

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

I thank you. My mother thanks you. My Aunt Tootsie thanks you. My Uncle Luigi thanks you and all of the 40+ friends who came out to help as the FOCUS "crew" thank you for the absolutely incredible time we just had in Nashville at the recently concluded, 7th annual FOCUS conference. The conference, according to most of the people who attended it, was simply fantastic from A to Z. A record crowd of just under 3000 attendees (FOCUS doesn't count exhibitor reps, staff, speakers or guests in it's numbers) had a fantastic time and everything went well. The weather was perfect, the speakers were fascinating with crowds overflowing the meeting rooms, the food was superb, the exhibit hall was packed with attendees checking out our record number of exhibitors and recruiters, dozens of people won incredible prizes including Mary Chandler (at right) and we were pleasantly surprised (more like shocked), when *Alison Kraus* and her band *Union Station* were a last-second addition to a Grand Ole Opry show that was *already* packed with great acts. Seeing almost 3000 FOCUS attendees lighting up the Opry with our orange necklace glow-sticks was a sight no one will soon forget, either. Country music star Pam Tillis remarked that she had never seen a more enthusiastic bunch of people at an Opry show and that from the stage, it looked to her like she was singing to a bowl of cheerios (the glow-sticks again).

Anyway, we're home now, flooded with great memories and pictures and the good ol' FOCUS school bus made the roundtrip yet again. We did have a flat on the way home but it was fixed right away (we filled the hole with Atropine, then duct taped it) and we limped it back

to upstate NY without further incident. That's seven roundtrips that old bus has made for us without a problem, so one flat tire is certainly nothing to complain about.

Full coverage of the conference including lots of pictures begins on page 43 of this issue. Take a moment to read up on the great time had by all, then, I urge you to start saving your pennies for the **8th** annual FOCUS conference next year. It will be held again (our last time in Nashville for awhile) next April 10-12, 2008.

We feel strongly that no other conference provides the great combination of strong academia, extraordinary value and fun that the FOCUS conference does and every year the conference just gets bigger and better. We hope you'll join us next April in Nashville to see for yourself what over 12,000 people are talking about.

Again, my thanks to everyone who participated, Our record number of exhibitors, our record number of attendees, our wonderful speakers, our three largest sponsors, Hill-Rom, Respironics and Sleepmate and the thousands of people who have said that they will continue to spread the word about the FOCUS conference to their colleagues.

With sincere appreciation,
Bob Miglino RRT BSRT MPS - Publisher



"Austin Powers" announces Mary Chandler RRT, as the winner of the \$10,000 grand prize at Focus 2007



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