



FALL 2026

CBN C.A.R.E

Official Newsletter of the ASMBS CBN Certification Committee

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear CBNs,

As I stepped into the role of Chair on July 1, I found myself reflecting on how far we've come together. Our previous Chairs, Bill Gourash and Karen Flanders, left big shoes to fill, and I am honored to build upon the incredible foundation they created. Their leadership has inspired me, and I hope to serve our CBN community with the same dedication and passion.

One thing has become abundantly clear - moving our specialty forward truly takes a village. Every member, volunteer, and subcommittee has played an important role in advancing Certified Bariatric Nursing. Together, we have helped define our specialty through publications, completed an updated CBN Practice Analysis, embraced the continued evolution of the CBN role, and worked toward a goal years in the making.

And now, we have an incredible reason to celebrate!

The CBN Certification Program has officially been awarded accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.), with accreditation granted through August 31, 2031. This tremendous milestone affirms that our certification program meets nationally recognized standards for quality and credentialing excellence.

This achievement represents years of dedication, collaboration, and commitment from current and past Council members, subcommittee members, volunteers, and supporters. Thank you for believing in this vision and helping make it a reality. **This accomplishment belongs to all of us.**

A very special thank you goes to Morgan Matlock, MBA, Director of Certification and Credentialing for ASMBS. Her expertise, guidance, and steadfast support were instrumental throughout the accreditation process, and we are deeply grateful for her partnership.

The **2026 ASMBS Annual Meeting in San Antonio** gave us even more reasons to celebrate. **Bill Gourash** became the first non-physician recipient of the **Hall of Fame Award**, and the **CBN Certification Committee was named ASMBS Committee of the Year** - an honor that reflects the dedication of our incredible volunteers.

Looking ahead, I hope you'll join us for ASMBS Weekend, November 5-7, in Las Vegas, where Track 3 will focus on *Advancing and Integrating Comprehensive Obesity Care*. I also encourage you to become involved in the CBN Committee. Fresh ideas and engaged volunteers are what keep our specialty moving forward.

Thank you for all you do for our patients and our profession. Here's to celebrating this historic milestone and continuing to move Certified Bariatric Nursing forward - together!

Sharon Hillgartner, RN-CBN, FASMBS-IH
Chair, CBN Certification Council
MBS Coordinator – Missoula, Montana
Contracted Remote MBS Clinical Reviewer – Tucson, Arizona



Sharon Hillgartner
RN, CBN, FASMBS-IH



Ron Permenter
MSN, RN, CBN

IMPORTANT DATES



2027 Test Window 1

October 12, 2026 - January 4, 2027

Registration Window

January 11 - March 8, 2027

CBN Exam Window

November 5-7, 2026

ASMBS Weekend

Las Vegas, NV

June 27 - July 1, 2027

ASMBS Annual Meeting 2027

Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin
Orlando, FL

Connect with Us:

Join the **ASMBS IH CBN -
Certified Bariatric Nurses
Private Facebook Group.**

Suggest newsletter topics or ask questions via email to **CBN@asmbs.org**, or on our Facebook page.

**Visit the virtual
ASMBS Marketplace
for new CBN Swag!**

FAQS: CBN CERTIFICATION, NCCA ACCREDITATION, AND MAGNET RECOGNITION

Is the CBN certification accredited?

Yes. The CBN Certification Program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the accrediting body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.), through August 31, 2031.

Why is NCCA accreditation important?

NCCA accreditation provides independent validation that the CBN Certification Program meets nationally recognized standards for professional certification, including governance, examination development and administration, psychometric quality, security, and ongoing program management. Accreditation strengthens the credibility and recognition of the CBN credential for certificants, employers, healthcare organizations, and the public.

How does Magnet designation relate to CBN certification?

Following NCCA accreditation, the CBN certification was added to the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program®-approved Demographic Data Collection Tool (DDCT) certification list. This means CBN certification can be reported as an eligible specialty certification by Magnet-recognized organizations in accordance with Magnet requirements.

