



ACRA

2013 4th quarter

NEWSLETTER

Alabama Cancer Registrars Association 2013-2014 Officers and Committee

Chairs

President-Joanne Powers

Education– Angela Phelps

President Elect– Carol Kennemur

Bylaws– Carol Kennemur

Vice President– Wendy Richardson

Ways & Means–Paula Wyatt

Secretary– Pam Tillman

Membership–Connie Jensen

Treasurer–Kelly Evers

Donation– Judy Lang

Treasurer-Elect-Lelia Edwards

Nominating–Bonnie Nelson

Historian/Parliamentarian–Diane Lolley

Ballot–Joan Baucom

Immediate Past President–Lou Ellen Marchman

Website–Shantel Dailey

Marketing–Yolanda Graham Gatson

Greeting from Joanne Powers, ACRA President 2013-14

Hello Everyone,

Twenty-five years ago I began my unforeseen journey of working in the hospital setting. Within the first 15 years, I worked in Medical Records and within this time my mother passed away, I got married, and my husband and I had 2 wonderful sons. Before my children were born however, I went to college full time while working full time as well. I originally went for nursing and quickly discovered that was not for me, so after 1 quarter I changed my degree. I went on to receive my bachelor's degree in Elementary education. As you can see through my education experience, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I grew up and that included being a teacher even though I received my degree in that field.

After graduation, I continued to work in medical records not knowing where my future was heading but just enjoying the ride in the meantime. Then, one day it happened, my boss came to me and told me that there was a Cancer Registry position open and she asked me if I wanted to apply for it. The first thing I mentioned to her was that I did not know anything about cancer except that I had some family members who experienced it and the outcomes for all of them were not good. She talked to me a little more about it so I decided to apply. Originally, I was turned down for the job but wasn't 100% upset because I felt like God thought it wasn't what I needed to do. Within a week or two after the news, I got a call and was told the person who originally accepted the offer had refused the position and it was mine if I would like it. So I gladly accepted the offer even though I was scared of the unknown.

Then the day came when it became official and I stepped into my very own office to begin this unknown adventure. I was blessed from the moment I started with a wonderful teacher and other great mentors such as Lou Ellen Marchman and Angela Phelps. I couldn't have done it without them. However, there was this one particular day that stood out among others. After a couple days on the job, I felt so lost, so scared, and so confused. I can remember while standing at the elevator that I prayed asking God to show me that I made the right decision of taking this job because at that moment I was afraid that I might not have.

Needless to say, because of such a great teacher and mentors and perseverance, I stayed strong, did all that I could to learn this job and within a very short time, felt that God showed me the light. I knew within a short time I was in the right position as if this job was waiting for me all along.

I have always wanted to help people, but I just never knew the right path to take in order to do this. I enjoy working in the cancer registry field and I know that even though we do not work with patients directly our job matters. We help people every day by providing quality data that can be used to hopefully help make a difference one day in eradicating this horrible disease. I feel like I have found my calling by working in this field. I don't regret it one day or any of the decisions I previously made because I learned from each experience. I am glad God put me down this wonderful path.

I also feel blessed being part of such a great association as ACRA. I want to take this time to thank you for voting me as your President for the 2013-2014 year. Since joining the association in 2004, I held many positions whether as an officer or as a chair and through each experience I gained valuable insight to how our association works and the importance of this association. I hope through my previous experiences, I will be able to lead this association into another great year.

I have some goals that I have set and within the next few days, you will see where I will be asking for your help. We have a great association and with the help of everyone, it will continue to be successful.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone who stepped up to be an officer this year as well as those that accepted to take the responsibility of a chair position. I feel like we have a great team and I appreciate your commitment to our association.

Thank you again and I look forward to working with everyone.

