

the CIRCULATOR



AORN Chapter #4410 • Becky Churchman, editor • North Harris • Montgomery County • November 2005

The AORN Mission

AORN is the professional organization of perioperative registered nurses whose mission is to promote quality patient care by providing its members with education, standards, services and representation.



The recent blow to our semi-annual fundraising event, the Hot Dog Sale at the Woodlands Flea Market, has knocked the wind out of our sails. For those of you who are not sure what I am saying, let me say it like this: the October Hot Dog Sale made no money! Not because we didn't try, but because the event administrators were forced to place our concession out of the mainstream of people traffic. Apparently, we need to find other fundraising opportunities.

It is imperative that our chapter remains financially solvent; my immediate concern is for the delegates that represent our chapter at the National Congress. They are the ones who help define our practice and whose voice is heard on our behalf. It is costly for the delegates to stay in a hotel in another city and we can hardly expect them to finance themselves on our behalf.

I implore you to give weighty thought to our dilemma and to offer suggestions. We need to have a common vision and to work together to see the vision fulfilled.

I feel that this chapter has the talent to achieve the national award for chapter achievement, so let us partner, commit, and connect to achieve this vision. Remember, the future belongs to those who see possibilities before they become obvious!

Thank you for all you do on behalf of AORN.

Mary Lynne Weemering, Chapter President

Franks In Beantown



Jean Franks attended the Multispecialty Conference in Boston last month where she met some of AORN's movers and shakers. From left, AORN Board member, Patrick Voight, Jean Franks, Mary Jo Steiert, who is on the ballot for President-Elect, and Sharon McNamara, AORN president. Sessions at the conference included RNFA Networking, Legislative Update, and "The Right Choice," about choosing to be a nurse, was excellent, according to Franks.



Legislative News

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Karen Kurland, past president

Early voting is over and the November 8th election is only a few days away. Texans will cast ballots concerning candidates, taxes, property, bail issues and nine proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution. The same-sex marriage proposition is topping off the lists for top priority among voters.

National, the newspaper is calling President Bush's current problems a "Political Fallout." Supreme Court nominee, Harriet Meiers has resigned and Samuel Alito has been nominated

His nomination could result in a bipartisan split and test the Senate's filibuster deal made earlier this year. In addition, there is the CIA leak investigation that is ongoing. Polls show that confidence in the President are at a historical low.

This past week, the nation lay to rest civil rights icon, Rosa Parks. Her body lies in honor at the U.S. Capitol Rotunda for the public to bid her farewell. Normally this honor is reserved for presidents and military commanders. Ms. Parks was the first woman and the second black person to have this honored accolade. Rosa Parks launched the civil rights movements in the 60s when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger.

On a more professional note, after surfing the ANA website, it appears that there are nursing issues that need our immediate attention. These issues are:

1. Members of Congress need to be notified to urge them to vote **against** any budget package that harms Medicaid beneficiaries.

2. US Senators need to be notified to reject the funding cut approved in the US House for funding for the Nursing Workforce Development. Nursing is requesting \$175 million funding for the 2006 FY.

3. Support is needed to cosponsor safe staffing legislation. S 71, the RN Safe Staffing Act of 2005 and HR 1372, the Quality Nursing Care Act of 2005. These bills would help the development of staffing systems with the input of RN direct care and also provides for whistle-blower protection for RN's who speak out about unsafe patient care.

4. Support needs to be garnered for co-sponsoring H.R. 2716/S. 1515, the Medicaid Advanced Practice Nurses and Physicians Assistants Access Act.

In a meeting held 09/21-23/05 in Alexandria, VA the ANA & the State Nurses Association (CMA) met to discuss and develop nursing legislative issues critical to staffing and safe patient care. The three main policies from this year's meeting is: 1. environmental health; 2. licensure and regulation of nurses; 3. health care reform.

