Dear Colleagues,

As the end of the year approaches, I want to thank each one of you who has helped to make the past year successful. What successes have we achieved? We put our chapter online, linked to the national AORN, we held our first All Star Gala with a better than expected results, contributed $1000 to the AORN Foundation and $1800 to MDA, sponsored a very successful workshop, and finally sponsored a non-delegate member to attend AORN Congress. All this was accomplished despite the decline in our membership.

Our chapter continues to look for opportunities to succeed in the future. Some items that are currently in progress are a research project dealing with visitors in the OR (specifically, sales reps), the development of a policy for the distribution of scholarship funds for education of the perioperative nurse, and the development of a brochure for new or prospective members about how our chapter functions. Not surprisingly, each of these projects was developed as a result of another member’s suggestion. Please be willing to share your ideas or thoughts no matter how insignificant you think they may be. Also, look for opportunities to help out on a committee. This is truly the best way to learn about fellow members.

I hope that as we approach the summer for fun and relaxation, we will also think about ways we can take an active part and be committed to the Richmond Area AORN, not only as individual members, but also as mentors and marketers of our profession.

Have a great summer and see you in September.

Sincerely,
Debbie Martin

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President’s Message

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AORN MAY MEETING

The Richmond Area AORN Chapter will have a dinner meeting as its final meeting for the 2000-2001 year at Steak & Ale Restaurant, located at Chippenham and Midlothian, on May 21, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. Meal starts at 6:30 p.m., business meeting is at 7:00 p.m., and at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Neifeld will talk on “MCV at War”. Hope to see everyone there!!!
Upcoming Schedule of Events

**Gala Committee Meeting:**   May 7, 2001, at SMH ASU at 6:30 p.m.

**Next AORN Board Meeting:**   May 14, 2001, at 6:30 p.m.
Joes Inn, Bon Air.

**Next AORN Monthly Meeting:**   May 21, 2001
Time: 6:00 p.m. / Meal starts 6:30 p.m. / Business meeting 7:00 pm.
Speaker at 7:30 p.m.
Place: Steak & Ale, Midlothian and Chippenham
“MCV at War”
Speaker: Dr. James Neifeld

**Project Alpha:**   Saturday, June 23, 2001, 10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Scooper Bowl
Science Museum
(Purpose: To encourage others to pursue a career in nursing,
specifically, perioperative nursing, by working with elementary
school aged children.)
Contact Joanna Pitts for more information.

**“All Star Gala 2001”**   Black Tie Event
Saturday, November 10, 2001, 6:30 p.m. — 12:00 mn
The Jefferson Hotel
Silent Auction, Cocktail Hour, Dinner, Dancing
$85.00/person.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

On April 23, 2001, the Richmond Area AORN Chapter met to vote and elect new officers for the 2001-2002 year. A quorum was established and voting took place.

The new officers for the 2001-2002 year are as follows:

- President: Helen Anderson, RN
- President-Elect: Tamie Zobel, RN, CNOR (newly elected)
- Treasurer: Nancy Halbert, RN (reelected)
- Secretary: Bonnie Vencil, RN, CNOR
- Board of Directors: Susan Chandler, RN (newly elected)
  Diane Evans, RN, CNOR (reelected)
  Sue Cunningham, RN
  Joanna Pitts, RN
  Robin Heath, RN
- Nominating Committee: Faye Hughes, RN, CNOR (newly elected)
  Sharon Vaughan, RN
  Patti Baicy, RN, CNOR

Congratulations to all who ran and who won!!! And thanks to all the Richmond Chapter AORN members who came to the meeting and voted. It would not have been possible without everyone’s help and attendance.
The Points/Delegate Selection committee would like to encourage all members to submit an Activity/Points record by June 1, 2001 to Tamie Zobel. Point/Activity records are available through the Richmond AORN Chapter website at aornrichmondva@homestead.com. Point/Activity records are used by the chapter to recognize a members’ activities and chapter contributions, no matter how small or how large. Chapter Congress delegates are selected partially based upon a members activities by points. Members not having ever attended Congress are strongly encouraged to submit a points record, as you may be eligible to be funded by the chapter as a “non-delegate”. So don’t delay! Return your points/activity Record today!!!
RICHMOND AORN NEEDS YOU!!!!

Please support your organization with just a little bit of your time by serving on a committee or as a committee chairman.

The following are committees of our chapter. Please consider serving.

**Awards** - Reviews nominations for the Mary C. Evans Award. Anyone can serve. Meets annually.

**Bylaws/Policy** - Reviews policy and bylaws making recommendations to the Board and voted by the membership. Anyone can serve. Meets annually and as needed.

