



## UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Mideast Chapter! My hope is that with the spring season, you feel a sense of peace and revitalization. Your Mideast Chapter Board recently met for our Spring Strategic Planning Meeting. **Our key strategic initiatives are marketing, mentoring, leadership training, professionalism and awards and recognitions. Our primary focus remains to continue to serve all 641 of you.**

Following the direction of the National WOCN®, our method of communication to the membership has evolved. We will continue to send out our quarterly newsletter, but our primary means of communication will be on the Mideast Chapter Community Board within the WOCN® website. For the time being we will maintain our Facebook and LinkedIn pages. Eventually, we will have a different website, maintained by the national office. We want to recognize our Mideast Chapter “WOC Stars” in the quarterly newsletter. Feel free to send your WOC success stories, accolades and pictures via email to me [Julia.Colliflower@yahoo.com](mailto:Julia.Colliflower@yahoo.com) or to our President-Elect, [Patti.Burke@fuse.net](mailto:Patti.Burke@fuse.net).

We are about a month away from WOCNext 2024 in Cleveland, Ohio! As of last count, 151 Mideast Chapter Members are attending. I am excited to see everyone and will be sharing photos and information with those of you unable to attend. **Use the buttons below to register today.**

Thank you for all that you do to keep the practice of WOC nursing alive!

Julia Hanna MHA, BSN, RN, CWON  
President, Mideast Chapter

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION

VIRTUAL REGISTRATION



**NORMA GILL, ET**  
**THE DRIVING FORCE OF WOC NURSING**

Patti Burke, BSN, RN, CWOCN  
President - Elect, Mideast Chapter

The WOCNext® 2024 is coming to Cleveland, Ohio and what a great time to reflect on the history of WOC Nursing and the impact that Norma Gill had on our specialty.

In 1920, Norma Gill was born in Akron, Ohio. She was married and had 3 children. At the age of 28, Norma started having diarrhea. She saw her doctor, who provided several medications that provided no relief. Norma was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis and would become very sick with vomiting, diarrhea and skin ulcers after the birth of her third child, Sally. She would be admitted to the Cleveland Clinic Hospital where she would meet her surgeon, Dr. Rupert Turnbull. After several surgeries, Norma had a permanent ileostomy and began to feel better.

In 1958, Dr. Turnbull was performing ostomy surgeries, but he needed someone who would teach his patients on how to care and cope with living with an ostomy. Even though she was not a nurse, Norma was working with 28 surgeons in the Akron area, helping educate and care for their ostomy patients. Dr. Turnbull offered Norma a full time position as an Enterostomal Therapist (ET) at the Cleveland Clinic Hospital. Norma worked long hours seeing patients in Cleveland and in Akron after hours. She worked tirelessly with manufacturers to improve ostomy products.

In 1960 Norma and Dr. Turnbull organized the Cleveland Ostomy Association, which would go on to become the United Ostomy Association of America, to support patients and families. With the need to educate more ETs, Norma and Dr. Turnbull opened the first School of Enterostomal Therapist at the Cleveland Clinic Hospital. The first ET students were ostomy patients, family members and a few nurses. People from across the country traveled to Cleveland to learn about ostomy rehabilitation. When Norma went to an early United Ostomy Association Conference, she felt left out, as the ostomates did not know how the ETs fit into to their group. She felt the ETs should have a separate organization and with the help of Dr. Turnbull organized the North American Association of Enterostomal Therapy which evolved into the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Society. To facilitate educating ETs, sharing ideas and experiences to improve care, Norma and her colleagues developed the Enterostomal Therapy Journal. This journal would go on to become the Journal of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing.

Norma traveled the world to educate nurses and support patients to insure that they received the care they needed. As a result, there are WOC Nurses around the world, improved products and evidence to support our role and what we do to maximize our patient outcomes. Norma was the driving force behind building the foundation of the WOC specialty. It is up to all of us to continue Norma's vision to

drive our specialty forward and insure that all WOC patients around the world receive the care, support and products they need to live their best life.

WCET. Enterostomal Therapy Nursing: Growth & Evolution of a Nursing Specialty Worldwide- a Festschrift for Norma N. Gill-Thompson ET. Commemorative Edition. Erwin-Toth and Krasner D (Eds). Perth, Australia: Cambridge Media; 2020.