My employer previously would not reimburse the CBN certification because it was not accredited. What should I do now?

Consider sharing the CBN accreditation announcement with your education department, nursing leadership, human resources department, or professional development office. Employer policies vary, but NCCA accreditation and CBN's inclusion on the Magnet-approved DDCT certification list may affect how your organization recognizes or supports the credential, including reimbursement, professional recognition, salary incentives, or other benefits.



ACCREDITED
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



NCCA BY ICE

WEBSITE QUICK LINKS

- [About the CBN Credential](#)
- [CBN NCCA Accreditation](#)
- [CBN Examination and Application Information](#)
 - [CBN Examination Audit Form for Clinical Practice Verification](#)
- [CBN Re-Certification](#)
- [Preparing for the CBN Exam](#)
- [CBN Appeals and Grievances](#)
- [CBN Credential and Logo Usage Guidelines](#)
- [CBN Digital Credential](#)
- [Verification Of CBN Credentials](#)
- [CBN Feedback and Reporting](#)
- [Request a Printed Certificate](#)

CBN DIGITAL CREDENTIAL

ACTIVE CBN CERTIFICANTS CAN NOW RECEIVE A VERIFIED CBN DIGITAL CREDENTIAL THROUGH CREDLY. THE DIGITAL CREDENTIAL PROVIDES A CONVENIENT, SHAREABLE WAY TO SHOWCASE YOUR CBN CERTIFICATION AND ALLOWS EMPLOYERS, COLLEAGUES, AND OTHERS TO VERIFY YOUR CREDENTIAL AND ITS CURRENT VALIDITY ONLINE.

VISIT THE **CBN DIGITAL CREDENTIAL WEBPAGE** TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ELIGIBILITY, ACCEPTING YOUR CREDENTIAL, VERIFICATION, AND SHARING OPTIONS.

CBN SPOTLIGHT | WILLIAM GOURASH, PHD, RN, CRNP, CBN, FASMBS-IH

CELEBRATING THE FIRST INTEGRATED HEALTH RECIPIENT OF THE ASMBS HALL OF FAME AWARD

ASMBS Annual Meeting 2026 brought many key messages and lasting impressions. But for those of us CBNs, a bright shining moment was seeing one of our own walk across the stage for a historical award.

On May 5th, 2026, William “Bill” Gourash, PhD, RN, CRNP, CBN, FASMBS-IH, was the first Integrated Health ASMBS Hall of Fame recipient. Many of us were teary-eyed to see Bill on stage receiving the award, while not just nurses but also doctors, surgeons, and other IH colleagues from around the world stood in ovation for his achievements.

Bill’s career is impressive to say the least, with a CV 48 pages long! To sum up achievements in one page is impossible. I instead decided to interview one of the most influential bariatric mentors I am privileged to know.

Why did you become a nurse?

Times were economically difficult in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the 1970s. A city built on steel production, coal mining, and glass manufacturing was struggling as these industries were all in decline. As a student at the University of Pittsburgh, starting out as a math major and music minor, I realized that many college graduates were struggling to find jobs.

At the campus church, I was friends with several nursing students—all very bright, and some already had jobs waiting for them. I thought maybe I should look into nursing. I volunteered in the ER and found that I really enjoyed helping the patients and nurses. I was impressed that nurses seemed to be a very respected part of the ER team and often ran the show.

I started reading about nursing and came across Florence Nightingale’s *Notes on Nursing: What It Is and What It Is Not*. I became a nursing assistant and then got a job as a phlebotomist.

During the first week of nursing school, we were asked to write the obligatory essay answering the question, “What is nursing?” To paraphrase my answer:

“Nursing is helping others to help themselves.”

It seemed important to be a part of that. I would still give the same answer today, almost 50 years later.

Who have been your most influential mentors or bariatric practice influencers?

