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# AALNC Pittsburgh Chapter LiNC

"The Link Between Healthcare and the Legal Profession"

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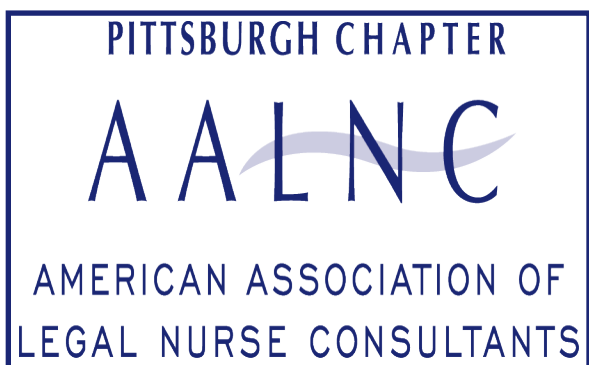
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## From Our President

Stephanie Kress BSN, RN, CMSRN

I come to you this year with the foremost sincere appreciation for the dedication of our Board of Directors and all of our members to the solidarity and continued growth of the Pittsburgh Chapter. It is with great satisfaction and pride that we can all reflect on the achievements of our group this past year. The solid foundation formed for our group and framework created for our committees by our Past Presidents, Audrey Lalli and Diane Mead have established the master plan for our future success. As evident by our recent Member Needs Survey, we scored an amazing 4.5 out of 5 stars in all categories of member satisfaction! We hosted a variety of clinical, forensic and business topics for our members and had a wonderful turnout at our networking events, ending the year with our biennial conference titled, "Cover Your Assets: Protection for the Healthcare and Legal Professional," at Duquesne University. The conference proved to be beneficial in many aspects of our development. We reached out to many local and distant healthcare and legal experts, spreading exposure of our chapter and promoting a steady net gain in membership. Through the hard work of our Board and volunteers, we provided a truly quality educational program for our attendees and promoted a day of most important in-person networking. Our website was developed and our own Facebook page was created for marketing. We emerged with a new logo, line of apparel and products and sponsorship from several business entities.

It is also with great excitement that I look forward to the future and the goals for the upcoming year. The challenge presents this year to fill the committee positions with enthusiastic volunteers who are ready to take their membership a step further and become an integral part of the Pittsburgh Chapter's operations. There is no prior experience necessary and the benefits of learning new skills and networking with other group members is an invaluable asset to



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## From Our President (continued)

the advancement of everyone's legal nurse consulting career. There are current openings in the Membership and Education Committees. Additionally, speakers for our general meetings, editors and contributors to future publications of the LiNC are always needed and welcomed. There is no better way to show that you are a proven expert than to educate others about your specialty by speaking or being published. Please contact me (sakress@verizon.net) for further information if you are interested in volunteering.

Please welcome our two new members of the 2018 Board of Directors, Julie Fagan and Holly Castello. I would like to thank them for investing themselves in our continued strive for excellence and our ranking as one of the largest and strongest chapters in the nation. I would also like to extend a special thanks to Lori Trunzo and Kelly Campbell for all of their hard work on the LiNC and the promotion of the Pittsburgh Chapter on a national level with Pat Iyer's podcast series.



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## Cover Your Assets: Protection For the Healthcare and Legal Professional

“Wonderful conference this year. The speakers were excellent and incredibly knowledgeable about their topics.”

***“Great venue and food, impressive vendors and amazing speakers. Networking was encouraged and done.”***

“GREAT!!!”

***(From a nursing student) “This was a very insightful conference. Valuable information was presented in which I believe is beneficial to know before entering***

***the field. Many things said that are not taught in a lecture hall.”***

“Audience loved the room and meals. This was a great opportunity to network.”

***“This was wonderful! I found it to be very informative!”***

“This conference was very good. The venue was very nice and all the speakers were engaging. The mock trial was superb.”

These are just a few of the many positive comments received from the AALNC Pittsburgh Chapter Conference, titled “Cover Your Assets: Protection for the Healthcare and Legal Professional,” held on November 4th, 2017 at Duquesne University.

Over 50 attendees were present, including every type of legal nurse consultant: new, seasoned, in-house, independent, life care planners and even those simply curious about the profession. In addition, we hosted students and those working in case management, risk management and legal departments, with five people who traveled over 2 1/2 hours and someone who flew in from Seattle Washington to attend!

A major highlight included an introduction from our President of the national chapter of the AALNC, Debbie Pritts. Debbie commended the Pittsburgh Chapter for its strength and its dedicated members and board. She inspired attendees with her story of working as an LNC and becoming our national AALNC President. Attendees were thrilled to meet and network with Debbie in person.