Now, near and dear to our hearts, top priority issues regarding perioperative scope of practice remains to be supporting reimbursement for **all** RNFA's at both the state and federal level. Also pursuing RN Circulator initiatives in all states. Work is currently being targeted in Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, & Washington.

For additional info regarding these issues, please refer to the following websites:

www.aorn.org/gov; www.geocities.com/rnfapac; www.capitolupdate.org

Remember, voting is a privilege not a right. —*Becky Churchman, RN, CRNFA*

AORN ON THE NATIONAL FRONT:

>>AORN is presenting a "Tapestry of Diversity" at the 53rd AORN Congress. In recognition of President, McNamara theme, the tapestry is to be woven to signify the diversity that unites us as one in perioperative nursing.

Materials that are needed include:

- 1 or more skeins of yard, beads, buttons, or pins that identify your chapter,
- a short description of how the materials represent your chapter.

Materials should be sent to Master Weaver, Cyndi Long 8712 O'Neal Road Raleigh, NC 27613

>>AORN Foundation is offering scholarships to AORN members who are seeking: ad-

vanced degrees, i.e. BSN, MSN or PhD, have a min. GPA of 3.0, enrolled in a NLNAC or CCNE accredited program. For more info visit: www.aorn.org/foundation/scholarship.asp.

>>The new 4th edition of the *Core Curriculum for the RN First Assistant* has been released. The book contains eight learning modules on issues influencing scope of practice, mastering communication skills effectively, and surgical technique pertinent to first assisting, updated cardiac algorithms, and clinical evaluations tools.

>>AORN enters into a partnership with the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) to promote workplace safety.

Chapter #4410 website:

www.aorn.net/me.asp?site=chapter4410

Chapter News...*In Brief*

Katrina, Rita...Did you say STORM?

Now that I have your attention, the chapter needs the membership to brainstorm and come up with some new ideas for fundraising events. Rather urgently, as our good fortune selling hot dogs at The Woodlands Garage Sale has drawn to an abrupt halt due to a change in location and contract agreements. The Board of Directors has tossed around a few ideas but they need your help.

Dates To Remember

- 11/11/05** Veterans Day
- 11/11-13/05** AORN Conference of the Americas, Cancun, Mexico
- 11/13-19/05** AORN Perioperative Nurse Week
- 11/16/05** Chapter meeting at St. Luke's—The Woodlands
- 11/17/05** TNA District #9 Nursing Celebration Dinner @ The Four Seasons
- 11/24/05** Thanksgiving Day
- 12/1/05** Rolling Stones concert at the Toyota Center
- 12/14/05** *Christmas Dinner* at Landry's in The Woodlands ***note this is a date change.
- 01/18/06** Conroe Regional Hospital, *Anestheisa Awareness*
- 1/21/06** Greater Houston's Triple Star Gala
- 01/28/06** TCORN Conference, "Response in Crisis," Austin, TX, location TBA
- 02/15/06** Chapter Meeting, Tomball Regional Hospital
- 03/19-23/06** AORN 53rd Congress, Washington, D.C.
- 04/08/06** SOHN's Regional Meeting, MDA, Hickey Auditorium
- 04/19/06** Chapter meeting, location TBA
- 05/19/06** Chapter meeting, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital

Accolades!

- ...to **Mary Lynne Weemering**, who spoke at the "Building Financial Skills for OR Managers" Conference on 10/20-22 in Chicago, IL.
- ...to **Jean Franks**, who attended the RNFA Multispecialty Conference in Boston, MA.
- ...to all chapter members who volunteer their time at The Woodlands Children's Museum during the week from 10 a.m. to noon.

Mary Lynne Weemering as she spoke in Chicago at the "Building Financial Skills for OR Managers" Conference in October.



Helping in Time of Need

Under the leadership of President Mary Lynne Weemering, the Chapter has donated supplies to the members of the OR at East Jefferson Hospital in Metairie, LA. Metairie is also the home of National BOD member, Nathalie Walker. The care package was very much appreciated. Additional supplies are still needed and donations are being accepted.

