

Sharp Lines



Volume 2007, Issue 1 *Richmond Area AORN* Summer 2007

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President's Message

Chapter of the Year! What a wonderful award and incredible recognition for Richmond Area AORN Chapter 4702. But with honors and awards comes scrutiny, expectations, and increased efforts. The question for us is, where do we go from here?

We have demonstrated to our colleagues across the nation that we are a dynamic, strong, hardworking, dedicated group of perioperative nurses. We have a history that is respected by the leadership of AORN as well as industry partners. We have proven ourselves publicly. So perhaps it is time now to turn the focus on our own backyard, and nurture our membership from the Richmond area.

Our community has a wealth of hospitals, Ambulatory Surgery centers, and physician office-based surgery centers. We have a nucleus of members from several facilities that are leaders, who role model to their employees the value and importance of participation in professional nursing organizations. Not only do they belong to AORN, but they attend, they participate, they demonstrate by their actions.

What a statement to their staff about commitment and excellence. We thank you for your dedication. We also ask for your help in convincing other local perioperative leaders of the value of membership and participation in AORN.

Members, you work with an incredible group of nurses every day. Only the tip of the iceberg, however, are members of AORN and an even smaller group attend our meetings. Make it a mission to bring at least one (new) person with you to each meeting. I remember when I first began attending. Everyone knew each other so well, I felt like such an outsider. All it took, though, were a few welcoming words, invitations to sit with someone, being included in conversations. Before long, I began to lose those awkward feelings, and felt like I had a place here.

We have close to 175 members. On a regular basis, we have 20% of our membership attend and participate actively. Think about how many potential members there are in our own city! As one of my bosses at VCU says: "Pick the low hanging fruit!" New members are right there in our own ORs, waiting for the invitation to join, to belong to this dynamic organization. Sometimes all it takes is an offer to pick them up and take them with you so they won't feel awkward attending on their own. (like I did)

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President's Message continued

Talk up our meetings, the topics, the activities. It's not all about education, there's a wealth of networking, socializing, seeing old friends, making new ones. We usually start with a very nice social time, complete with catering by various industry partners. We have streamlined the business portion of the meeting in order to become more efficient and to communicate better with the membership. Agendas and committee reports are sent out via email. Programs run for an hour, so by 8 pm we're usually on the way out the door, with the exception of those of us still talking and visiting!

This past year we've emphasized mentoring our membership, so that we can share what we have learned and begin nurturing our future committee chairs, board members, and officers. It's working. We have more members participating, and this year elected almost all new faces to the Board of Directors and as officers.

We have also given extensively to our community. In ways big and small, we have donated monies, food, gloves, socks, hats, toiletries, pet products, and other items to organizations around the Richmond area. We have given to our community by participating in public policy events: the Legislative Reception and VNA Lobby Day. We've given to our community by donating funds to local schools of nursing as we have honored our commitment to further nursing education and help alleviate the shortage of nurses in Virginia.

We celebrated Perioperative Nurse Week by giving to our community: performing blood pressure checks and offering the public a glimpse of what goes on behind the doors of the OR. We've given to the community by donating books to elementary schools and doing readings, dressed as a perioperative nurse. We've spoken to groups, young and old, and shared our knowledge, time, and expertise.

Encouraging your colleagues to join and participate in AORN is another method of giving. AORN gives so much to each of us, through Congress and other conferences, through Leadership training, resources, opportunities for growth, being the voice of perioperative nurses and advocating for us, as well as setting national standards. Inviting others to join this chapter serves as a chance for you to give to your co-workers, by opening the door for their growth.

It's been a great year, serving as your president. I'm encouraged by our energy and vitality. I encourage each one of you, to continue to give: to our chapter through your participation, attendance, and recruitment; to your community through participation in chapter activities; and to your profession and your patients by continued personal and professional growth.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you this past year as your President. It's been an honor. I hope to see many of you later this month as we install our next group of leaders as the 2007-8 Officers and Board of Directors. Have a wonderful summer, recharge your batteries, and join me and the rest of our members in September for the next installment of Richmond AORN's legacy.

