

# Certification UPDATE

Spring 2016

## Keeping BONENT Members Informed

### Board of Directors Elections This Summer

The election of members of the BONENT Board of Directors is upon us once again. BONENT is seeking qualified candidates who wish to run for one available position on the BONENT Board.

#### One Technologist's Position Requires:

- One year of managerial or administrative experience in either a nursing or technical area;
- Must be registered by BONENT as a Certified Hemodialysis Technician (CHT);
- A minimum of three (3) years experience in Nephrology Technology;
- Have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.

**Application Deadline  
July 15, 2016**

#### Are You Qualified?

If you are a CHT, have served BONENT in the past, and wish to be considered for a position on the Board of Directors, you should ask yourself these questions:

- What do I feel I can contribute to BONENT?
- Do I have time and energy to be a working member of the Board, or will I end up being too busy to be of much assistance?
- Am I a team player?
- How do I handle work that is delegated to

me? Do I get it done promptly or do I procrastinate?

- Do I need a lot of encouragement and reminders to complete a task, or am I a self-starter (and finisher)?

#### Who do you know that is qualified to be a board member?

Who is the ideal Board of Directors member? They are individuals who are willing to work towards promoting BONENT's mission of quality patient care through certification of caregivers. BONENT needs members who are willing and able to serve the organization and their profession with time

and energy. All Board members are required to proctor two examinations per year, perform committee functions, participate in periodic conference calls, attend two annual board meetings, and delegated assignments.

**If you feel that you meet the qualifications and want to be placed on the ballot, please fax, e-mail, or mail the application (on page 3), a copy of your resume and a letter of your intent to the BONENT Executive Office by July 15, 2016.**

As always, we welcome your questions and requests for additional information. You may contact Peter Anas at the BONENT Executive Office by calling 202-463-1251 (ext 20), or via e-mail to [peter@bonent.org](mailto:peter@bonent.org).

### The states below require BONENT Regional Representatives.

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Alabama              | Montana        |
| Alaska               | Nebraska       |
| Arizona              | Nevada         |
| Arkansas             | New Hampshire  |
| Colorado             | New Mexico     |
| Connecticut          | North Carolina |
| Delaware             | North Dakota   |
| District of Columbia | Oklahoma       |
| Hawaii               | Oregon         |
| Idaho                | Rhode Island   |
| Iowa                 | South Carolina |
| Kansas               | Utah           |
| Louisiana            | Vermont        |
| Maine                | Virginia       |
| Maryland             | Washington     |
| Massachusetts        | West Virginia  |
| Michigan             | Wyoming        |
| Minnesota            |                |
| Missouri             |                |

### Interested in becoming a Regional Representative?

Visit [www.BONENT.org](http://www.BONENT.org) for qualification requirements and responsibilities. Contact BONENT Executive Director Peter Anas via email at [peter@BONENT.org](mailto:peter@BONENT.org)

### Dedication Deserves Recognition.

**Order Your 10 Karat Lapel Pin Today!**

Dedication to your profession. It's one of the reasons why you became BONENT-certified. Proudly display your certification status by wearing a beautifully crafted 10k gold lapel pin. Select from your area of certification (CHN, CHT, CHBT or CPDN) for only \$30. **For an Order Form, visit [www.BONENT.org](http://www.BONENT.org) and click on Lapel Pins.**



# Certification UPDATE

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICE

**Phone: 202-462-1252**

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### Membership Coordinator

**Georgia Anas**

Ext. #12; coordinator@bonent.org



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Are You the Professional that Your Patients Deserve?

Usually I give you an overview of BONENT activities, but this is a one-issue message and a very important President's Message.

Over the last 10 years many things have surrounded the role and status of technicians. All patient-care technicians must pass a certification exam to show they have a level of competence that makes them ready and able to take care of dialysis. That is why all technicians need to cherish their role. They need to become and remain the professionals that our patients deserve.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) changed the Conditions for Coverage (CFC) to require that by April 14, 2010 all patient care technicians pass a standardized certification exam. This was in most cases the BONENT CHT, the NNCC CCHT or the NNCO CCNT.



RJ Picciano receives the  
NANT Torch Bearer  
Award at their 2016 Annual  
Conference.

### Are You Familiar with Your State Licensure Requirements?

In several states, there are different requirements for technologists/technicians who perform certain patient care procedures. It is incumbent upon all patient care technicians to familiarize themselves with any state licensure requirements for their state. These differences have led to confusion on whether or not patient care technicians need to maintain their certification. This is something for CMS and other professional organizations such as NANT need to sort out.

