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Awards Highlight FADONA's Successful 29th Annual "Carrying the Torch of Leadership" Convention

2016 Nurse Administrator of the Year Award & Induction of New Officers Highlighted

West Palm Beach, Fla. — Florida Association Directors of Nursing Administration/LTC (FADONA) President Jean Nelson is delighted to announce that the 29th Annual Convention "Carrying the Torch of Leadership 2016" was a resounding success. The convention, which was held at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort from March 21-24, hosted more than 400 attendees, guests, speakers, and exhibitors from around the country.

The highly anticipated Annual Awards Banquet took place Wednesday evening. The theme for the evening was the FADONA FOscars Awards presented by the Platinum Partners, FADONA's elite vendor members, complete with a red carpet paparazzi experience, dinner, dancing, and a night of fun. The banquet featured the 2016 Nurse Administrator of the Year Award sponsored by OPTUMCare, and the CNA/LPN Awards of Excellence sponsored by RB Health Partners. This is the 13th straight year that OPTUMCare has sponsored the Nurse Administrator of the Year Award and the 6th year in a row that RB Health Partners has sponsored the CNA/LPN Awards. Their sponsorships each year are greatly appreciated by the association.

Each year, FADONA acknowledges a nurse administrator who has demonstrated a high degree of professionalism by mentoring and nurturing, as well as showing a commitment to the standards of nursing practice and excellence in long-term care. This year FADONA recognized two exceptional individuals with separate awards, the Nurse Administrator of Excellence, and the Nurse Administrator of the Year.

The 2016 winner of the Nurse Administrator of Excellence Award is Kera Literal, RN from Greenbriar Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in Tampa. The 2016 Winner of the Nurse Administrator of the Year Award is Mary-Sue Buck, RN, who is the DON at Sunset Lake Health & Rehab in Venice. On hand to present both awards was Dr. Marva Edwards-Marshall from OPTUMCare. FADONA President Jean Nelson was also on hand to say a few words about each award winner.

"FADONA is extremely appreciative of the dedication that both Kera and Mary-Sue have shown to their residents and the field of LTC nursing," President Jean Nelson said. "Their work as nurse leaders has not gone unnoticed, and they have both shown a special commitment to providing quality care to all of their residents. Both the Nurse Administrator of Excellence and Nurse Administrator of the Year awards were created to recognize outstanding nurse leaders, and Kera and Mary-Sue certainly exemplify this trait. Congratulations to both on this amazing accomplishment."

During the Annual Awards Banquet FADONA also presented its CNA and LPN Awards of Excellence. The awards recognize certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) across the state of Florida. This year's winner of the CNA Award of Excellence is Ebony Hutchins from Menorah Manor in St. Petersburg. She received a beautiful flame award recognizing her achievement and a check for \$500. The winner of this year's LPN Award of Excellence is Sandra Climes, an LPN at Menorah Manor in St. Petersburg. Sandra received a beautiful flame award recognizing her achievement and a check for \$500. FADONA is very proud of this year's worthy recipients of the CNA, LPN, and Nurse Administrator of the Year awards. This would not be possible without the support from our sponsors.

The Imogene Ward scholarship program was established to provide financial assistance to individuals in nursing looking to continue their education in the LTC setting. This year, FADONA awarded the Imogene Ward Scholarship to Jessica Giese, an LPN at Ocala Health & Rehabilitation Center. Jessica received a check for \$2,000 to further her education as a registered nurse. Thanks again to the Ward family for underwriting this generous scholarship for our LTC nursing students.

Lastly, FADONA installed and reelected new officers and regional VPs at this year's convention. Betty Barron is the newest officer and is taking on the role of secretary. Norma D. Collins was re-elected as 2nd Vice-President, along with Region II Vice-President, Jacqueline Hinerman. Newly-installed Region IV Vice-President, Bobbi Jo Rivera; and Region VI Vice-President, Elizabeth Page were also sworn-into office. A special appointment by the Board was made for new Region III Vice President, Kimberly Biegasiewicz.

Florida Association Directors of Nursing Administration/LTC is a Florida-wide professional association representing nursing administrators who are dedicated to excellence in long-term care nursing administration. FADONA/LTC provides its members with opportunities to participate at the local, regional, state and national levels and offers educational forums and scholarships in order to ensure that the residents, patients and guests entrusted to its members receive optimum quality care. FADONA is one of the largest state chapters of NADONA in the country with more than 320 members.

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Pictures with Captions

#3747 – Nurse Administrator of the Year Award – From left: FADONA President Jean Nelson; Dr. Marva Edwards-Marshall, OPTUM; Special Guest; Award Winner, Mary-Sue Buck, DON, Sunset Lake Health & Rehab; Mary-Sue's husband, Parker; Administrator Jennifer Mikula; and FADONA 1st Vice-President Susie Jenvold.

#3745 – Nurse Administrator Award of Excellence – From left: FADONA President Jean Nelson; Dr. Marva Edwards-Marshall, OPTUM; Award winner, Kera Literal, DON, Greenbriar Rehabilitation & Nursing Center; Guest, Rusty; Alexandra Maliwacki, Executive Director, Greenbriar Rehabilitation & Nursing Center; and three special guests.

#3725 – Imogene Ward Scholarship – From left: FADONA President Jean Nelson; Scholarship winner, Jessica Geise, LPN, Ocala Health & Rehabilitation Center; Jacqueline Hinerman, DON, Ocala Health & Rehabilitation Center; and FADONA 1st Vice-President Susie Jenvold.

#3733 – CNA Award of Excellence – From left: FADONA President Jean Nelson; Robin Bleier, RB Health Partners; Award winner, Ebony Hutchins, CNA; Anabelle Locsin, Chief Nursing Officer, Menorah Manor; Joan McCabe, Director of Quality Services, Menorah Manor; and FADONA 1st Vice-President Susie Jenvold.

#3737 – LPN Awards of Excellence Winner – From left: FADONA President Jean Nelson; Robin Bleier, RB Health Partners; Award winner, Sandra Climes, LPN; Anabelle Locsin, Chief Nursing Officer, Menorah Manor; Joan McCabe, Director of Quality Services, Menorah Manor; and FADONA 1st Vice-President Susie Jenvold.

#3511– FADONA Board of Directors Being Sworn In to Office by Bonnie Cruz, FADONA Immediate Past-President & NADONA Recording Secretary – From left: Kimberly Biegasiwicz, RN; Norma D. Collins, RN; Betty Barron, MSN, RN; and Bobbi Jo Rivera, RN.