Joanne Powers, CTR

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

**To our 2012-2013 Officers and Committee Chairs
THANK YOU for a GREAT and SUCCESSFUL year!!**





New CTRs

Chad Brown-North East Alabama Regional Medical Center

Paula Wyatt-Gadsden Regional Medical Center



SEER*Educate

NEW

... Learn by Doing

No matter where you are on the registrar career path, experienced or inexperienced, certified or not certified, hospital-based or population-based, this tool offers the training you need to:

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<https://educate.fhcrc.org/>.

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In case you missed it!!!

Additional CTR Exam Testing Dates and Other Exciting Enhancements Coming in 2014

NCRA Council on Certification has added a third testing window and extended the testing periods from two to three weeks. The increased testing windows are in response to CoC Standard 5.1, which require that beginning January 1, 2015, all cancer registry staff who perform case abstracting at a CoC accredited program hold a current Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR®) credential. The Council is also working with new testing company in 2014: AMP or Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc.

These logistical changes coincide with content updates to the 2014 exam, including updating the exam content outline and weighting, plus reducing the number of exam questions (from 250 to 225). In addition, candidates will have a total of four hours to take the exam, with a maximum of 2.5 hours allotted for the closed-book section and 1.5 hours for the open-book section.

2014 CTR Exam Dates

Testing Period: March 8 – 29 (Application Deadline: January 31)

Testing Period: June 21 – July 12 (Application Deadline: May 2)

Testing Period: Oct. 18 – November 8 (Application Deadline: September 19)



For more information on the CTR Exam, including a CTR Exam Blueprint that outlines the specific knowledge and tasks for each of the exam's six Domains of Practice, and the list references used to prepare the 2014 exam, go to <http://www.ctrexam.org/>. The 2014 Candidate's Handbook and Application will be available December 2013. To request a PDF copy, e-mail ctrexam@ncra-usa.org or visit <http://www.ctrexam.org/>.

2013 ACRA Meeting



To all who participated in the raffles in one form or another-THANK YOU!!! With your help they were successful for our association.



Speakers: Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to come and present us with valuable information.



To all who put together our Tame fall meeting-we had a ROARING great time!! THANK YOU!!!

2013-2014 Officers



Pictured above left to right Lou Ellen Marchman (immediate past president), Joanne Powers (president), Carol Kenne-mur (president-elect), Wendy Richardson (vice-president), Pam Tillman (secretary), Kelly Evers (treasurer), Belinda Limbaugh standing in for Leila Edwards (treasurer—elect) , Diane Lolley (Historian/Parliamentarian).





****New to Our Newsletter****

We have some great new opportunities for
Individual contractors
Job Postings
& Companies

Independant Contract Work

Take this opportunity to let others know you do independent
contract work

Place and ad today

1 newsletter \$15.00 ACRA members; \$30 non-members

Full Year \$50.00 ACRA members; \$75 non-members

Quarter size page

Job Postings

****If your company would like post any current job openings they can do so for a low price****

Alabama Hospitals - \$25.00 per newsletter

Hospitals among other states - \$35.00 per newsletter

Quarter size page

Company Ads

Does your company want to place an ad in our newsletter?

Or

Do you know a company that would like to place and ad?

Here is a great inexpensive opportunity for someone to advertise their company

- Full page ad– 1year \$120 (4 times per year)
- Half page ad– 1 year \$80 (4 times per year)
- Quarter page ad– 1year \$40.00 (4 times per year)

Anyone interested in placing an ad in 1 or more of the quarterly newsletters, please contact

Paula Wyatt for more information

Ph#: 256-494-4466 or at paula_wyatt@gadsdenregional.com



Happy Birthday!



November

4-Errica Hunter
5- DeeAnn Hennis and
Charlotte Nuckols
10-Regina Dillard and
Yolanda Graham-Gatson
and Teisha Robertson



December

3-Delavallade Lee
17- Sheila Grant
19-Judy Lang
29-Ashley Grunewald
31-Diane Hadley



January

2-Priscilla Foster
11- Silvia Ramsey
15-Tara Freeman
and Yolanda Topin
24- Kelly Evers