Children's Museum Fundraiser Friday, November 11, The Woodlands Children's Museum is having a fundraiser to help boost their coffers. Volunteers are needed for two events this day. Time are from 10 a.m. to noon and again from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wear your scrubs! If you are interested in helping, please contact Ann McKennis at mckennis@mac.com.

A Round of Applause!

- ...to **Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital** for graciously hosting last month's meeting.
- ...to **Matt Hogan, MD**, for his presentation on bladder incontinence.
- ...to **Jay Jones** of American Medical Systems for providing the box lunches.

It's All About Giving Back! If you, or someone you know volunteers for community events/projects and they have not been recognized, please let me know. We'd love to recognize them in the next newsletter.

Hallmark Basket Marie Elliot, RN, CNOR, has graciously donated a basket filled with Hallmark store goodies for us to raffle. The basket is filled with numerous items and is valued at \$150. Raffle tickets may be purchased from any BOD member for \$5 each or six for \$20. Do not miss out on this opportunity to buy a chance for this wonderful basket. What a great way to start the holidays and also give our Chapter a boost!

AORN Chapter Committee Chairs

Budget & Finance

Jean Franks

CEU/Programs

TBA

Legislative

Becky Churchman

Membership

Pat Foreman

Newsletter

Becky Churchman

Pat Hoge

Community Service

Ann McKennis

Research/Scholarship

TBA

Special Awards

Ann McKennis

Policy/Bylaws

Mary Lynne Weemering

TCORN

Pat Hoge

Communication

TBA

Historian

TBA

Ways/Means

Karen Kurland

Robby Brockhoff

Nominating Committee

Robbie Brockhoff

Lois Gronau-Fietz

Pam Meeszaros

Mary Oates

Karen Kurland

**Reach high
for stars lie hidden
in your soul.
Dream deep,
for every dream
precedes the goal.**

—Pamela Vuall Starr

Did you read the research article in the August 2005 Journal, “Patient Advocacy in the Perioperative Setting?” When I saw the title, I thought why would anyone need to research the fact that nurses are patient advocates? Isn’t protecting the patient from harm the essence of the role of a nurse?

Well, the article is great. Heather Boyle, RN, MS, CNOR, the author and researcher, covered the basics of a research paper well and reminded us how critical the advocacy issue is for the unconscious or sedated surgical patient who is away from his or her family. The perioperative environment has become very complex and the perioperative nurse faces unique ethical and moral situations and state and federal laws.

Heather Boyle’s article describes a qualitative study to define patient advocacy and the perioperative nurse’s role as advocate in the perioperative

setting and to investigate their perceptions of behaviors that represent advocacy.

It was interesting to learn her study found that learning advocacy is haphazard and situationally dependent, but in difficult situations, nurses felt more confident when they had strong advocacy skills. It was no surprise to learn that the themes that emerged from the research questions were protection, communication, doing, comfort and caring. It was good to learn the findings from this research study may lead to improved nursing practice by promoting opportunities for novice nurses to practice advocacy under supervision of expert clinicians. The findings may also help develop a common definition for patient advocacy and illuminate the role of us who advocate for the very vulnerable surgical patient.—*Pat Hoge*



1823 Ash Meadow
Houston, Texas 77090

Minutes & Notes

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Vice President Becky Churchman. There were no minutes for approval as the September meeting was cancelled due to hurricane Rita. Visitors were welcomed.

Committee Reports:

Financial: Beginning Balance: \$2,180.26
Ending Balance: \$1661.26

CEU/Programs: This is a board function and we do need a volunteer.

