

Our DONs Are Here

There's a heavy concentration of nurses in Cleveland, Tennessee, today as the 2007 annual meeting of directors of nursing is under way on Life Care's Corporate Plaza. The crowd represents more than 300 DONs, regional and divisional vice presidents of clinical services, the corporate clinical support staff and Life Care's corporate leadership.

The nurses who occupy these positions of responsibility in our company are key players in the pursuit of our mission. Life Care began conducting these yearly get-togethers for our DONs in 1991 to: (1) give them an opportunity to relax and have some fun, (2) inspire them afresh to the calling they answered when they surrendered their lives to serving people through nursing, and (3) offer an opportunity for networking with other DONs, allowing exchange of information and support for one another. Those objectives are successfully met each year.

The nurses arrived on Saturday, and Sunday began with breakfast and a program of music and inspiration by Jimmy and Pam Rhodes. The afternoon included whitewater rafting, visits to the Tennessee Aquarium and Imax Theatre, shopping and movies at Hamilton Place Mall, a duck tour and the riverwalk, a trip to the Bluffview and Art Museum, a mountain experience on the Incline and strolling though Rock City.

Sunday evening's theme was *A Night at the Movies*, when associates came dressed as their favorite movie characters, and featured a divisional talent show, which was won by the Northwest Division.

Today's opening ceremonies focused on a patriotic theme, with presentation of the colors by the Cleveland Fire Department Color Guard and a vocal rendition of the National Anthem. Cathy Murray, chief operating officer, President Beecher Hunter and Chairman Forrest Preston extended official welcomes to the attendees. *Life in the Key of Change* was the keynote address by LaDonna Gatlin, sister of the famous Gatlin Brothers. Other motivational speakers this week include Dr. Farris Jordan, speaking on *Staying Motivated Through Comic Vision*, and Dr. Dennis Swanberg, who will discuss *Living' ... and Living' Well*. Educational sessions will occupy most of the agenda today and Tuesday.

Tonight Life Care honors excellence, with presentation of performance awards, always a highlight of these sessions.

We are proud of our directors of nursing – for the special skills they demonstrate daily, but especially for the heart they have for the people they serve.

--Beecher Hunter