Those who submitted the initial proposal for a nursing certification to the ASMBS Board

- Mary Lou Whalen
- Georgeann Mallory, RD
- Leslie Jester
- Dr. Wittgrove
- Katherine M. Fox

CBN Nurses Who Helped Establish the Profession

- Tracey Martinez
- Bobbie Lou Price
- Karen Schultz
- Karen Flanders
- Jessie Moore
- Ruth Davis

Surgeon Mentors and Leaders in the Field

- Dr. Walter Pories
- Dr. Harvey Sugerman

What do you feel is your greatest life achievement?

- Steering a national RN certification in metabolic bariatric surgery (MBS) into existence and toward national accreditation.
- Being a member of the NIH Longitudinal Assessment of Bariatric Surgery (LABS) Study team.
- PhD in Nursing Research in 2017

If you could ‘go back and do something different...’?

- Learned discipline at an earlier age
- Studied Greek, Latin, and the classics of literature.



William Gourash
PhD, RN, CRNP, CBN, FASMBS-IH
Bariatric Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, Researcher, and CBN Pioneer



CBN SPOTLIGHT | WILLIAM GOURASH - CONTINUED

What makes you proud to be a CBN?

“The recognition that MBS nursing is a nursing specialty.”

From my interactions with MBS patients, I have been privileged to come to a small but important understanding of our patients’ struggles with obesity and how it affects the many facets of their lives before and after surgery.

What advice would you give to the younger generation of bariatric nurses?

- Come to know history so as to better prepare and push off for the future in all situations.
- Careful with AI
- Always think for yourself

What advice or knowledge do you want to bestow on us?

**“For MBS nursing to mature and grow,
MBS nursing research will be one of the keys.”**

Interviewed by: Veronica Cook, RN, MSN, CBN
Bariatric Program Manager - Shreveport, LA



William Gourash receives the inaugural Integrated Health ASMBS Hall of Fame Award at the 2026 ASMBS Annual Meeting.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CBN

The CBN Certification Program is growing—and we’re looking for Certified Bariatric Nurses who want to help shape what comes next. Serving on the CBN Certification Committee is an opportunity to contribute your experience and perspective to the continued development of the CBN credential and the specialty of metabolic and bariatric nursing.

Committee members have opportunities to contribute to work such as:

- CBN examination development and item writing
- Practice analysis and future examination content
- Recertification and continuing competency
- CBN policies, standards, and program quality
- Education and resources for certificants
- Outreach and growth of the CBN community

YOUR EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Whether you have been a CBN for years or are looking for your first opportunity to become more involved, ***there is a place for you to contribute.*** We are looking for CBNs from different practice settings, professional backgrounds, career stages, and areas of expertise to help ensure the program continues to reflect the nurses and patients it serves.

Typical commitment: Monthly meetings, with occasional project work or assignments between meetings.

GET INVOLVED

Interested in joining us?

Help strengthen the CBN credential, contribute to the future of the profession, and connect with other nurses committed to advancing metabolic and bariatric nursing. [Apply Today](#)

**YOUR EXPERIENCE.
YOUR VOICE.
YOUR PROFESSION.**

YOUR CBN CREDENTIAL, NOW DIGITAL

The Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN) credential is now available as a **verified digital credential through Credly**, giving active CBN certificants a new way to showcase and share their certification.

Issued by the CBN Certification Program of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS), your digital credential is a secure, portable representation of the CBN certification you have earned. It allows employers, colleagues, and others to verify your credential and learn more about the requirements and specialized knowledge it represents.

5 WAYS TO SHARE YOUR CBN

01 | LINKEDIN

Add your CBN digital credential directly to your LinkedIn profile.

02 | EMAIL SIGNATURE

Include your credential in your professional email signature.

03 | DIGITAL RESUME

Showcase your verified CBN certification alongside your other professional achievements.

04 | PROFESSIONAL WEBSITE

Add your credential to your online professional profile or website.

05 | YOUR NETWORK

Share your achievement with colleagues, employers, and your professional community.

Your Credly credential provides a direct, verifiable connection to your CBN certification.