Upcoming programs were announced:

November, 16: St. Luke's/Woodlands – "BIS Monitoring"

December, 14: Christmas Event–Landry's in the Woodlands 6:30pm RSVP to Karen or Becky

January 18: Conroe Medical Center-"Anesthesia Awareness"

February 15: Tomball Regional Hospital-"Head Injuries in Athletes"

March: No meeting

April 19: Conroe Medical Center- topic TBA

May 17: Memorial Herman The Woodlands-TBA

June 21: Installation of officers.

Research/Scholarship: Volunteer needed for this committee. Pat Hoge volunteered to provide the monthly research for the newsletter.

Communications: No report.

Community Service: AORN helps support the Children's Museum in The Woodlands. Volunteers are needed from our chapter on November 11th from 10:00 am-noon with the children and again at 7:00 pm for a fundraiser for the adults. Wear your scrubs.

Mary Lynne Weemering sent a package of personal items from our chapter to Judy Bauer and Natalie Walker, AORN members employed by at East Jefferson Hospital in Metairie, La. for New Orleans Hurricane Katrina victims. There is still a need for gift cards in small amounts to stores such as Wal-Mart and Target to help with necessities. Anyone wishing to contribute is encouraged to do so.

Historian: Need a volunteer.

Legislative: There is a push for the focus on RN circulators to be passed as a law.

There have been no applicants for the NIWI scholarship in Washington, DC. Applications are being accepted until October 31, 2005.

More information available at www.capitolupdate.com.

Membership: No report.

Newsletter: Pictures, communications, and anything of interest must be sent to Becky before October 29th for next newsletter.

Special Awards: Applications for awards for National have changed. Ann and Jeff McKennis are preparing a picture video of our

chapter to submit to National for our awards application. Please take pictures in your facility with patients, any community activities, students, volunteer work, displays, or anything to do with nursing and forward them to Ann—they need 99 photos for this CD by December.

TCORN: Annual conference is in Austin on January 8, 2006. National officers will be at this conference and fliers will be coming.

The Austin chapter will present a seminar on October 28th on "DVT Prevention" Applications are available.

Ways & Means: Karen discussed the possibility of raising our membership dues by \$20.00 for an additional chapter rebate instead of having an annual fundraiser. This is still under discussion. The hot dog sale was not profitable and will be discontinued at the present time.

Seminars & Workshops: Ideas were discussed such as having a dinner out at a restaurant that is willing to give us a kick-back. Charging \$5.00 for non-members for receiving CEUs at our monthly meetings. No decisions were made. Ideas are welcome at next meeting. Raffle tickets were sold for our basket of gift wrap and will be continue to be sold.

Copies of the updated by-laws are available.

Becky thanked all the hospitals that have volunteered to host a monthly meeting and provide the program and food.

The March 2006 meeting will be cancelled due to that being Congress month.

AORN's National President is having a "Tapestry of Diversity" weaved and is asking the chapters to volunteer material and ideas for a block on the tapestry.

A roster update is in progress.

Quiz Bowl will be at Congress again this year.

CNOR prep is now available on line.

Scholarships are available from the National AORN Foundation.

CEU's are free when applied for 45 days in advance from AORN.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm



November
13-19
AORN
Perioperative
Nurse
Week

AORN Chapter #4410

North Harris/Montgomery County

proudly presents

BIS Monitoring

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

contact hours are pending

bring a friend!

SOCIAL 5:30 PM

BUSINESS MEETING 6:00-7:00 PM

PROGRAM 7:00-8:00 PM

St. Luke's Community Medical Center–The Woodlands
17200 St. Luke's Way • 936-266-2000
Conference Room A & B

REFRESHMENTS GRACIOUSLY PROVIDED BY St. Luke's Community Medical Center

>>>DIRECTIONS: From Houston: • North on I-45 • Take exit 79 toward S.H. 242 (College Park Drive) • Turn left on S.H. 242 • Turn left on St. Luke's Way From Conroe: • South on I-45 • Take exit 79 toward S.H. 242 (College Park Drive) • Turn right on S.H. 242 • Turn left on St. Luke's Way

AORN