstown, Md.; however, she collaborates with attorneys across the United States. Her LNC specialties include personal injury, worker's compensation, medical malpractice, and audit trail analysis. Her clinical specialties are intensive care, post-anesthesia care unit, ambulatory care, and procedural sedation. Kami was the youngest graduate of her nursing class to receive an Associate of Science in Nursing from Hagerstown Community College in 2004. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Frostburg State University in 2018. She completed the Legal Nurses Rock program in 2021 to assist with her LNC journey and success and an Audit Trail Analysis course in 2022 through Audit Trail Pro.

This summer, Kami is traveling to the Bahamas! Later this year, she will take the LNCC exam. Contact Kami at LegalNurse@PriorityLegalNurseConsulting.com, <https://prioritylegalnurseconsulting.com> or (240) 469-5921.

NEVER SAY NEVER

Pressure Injury *By Sharon Banks Tarr*

Introduction

Pressure injury to the skin results from a lack of blood flow due to pressure. The contributing causes include inadequate nutrition, stress, traction, friction, and moisture. Complications can result in these types of infections: bone (osteomyelitis), brain (meningitis), skin (cellulitis), bloodstream (bacteremia), and heart (endocarditis). ¹

Risk factors include:

- immobility,
- incontinence,
- decreased sensory perception,
- poor nutrition/hydration,
- medical conditions affect blood flow.

A Kennedy Ulcer clinically is not considered to be the same as a pressure ulcer/injury. It does not have a specific ICD code.

Artificial intelligence shows excellent promise in forecasting deep tissue heel injury within 24 hours, with a sensitivity of 77% and a specificity of 80% ².

Case Study

R.K. was a 79-year-old male residing at I Care Nursing Home after discharge from the local community hospital after a left hip surgery. The admission care plan assessment noted that his skin was intact and that he was at risk for skin breakdown. Mr. R.K. could not turn himself in or leave bed without aid. His family could not visit daily, so they had a camera positioned in his room to check on Mr. R.K.'s care and treatment at the nursing home. In family care meetings, the family was assured that in addition to helping with activities of daily living (eating, bathing, grooming), he would be turned and positioned often for comfort and to ensure that daily skin care was provided. The family was also told that Mr. R. K. would always be able to communicate with staff by using his call bell to ask for help.

His family saw repeated occasions where care staff did not ensure his call bell was within reach after making his bed and/or helping him get in /out of bed. It was common for the family to see that his meals were placed on the overbed table at the foot of his bed, where he could not reach them. Mr. K was offered little help with activities of daily living, as documented in the care notes and the treatment administration record. Mr. K was readmitted to the community hospital after three months due to elevated temperature and blood culture results, which were positive for an infection.

NEVER SAY NEVER

Financial Implications

The number of cases has increased by nearly 1/3 since 2009. The increase in cases is linked to the elderly/aged population. ³

According to McKnight Long Term Care News, on September 6, 2019, nearly 60,000 patients died annually due to pressure injury or associated complications. Approximately one in three patients in the long-term care setting will develop pressure injuries.

Conclusion

More than 17,000 lawsuits are filed a year in cases related to pressure injuries. Pressure injuries are the second most common claim for medical malpractice. Plaintiffs are favored in 87 % of those cases.

References

- (1) A Machine Learning Algorithm of Early Detection of heel deep tissue injury based on a daily history of sub-epidermal moisture measurement, Merck Manual, Pressure Sores
- (2) Why reducing pressure injuries in Long Term Care is a necessity, Martin Burns, CEO of Bruin Biometrics, September 6, 2019
- (3) Incontinence Management and Pressure Injury Prevalence (IPUP) Survey. J. Wound Ostomy Continence Nurs. 2022-Sep-Oct 01;49(5): 405-415.doi:10.1097/WON.0000000000000905, Koloms, K.Cox, J. VanGilder CA, Edsberg, LE

EDUCATION CORNER

The Education team has many exciting things planned for 2023!

Webinars

The education team is working hard to schedule interesting and exciting webinars for the remainder of the year. Let me know if you or someone you know are interested in hosting a webinar but perhaps are nervous because you have never done one. It is a fantastic opportunity to share your expertise with other LNCs. Several members have requested report writing, case reviews, wound care, nursing home, and criminal cases, to name a few examples of ideas for webinars.

Symposium

The 3rd annual WVOUV Symposium (online) will be held on August 25th and 26th. We have been kicking around several ideas for Symposium themes evolving around some fantastic ideas brought up during the last chapter meeting. Please let me know if you are interested in assisting with the symposium!

WELCOME
Summer