View CBN Digital Credential on Credly

See what employers and colleagues see when they verify the CBN credential.

YOUR CERTIFICATION. VERIFIED.

Your digital credential provides a direct, verifiable connection to your CBN certification and includes information about the credential, its earning criteria, ASMBS as the issuing organization, and your current certification validity period.

GOOD TO KNOW

Your digital credential represents your CBN certification - it does not replace it.

Your official certification record remains with the CBN Certification Program, and your certification and recertification requirements remain the same. Printed CBN certificates also remain available separately through ASMBS.

YOUR CREDENTIAL STAYS CONNECTED TO YOUR CBN STATUS

CERTIFIED → DIGITAL CREDENTIAL → RECERTIFY → CREDENTIAL UPDATED

- **When you recertify:** Your digital credential updates to reflect your renewed certification period.
- **If your certification expires:** Your digital credential reflects that your certification is no longer current.
- **If you are reinstated:** Your digital credential reflects your restored certification status.

WATCH YOUR INBOX

When your CBN digital credential is issued, you will receive an email from Credly with instructions for accepting it.

Already received your email?

Accept your credential and start sharing your CBN achievement!

For instructions on creating your Credly account, accepting and managing your digital credential, adding it to LinkedIn, and other frequently asked questions, visit the [ASMBS Digital Credentials webpage](#).

\$0
TO ACCEPT & SHARE
There is no cost to accept or share your CBN digital credential through Credly.

2026 DISTINGUISHED CBN OF THE YEAR | CARAH HORN

Interview with Carah Horn MBA-HCA, BSN, RN, FASMBS-IH

Nursing Background

I've been a registered nurse since 2005 and have worked in labor and delivery, emergency medicine, and renal transplant. Each role helped shape my approach to patient advocacy, leadership, and caring for complex patient populations.

Current Role

I lead the bariatric service line at HCA Florida Trinity, focusing on program development, quality improvement, advocacy, and education. I'm also pursuing my Family Nurse Practitioner degree and plan to continue working in metabolic and bariatric medicine.

How did you find your way into bariatrics?

Honestly, with reluctance. Our transplant director asked me to launch a bariatric surgery program in Tulsa. I remember asking why I would leave transplant medicine for what I mistakenly perceived as cosmetic surgery. He reminded me of the Bridge to Transplant program we had built and the many patients who were still unable to qualify for transplantation because of obesity. That was the hook that convinced me, and starting the program changed my life.

I quickly learned that, despite more than a decade in nursing, I knew very little about obesity as a complex, chronic disease with a predictable path to significant morbidity. More importantly, I recognized my own implicit biases and the stigma patients faced within healthcare.

“Obtaining the CBN credential in 2022 was an important professional milestone, reflecting my commitment to providing exceptional care to patients with obesity while advancing the specialty of bariatric nursing.”

What started as hesitation became a passion for education, advocacy, and improving access to care for a population that is frequently misunderstood and underserved. As nurses, we have both the opportunity and responsibility to challenge bias, change perceptions, and improve outcomes.

STAYING INVOLVED

What professional activities keep you busy today?

That's a loaded question! I remain active with ASMBS through multiple committees and leadership roles, and my current activities include:

- CBN Exam Prep
- IFSO Professional Guidelines Committee
- Co-directing two sessions at IFSO World Congress Toronto 2026
- Speaking nationally
- Contributing to SOARD
- Co-leading the TREO Pathways Program
- Expanding access to bariatric care through Oklahoma Medicaid reimbursement changes.

Beyond Bariatrics

I'm a proud mom of four daughters and grandma to eight amazing grandchildren. Outside of work, I enjoy running, cycling, CrossFit, and traveling. Also, I'm friendlier than I apparently seem! Please introduce yourself if you see me—but plan on my asking you how you'd like to get more involved in advocacy and ASMBS!

Interviewed by: Kellie Armstrong, MSN, RN, FASMBS-IH, CBN
CMSWL System Manger - Providence, RI
ASMBS Immediate Past Integrated Health Leadership Council Director



Carah Horn receives the 2026 Distinguished CBN of the Year Award at the ASMBS Annual Meeting.