Stephanie Kress, 2017 Pittsburgh Chapter President-Elect and conference chair warmly welcomed all of the attendees. She sincerely thanked those who helped with the conference, including the sponsors, Board of Directors and volunteers. Diane Mead, 2017 Pittsburgh Chapter President and Bethany Hospice CEO, started the day off with a welcome that left the audience wanting more. She brought her guitar, grabbed a couple of brave volunteers and a got the crowd going with a hilarious song about hospice. Nearly every attendee rated the speakers “5/5” on their

post conference survey, with a line- up that included, “Facility and Hospice Partnerships, Avoiding Undue Litigation” by Diane Mead, “Pennsylvania’s Approach to Impaired Nurses” by Kathie Simpson, “Seven Deadly Sins of Nursing Practice” by Lori Klingman and “The Importance of Legal Nurse Consulting in a Defense Law Firm” by John Conti.

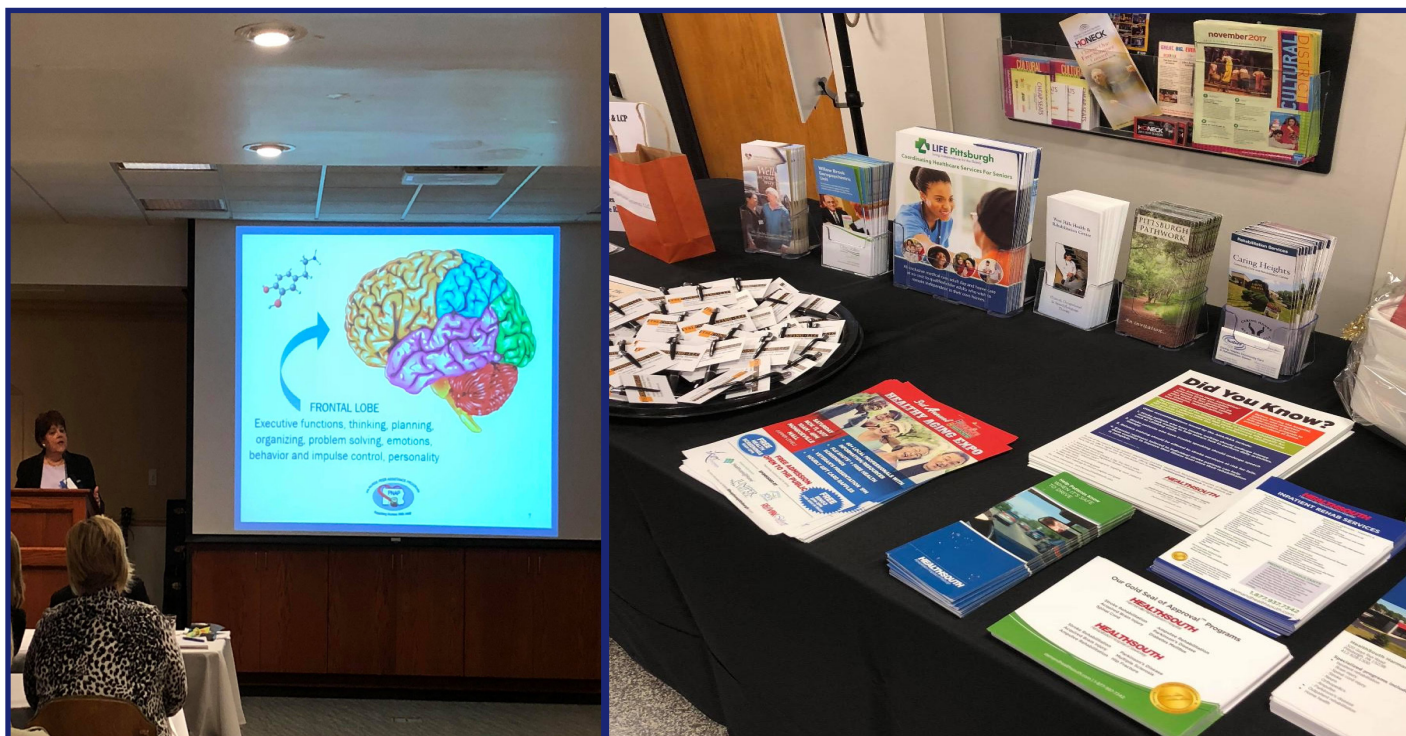
The conference was made possible in large part to the strong support from our sponsors. They were featured in the conference booklet and will be on our AALNC Pittsburgh Chapter website for one year. Table vendors were on hand for networking during breaks and provided generous baskets for our Chinese auction. Conference attendees received lots of goodies in their drawstring bags and a full color booklet with speaker bios, presentation slides and local marketing.

