# 2012 LEW BROWN MEMORIAL AWARD

Each year, the Washington State Healthcare Safety Council recognizes a single individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of health care safety.

The Lew Brown Memorial Award is presented each year in memory of Mr. Lew Brown, who was a loss control manager for a major insurance carrier and a member of the WSHSC for many years. Lew dedicated much of his career to the specialty of health care safety. He was always ready to go the extra mile to support health care safety issues.

Do you have an individual in your facility that has gone that "extra mile" in promoting safety? Do you partner with a key person in healthcare safety who promotes safety? Please consider nominating that person for the Lew Brown Memorial Award.

The enclosed nomination form is designed to make the nomination easy. You may include other supporting documentation.

You must be a member of the Washington State Healthcare Safety Council to nominate a candidate.

The winner will be announced in February 2013 and will receive a $100 monetary award and a plaque.

**2012 LEW BROWN MEMORIAL AWARD**

**NOMINATION FORM**

**NAME OF NOMINEE: Karen R. Bowman, MN, RN, COHN-S**

**TITLE: Occupational and Environmental Health Nurse Specialist**

**DEPARTMENT: Education, Research and Practice**

**FACILITY: Washington State Nurses Association**

**ADDRESS: 575 West Andover Park, Seattle, WA 98166 Suite 100**

**E-MAIL/PHONE** [**karen@karenbowman.com**](mailto:karen@karenbowman.com) **/ (206) 617-0844**

Using the following safety criteria, please provide information in support of the person being nominated. Be as specific as possible in describing the qualities which your nominee demonstrates.

DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN SAFETY PROGRAM: (Responsibilities, duties, role)

Responsibilities include acting as a resource for Washington Nurses in regard to occupational and environmental health and safety. As a member of the Environmental Occupational Health & Safety Committee, Karen is responsible for issues in the health care system that pose health and safety threats to nurses and other personnel. Ms. Bowman is also responsible for the development and support of Federal and State legislation that protects the human environment and nurses on the job. Karen presents ongoing educational opportunities for nurses that identify occupational and environmental health hazards and control measure to encourage nurses to be active participants in their own health and safety on the job, at home and in the community. Karen has dedicated her professional career to healthcare safety at a local, state and federal level. She is the labor chair of the Labor and Industry of the Hazardous Drug Oversight Committee. In that role, she has worked to find a common ground with business to ensure worker safety that is practical and functional. In addition, Karen is currently developing an overseas educational course for University of Washington RN to BSN students to analyze similarities and differences between US and UK occupational health and safety systems for nurses.

SAFETY QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS: (Training, experience, education, personal growth development, continuing education)

Certified as an Occupational Health Nurse Specialist with the American Board of Occupational Health Nurses since 1992. Has an Advanced Practice Degree in Community Health Systems Nursing with a special focus in occupational and environmental health from the University of Washington. Ms. Bowman is the past two time President of the Washington Chapter of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses. She is an Instructor and Clinical Supervisor for the University of Washington Bothell and Main Campus in Occupational and Environmental Health Nursing, Leadership, Nurse Wellness and Environmental Health. Ms. Bowman owns her own corporation that provides occupational health nursing expertise, assisting clients in industry, State and Federal compliance, managed medical surveillance and wellness. She has been involved with Washington State’s Hazardous Drug bill since its inception and has brought this issue to the national level as the Chair of the Nurses Work Group (over 800 members) of Health Care Without Harm to educate other State Nursing Associations on implementing safety protocols for Hazardous Drugs. Karen partnered with members of the Maryland Nurses Association to introduce a Resolution to the American Nurses Association on the need for mandatory safe handling of Hazardous Drugs. She’s currently working on a WSNA resolution addressing the same strategies. She continues to work with Health Care Without Harm’s and the Nurses Work Group and will present on the development of the Hazardous Drug Rule and Model Policy Strategies using Washington State as a case study for other nurses to follow for CleanMed2013 Conference.

SAFETY ORGANIZATIONS - PARTICIPATION:

* Health Care Without Harm-2008-2011 Chair Nurses Work Group
* Washington State Association of Occupational Health Nurses – Past President. Currently Governmental Affairs Liaison.
* WSNA-Environmental Occupational Health and Safety Committee

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

* **2011** Preceptor of Distinction Award, Seattle University School of Nursing
* **2011** Charlotte Brody Luminary Award *(national/international)*
* **2010** Washington State Public Health Association Honorable Mention Community Health Champion
* **2009** U.S. Commerce Association, Seattle Award in the Business Services Category *(national)*
* **2009** Marguerite Cobb Public Health/Community Health Nurses Award, Washington State Nurses Association.
* **2007** Outstanding Service Award, Tukwila Police Department
* **2006** Outstanding Occupational and Environmental Health Nurse, Washington State Association of Occupational Health Nurses

COMMITMENT TO SAFETY (Personal): (support of Safety Program, priority for safety, good safety habits, etc.)

Karen’s first tenet of her practice focuses on employee safety. Her expertise in safety and risk assessment is sought after by clients in the Pacific Northwest, nationally and abroad. Karen Bowman & Associates, Inc. is listed on the L&I recommended consultant list because of her exemplary practice and ethics. Karen’s focus on health and safety started as the employee health nurse for Virginia Mason’s Occupational Medicine Section and the clients the section served. She then moved to the University of Washington’s Employee Health Clinic where she developed and instructed programs that educated and protected workers on respiratory protection, animal allergies and communicable diseases. Additionally, acting as the Environmental Health Specialist for the Washington State Nurses Association, Karen is the resident occupational health and safety expert. Safety is foremost on the Nursing Associations platform. Keeping nurses safe and healthy keeps Washington citizens safe and healthy’

HUMAN RELATIONS: (receptive, objective, demonstrates empathy, self-motivator, creative, thinks/works independently, reliable, good communication skills.

As mentioned earlier, Karen has an outstanding reputation in the occupational health and safety world. She is often called upon by State Agencies and corporations during critical exposure incidents, sentinel events and other tenuous workplace situations to lend a supportive ear while assessing, developing and implementing corrective policies and procedures to rectify broken and unsafe systems. Karen’s 30 plus year reputation in the health care and occupational health systems enables her to work effectively within multidisciplinary teams to develop a collaborative process with the end result of improved health and safety. Karen Bowman & Associates, Inc. has many long standing clients of 10 years plus which is due to her compassionate care of her clients and every single employee. Karen is an independent practitioner and is sought after for her skills in developing sustainable strategies for employers within a tight budget but still wishing to do the “right thing” for their employees in terms of safety.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Karen is one of those unique individuals who can champion employee safety while understand economic and business impacts. This leads to collaboration rather than confrontation.

DEPARTMENT/INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION:

Alex Truchot – Sr. HSE Manger

(NAME, TITLE, AND DATE)

Group Health Cooperative/CBRE

(DEPARTMENT AND FACILITY)

206-988-2909

(PHONE CONTACT)

SEND COMPLETED NOMINATION AND ANY ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION YOU WISH TO INCLUDE TO:

Marianne Klaas

via email: [Marianne.Klaas@swedish.org](mailto:Marianne.Klaas@swedish.org)

**DEADLINE : January 30, 2013**