



Florida State Association of Rehabilitation Nurses COMMUNIQUE MAY 2025

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President's Message

We hit the road at our Annual Educational Conference, "Rehab Road Trip...Our Journey of Excellence in Care," held April 3–4 at the Wyndham in Lake Buena Vista. Nearly 100 attendees came together for two incredible days of learning, connection, and inspiration.

The conference featured dynamic and engaging speakers, thought-provoking poster presentations, and some delightful yoga. Attendees enjoyed not only the rich educational content but also plenty of opportunities to network, socialize, and share ideas with fellow rehab professionals.

We also proudly installed our new Board of Directors during the annual membership meeting, with a special thank you to Marty Bassett for her years of service as Finance Chair. Our Board and Committee Chairs are an exceptional team of dedicated volunteers, and I am grateful for their commitment.

Whether you joined us in person or virtually, we hope you left feeling inspired and equipped with new knowledge. And if you couldn't make it this year—don't worry, we'd love to see you next time!

Our 2026 Conference, "Rehab Under the Sea...Diving Deep into Recovery," is set for April 26–27 at the Wyndham. The call for podium abstracts is now open—we encourage you to submit and be part of this exciting event. Stay tuned for more details, including the poster abstract call, coming soon!

Looking ahead, the ARN In-Person Conference will take place July 31 – August 2 in Phoenix, AZ. If you're attending, don't miss our Florida Chapter Meet & Greet—we'd love to connect with you there!

I hope you can spend time this summer with friends and family, perhaps even taking another road trip. If you are interested in becoming more active in FSARN or we can assist you in any way, please contact me or any of our Board or Committee members.

With gratitude,

Ann

Ann Wilson, MS, RN, CRRN
FSARN President

Ann Marie Cooney
Scholarship:
Brook Jimenez
Website Manager:
Ina Fletcher
Leadership Chair:
Sue Brown



Now accepting Abstracts for a Podium Presentation at the 2026 FSARN Annual Educational Conference

Now is your chance to present your work to your peers!
Download the flyer for the details to submit an abstract!
Deadline for submission is 6/20/25.

A limited number of submissions will be selected for 60-minute podium presentations at the 2026 Florida State Association of Nurses Annual Educational Conference. Abstracts are due by June 20th 2025. Proposals will be reviewed by the Conference Planning Committee and evaluated to ensure the following:

- Proposals include accurate and complete information.
- Content is current, evidence-based and suitable for a 60-minute presentation.
- The presenter's experience indicates expertise in the subject area.
- The backgrounds of the conference presenters (as a group) are diverse.

We are seeking topics that include but are not limited to:

Advances in Spinal Cord Injury Care	Advances in Brain Injury Care
Advances in Stroke Care	Advances in Orthopedics
Advances in Technology	Artificial Intelligence in Rehab
Care of the Pediatric Patient	Psychology Needs in Rehab
Crises Prevention and Intervention	Complex Wound Care

Abstract must include the following for consideration:

- Title of the presentation
- Name and credentials of the Presenter
- A concise summary of the presentation limited to 300 words.
- References
- CV/Biography of Presenter

Please submit all abstracts to adam.francis@brooksrehab.or

FSARN Leadership Committee

The FSARN Leadership Committee organized a BOD Orientation meeting that was convened pre-conference 4/3/25 prior to the start of the conference for outgoing/incoming BOD & Committee members to introduce new members to their role and a "nuts & bolts" drill down of how the organization works. The FSARN Policy & Procedures were reviewed and updated in preparation for this. Thank you to Ina Fletcher and all of the board and committee members that participated in this endeavor!

The committee is currently working on the ARN Chapter Scorecard application for ARN Chapter of the Year. FSARN has won the large chapter of the year for the past 4 years running! We are also working on some role award submissions as well. This year the Awards & Scholarships ceremony will be a virtual event so that all can attend on September 17, 2025. Details will be on the ARN website as they become available.

