

FSARN AUGUST 2026 COMMUNIQUE

To inafletcher@comcast.net



Florida State Association of Rehabilitation Nurses

FSARN INSIGHTS & UPDATES

AUGUST 2026

President's Message

The ARN Conference in West Palm Beach was a wonderful time filled with learning and inspiration. FSARN had a strong presence as the local Chapter with our members involved in many facets of the conference. Our popular Florida Meet and Greet had a fantastic turnout and we enjoyed an evening of laughter, networking, and reconnection with familiar faces, along with meeting many wonderful new ones. It was my honor and pleasure to recognize Dr. Patricia Quigley for her generosity and unwavering support of FSARN. A special thank you to Justin for speaking up to make sure everyone could hear, you saved the day!

FSARN is proud to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of several of our members that were recognized by ARN. These nurses have all demonstrated exceptional commitment to rehabilitation nursing. Please join us in celebrating them at the virtual awards ceremony on September 16th at 1 PM EST.

The energy continues and plans are well underway for our next Annual FSARN Conference April 24th & 25th, 2027 in Melbourne Beach. This is especially exciting as we will be celebrating 50 years of FSARN! We hope you will be able to join us.

Districts

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Central Florida (CFARN)

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Whether you're a new nurse or seasoned professional looking to get more involved, we have mentors ready to support you. Volunteering with FSARN is an excellent way to expand your skills and build meaningful connections. If you would like to grow within our organization, please reach out and let us know.

Let's keep growing, celebrating and honoring everything that makes FSARN such an extraordinary and dynamic group!

With gratitude,
Ann
Ann Wilson, MSN, RN, CRRN
FSARN President

Congratulations to Sue Brown who was inducted as a FARN member at the ARN Conference in West Palm Beach this year.



Patricia Quigley was her sponsor for this prestigious credential. According to ARN, "the ARN Fellow Designation (FARN) is the most distinguished level of membership, as well as a public hallmark of professional esteem. Nurses who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in rehabilitation nursing and have provided notable contributions, service, and commitment to the specialty and the association can apply to be a Fellow of ARN.

LEADERSHIP CHAIR UPDATES

The FSARN Leadership Committee was very busy during May & June assisting with the ARN Chapter Scorecard submission as well as several ARN Role Award applications. These awards will be presented on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 1:00 pm EST during the ARN Awards Ceremony. While I can't let the cat out of the bag (ARN specifically requested that this information be kept confidential until the awards ceremony), I can assure you that the Florida Chapter and several FSARN members will be recognized!



Here is the registration link; please register so that you can join in the celebration



ARN Awards Ceremony Registration

<https://rehabnurse.org/membership/recognition/awards-ceremony>

The last education meeting was held virtually July 21, 2026 **"Let's Sex it Up... Helping Rehab Nurses to Start the Conversation,"** presented by Joanne Jackson, MSN, RN, CRRN. The program was well attended with 30+ nurses participating.

The ARN in person conference was convened in West Palm Beach, Florida July 31 -August 4, 2026. Several FSARN members delivered presentations during the conference and the pre-conference Leadership sessions as well as the round table presentations and served as moderators for sessions. Several of the chapter leaders participated in the Chapter Leadership meeting and shared strategies and ideas for chapter growth.

The FSARN/BARN Meet n' Greet was held on Monday, August 3, 2026 at El Camino. This is the 4th year that FSARN has held a social event/membership drive free for all Florida attendees (and guests) at the ARN Conference. This year it was a joint effort with the Broward District in lieu of their annual summer social and open to all Florida conference attendees and BARN members regardless of conference registration. Food & drinks were provided and a good time was had by all! It was a great event for networking and meeting new people. 42 nurses attended with guests and it was standing room only! A few traveled up from Fort Lauderdale via the Brightline. Several attendees expressed interest in joining FSARN and we were able to recruit some committee volunteers.

The next virtual education program is 9/15/26 at 6:00 pm entitled "Effective Leadership," presented by Golda Parillon MSN, RN, CRRN who recently relocated from Jacksonville to Phoenix as the Director of Nursing Operations, Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital Arizona Campus This will be a joint CE with FSARN and the Arizona ARN Chapter.

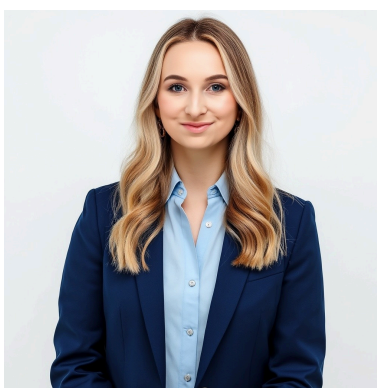
FSARN is also invited to attend the SE Texas ARN Chapter's virtual CE on 9/25/26 on "Sleep & Brain Health," Presented by: Sudha Tallavajhula, MD Professor, Epilepsy and Sleep Medicine Dept. of Neurology, McGovern Medical School Medical Director, TIRR Memorial Hermann Neurological Sleep Disorders Center TIME OF PRESENTATION IS: 5:45pm to 7:00pm CDT or 6:45pm to 8:00pm EST.

The CRRN Core Review will be held again this year, virtually on 10/14 & 10/15/2026. 12 Nursing CE hours approved through FSARN (FBN-50-777) 12 CCM hours have been applied through CCMC.

Thank you to everyone on the Leadership Committee for your dedication and contributions to FSARN. We could not do this without you! The next Leadership committee meeting will be held in the Fall, date TBD.