RECOGNIZING A FELLOW CBN

I would also like to acknowledge Kerry Stouges, BSN, RN, CBN, CPHQ, on her nomination for the Distinguished CBN Award this year. Kerry has made significant contributions to bariatric nursing and quality care, and it is wonderful to see her dedication and leadership recognized by her surgeon and peers.

CBN RECERTIFICATION CORNER

DID YOU KNOW?

A peer-reviewed publication may be worth 40 professional development points toward CBN recertification.

Under current CBN recertification requirements, authorship or co-authorship of a peer-reviewed journal article related to your certification specialty qualifies for **40 professional development points**—enough to satisfy the professional development portion of the 80-point requirement.

Consider sharing your quality improvement, research, or evidence-based practice work. You may be helping advance the specialty while also earning credit toward recertification.

Remember: Certificants must still earn a minimum of **40 continuing education points**. Always refer to the current CBN Candidate Handbook for complete requirements and documentation criteria.

RECERTIFICATION TIPS

- **Start early.** Review the current CBN Candidate Handbook early in your certification cycle.
- **Know the requirement.** Earn 80 total points, including at least 40 metabolic and bariatric nursing continuing education points.
- **Track as you go.** Keep a record of your metabolic and bariatric nursing-specific CE and professional development activities.
- **Save your documentation.** Maintain supporting documentation throughout your four-year certification cycle.
- **Don't wait until renewal year.** Staying organized throughout the cycle makes recertification much easier.

ASMBS Resources

- **ASMBS Learning Management System** – Online educational activities focused on metabolic and bariatric surgery and obesity care. Offerings may include complimentary and low-cost continuing education.
- **ASMBS Webinars** – Live and recorded educational programs on topics relevant to metabolic and bariatric care; continuing education may be available for select programs.
- **ASMBS State Chapter Meetings** – Regional educational opportunities that may offer relevant continuing education.
- **ASMBS Annual Meeting and Weekend Meetings** – Educational programming covering clinical practice, research, emerging evidence, and multidisciplinary metabolic and bariatric care.

Professional Organizations, Publications, and Educational Resources

- **SOARD (Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases)** – Educational and continuing education opportunities associated with the official journal of ASMBS; subscription or other access may be required.
- **Bariatric Times** – Articles and educational content addressing obesity treatment and metabolic and bariatric care.
- **American Nurses Association (ANA)** – Continuing nursing education covering a broad range of clinical and professional topics.
- **American College of Surgeons** – Educational programs and quality improvement conferences that may include obesity, metabolic and bariatric surgery, or related surgical topics.
- **General Surgery News** – Clinical news and educational content for surgical professionals.
- **Medscape** – Online continuing education across a broad range of clinical topics, including obesity and related conditions.
- **Nurse.com** – Nursing continuing education across multiple clinical specialties.
- **Pri-Med** – Continuing education programs covering a variety of clinical topics.
- **myCME** – Online continuing education activities across multiple healthcare specialties.
- **UpToDate** – Continuing education may be available through eligible subscriptions or institutional access.

Employer and Local Education

- **Hospital or Health System Education** – Employer-sponsored conferences, grand rounds, in-service education, and other programs may offer relevant continuing education.
- **Employer Learning Platforms** – Hospital learning systems, such as HealthStream, may include obesity, bariatric surgery, nutrition, patient safety, or other relevant educational activities.
- **Other Relevant Continuing Education** – Certificants may search for no-cost or low-cost continuing education related to obesity, metabolic and bariatric surgery, and the domains included in the CBN Examination Content Outline.

Coordinated by: Anne Miranda, RN BSN CBN
Bariatric Program Coordinator - Lorain, OH

Stay current on evolving topics in metabolic and bariatric care with two new on-demand ASMBS webinars - available now in the ASMBS Learning Management Hub and offering continuing education credit that can count toward CBN recertification requirements.