We are also planning a Florida Meet n' Greet to be held in conjunction with the ARN in-person conference in Phoenix, AZ, July 31-August 2, 2025. Details are forthcoming. All Florida nurses are welcome. This has been a great event over the last 2 years and just one of the ways that FSARN gives back to our members! Please let us know if you are attending the in-person conference. We look forward to seeing you there.

A virtual CRRN Core review is being planned for sometime in the Fall. This has been very successful over the past years and it is anticipated that we will again be providing CCM credits in addition to nursing CE. Stay tuned for details.

The leadership committee also plans the virtual CE programs on the 3rd Tuesday of most months. In March, Dr. Alison Fletcher presented on the topic of peritoneal dialysis. On May 20th, Sonny Mullen & Ryan Gebauer from Help, Hope, Love gave a wonderful, eye-opening presentation on fundraising options for medical expenses. If you missed it, there will be some information posted on our website FSARN Our next program will be a joint meeting with the Southeast Texas Chapter of ARN on July 15, 2025, 6:00 - 7:00 pm: Navigating the "Brutal Truths" of Neurorehabilitation Nursing, presented by Jorge Arenivar, CRRN, CCM. This promises to be a fun and very insightful presentation. Plan now to attend. Registration is open on the website.

Respectfully,

Sue Brown, MSN, RN, CMGT-BC, CRRN, CCM, RNA, CMAC
FSARN Leadership Chair

Upcoming Monthly Virtual CE offerings FREE:

July 15, 2025 6pm

"Beyond the Brochure: Navigating the "Brutal Truths" of Neurorehabilitation Nursing". This will be a joint offering from the FSARN Chapter and the SE Texas Chapter of ARN.

Health Care Policy Activities:

Comments on the FY 2026 IRF Proposed Rule- ARN will also be submitting its own comment letter in response to the proposed rule. However, we are supporting a letter written by Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation (CPR). The letter is addressed to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in response to the FY 2026 Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System (IRF PPS) Proposed Rule. The comment letter focuses on the proposed FY 2026 payment update, administrative burden reduction, proposed changes to the IRF Quality Reporting Program, and other aspects in the proposed rule—with the goal of ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries continue to have access to the full range of medically necessary rehabilitation services

Letter in Support of NIDILRR- ARN is signing on to support the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). We are asking congress to fund NIDILRR at no less than \$119 million in the FY 2026 Labor-HHS appropriations bill and begin working toward a long-overdue funding increase up to \$150 million annually. As

ARN members know, NIDILRR is facing serious threats to funding and restructuring.

DRRC Letter in Support of NIH and NCMRR – ARN is signing on to support the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC) in asking that Congress support full funding for rehabilitation and disability research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR), in FY 2026. NIH and NCMRR face an uncertain future with serious proposals under consideration to severely cut funding, cap indirect research costs, and reorganize NIH's 27 Institutes and Centers. The future of the emerging disability research portfolio at NIH is also at risk.

Orthotic and Prosthetic (O&P) Alliance Letter – The ARN is also in support of the orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) community's request of Appropriations leadership to fund O&P outcomes research under the Department of Defense's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) in FY 2026. Specifically, the letter requests a \$15 million set-aside for O&P Outcomes Research and continued authorization for the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program to fund O&P outcomes research to improve O&P care for people with limb loss and limb impairment.



Do you have any positions that you want FSARN to help you fill?

- Use our e-newsletter to reach more people
- Will also post on the FSARN website
- Position will stay on FSARN website for 30 days

Contact: Ina Fletcher - inafletcher@comcast.net

Mission Statement for the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses:



The Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) promotes and advances professional rehabilitation, nursing practice through education, advocacy, collaboration, and research to enhance the quality of life for those affected by disability and chronic illness. FSARN, as a chapter, supports the same mission and values upheld by **ARN**.

For more information regarding FSARN,
[contact inafletcher@comcast.net](mailto:inafletcher@comcast.net)



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