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FADONA's Annual Carrying the Torch of Leadership 2018 Convention Kicks off Exciting Year for the Association

31st Annual Convention featured top-notch programming for nurse leaders

West Palm Beach, Fla. – Florida Association Directors of Nursing Administration/LTC (FADONA) recently held “Carrying the Torch of Leadership 2018,” Feb. 5-8, 2018, at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort. The convention combines exceptional educational programming, great networking opportunities, timely advocacy and leadership training for nurse administrators practicing in the skilled nursing and the post-acute care setting.

This year, FADONA’s Leadership Academy featured a high-energy, motivational, daylong leadership training workshop titled, Ignite the Power of Your Leadership. It was led by nationally-recognized motivational and leadership training expert Dr. Earl Suttle, CEO and Founder, Leadership Success International.

Other convention topics included active shooter preparedness, CMS Mega Rule, infection prevention and control, gastrointestinal motility disorders, leadership health, major depressive disorder, medical marijuana, medication-related changes, pressure ulcer/injury prevention and care, recognizing impairment in the workplace, depression and delirium, telehealth, wound assessments and measurement techniques.

FADONA President, Susie Jensvold, is very enthusiastic about the success of the 31st Annual Convention. “FADONA’s annual program is based upon the Principles of Excellence for Nurse Administrators in Long-Term Care as well as the identified educational needs from last year’s needs assessment,” Jensvold said. “Providing quality, compassionate care to our residents has always been the focal point of FADONA’s annual convention and this year was no different. FADONA continues to be a leader for nurse administrator continuing education and advocacy throughout the state of Florida.”

Jensvold kicked off the Awards Ceremony by showing a special, 8-minute video history in commemoration of FADONA’s 31st Anniversary (available at: <https://youtu.be/OnhTeVf-vU8>).

Then, she proudly announced the establishment of the Patches Bryan Scholarship, named in honor of an incredible nurse leader who cherished knowledge, education, and advanced training. Patches was a founding member of FADONA and a former officer. For many years, she proudly served as the Chief Executive Clinical Officer of Greystone Health Network, where she instilled pride and passion in the practice of long-term care nursing. With generous financial support from Greystone, scholarships are now available. Patches lost a courageous battle with cancer just two weeks after she attended the 2017 convention — where she was honored for her contribution to FADONA and nursing excellence in LTC.

Susie thanked 1st Vice President and Convention Chair Betty Barron and her planning team: Kimberly Biegasiewicz, Amina Dubuisson, Jackie Hinerman, and Elizabeth Page, who worked tirelessly to develop the amazing agenda.

She also thanked Grand Sponsor, OPTUMCare, as well as Classic Sponsors Bankers Life, Humana, Ocean Spray, and VITAS Health Care.

Next up, the CNA and LPN Awards of Excellence which were sponsored by RB Health Partners, for the eighth year-in-a-row. The winner of the 2018 CNA Award of Excellence was Sadeta Kabilovic, CNA, at Menorah Manor in St. Petersburg. The winner of the 2018 LPN Award of Excellence was Kimberly Huff, LPN; LPN Unit Charge Nurse at Lady Lake Specialty Care Center.

There were many inspiring candidates for the Nurse Administrator of the Year Award. The highest honors were presented to three of the most impressive nurse administrators among them, sponsored for the 15th consecutive year by OPTUMCare. There were two deserving winners of the 2018 Nurse Administrator Award of Excellence. The first award was presented to Kim Adams, RN, DON; The Chateau at Moorings Park in Naples. The second award-winner was Tasha Coccagna, RN, DON; Gardens Health & Rehab in Daytona Beach.

This year's top honor, the 2018 Nurse Administrator of the Year, was presented to Diane Mitchell, RN; DON at Heron Pointe in Brooksville.

Wrapping up the Awards Ceremony, Jensvold swore-in recently elected FADONA officers and directors including: 2nd Vice President Norma Collins, Secretary Kimberly Biegasiewicz, Region II Vice President Jacqueline Hinerman, Region IV Vice President Bobbi Jo Rivera, and Region VI Vice President Elizabeth Page.

FADONA's 32nd Annual Convention, Carrying the Torch of Leadership 2019, will be held from March 11 to 14, at the DoubleTree by Hilton at SeaWorld on International Drive in Orlando. For information visit www.fadona.org or contact Ian Cordes, FADONA's Director of Operations at (561) 689-6321 or icordes@fadona.org.

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The Florida Association Directors of Nursing Administration/LTC, otherwise known as FADONA, is a statewide coalition of professional, administrative long-term care (LTC) nurses holding director, assistant director of nursing (DON/ADON) or other administrative nursing roles. FADONA is one of the largest state chapters of the National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration in Long-Term Care and its primary goal is to ensure that the residents entrusted to their members enjoy the highest possible quality of life while receiving the finest quality care available.

Vision

FADONA is the premier organization for the advancement of nursing executives and leaders to position them as key members of the healthcare leadership team addressing the constant evolving landscape and need for innovation in the post-acute care continuum.

Mission

FADONA is the leading professional organization for current and aspiring leaders through professional development and networking, board certification and credentialing, and clinical expertise related to the care of patients/residents in the post-acute care continuum.