EARN CE.

EARN RECERTIFICATION POINTS.

THE POWER OF SYNERGY

Optimizing Success Treating Obesity with Combined Medical and Surgical Therapies

Learn practical strategies for integrating obesity medicine with metabolic and bariatric surgery to support better long-term outcomes.

1.5 CME Credits

[Click here to view webinar!](#)

TOP TRENDS IN BARIATRIC NUTRITION

Explore emerging evidence, evolving clinical practices, and practical strategies for optimizing nutrition care and supporting long-term patient outcomes across the metabolic and bariatric surgery continuum.

1 CME/CE

[Click here to view Webinar!](#)

STRENGTHEN YOUR EXPERTISE WITH THE

ABCs

Assessment Based Certificates

EXPLORE ASMBS ASSESSMENT-BASED CERTIFICATES

ASMBS Assessment-Based Certificate programs provide focused education and an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge in key areas of metabolic and bariatric care.

Explore three programs available now in the ASMBS Learning Management Hub:

OBESITY MEDICINE PHARMACOLOGY FOR THE MBS PATIENT

Assessment-Based Certificate for Advanced Practice Providers

[LEARN MORE →](#)



SURGERY FUNDAMENTALS FOR THE MBS PATIENT

Assessment-Based Certificate for Advanced Practice Providers

[LEARN MORE →](#)



ADVANCED METABOLIC AND BARIATRIC NUTRITION

Assessment-Based Certificate for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists

[LEARN MORE →](#)



Learning and Knowledge Hub

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CBN?

CBN Exam Preparation

"How do I prepare to take the CBN exam?" is a question that is frequently asked. Every individual is different, but we have some guidelines to help you develop a study plan on our webpage:

<https://asmbs.org/integrated-health/cbn-exam-preparation/>

- Reviewing the Content Outline section of the CBN Handbook and doing a self assessment.
- Find learning experiences to meet your needs.
- Study with a partner!
- Find us on Facebook to connect with CBNs!

CBN Online Review Course

Developed by ASMBS in order to assist those who would like to take the CBN® examination and attain the CBN® certification. This course will provide the learner with a readily available, flexible, easy to use, reasonably priced and quality resource to study for the examination. *This course does not guarantee the learner will pass the CBN Examination.*

<https://asmbs.org/professional-education/cbn/cbn-online-review-course/>

**While the ASMBS CBN Review Courses are helpful, they do not guarantee exam success. The CBN Certification Council recommends reviewing a variety of materials.*

IMPORTANT TESTING INFORMATION

CBN Quick Links

Thinking about your next career step? For details on the CBN credential, eligibility requirements, certification and recertification processes, key benefits, and related resources:

- **About the CBN Credential**
 - <https://asmbs.org/professional-development/cbn/>
- **CBN Examination: Get Prepared**
 - <https://asmbs.org/integrated-health/cbn-exam-preparation/>
- **CBN Examination Information**
 - <https://asmbs.org/integrated-health/cbn-examination-information/>
- **CBN Re-Certification**
 - <https://asmbs.org/professional-development/cbn/cbn-re-certification/>

2027 Test Window 1

- Early Online Registration Opens: **October 12, 2026**
- Early Registration Deadline: **December 7, 2026**
- Regular Registration Deadline: **January 4, 2027**
- Exam Administration: **January 11 – March 8, 2027**

Find us on 

CBN Facebook

@CBNCertification

ADVOCACY
RESEARCH



EDUCATION
COMPASSION

WELCOME CLASS OF MARCH 2026 OUR NEWEST CERTIFIED BARIATRIC NURSES!