THANK YOU to the conference volunteers who spent countless hours making the conference successful in so many ways!





## Conference Pictures



## LiNC Jingle 🎵🎵

You better watch your back,  
 you better dot your i's,  
 you better not slack,  
 I'm telling you why....  
 LNC's are coming to town!  
 Your check in your chart,  
 they're checking it twice, you're  
 going to find out, they're not  
 really nice,  
 LNC's are coming to town!

~Credit to the talented Diane Mead

## New Member Bios

Pamela Cupec,  
MS, BSN, RN, ONC, CRRN, ACM-RN is currently working as an Orthopaedic Nurse Navigator at UPMC Passavant, a new role in the system. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, as well as LaRoche College for a master's degree in human resource management. Her background includes many roles in orthopaedic nursing, from staff nurse, to unit director, to program director, case manager and now as a nurse navigator. Her practices were in many areas, such as inpatient, outpatient, and acute inpatient rehabilitation. Pam has been active in the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses (NAON), serving as chapter president in the local chapter, as well as having the honor of serving as the 34<sup>th</sup> President of NAON. She continues to contribute to the field of orthopaedic

nursing, as reviewer for numerous chapters on the care of the orthopaedic patients, speaking nationally, and participating on the Leadership Search Committee nationally.

She has been working on cases periodically over the past ten years, being asked to be an expert on cases based on her background in orthopaedic nursing. Because of increased interest in the developing herself into the role of the legal nurse consultant, she decided to become a member of the Pittsburgh Chapter and learn from others and the resources available. One of the greatest challenges in becoming an LNC is knowing where to start, how to become proficient in the role, and how to market ourselves as the professionals that can lend our expertise in cases.

Nadia N. Lowe,  
RN BSN, MT, BS, ASCP  
(American Society of Clinical  
Pathologists) began her career as a Registered Nurse after graduating from Duquesne University's Second Degree Nursing Program in 2009. Prior, she received her Bachelors in Biology from St. Francis College and worked as a registered Medical Technologist for 23 years. Her scope of practice ranged from a Supervisory Medical Technologist to a generalist, working in all areas of the lab including Surgical Pathology, Blood Bank and Microbiology. She also obtained a 12- credit certificate from the Cyril Wecht School of Forensic

Science and Law through the Duquesne University School of Law.

She began her career with the Veterans Affairs Healthcare System in Altoona, PA in 1985, transferring within the system to Pittsburgh in 2000, where she currently remains. During her career as a nurse with the VA, Nadia has taken care of veterans in Hospice, Coronary ICU, Med Surg/Liver Transplant, and Cardiac Telemetry. For the past three years, Nadia has been working as a Care/Case Manager in the Primary Care Department of the H.J. Heinz Campus in Aspinwall, PA. She works on a team that specializes in providing and coordinating care to the Post

9/11 era veterans returning from the wars in the Middle East. By being a member of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AALNC, Nadia hopes to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to enable her to become a Legal Nurse Consultant. By attending the meetings, Nadia hopes to draw from the vast knowledge and experience possessed by other LNC's.

Some of the greatest challenges that Nadia has identified as facing in becoming an LNC are simply how to begin and what to do. Another challenge that she faces is where to obtain the best courses and resources that will prepare her in launching her career as an LNC.

## Announcements

### Save the Date!

Wednesday, August 8th, 2018

AALNC Pittsburgh Chapter Networking Dinner// Location  
TBA

Every 2nd Wednesday of Jan - May and Sep & Oct

AALNC chapter meetings at Dickie, McCamey, and Chilcote.  
Take advantage of offered contact hours!

### Don't Forget!

Take advantage of your four (4) free yearly webinars and online subscription of the Journal of Legal Nurse Consulting included in your AALNC National membership. It's a great way to be and stay successful!

Here is a link to the member needs survey results!  
<https://surveymonkey.com/results/SM-GTRCY-3QB8/>



The Editor in Chief, Lori Trunzo RN, BSN, LNC and Co-editor, Stephanie Kress BSN, RN, CMSRN, would like to thank all those that contributed to the LiNC and also thank you to the editing board of Dana Bissontz MS, BSN, RN, CLCP, MSCC and Carrie Codelka RN, BSN.

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