**Education** - Develops programs for monthly meetings and workshops. Meets annually and as needed.

**Legislative** - Monitors legislation and makes recommendations to the membership. Anyone can serve. Meets annually and when legislature is in session.

**Membership/Marketing** - Plans OR Nurse Day Displays, meets and greets members at meetings, encourages members to renew membership. Anyone can serve. Meets annually and as needed.

**Newsletter** - Vital to the communication of the membership. Anyone can serve and all are encouraged to submit articles. There are many parts to this committee and we need someone who likes the computer to help. If you have these talents and cannot attend committee meetings you can still serve in the capacity of putting the information together for printing. This committee meets quarterly.

**Points/Delegate Selection** - Reviews the point forms in June and submits report to Board. Anyone can serve.

**Project Alpha** - Meets as needed to promote Perioperative nursing in the capacity of formal education. Anyone can serve.

**Research** - Reviews and presents research. Meets annually and as needed. Anyone can serve.

**Ways and Means** - (The Fun!) Committee. Meets monthly to secure funding for our projects and delegates. Anyone can serve.

Points are awarded for your contributions!
For further information, please contact any Board member.
Research Committee Report

Research Committee Report 4/23/01

The Research Committee has been working on two survey tools. One is for manufacturer’s representatives and the other for OR Managers. We are assessing the needs of both groups related to: educational process and content of being in the OR and the handling of sterile product by manufacturer representatives and the needs of the OR Managers related to this process.

Our objective is to provide information related to potential development of a community standard. For visitors in the OR. Manufacture Representatives, staff and managers have all expressed frustration with the changing and varied rules within the Richmond Area.

The Research Committee would like all interested members to provide comments on the surveys before they are sent to the field. We all have our unique work settings and the committee wants to be sure all members have an opportunity to review and add to the survey to try to achieve our objective.

Please email your comments to sandypearson@yahoo.com. Thank you for your assistance.

Congress Reports

March 11, 2001
Keynote Address
Coretta Scott King “A Vision of Democracy”

Mrs. King is the widow of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She has continued carrying her husband’s message of non violence and leading good will missions around the world. She began by thanking nurses for upholding high standards of professionalism in healthcare. She feels that nurses don’t always get the recognition they deserve as healers and caregivers.

Her main focus was that “Healthcare is a human right”. Also that every American deserves to be covered by insurance. The insurance benefits must be permanent and portable. She said that mental healthcare and violence must be a greater priority in America. That healthcare must be affordable. She feels that we need to develop a comprehensive national healthcare system.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the chapter as a delegate.

Patti Baicy RN, CNOR
Keith Harrell was an excellent motivational speaker. He said, “I feel good! I look good!” Nursing is the most honorable profession and is second to none. His objectives were to make sure you realize you have a gift and to make sure you feel empowered and are always stretching your neck out looking for something good.

To have the right attitude, instead of saying “Garbage in, Garbage out, say Garbage in, Garbage stays.” He advised us to monitor what we read so we do not consume or share garbage. To have the right attitude we need, quiet time, remember the word “win”. What’s important now, laugh, fifteen minutes of laughter a day is equal to five minutes of jogging. Be positive, when you are positive your body produces healthy endorphins. Don’t worry, worrying is nothing but a negative form of medication. Love yourself and others unconditionally, hold on to your joy, the root cause of happiness is joy and retaining your joy is the best way to stay positive.

Three of the strongest words to motivate someone are, “I Love You.” Four of the strongest words are, “I Love You Too.” Five of the strongest words are, “I am Proud of You.”

You may have negative attitudes for five reasons: low self esteem, stress, fear, anger, or resentment or inability to handle change. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the dimensions!

The most powerful computer in the world is the brain and it never goes down! Protect it.

If you would like to learn more you may read his book, Attitude is Everything.

Thank you,
Diane Davis Evans

“Miracle on Everest”

The real life experience of Dr. Weathers’ “Miracle on Everest” was heart wrenching yet promoted his attitude of hope in the midst of a remote chance for rescue. Dr. Weathers survived his near death experience even though eight other members of the expedition perished. As nurses, our courage and positive attitudes encourage our patients toward recovery.

