



## News Release

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### American Board of Nursing Specialties Elects New Representative to the Accreditation Council of ABNS

**AURORA, Ohio, April 1, 2006** | The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) is pleased to announce that Karen J Huff, BSN, RN, LNCC, was elected to the Accreditation Council of ABNS at the biannual Assembly meeting of ABNS, held March 4, 2006, in Phoenix, Arizona. Huff will assume this position beginning July 1, 2006, and will serve a three year term of office.

Ms. Huff is currently employed as a Legal Nurse Consultant for Steptoe & Johnson in Charleston, West Virginia, where she is responsible for medical record analysis, medical research, and all aspects of expert discovery, including identifying types of experts needed, locating and conferring with experts, opinion memos and expert disclosures. Huff is also a member of the Board of Directors of the American Legal Nurse Consultant Certification Board and a member of the American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants, the Legal Nurse Consultant Section of the West Virginia Bar Association, and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

“Since 2002, Karen has been a member of the American Legal Nurse Consultant Certification Board (ALNCCB). During her term on the ALNCCB, the LNCC program was reaccredited, giving her an understanding of the challenges programs face during this important process. She is currently serving as ALNCCB Chair, and was re-elected to Chair for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term in 2006. During her first year as Chair, she developed a strategic plan, expanded their item writing panel and audit committees, and performed a comprehensive review of the revised ABNS standards. She attended the ABNS Spring Meeting in 2005 as the ALNCCB representative, and was a member of the ABNS PR committee. She has extensive experience as a leader, both in the clinical setting and in her professional organization. The majority of her clinical background is in

critical care and trauma, with 17 years in nursing management positions,” noted Bonnie Niebuhr, CEO of ABNS.

“My primary focus will be to participate in Accreditation Council activities that promote excellence in ABNS accredited nursing certification programs. In this role I will function as a member of the review team, and will also act a resource for nursing certification leaders during the accreditation and reaccreditation process,” said Huff upon announcement of her appointment to the Accreditation Council.

“I’d like to be more involved in activities that promote excellence in all nursing certification programs, and I believe this position within ABNS will be an excellent way to pursue this goal.” Huff added.

“Karen Huff has an extraordinary background in the healthcare field and brings a unique point of view to this position. As one of the newest members of the Accreditation Council, she will be a strong advocate to further the position ABNS to achieve its vision - *Specialty nursing certification is THE standard by which the public recognized quality nursing care,*” noted Niebuhr.

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***Editors Note:***

The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) is a membership organization that maintains a national peer review program for nursing specialty certification. The mission of ABNS is to promote the value of specialty nursing certification to all stakeholders. Currently, twenty-seven ABNS Regular Member and one Associate Member Organizations represent nearly half a million specialty certified registered nurses. Its twelve Affiliate Members include providers of key certification-related testing products and services. One Public Member represents the consumer’s perspectives on issues about specialty nursing certification. For further information about ABNS, visit [www.nursingcertification.org](http://www.nursingcertification.org) or email Bonnie Niebuhr, MS, RN, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, at [ABNSCEO@aol.com](mailto:ABNSCEO@aol.com).

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