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FADONA's Carrying the Torch of Leadership 2022 Convention Kicks off Exciting Year for the Association

35th 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 2022, ***Power of the Past – Force of the Future***, March 21-24, 2022, at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando. FADONA's first in-person convention in three years combined 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, NADONA Nurse Leader Bootcamp. It was led by Master Trainer and NADONA's Director of Education, Cindy Fronning, RN, GERO-BC, IP-BC, AS-BC, RAC-CT, CDONA, FACDONA.

Other convention topics included core dementia care, COVID-19 skin and long-haulers, building dream teams, FDOH HAI prevention, hot legal issues, mindfulness, QAA and QAPI, recruiting and retaining staff, reducing aspiration pneumonia risk, regulatory update, and inspirational keynote presentations.

FADONA President, Susie Jensvold, is very enthusiastic about the success of the 35th 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," she added.

Jensvold kicked off the Awards Ceremony by presenting 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. Liz Borer shared about the years Patches 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 Health, now AbleHearts Consulting Services, scholarships have been presented since 2018. The worthy recipient of the 2022 Bryan Scholarship was Carol Rodriguez, LPN, Unit Manager at Pines of Sarasota.

Susie thanked 2nd Vice President and her Convention Co-Chair Amina Dubuisson and her planning team: Betty Barron, Jean Nelson, Angela Willis, Wendy Milam, Diane Speaks, Elizabeth Borer, and Marilyn Nalley, who worked tirelessly to develop the amazing agenda. She also thanked Classic Sponsors, Biogen, Optum, Medline, Polaris Pharmacy Services, and VITAS Healthcare.

Next up, the CNA and LPN Awards of Excellence which were sponsored by RB Health Partners, for the 12th year-in-a-row. The winner of the 2022 CNA Award of Excellence was Jewell Warthen, CNA with Avante at Leesburg. The winner of the 2022 LPN Award of Excellence was June Clifford, LPN, Unit Manager/Restorative Wound Care at Pines of Sarasota.

There were many inspiring candidates for the Nurse Administrator of the Year Award. The highest honors were presented to two of the most impressive nurse administrators among them, sponsored for the 18th consecutive year by OPTUM. The 2022 Nurse Administrator Award of Distinction was presented to Deborah Charter, RN, Director of Clinical Services at NSpire Health Care of Fort Pierce. This year's top honor, the 2022 Nurse Administrator of the Year, was awarded to Deborah Thompson, DON, at Clifford Chester Sims State Veterans Nursing Home in Panama City.

Wrapping up the Awards Ceremony, Cindy Fronning, Director of Education for NADONA, swore-in recently elected FADONA officers and directors including: 2nd Vice President Amina Dubuisson, Secretary Angela Willis, Region II Vice President Kimberly Huff, Region IV Vice President Tammie Phillips, and Region VI Vice President Marilyn Nalley.

Highlights from the convention are available via slide show on FADONA's website at www.fadona.org.

FADONA's 36th Annual Convention, Carrying the Torch of Leadership 2023, will be held from March 20 to 23, at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, 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.