Fondly,
Susan



Delegate Selection

Anyone who is interested in being a delegate for Congress in 2008 please submit the appropriate delegate selection form containing your points for the selection process. The delegate form is on the AORN Website www.aornrichmondva.homestead.com. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience first hand all the benefits that Congress has to offer, and we are sure you will have an experience that will enrich your life. The deadline for submitting your paperwork is June 1, 2007. You may email your completed form to Donna Winderweedle Deewind440@aol.com or Faye Hughes HUGHESFO@aol.com. Thank you.

Board of Directors Meetings 2006-2007

All members are invited to attend Board meetings.

June 11, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting

August 13, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting

September 10, 2007 Board of Director Meeting

November 12, 2007 Board of Director Meeting



Monthly Chapter Meetings 2007-2008

Refreshments 6:00 pm
Business Meeting 6:30 pm
Program 7:00 pm

September 17, 2007
 St. Mary's Hospital

October 15, 2007
 St. Mary's Hospital

November 19, 2007
 St. Mary's Hospital

January 21, 2008

February 18, 2008

March, 17, 2008

April 21, 2008

May 19, 2008
**Dinner Meeting &
 Installation of Officers**



Richmond Area AORN Website

I need to know any information to be displayed on our website, like upcoming community, professional, hospital events/programs. The website currently includes forms, newsletters, a picture album, and chapter contact information. Would members like anything else to be included on our site? Please let me know. Richmond AORN Website: www.aornrichmondva.homestead.com

Sue Cheatham
 lcheat@hotmail.com

Upcoming Schedule of Events

September 20, 2007

Legislative Reception

Owens & Minor Medical Supply



September 22, 2007

Fall Workshop/VCORN Meeting

“ Women’s Health Issues”

Bon Secours Memorial School of Nursing

November 16, 2007

Fall Summit

LCVN (Legislative Coalition of Virginia Nurses)/VPN (Virginia Partnership for Nursing)

March 30– April 3, 2008

AORN Congress

Anaheim, CA

2007 –2008 Richmond AORN Officers

President– Bonnie Vencill

President-Elect– *Donna Winderweedle

Vice-President– Debbie Martin

Treasurer– *Nancy Halbert

Secretary– Sue Cheatham

Board of Directors

Lisa Baltimore

Diane Evans

*Bonnie Garretson

Faye Hughes

*Pam Wheadon

Nominating Committee

Sharon Vaughan

*Jean Watling

Sue Wilson

Newly elected officers and Board member are indicated by an **asterisk ***



ALL STAR GALA UPDATE

The Gala Committee has met several times to plan for the upcoming "ALL STAR GALA" to be held November 3, 2007 at the Richmond Sheraton West. The evening will begin with an auction, awards ceremony, dinner, and dancing to the music of "Docs of Rock". Proceeds from the Gala will help provide funding for educational opportunities for our members, the AORN Foundation, and nursing education.

Gala chair for this year is Pam Wheadon—pjw-rn-cnor@earthlink.net

Committees and committee leaders were assigned. Anyone who wishes to join our committee, please contact a committee chair.

Please visit the Gala website at www.richmondaorn.com for more information and the committee chair listing.

Golf Tournament



After several months of planning by the golf committee we held our annual tournament on May 7, 2007. This event was held at Stonehenge Golf and Country Club. A great time was had by all players and volunteers. Merit Medical joined us as a co sponsor for this event. We had a total of 19 teams playing. We didn't have any winners of any of the four Hole in One prizes. A big thank you to David Hope the winner of the Closet to the Pin on hole #9 for giving the recliner back to our chapter. The members of the golf committee donated the recliner to the Virginia Home. We are confident the residents will make good use of the recliner. The 50/50 tickets raised \$260.00. The winner Steve Rockwell donated his \$130.00 back to our chapter. Thank you Steve! Many door prizes were won by the players. A big thank you goes to Bob and Rob Hale in guiding us in the right direction to have a successful tournament. All proceeds from the tournament will be donated to nursing education in the form of scholarships. Sharon and I would also like to thank each committee member for all your help.