## TREASURER UPDATE

Happy Spring!

I hope everyone is looking forward to WOCNext® 2024 in Cleveland this June, as much as I am! When you think of Cleveland, what comes to mind? I immediately think of the Cleveland Clinic which I also correlate with Norma Gill. **Without**

powerful and opinionated individuals like her, our specialty would not be what it is today.

Is there someone who has made an impact in your life regarding your career? Did someone help spark your desire to specialize in the world of wound, ostomy, and continence? Did you have a mentor or teacher who went above and beyond to ensure you would succeed in your career or position? The Mideast Chapter offers many yearly scholarships. If you would like to make a donation to our Memorial WOCNEP Scholarship Fund “in memory of” or “in honor of” an individual who has made an impact in your life, please send me an email at [mbwhite15@yahoo.com](mailto:mbwhite15@yahoo.com) and I will make sure you receive information on how to do so!

I look forward to seeing everyone at WOCNext 2024!

Molly White

Treasurer, Mideast Chapter



## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE

MEC Members Director #2 here,

I am pleased to announce that we had 21 nominations in 10 categories for awards, recognitions, and scholarships this year. This is a wonderful increase to our previous years.

I wanted to thank you for the nominations and the great work every one of you do every day to help advance our practice.

Please keep up the amazing work and take the time to put it in writing and get your work published and develop posters.

Please stop by our booth in the exhibit hall, at the WOCNext® 2024 in Cleveland.

Thank you!

Michele Kessie

Director #2







## EVENTS UPDATE

Hello fellow WOC nurses,

WOCNext@2024 is quickly approaching, June 9 – 12th in Cleveland Ohio, the birthplace of WOC nursing. If you are a first-time attendee, please join us during the **First-Time Attendee Meet and Greet Saturday, June 8th from 4:00 – 5:00**. You will see a link during the registration process to register for the meet and greet.

If you will be attending the **Welcome Reception at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame**, this is a ticketed event. If you are interested in going and did not register for it, you can go back into your registration. See below for details. All Mideast Chapter members are welcome to join us following the meet and greet in the registration area of the Convention Center at 5:45 pm to walk to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a group.

**The MEC member meeting will be Sunday from 7:30 am – 8:45 am** in Center Street Room A on the 3rd floor of the Hilton Cleveland Downtown. **All are encouraged to attend to hear the updates regarding the MEC and let your voice be heard.**

We encourage those unable to attend the meeting in person to join us on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82145664262?pwd=Qk5BS2huWkQ4YkxIV1...>

Meeting ID: [821 4566 4262](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82145664262?pwd=Qk5BS2huWkQ4YkxIV1...)

Passcode: 550813

One tap mobile

[+17193594580](tel:+17193594580),[82145664262](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82145664262?pwd=Qk5BS2huWkQ4YkxIV1...)#,,,,\*550813# US

[+16694449171](tel:+16694449171),[82145664262](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82145664262?pwd=Qk5BS2huWkQ4YkxIV1...)#,,,,\*550813# US

We value your input and hope you can join us as you start your day.

And finally, those already registered to attend in person; the registration for Symposia options was sent on April 15th titled “WOCNext® 2024 Symposia Information”. If you have not received this, please check your Spam folder, or click “Manage My Registration” on your initial email confirmation to add the Symposia sessions.

**Interested in attending in person or virtually and not registered yet?**

**There is still time to register, go to:**

<https://www.wocnext.org/WOCN2024/Public/Enter.aspx>

Hope to see you in Cleveland!

Lisa Berning BSN, RN, CWOCN, CFCN

MEC Director #3



## ELECTIONS UPDATE

Greetings!

