

Sierra Nevada Chapter Newsletter
March 2006

Edited by Carla Brutico – Chapter Secretary

Please Note: this newsletter contains information intended to be sent out in November – it apparently went into cyberspace! I have updated some of this. Please send any news to be included in our newsletter to my work email: carla.brutico@ctrh.org

Join a SIG

Did you know that you are entitled to one free special interest group (SIG) membership annually? If you aren't taking advantage of this opportunity yet, check out all the available SIGs on the ONS website at www.ons.org. You can network, participate in discussions and learn new ways to enjoy our specialty

Free CMEs

Be sure to check out the ONS website for free educational courses. There are always new ones being added. You can send for the newest catalog of CME offerings, again, many of them at no cost.

Carson Tahoe Cancer Center

On November 6 the new Carson Tahoe Cancer Center opened to patients. This center houses cancer services (tumor registry, award-winning cancer resource center, clinical trials program and community outreach program), a full radiation oncology practice with two state-of-the-art linear accelerators and two CT simulators, a two-physician private medical oncology practice, an ambulatory infusion center, and a conference center. There is wonderful natural light and we created a beautiful therapeutic environment. The visits to our resource center have increased dramatically, due in part to the proximity to the radiation and med/onc practices. Patients no longer have to drive to our separate location. In December the Merriner Cottages, located adjacent to the cancer center opened – 15 townhouse-like cottages with amenities you find in nice hotel suites. Each has a living room, dining area, kitchen, washer and dryer, bedroom, bathroom, patio and two flat panel TV sets! They are beautifully furnished and located immediately adjacent to our cancer center. Now when patients from rural areas come to Carson City for cancer treatment they can stay in these cottages for the night instead of starting a long drive home. Radiation patients will be housed Monday through Thursday, receive their treatment on Friday and go home for the weekend. Thanks to a generous donation from the Merriner family right here in Carson City, these cottages have become a reality. And, the stay doesn't cost the patients or families anything! Our cancer services are unique.

I am hoping to host a chapter meeting at the Carson Tahoe Cancer Center in 2007.

Renown Institute For Cancer Update.

Submitted by Sheila Baez, MN, RN, AOCNS

Change is in the air at Renown Regional Medical Center. Recently Washoe Medical Center announced the renaming of its health network to Renown Health. The renaming project highlights many exciting physical plan changes that will come our way in 2007. Hospital-wide, we are looking forward to the opening of the new Patient Tower and of the freestanding 'New Beginnings' childcare facility. Within the Institute for Cancer, the Outpatient Infusion Center will be relocated into temporary modular quarters to allow for expansion and remodeling of the Radiation Therapy Department. Eventual expansion and permanent relocation of the Infusion Center will follow.

New programs and personnel changes are also coming our way. Kelly Worley BSN, RN, OCN has been named the new nursing supervisor for the Institute for Cancer Outpatient Infusion and Radiation Therapy staffs. Kelly comes to the Outpatient area after delivering nursing care on our inpatient oncology unit, Station 36, for the last 10 years. She is a past recipient of the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses, having been recognized for hard work in oncology, extraordinary patient care and dedication to her oncology nursing unit. Kelly is northern Nevada's only ONS certified trainer for the ONS Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Course (see below)**Special Congrats...** Shelley Nelson, BSN, RN recently added OCN to her title after successfully passing the certification exam. Faye Tayour, RN recently attended the Radiation Therapy Course at the ONS Institute for Learning in Pittsburgh.

Lung Health Services at Renown has initiated a **Lung Cancer Screening Program**, offering low-cost spiral screening CT's at several locations. Lung CT Screening is currently not covered by most insurance plans. A Renown Health
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Foundation grant has been awarded to offset 50 percent of the CT screen cost to high-risk individuals. This service is especially timely in light of the recently published findings demonstrating high survival estimates in Stage I lung cancer detected on CT screening (N ENG J Med 355:17). Call the Lung Health Services Coordinator at 982-4019 for more information.

The **Oncology Nursing Society Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Course** will be offered at Renown Regional Medical Center early in 2007. This course provides nurses with a comprehensive overview of chemotherapy and biotherapy and includes information on newly approved drugs to keep nurses apprised of the latest developments in drug therapy. Watch the ONS Clinical Practice website for the dates and times of the next course. For more information call 982-5489 or e-mail kworley@renown.org.

We Need a Reporter!

Is there a member out there working at St Mary's Hospital who would like to report several times a year on cancer-related activities in your institution? We would welcome your input. We all want to know what's going on with our colleagues in the various practice settings. If you work in a private practice and have something to share, please consider submitting a paragraph or two to me for inclusion in the newsletter.

Soon, A Newsletter On line!

Michelle Rowan, our Vice President, is working to make our ONS-sponsored homepage a place to get all the news about our chapter. We hope that soon we can direct you to the web page to access this newsletter. Stay tuned!

Something to Think About

"How many of us go through our days parched and empty, thirsting after happiness, when we're really standing knee deep in the river of abundance?" - Sarah Ban Breathnack (from *Hold That Thought* by Sarah Ban Breathnack).