

Summary Abstracts Summer 2008 Journal

President's Message

The President's Message is a standing *Journal* column highlighting current hot topics. In this issue, Executive President Sandra Domeracki Prickitt, RN, FNP, COHN-S, recognizes the value chapters bring to the success of AOHP. She highlights ways the board is supporting and helping to strengthen chapters by addressing four key concerns expressed by regional directors.

Vice President's Update

Receive an update on the value of visibility from the AOHP Executive Vice President in this regular *Journal* column. Diane Dickerson, RN, MS, COHN-S/CM, SPHR, reviews the three target areas where AOHP and its individual members must continue to seek greater visibility: association position; member voting; and awards and scholarship utilization.

Editor's Column

This standard feature provides commentary from the current *Journal* Editor, Kim Stanchfield, RN, COHN-S. In this issue, learn how your delivery of constructive criticism can greatly influence the response you receive, from promoting positive, helpful growth to fostering negative conflict. Consider how you give and receive feedback when relating to others, both professionally and personally.

AOHP Annual Treasurer's Report

Executive Treasurer Christine M. Pionk, RN, MS, COHN-S, provides a financial update for AOHP for the year ending 2007, documenting that AOHP began 2008 in an excellent financial position. Other highlights include ongoing financial activities and 2008 initiatives, in addition to a review of revenue enhancements for 2007.

Association Community Liaison Report

Through this regular article, MaryAnn Gruden, CRNP, MSN, NP-C, COHN-S/CM, details how AOHP is gaining visibility as an expert regarding occupational health issues. In this issue, she provides an update of AOHP comments regarding the BLS coding system and NIOSH strategic emergency preparedness goals, in addition to comments provided through NIOSH science blogs on respirator fit testing and a proposed action plan for PPE during an influenza pandemic. The article also updates readers on the organization's ongoing alliance with OSHA, the first amendment to the FMLA and AOHP's participation in a recent NIOSH stakeholders meeting about healthcare employers' safety and health practices.

The Uncounted Costs of Apathy – Re-Engaging Healthcare Employees

When employees are disengaged from their organization by distrust, resentment or apathy, the effect on performance can be significant. Kathy Espinoza, MBA, MS, CPE, CIE, examines: how to recognize the signs of a disengaged workforce; conditions that cause employees to become indifferent; and efforts that can re-engage apathetic workers. Trust can develop between healthcare administrators and employees through value, visibility and viability, which then fosters employees who are vested in successful outcomes.

Industrial Hygiene in Health Care

Lead authors Joyce Hood, MPH, RN, COHN-S, and Angel Boyce, RN, MSN, COHN-S/CM, in conjunction with the AIHA Healthcare Working Group's Occupational Health Project Team, address occupational health record-keeping through the OSHA 300 log. They provide a variety of examples for how healthcare workers should document potential exposures to chemical, physical and biological hazards in an evolving workplace environment, and review how OSHA's mandate of the collection of injury and illness information on the OSHA 300 log can support workplace health and safety for all employees.

Ready to Research

Guest author for this standing column is Denise Knoblauch, RN, BSN, COHN-S/CM, president emeritus of AOHP and current national conference co-chair. She served as AOHP's representative at the NIOSH public stakeholders meeting on April 30, 2008, and reports to the members on two proposed NIOSH surveys – the Survey of Healthcare Workers' Safety and Health and the Survey of Healthcare Employer Safety and Health Practices. Approximately 35 professionals representing a wide variety of healthcare-related associations attended the meeting. They were given background information on the research study that includes these surveys and were then asked to review, discuss and provide feedback on the two surveys.

Colleague Connection

Authors Nancy Johnson, RN, BSN, and Marian Ray, RN, CIC, share how the Employee Health and Disaster Preparedness departments at Washington State's Franciscan Health System worked together to increase low healthcare worker influenza immunization rates by better utilizing existing resources. Through the successful development and implementation of a Mass Dispensing Drill at each of the system's three hospitals, overall staff influenza vaccination rates increased by 50 percent from the prior year.

Spotlight on an AOHP Star

The AOHP Star for this issue is Liane Jensen, RN, BSN, COHN-S, Employee Health Services manager for Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Jensen is a 10-year member of AOHP and is the current Michigan Chapter president. She is a strong advocate for fellow chapter members and provides excellent leadership and mentoring. She was nominated by fellow Michigan Chapter colleague Christine Pionk.

The Impact of Stress Management on Nurse Productivity and Retention

Current stress levels of nurses may contribute to organizational problems, burnout and attrition, and can also lead to myriad health-related problems that result in negative organizational consequences. There are many methods to manage stress, beginning with recognition, validation and visible, committed efforts by administrators, followed by the development and enhancement of comprehensive stress management programming for employees. This article is reprinted in the *AOHP Journal* with permission from *Nursing Economics*, April 2007.