Tracy Swift, Director #4

**We will not have a Mideast Chapter (MEC) Conference this fall but we will still have elections this year.**

Board Members are responsible for:

- Attend monthly virtual meetings
- Attend MEC and WOCNext® Conferences

- Attend annual in person spring business meeting
- Remain active with strategic planning initiatives and monitor progress

Mideast Chapter Board positions that will be open for the 2025-2026 Election are:

### **President-Elect**

Candidate Requirements:

- Active, eligible member of the WOCN® Society and an active member of the MEC for at least 1 year prior to acceptance of nomination.
- Served at least one term as a Director within the MEC and have demonstrated leadership and responsibility in their conduct of office. There must be endorsement of the candidate by one current or past board member, in writing, before formal nomination slating of the candidate can occur. In the case of the President-Elect, there also must be a letter of support of the position from the candidate's employer.

Brief description of duties:

- Performs duties of the President in absence or incapacity
- Oversees the Functions of Directors #1-#4
- Acts as public relations point person.

### **Secretary**

Candidates Requirements:

- Active member in the MEC for at least 2 years prior to acceptance of nomination.
- Demonstrated service to the MEC in some capacity, to demonstrate leadership ability.

Brief description of duties:

- Makes all meeting arrangements
- Keep meeting minutes of all Board meetings and all membership meetings and share with the board
- Distribute contact information of board members and register all members.

### **Director #2**

Candidate Requirements:

- Active, eligible member of the WOCN® and the Mideast Chapter for at least 1 year prior to acceptance of nomination.

Brief description of duties:

- Coordinates MEC Awards
- Scholarships
- Research

#### Director #4

Candidate Requirements:

- Active, eligible member of the WOCN® and of the Mideast Chapter for at least 1 year prior to acceptance of nomination.

Brief description of duties:

- Government Affairs
- Nominations/elections
- Assume the duties of Parliamentarian.

If you are interested in running or would like to see a full list of duties and responsibilities, please email me at [trswifty@att.net](mailto:trswifty@att.net).



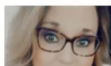
THE WOC COMMUNITY OF OPPORTUNITY™

RETURN TO MAIN SITE   CHAPTERS -   **COMMUNITIES**   MEMBERSHIP -   JWOCN   RESOURCE CENTERS -   WOC EDUCATION -   THE VALUE OF THE WOC NURSE (QI) -

JULIA K. HANNA

Profile Pages More

\*\*\* Renew Your Membership Now \*\*\*



Last updated: 12/17/2023  
Member #: 12933507  
Ms. Julia K Hanna

#### MY PROFILE

Profile Home  
Manage Profile  
Groups  
Files & Links  
Favorites  
Messages  
Connections  
Membership Info (Renew)  
Refer a Friend

**DON'T MISS OUT; STAY CONNECTED WITH WOCN COMMUNITIES**

Maureen Rosette BSN, RN, CWOCN

Director #1

The Mideast Chapter (MEC) Community will be the primary tool for communicating with the MEC members. All members have been automatically added to the corresponding Chapter community based on the Chapter designated in your member profile. (Mideast Chapter)

Members may only belong to one Chapter community. The National Office automatically added you to the corresponding Chapter community based on the Chapter designated in your member profile. They suggest that all members use their private email versus their work email, to prevent firewalls from blocking community emails.

Ostomy, Pediatric, Foot and Nail, Wound, Contenance, Public Policy, Professional Practice, The Value of the WOC Nurse, WOCNext are also communities available to WOCN Society members. **Get an answer to a clinical question by posting in these groups.**

To control the number and format of community emails received;

- Navigate to your profile.
- Click on the "My Account" tab.
- Choose "Community Notifications" from the drop-down menu.
- On that page, you can view and control your subscription options.

For each discussion, you have the following delivery options:

- Real time: sends an email every time a new message is posted
- Daily digest: sends one email to you each day, consolidating all the posts from the previous day.
- No Email: allows you to be part of the group without having emails sent to you. You can still post and read others' messages by logging into the community site.
- Consolidated Digest: Allows you to combine multiple communities into one notification email.

The Community has a very good search tool as well as a robust FAQ section for more information on navigating the communities.

**Take advantage of the WOCN Communities; one of the best member benefits offered by the WOCN Society.**

Hope to see you in the Community!

For any questions or comments about WOCNext 2024,  
contact [info@wocn.org](mailto:info@wocn.org).

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

**Mideast Region of the WOCN**

1120 Rt. 73, Suite 200, Mt. Laurel  
United States of America



You received this email because you signed up on our website or made a purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

