Omicon Tau Chapter
Of Sigma Theta Tau International
Nursing Honor Society

Omicon Tau Talks
November 1, 2001
Volume 2 Issue 1

President's Corner
By Marita Hoffart

Greetings to Omicon Tau members. What is Omicon Tau doing for you and what are you doing for the chapter? The purpose of the Society is to encourage creative work, foster high professional standards, recognize development of leadership qualities, recognize superior achievement and strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the nursing profession. Omicon Tau has provided twice a year scholarly activities through the Rural Health Conference and computer resources, as well as involvement in the ND Nurses Convention in Minot this fall. We have encouraged leadership activities by sending two members to the leadership conference in January. Thanks to a few dedicated individuals, fund-raising has also been successful. One of this chapter’s biggest concerns is committee membership, which will allow work of this chapter to continue. At a recent president’s conference for Region 2, Karen Grigsby, the conference coordinator, shared information on membership. In 2000-01 the region had 28,341 members of which 39% were active and 61% inactive. In Omicon Tau chapter of 172 members, 58% are active and 42% are inactive.

At the 36th Biennial Convention, which convenes in Indianapolis Nov 10, 2001, the current regional structure changes to 15 regions. Omicon Tau will be in Region IV along with other chapters in ND, SD, MN, WI, parts of IA and Manitoba, for a total of 26 chapters. Each region has a coordinator who keeps communication lines open to chapters, serves as a resource in chapter development and disseminates information to chapters within the region. With encouragement, I have consented to become a candidate for the Coordinator in Region IV. A variety of forums and receptions are scheduled to make the delegates aware of who is on the ballot, and candidates have been assigned to preside at various breakout sessions to provide visibility. I have been working on my campaign.

Certainly I did not plan to be writing this column. When Nancy Mosbeck resigned I stepped in to fill the void. Nancy Vitko was appointed Vice President and Program Committee chair. She has developed an ambitious plan, which will serve this chapter well.

Some parting thought. Do you know a nurse who had done a beautiful work? Tell him or her. When you see dedicated work on behalf of individual, family and community health, give kudos when and where you can. All of us need to be recognized for our contribution of the health of individuals and our community, perhaps of the nation and the world. Also, be kind to yourself. Do you have a candidate for the Orchid award? Call Mary K. Keller at 857-4326.

Year in Review
By Jennifer Jacobson

Induction ceremonies were held on 4-10-01. Welcome to the newly inducted members: Crystal Allary, Nichole Block, Shelly DeMers, Kristine Fastennau, Sandra Harbort, Jason Johnson, Shelby Kary, Dorcas Kunkel, Karen Levadney, Stacey Middleton, angela Olson, Mary Petersen, Amy Peterson, Lisa Stammers, Lisa Stauffer and Ann Welch. Omicon Tau presented their first large workshop for nurses and students on 4-27-01. This successful conference featured Olmann Weinert, RN, PhD, a notable Sigma Theta Tau speaker whose research has focused on rural health. Susan Birkhart, Terry Dwelle, Mitchell Leupp, Monica Mayer and Janet Maxson also presented. Karen Anderson, Cameron Library, presented an Internet workshop on 1-26-01. Matters of Life and Death was presented by Tess Freolich, and was sponsored by Omicon Tau.

Fundraising Committee
By Nancy Vitko

On behalf of the fundraising committee, we would like to solicit your ideas and suggestions on how our chapter fundraising objectives can be met. We have developed the following fundraising objectives: 1) Establish funds for worthy projects that create an interest in the nursing profession; 2) Build a strong influence to the community’s quality of life; and 3) Promote a positive public image for Sigma Theta Tau. The committee has developed several fundraising ideas. Please review the following list and provide feedback to the fundraising committee by e-mail, mail or phone.

*Spaghetti dinner, pancake breakfasts or box lunches.
*Gift wrapping for the holidays
*Silent auction
*Dessert social
*Chapter cookbook
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*Gift wrapping for the holidays
*Silent auction
*Dessert social
*Chapter cookbook
*Gift baskets
*Artwork and collectible sales
*Fashion show
*Combined awards luncheon and fashion show
*Wine and cheese social
*Research conference/educational seminar
*Raffles
*Scratch cards
*Raise dues
Do you have any ideas? Nancy Vitko- 838-0843

Board Update

The Omicron Tau Board of Directors, 2001- Marita Hoffart, president, Nancy Vitko, vice president, Jennifer Jacobson, president elect, Judy Swanson, secretary, Linda Patterson, treasurer, Linda Haider, counselor, Kathy Johanson, LuAnn Henning, Susan Burkhart, Diane Nice. Thank you to all whom agreed to assist in different areas of service including the program committee and fundraising committee. Volunteers are needed to assist with the public committee, finance committee and newsletter. Fun-loving volunteers are needed to plan the 2002 Nurse’s Week activities. Sigma Theta Tau’s community service project needs gloves, mittens and hats for distribution to needy families in Indianapolis. Please contact Jennifer Jacobson to donate these items. Omicron Tau is collecting soap and shampoo samples from hotels, or new bottles/packages to distribute to the local women’s shelter.

Membership

Do you know a nurse who is a leader in her field? Please call Linda Haider, 858-3229, if you have names of nurses that you would like to nominate for induction into the Omicron Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau.

Accolades

Many members of Omicron Tau have exceeded the expectations in their efforts to build and strengthen the Omicron Tau chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. Rave reviews to the board of directors and committee members who have contributed to this cause. Congratulations to Marita Hoffart for her nomination to the office of Regional Coordinator for Region 2. Thank you to Marita Hoffart for donating frequent flyer miles to Dr. Weinert’s trip to Minot. Thank you to Marita Hoffart, Nancy Vitko, Lisa Nelson and Jennifer Jacobson for planning and organizing the Rural Health Care Conference, and to Kelly Schmidt and Mary Smith for manning the registration table. Thank you to Clarann Weinert for donating $100 to Omicron Tau and to an anonymous donor for giving $500 to this chapter. Thank you to Diane Freiberg for donating the Thomas Kinkade print for fundraising. Omicron Tau also has members who have used their nursing skills to develop and strengthen the community. Rave reviews and thanks also go to Kelly Schmidt who is the initiator and motivator behind the stop smoking campaign in Minot. Congratulations to Ann Welch for completing her master’s degree in Case Management. Congratulations to Nancy Vitko for completing her master’s degree in health care management. Congratulations to Susan Porterfield, a member of the original steering committee for the Omicron Tau chapter development, who has received a master’s degree in nursing/nurse practitioner and is presently working on her PhD. Please contact Susan Burkhart, 857-5628 with names of other Omicron Tau members who require accolades for their nursing accomplishments.

Future Planning

November 10-14, 2001: 36th Biennial Sigma Theta Tau convention in Indianapolis. Diane Freiberg, Jennifer Jacobson and Marita Hoffart will attend as delegates.
January 10, 2002: The eligibility and nominating committees meet.
February 21, 2002: Omicron Tau annual membership meeting. This will be a great time of business, elections and networking. Please bring soap samples.
March 19, 2002: Board of Directors meets. Inductee forms must be in to national.
April 2002: Induction
May 2002: Nurses Day/Week activities to highlight Sigma Theta Tau nursing society’s Omicron Tau chapter.

The Sigma Theta Tau web site is www.nursingssociety.org