Submitted by Sue Brown
Leadership Chair

ARN ROLE AWARD WINNERS



**Ciera Peacock, RN
2026 Rising Star Award**



**Joanne Jackson, MSN, RN, CRRN
2026 Direct Patient Care Nurse Award**



**Adam Francis, MSN, RN, CRRN
2026 Leadership Award**

FSARN and BARN's "MEET & GREET"

FSARN with the Broward District held a “Meet N’ Greet” at the El Camino Restaurant during the ARN Annual Conference in West Palm Beach on August 3, 2026! We expected about 25 attendees and had over 50. It was a great event seeing old friends and meeting new rehabilitation nurses from throughout the state.



FSARN President Ann Wilson presented Patricia Quigley, a 40-year FSARN member, an award for her extraordinary dedication, passion, and generous support of FSARN and our entire rehab nursing community. FSARN honored this nurse whose leadership has truly shaped the heart of rehab nursing. Her passion, expertise, generosity, and unwavering support of FSARN have strengthened our practice and inspired every one of us to do better for the patients we serve.

Her work reminds us that excellence in nursing is not just about skill; it’s about advocacy,

mentorship, and the courage to push our profession forward. Her influence lives in the nurses she has guided, the patients whose lives have been improved, and the future she continues to shape.

A wonderful time was had by all!



SAVE THE DATE!
FSARN ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Florida State Chapter of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (FSARN)

Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence in Rehabilitation Nursing



The Florida State Chapter Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (FSARN) is proud to announce a *call for abstracts* for our **50th Anniversary Conference** in Melbourne Beach FL. As we celebrate five decades of advancing rehabilitation nursing, we invite nurses, clinicians, educators, researchers, leaders, and interprofessional colleagues to share innovations, best practices, quality outcomes, and lessons learned that are shaping the future of rehabilitation care. This milestone conference will honor our rich history of excellence while focusing on the future of rehabilitation nursing through patient-centered care, leadership, technology, innovation, education, evidence-based practice, and quality improvement.



National Health Care Policy Updates

Department of Education Revises Professional Degree Definition

As a response to and legal action taken against the Department of Education for their final rule that had an exclusive list of professional degrees that get access to higher borrowing limits, the Department of Education released an interim list of more degrees that count as a professional degree. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) along with an interprofessional group of national organizations took legal action against the Department of Education to fight against the narrowing of the definition of professional degree. As a result, the Department of Education stayed part of the professional degree definition that will allow certain degrees to be identified as a professional degree. This includes multiple post-baccalaureate nursing degrees such as MSN, DNP, and DNAP. However, this list does not include a PhD in nursing. Although this is a step in the right direction, the exclusion of PhD in nursing is still a threat to the nation's supply of nurse scientists and faculty. ARN continues to advocate for the passage of the Nurse is a Professional Degree Act (H.R. 8659) to ensure that this does not happen again, and to include a PhD in nursing.

Administration Release a Rule that Narrows Definition of Medically Frail

The Trump administration released a guidance with rules for which Medicaid beneficiaries are exempted from the Medicaid work requirements that were passed as a part of the first budget reconciliation (H.R. 1) that was passed last July. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released this final rule that requires Medicaid beneficiaries to prove their medical frailty every six months and can only self-attest medical frailty one time. After one self-attestation, beneficiaries need documentation from a medical professional. Additionally, those who have a condition that is eligible for exemption must go a step further and prove that the severity of this condition prevents them from completing the work requirements. These new requirements are burdensome for both patients and medical professionals alike, who are now tasked with filling out a form at least twice a year. The administrative burden will likely cause people to be kicked off their insurance simply for not properly filling out the form. Additionally, some diseases such as cancer do preclude people from working for periods of time, meaning that a patient may lose their coverage if they are unable to meet the work requirements but do not fall into the exemption category. By losing their insurance, patients will not seek care, especially harming those who are most medically vulnerable and making their conditions worse.

ARN Submits Comments to OMB

On July 13, 2026, ARN submitted comments responding to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance. Specifically, ARN highlighted how the proposed changes that

give political appointees control over the funding opportunities instead of relying on a peer review process put forth by this rule will be detrimental to rehabilitation research. ARN highlighted how these changes would narrow the scope of funding for agencies because notice of funding opportunities (NOFOs) is intentionally broad to accommodate a wide range of funding opportunities. However, giving political appointees control over the NOFOs with the direction that NOFOs must further the priorities of the administration, it narrows the scope of potential research and prevents funding for essential research that may not appear to be furthering the priorities of the administration.

Additionally, this rule allows for high volatility in funding and funding opportunities. Since the administration changes frequently, one cannot be sure that their grant will survive an administration change. Unstable grant funding is detrimental because research builds upon itself, and each stage needs to be planned out as institutions performing research need security of funding to build infrastructure, staff, materials, and resources to perform research. ARN also highlighted concerns that moving away from a peer-review process will overlook essential research, as political appointees are not experts in the field and do not intimately know of the gaps in research.

Notice of Funding Opportunities

Below is a list of other funding opportunities for interested ARN members.

Community Partnered Nursing Research Centers (P20 Clinical Trial Optional) (PAR-25-439)

Leveraging Nursing Research to Advance Healthy School Environments for All (FOR-NR-25-002)

Limited Competition: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Postdoctoral Research Training Grant for the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program (T32 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) (PAR-25-195)

NINR Mentoring Resources and Activities (FOR-NR-25-003)

Advancing Nutrition-related Research Across the Lifespan (FOR-NR-25-001)

Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) for Health Professional Schools and Graduate Schools (FOR-PAR-25-420)

Strategies to Improve Health Outcomes and Reduce Health Disparities in Rural Populations (R01 Clinical Trial Optional) (FOR-NR-25-007)

Ann Marie Cooney MSN CRRN NE-BC
FSARN National Health Care Policy Chair



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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