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## **Award Winners Highlight FADONA's Successful 28<sup>th</sup> Annual "Carrying the Torch of Leadership" Convention**

2015 Nurse Administrator of the Year Award & Induction of New Officers Highlighted

**West Palm Beach, Fla.** — Florida Association Directors of Nursing Administration/LTC (FADONA) President Jean Nelson is very pleased to announce that the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention "Carrying the Torch of Leadership 2015" was a huge success. The convention, which was held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando from March 30-April 2, saw a large number of attendees from the state of Florida and beyond. The convention gathered together more than 200 attendees, guests, speakers, and exhibitors from around the country.

One of the many highlights of the convention each year is the highly anticipated Annual Awards Luncheon. The annual luncheon featured the 2015 FADONA Awards presentation which included the Nurse Administrator of the Year Award sponsored by Optum, and the CNA/LPN Awards of Excellence sponsored by RB Health Partners. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> straight year that Optum has sponsored the Nurse Administrator of the Year Award and the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row that RB Health Partners has sponsored the CNA/LPN Awards. Their sponsorships each year are greatly appreciated by the association.

Each year, FADONA acknowledges a nurse administrator who has demonstrated a high degree of professionalism by mentoring and nurturing, as well as showing a commitment to the standards of nursing practice and excellence in long-term care.

The 2015 winner of the Nurse Administrator of the Year Award is Elizabeth Borer, DON, at Sunset Lake Health & Rehab. On hand to present the award was Dr. Bryant from Optum, alongside Elizabeth's facility's administrator, Devin Eickelmann.

"FADONA is very appreciative of the dedication Elizabeth has shown to her patients and the field of LTC nursing," President Jean Nelson said. "Her work as a nurse leader has not gone unnoticed, and she has shown a special commitment to providing quality care to all of her patients. The Nurse Administrator of the Year award was created to recognize outstanding nurse leaders, and Elizabeth certainly qualifies. Congratulations to Elizabeth on all of her hard work"

FADONA also presented its CNA and LPN Awards of Excellence, sponsored by RB Health Partners. The awards recognize certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) across the state of Florida. This year's winner of the CNA Award of Excellence is Betty Sankar from Lady Lake Specialty Care Center. She received a plaque recognizing her achievement and a check for \$500. This year FADONA awarded two first place winners for the LPN Award of Excellence. The co-winner of the LPN Award of Excellence is Marjorita Evans, an LPN at San Jose Health & Rehab Center in Jacksonville. The other co-winner is Deborah Stevens, LPN at Guardian Care Nursing in Orlando. Both Marjorita and Deborah received a plaque recognizing their achievement and a check for \$500. FADONA is very proud of this year's worthy recipients of the CNA, LPN, and Nurse Administrator of the Year awards, and we thank our sponsors RB Health Partners and Optum for providing their support.

This year FADONA awarded the Imogene Ward Scholarship to Jessica York, an LPN at Bear Creek Nursing Center in Hudson, FL. The Ward scholarship program was established to provide financial assistance to individuals in nursing looking to continue their education in the LTC setting. Jessica received a check for \$2000 to further her education as a nurse. Thanks again to the Ward family for providing this generous scholarship to our LTC nursing students.

Also receiving a plaque for her long-time support of the organization was LuMarie Polivka-West, Sr. Vice President at Florida Health Care Association. LuMarie has been a close friend and supporter of FADONA and we thank her for all she has done for the association and long-term care.

Lastly, FADONA installed and reelected new officers and regional VPs at this year's convention. Sheila Mangrum is the newest board member and is taking on the role of secretary. Susie Jensvold was reelected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, along with Reuben Bowie as Treasurer, Sharyn Figgins; Region I Vice-President, Kim Joynes; Region V Vice-President, and Amina Dubuisson; Region VII Vice-President.

FADONA will be holding its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention & Trade Show, March 21-24, 2016 at the Daytona Beach Hilton in Daytona Beach, Florida. Located in the heart of the Ocean Walk Village on the 'World's Most Famous Beach,' the Hilton Daytona Beach

offers stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean and easy access to the thriving seaside, entertainment and meetings district in Daytona Beach. For more information about FADONA's annual convention please call the business office at (561) 683-0037 or send an e-mail to [icordes@bellsouth.net](mailto:icordes@bellsouth.net)

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#### Pictures with Captions

#0678 – Nurse Administrator of the Year Award – From left: Kim Roberts, UnitedHealthcare; Dr. Wanda Bryant, Optum; Devin Eickelmann, NHA, Sunset Lake H&R; Award winner, Elizabeth Borer, DON, Sunset Lake H&R; and Susie Jensvold, FADONA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President.

#2185 – Imogene Ward Scholarship – From left: Homer Ward; Scholarship winner, Jessica York, LPN; Jeff Ward; and Betty Barron, DON.

#2191 – CNA Award of Excellence – From left: Susie Jensvold, FADONA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President; Robin Bleier, RB Health Partners; Tricia Robinson, NHA, Lady Lake Specialty Care Center; 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award winner, Betty Sankar, CNA; and Kim Sikes, DNS.

#2193 – LPN Awards of Excellence Co-Winner – From left: Susie Jensvold, FADONA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President; Robin Bleier, RB Health Partners; Janet Reed, DON, San Jose Health & Rehab Center; 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award co-winner, Marjorita Evans, LPN; and Gwen Gamel, also a FADONA member.

#2196 – LPN Awards of Excellence Co-Winner – From left: Susie Jensvold, FADONA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President; Robin Bleier, RB Health Partners; Julien Gordon, DON, Guardian Care Nursing; 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award co-winner, Deborah Stephens, LPN; Eloise Abraham, NHA; and Beth Barnes.

#0682 – Recognition of Service Award – From left: Jean Nelson, FADONA President; LuMarie Polivka-West, FHCA; and Susie Jensvold, FADONA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President.