

For Immediate Release:
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Annual Award Winners Recognized at FADONA's 24th Annual Convention

2011 Convention saw a record number of attendees

West Palm Beach, Fla. — Florida Association Directors of Nursing Administration/LTC (FADONA) President Bonnie Cruz is delighted to announce that the 24th Annual Convention “Carrying the Torch of Leadership 2011” was a resounding success. The convention, which was held at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel in Orlando from April 11-14, 2011, saw record attendance rates for the second straight year. The convention gathered together more than 600 attendees, speakers, and exhibitors from around the country.

This convention's most anticipated event, the Annual Awards Luncheon featured the 2011 FADONA Awards presentation which included the Nurse Administrator of the Year Award sponsored by Evercare, and the CNA/LPN Awards of Excellence sponsored by RB Health Partners. Each year, FADONA acknowledges a nurse administrator who has demonstrated a high degree of professionalism by mentoring and nurturing, as well as commitment to the standards of nursing practice and excellence in long-term care. The 2011 winner of the Nurse Administrator of the Year Award is Betty Lou Barron, DON at Bear Creek Nursing Center. Wanda Bryant, DNP, Health Services Director-FL ISNP Evercare was on hand, alongside FADONA President Bonnie Cruz, to help present the award.

“FADONA would like to congratulate Betty for her intense dedication to her patients and the field of nursing,” Cruz said. It is an honor to have members such as Betty representing our profession.”

FADONA also presented its 11th CNA awards and second-ever LPN awards that recognize certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) across the state of Florida. This year's CNA Award of Excellence recognized three individuals: Naomi Clark from Greenbriar in Bradenton, who placed third; Sarah Brown from Palm Garden of Ocala who finished in second-place; and this year's first-place recipient Lillie McGinnis from Rosewood Manor in Pensacola.

This year featured the presentation of FADONA's LPN Award of Excellence. This year's first-place recipient was Rachel Gustin Bishop, an LPN at The Manor at Blue Water Bay in Niceville. Second-place was awarded to Debbie Bishop, an LPN at Royal Oaks Nursing & Rehab in Titusville; and in third-place was Alicia Jaster, an LPN at Greenbriar in Bradenton.

Also, during the Annual Awards Luncheon, Robin Bleier, RN, HCRM, FACDONA, recent 1st vice-president and past board member of FADONA, was presented with a plaque for her years of service and dedication to FADONA.

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The Florida Association Directors of Nursing Administration/LTC, otherwise known as FADONA, is a statewide coalition of professional, administrative long-term care (LTC) nurses holding director, assistant director of nursing (ADON/DON) or other administrative nursing roles. FADONA is a state chapter of the National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration in Long-Term Care and its primary goal is to ensure that the residents entrusted to their members enjoy the highest possible quality of life while receiving the finest quality care available.