I would suggest that if patient care technicians want to be considered health-care professionals, they need to act like professionals. All healthcare professions have two things in common - they have a set of core standards that the professional will meet and keeping themselves current in all sections of their practice. I am not going to go into what the core standards are for Hemodialysis patient care technicians are or should be. I will leave that to NANT, the NKF CNNT and CMS. I am going to address remaining current in your profession.

### We Should ALL be Driving the Future of our Profession

As professionals, we are all responsible for maintaining the knowledge of our profession. All certified patient care technicians are the true experts on our profession. We are the ones that should be driving the future of our profession, not our employers, not CMS. We should be partners with Nephrologists and Nephrology Nurses. In order to be respected partners, we must have current knowledge of changes in hemodialysis.

So, how do you do this? Nephrology News and Issues (NNI) offers a free on-line subscription at [www.nephrologynews.com](http://www.nephrologynews.com). Medical Education Institute (MEI) has free information at [meiresearch.org](http://meiresearch.org). The NKF has information and free continuing nursing education credits at [www.Kidney.org](http://www.Kidney.org). National Association of Nephrology Technicians (NANT) has educational opportunities including a yearly national symposium. There are many other sources if look around the Internet. These are great sources of information, but lack a direct way to put the new knowledge into practice.

### Continue to Learn More via Continuing Education

I would suggest the best way to maintain your status as a professional is to attend live, onsite continuing education events. There are many ways to obtain knowledge, but none of them help you build your "professional network". Most of us know what networking can do from Facebook, Twitter, etc. If you do not attend live education meetings, you know only about how things are done in your clinic and your company. I know that many of the companies offer company education meetings. These are great! But, they still limit your experience to what the company wants in it. It is important to attend live meetings held by professional organizations such as NANT, NKF, ANNA, and BONENT. This will help you develop a well-rounded and mature "professional network".

I know this isn't easy because there are not enough local meetings and national and regional meetings can be expensive, hard to get time off, etc. But if you work with other patient care technicians in your clinic, one of you can go one year and another the next year. Then, share the information and contacts with the rest of the clinic. It is hard work to get local meetings started, but vendors and your nephrologists will probably be more than willing to help.

You can arrange for continuing education credits through BONENT, ANNA, NANT or others. You and the other staff can put together a local NANT Chapter. Contact NANT, they will be more than willing to assist you. There are many groups in social media you can join.

### Staying Current Isn't Easy – But You Can Do It!

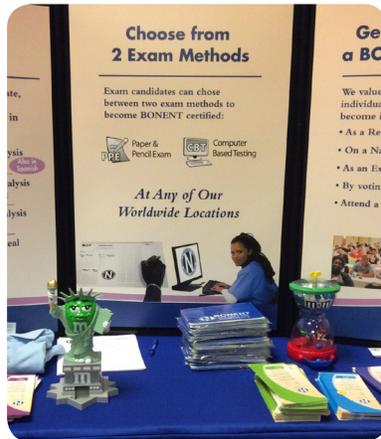
So, it isn't easy to stay professionally current. But, with a little effort, it can be done. The easiest way, is to do a little each week, rather than a huge amount to catch up. Do this consistently for a few months and it will become a habit – a good habit.

So, maybe in your situation, you don't need to maintain your certification, but you do need to keep professionally current. If you want the respect of the nurses and doctors you work with, it is up to you to do this, not someone else.

So much for being a short message! But, it is important!

Our patients deserve the best people taking care of them. And that starts with you!

# Friends and Members Visit BONENT Booth at 2016 NANT Conference



## APPLICATION

### For Board of Directors

Applications must be postmarked by July 15, 2016

Please complete the form below and mail with a copy of your CV or resume to:

**BONENT Executive Office  
100 S. Washington St.  
Rockville, MD 20850**

Please type and attach a brief statement about why you would like to be a member of BONENT Board of Directors, and what qualities you feel you have which would benefit our members. Statement must not exceed 100 words.

Ballots are scheduled to be mailed to all BONENT members in July, with a return date of September 1, 2016. Candidates will be notified of election results by mid-September, and will assume their new position on the Board in October 2016.

Please Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (work): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

BONENT Certification #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer/Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor/Director/Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number to verify employment: \_\_\_\_\_

For **ALL DIALYSIS PROFESSIONALS:**

BONENT Members & Non Members: *Nurses • Technicians & Bio Med*

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*“It was very informative and interesting.”*  
*“I’ll bring my colleagues next year!”*”



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