Respectfully submitted by,
Helen Thornton-Anderson, RN
Sharon Vaughan, RN, CNOR



Delegate Report

As chairman of the delegates for chapter 4702 I want to thank our chapter members for your encouragement and support for myself and the other six delegates, and one alternate attending the 2007 AORN Congress in Orlando, Florida March 11- 15th, 2007. Our delegates were: Susan Chandler, Linda Cheatham, Victoria Conover, Deborah Martin, and Donna Tarr. Our alternate was Sharon Vaughn. We attended the Candidates Forum, Informal meet the candidates, First and Second Forum's, First and Second House of Delegates, and also voted for our National officers. Complete coverage of actions taken at the House of Delegates as well as other Congress activities will be published in the Post – Congress issue of the *AORN Journal* in June 2007.

Bonnie Vencill served as *State Reporter*. The state of Virginia sat 38 delegates. It was a pleasure to serve our chapter. I encourage all members to consider submitting a point sheet and willingness to serve form for 2008. It is a wonderful opportunity to participate and understand the important business of our professional organization. If you have any questions please feel free to talk to our delegates, officers or any board member.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie P. Vencill, RN, CNOR
President Elect
Richmond Area AORN



Newsletter Requests



The next newsletter will be sent out in August. Please have all information, reports and breaking news typed and submitted to Bonnie Garretson, threeblacklabs3@verizon.net or Lisa Baltimore, baltol@aol.com no later than August 15, 2007.

Legislative Committee Report

Thank you to all members attending the May 5, 2007 VCORN Public Policy Work Session. Perioperative nurses from the state of Virginia gathered together to educate and create plans to bring our legislative issues forward. Cathy Sparkman (AORN Government Affairs) and Leslie Herdegan (our professional lobbyist) joined us to network and share their insights. Topics covered were the nursing shortage; unlicensed people practicing nursing, and RN circulator. Things we need to do now and through the year include: educate VCORN members; get involved in House and Senate campaigns to educate candidates; Remain involved with N-PAC(Nursing Political Action Committee); including raising funds for contributions; develop key contacts with legislators and candidates; seek out allied organizations; develop materials for education and advocacy; finalize message; draft legislation; secure patron; educate appropriate administration officials; have bill introduced; lobby bill-professional and grassroots; and keep VCORN membership informed and activated.

Individual members attending the meeting volunteered to “adopt” AORN chapters in Virginia, contact via email and keep them informed on what they can do to promote our issues. Most importantly each AORN member needs to contact National AORN headquarters and give your current email address, permission for AORN to give your email address to AORN government affairs and join the grassroots list. Out of 1,000 plus Virginian AORN members less than 200 members have opted to join our grassroots legislative movement. I implore each and every member to take this important step. We need to lead the way and encourage our legislators, coworkers, neighbors, friends and family that every patient undergoing a surgical or invasive procedure deserves a perioperative Registered Nurse! This year VCORN and VNA signed a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). United together with a professional lobbyist we can accomplish much! But we need all of our members support. Consider not only supporting AORN but join the “voice of all Virginian Nurses” and join the ANA (American Nurses Association). This will give you automatic membership in the VNA (Virginia Nurses Association). The newly elected President of the ANA is Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR!

Important dates to mark on your calendar: .

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie P. Vencill, RN, CNOR
Legislative chair

2007 –2008 AORN Board of Directors

President– Mary Jo Steiert
***President-Elect**– Susan Banschbach
Vice-President– Charlotte Guglielmi
***Treasurer**– Natalie Walker
Secretary– Jane Flowers

Advisor– Paula Graling

Newly elected officers and Board member are indicated by an **asterisk ***

Board of Directors

*Rhonda Andrews
 *Clare Everson
 *Beverly Kirshner
 *Anne Marie Herlehy
 *Jane Kusler-Jenson
 Deborah G. Spratt
 Patrick Voight

Nominating Committee

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 *Jane Alcock
 *Karen White
 Elizabeth (Lynn) Gentz
 Linda Timmons

Lisa A. Baltimore
9525 Benbow Rd.
Richmond, VA 23235