K. Bliesner
K. Bonamase
J. Bonifacio
S. Bounelis
B. Bowes
M. Brew
T. Brown

C. Cantrell
K. Carney
D. Dennett
A. Elmedkhar
L. Gandy
B. Greigg
E. Hughes

J. Johnson
D. Joji
L. Laughlin
S. Mann
C. McAlpin
P. McCarroll
L. McDanel

E. Miwa
A. Myers
K. Oliveira
O. Perales
T. Piel
P. Raimondi

K. Sheetz
D. Spatz
S. Tronson
D. Unland
K. Vogler
C. Walker

CBN CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED AS ASMBS COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR

The Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN) Committee is honored to have been selected as the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery's Committee of the Year. While this recognition is presented to the committee, it truly reflects the dedication, expertise, and countless volunteer hours contributed by the many Certified Bariatric Nurses who have served on the committee over the years.

Achieving National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accreditation for the Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN) certification was the result of a multi-year commitment requiring the collective efforts of numerous CBNs. Committee members worked diligently behind the scenes to develop and refine policies and procedures, oversee exam development and psychometric processes, write and review examination items, strengthen governance and certification standards, and prepare the extensive documentation required for the NCCA accreditation application. Every milestone represented the collaboration, professionalism, and perseverance of volunteers who shared a common vision of advancing excellence in metabolic and bariatric nursing.

This award recognizes far more than a single accomplishment—it celebrates the sustained commitment of the many CBNs whose dedication has strengthened the CBN credential and ensured it meets the highest national standards for certification. Their work has enhanced the credibility and value of the CBN designation, supported the professional growth of bariatric nurses, and ultimately contributed to improving the quality of care for patients with obesity and metabolic disease.

The Committee of the Year designation is a tribute to every past and present committee member whose expertise, passion, and unwavering commitment made this achievement possible. The Society recognizes the extraordinary contributions and congratulates all who played a role in this remarkable accomplishment.

Coordinated by: Karen Flanders, MSN, FNP-BC, CBN, FASMBS-IH, IH FIFSO Nurse Practitioner and MBSAQIP Coordinator - Boston, MA



A few of our CBN Certification Committee members together at the 2026 ASMBS Annual Meeting

CERTIFIED BARIATRIC NURSE COMMITTEE & SUBCOMMITTEES

CHAIR: Sharon Hillgartner

CO-CHAIR: Ron Permenter

CBN CERTIFICATION COUNCIL

Sharon Hillgartner (Chair)
Ron Permenter (CoChair)
Karen Flanders (Past Chair)
Shirley Bearden
Heidi Bednarchuk
Veronica Cook
Mary Ellen Sparks
Lana Fontana
Erin Thompson, RDN
Aimee Rothe (IHLC Liaison)
Pearl Ma, MD (BOD Liaison)
Alex Miranda, ICE-CCP, CPTM

PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH

Veronica Cook (leader)
Kellie Armstrong (coleader)
Anne Miranda
Abbey Roberts

EXAMINATION DEVELOPMENT

Heidi Bednarchuk (leader)
Aimee Rothe (coleader)
Cindy Hipszer
Carmela Pontillo
Aimee Rothe
Judy Tsurtani

ACCREDITATION

Shirley Bearden (leader)
Jamie Carr (coleader)
Kimberly Cole
Karen Flanders
Sharon Hillgartner
Aimee Rothe
Linda Neumann-Potash

RECERTIFICATION

Mary Ellen Sparks (leader)
Monique McLaurin (coleader)
Lori Lynch
Marcela Montemayor
Angela Munro

PRACTICE ANALYSIS

Lana Fontana (leader)
Open (coleader)
Annemarie Fayemi
Kaitlyn Mitten
Barbara Sampson

ITEM WRITER TASK FORCE

Heidi Bednarchuk
Aimee Rothe
Carmela Pontillo
Judy Tsurtani
Cindy Hipszer
Kristen Barnes
Lana Fontana
Emily Goshen
Lisa Hale
Amy Wells
Kaitlyn Lancaster-Mitten
Kellie Armstrong
Samantha Ferrell
Jenni Barnhizer
Jennifer Orbaker
Juliene Litwin

The CBN Newsletter was developed by the CBN Certification Committee and produced by the ASMBS Director of Certification and Credentialing and ASMBS Marketing Department