Robin Heath
Processing Endoscopy Equipment for Patient Safety
Presenter: Trish Barrett, RN, BSN, CIC

Surgical procedures using advanced endoscopic equipment have shown improved patient outcomes. However, the high technology endoscopy equipment design is extremely complex and costly. Appropriate cleaning, decontamination, and processing are a constant challenge since limited information is readily available for the staff nurse. Guidelines and standards for processing endoscopic equipment have been published since 1990. Regardless of which method of processing a facility chooses care must be taken to insure that the equipment is thoroughly cleaned and processed according to the sterilant’s manufacturer instructions, so that the process has the correct concentration and not over burdened with bio burden. If a facility chooses to use a manual method for high-level disinfection, proper rinsing with the appropriate solution is important. Tap water is not sterile and the introduction of sterilant concentrate into a patient’s system could be detrimental. This would be one of the best reasons for using an automated system for processing. Once a processing method has been chosen, staff education, competency checks, documentation and policies and guidelines must be written to assist with responding to adverse outcomes.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Martin RN, BSN, CNOR

The Character Code: Caterpillars Were Always Meant to Fly
Taylor Hartman, Ph.D.

Dr. Hartman is the author of two books, The Color Code and Color Your Future. In these books he describes the core motives that personalize how individuals express themselves and a strategic plan to learn how to embrace those gifts we are not born with but acquire in making our lives more abundant.

He described the six steps to a more characterized life. Step one is to value yourself. What do you like about you? Step two is to seek the truth. We should learn the universal truths about life and adhere to them. What one thing can you improve about yourself? Learn to prioritize. Step three is to clean up your motives. Why we do what we do is far more significant than simply what we do. In step four we should focus on our commitments. We should set goals and commit to whatever process is necessary in order to live the life that you choose. With step five we discover balance. By balancing our work and personal lives we can become more enriched and promote success. Serving others is step six. Service is the motive of a characterized life and the step requires that we not be selfish and put life in perspective to enhance the quality of everyone’s interaction.

Anyone wanting more in depth information or clarification can visit his Website at www.thecolorcode.com. Also, if anyone is interested, I have a copy of the cassette tape of his session. I will be happy to lend it upon request.

Respectfully submitted,
Tamie Zobel
Congress Reports (Continued)

Highlights of the 48th annual AORN Congress

Hello Colleagues,

It was my pleasure serving our chapter as the chairperson of delegates. Congress’ week proved to keep all of us busy. Some of the business issues that was discussed and passed are as follows.

* Some dues increase of $15.00 a year beginning July 1, 2002
* A non Registered Nurse joining AORN. This membership will be
Considered an associate status. It will not allow for voting privileges.
Nor will an associate member be allowed to hold a national office.
* AORN will have a position statement on correct site surgery. Please refer
To your post congress journal for further details.

The following are our national officers for the year 2001-2002:
President Sheila L. Allen, RN, BSN, CNOR, CRNFA
President-Elect Donna S. Watson, RN, MSN, CNOR, ARNP, FNP-C
Vice President Betty J. Shultz, RN, CNOR
Secretary Mary Jo Steiret, RN, CNOR
Treasurer William J. Duffy, RN, BSN, MJ, CNOR
B O D Michelle Burke, RN, MSA, CNOR
Lorraine Butler, RN, MSA, CNOR
Sharon McNamara, RN, MS, CNOR
Treasurer William J. Duffy, RN, BSN, MJ, CNOR
* * Treasurer William J. Duffy, RN, BSN, MJ, CNOR
B O D Michelle Burke, RN, MSA, CNOR
Lorraine Butler, RN, MSA, CNOR
Sharon McNamara, RN, MS, CNOR
* * Anita Jo Shoup, RN, MSN, CNOR
*Debra L. Fawcett, RN, BSN, MS
*Paula R. Graling, RN, MSN, CNOR
*Debora S. Tanner, RN, BSN, MS, CNOR
Nominating Kathleen A. O’Toole, RN, BS, BSN, CNOR
Committee Linda L. Savage, RN, BS, CNOR
Nathalie F. Walker, RN, CNOR
* * Sylvia Durrance, RN, BSN, CNOR
*Antonia (Toni) B. Hughes, RN, BSN, MA, CNOR
* * Indicates elected ** Indicates reelected

In addition to attending the business meetings we were able to attend some workshops that were offered. The one I enjoyed the most was the Jerry G. Peers lecture. Mr. Keith Harrell presented an exceptional platform on attitudes. One thing that has stayed with me is I have no one to blame but me for my attitude. I make the choice of having a positive or negative attitude. With that in mind I choose to be positive. How about you?

Again thank you for allowing me to serve our chapter at our 48th. Annual AORN Congress.

Respectfully submitted
Helen D. Anderson, RN