

the CIRCULATOR



AORN Chapter #4410 • Becky Churchman, editor • North Harris • Montgomery County • June 2006

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.

We live in a "new age", at least it is a new age for many of us who have seen the advancement of technology explode in our lifetime. I am totally awed by the amount of information available to us and sometimes I am left wondering if I have all of the information that I need for safe patient care. Case in point: during my basic (and advanced) nursing, I missed knowing about the relationship between blood clots and genetic risk factors. Wow! Have I been under a rock or is the stream of new information overwhelming? With pulmonary embolism being reputed to be the leading cause of sudden and unexpected hospital death, it is imperative that the nursing profession keeps abreast of new scientific knowledge in order to educate and protect patients who are at risk. The (genetic and acquired) risks for blood clots following surgery are real and needs to be addressed for patient safety. We must protect the patients who entrust their lives in our care, so we must ask tough questions. What protocols do you use pre and intraoperatively to mitigate the risk of deep vein thrombus? What questions do you ask the patient to assess their risk? Do you educate your patients about the signs and symptoms of deep vein thrombus and stress the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including no smoking, weight management and exercise? We must work to keep our patients safe by knowledge and preparedness.

Remember the Children's Museum and thank you for all you do on behalf of AORN.

Mary Lynne Weemering
Chapter President

Presenting . . . Your 2006-07 Officers

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President-Elect **Pat Hoge**

Vice President **Becky Churchman**

Secretary **Mary Lynne Weemering**

Treasurer **Jean Franks**

Board of Directors

Vicki Brooks Robbie Brockhoff

Lillie Mae Kearns Karen Evans Helen Tomb-Taylor

Nominating Committee

Robbie Brockhoff Marie Elliott Jane Jennings Girsell Brown Lois Gronau-Fietz



Association of Operating Room Nurses

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Shelia O'Connor

Karen Kurland, past president



Chapter #4410

website:

www.aorn.net/

me.asp?site=chapter4410



Legislative News

June brings us graduations, weddings, the end of school, the beginning of hurricane season, the 60th birthday of the bikini swimsuit, and folks in Houston filling their gas tanks with 85% ethanol biofuel.

Last week the United States said their final goodbyes to former Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, a distinguished statesman, who served over 50 years in public service beginning his political roots here in Texas. In addition, Gov. Rick Perry signed the largest tax cut in Texas history when he signed the school funding bill into law ending numerous special sessions of the Texas legislature. Despite the law's controversial edge, a positive note is the cigarette tax will increase by \$1.41/pack, the first increase in 16 years.

On 04/26/06 the Texas Nurses Association (TNA) House of Delegates met to discuss, amend, and adopt the following issues: 1. the competency validation related to relicensure for RN's; 2. limit of hours nurses and student nurses work; 3. commendation to ready TX nurses and all TX nurses who provided care during the Hurricane Disaster

Minutes & Notes

President, Mary Lynne Weemering, called meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Visitors were welcomed.

Minutes were approved as written and the Financial Report was not available.

CEU's & Programs: June meeting will be installation of officers will be held at the Macaroni Grill in the Woodlands at 5:30 pm.

Joint Board Meeting will be July 13 at Bennigans on 1960 and I-45 at 6:30 pm.

Mary Lynne Weemering will be speaking at an upcoming seminar in Las Vegas titled "Who's Got The Clot".

Research/Scholarship: Research presentation will appear in the newsletter each month instead of at the monthly meeting.

Community Service: The Children's Museum is making preparations to relocate to the upper level of Mervyn's in The Woodlands Mall. Please donate any appropriate outdated equipment that would be educational to the children.

Legislation: Texas Legislature has passed the bill to raise cigarette taxes \$1.41 cents per pack to help fund schools. National "Time Out Day" for June 20 is awaiting a bill assignment number. Several states continue to

Relief efforts of 2205; 4. reinventing TNA; 5. TNA Centennial Recognition declaring 2007 a celebratory year marking it's 100th birthday. *Stay tuned for more info.* TNA will also be hosting a legislative coalition meeting 08/19/06 in Austin to further discuss the upcoming nursing agenda for the next legislative session set to convene 01/2007.

On the national front, ANA and reps from the Nursing Caucus meet with Congressional health staff during Nurse Week to emphasize the importance of safe patient handling to ensure a safe environment for nurses.

Baby steps are being taken in Congress to move forward appropriations for the Budget/Supplemental resolutions for Title VIII. Nursing champions, Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA) and Rep. Steven La Tourette (R-OH) have sponsored a letter, signed by 88 House members, asking the Dept of Health and Human Services & Dept of Labor to help protect nurses from the avian flu. Also, S. 1955, The Small Business Health Plan was defeated, which is a big win for healthcare consumers and nurses.

—continued after **News Briefs**

lobby to RNFA and RN circulators. Please refer to the *May Circulator* for a more detailed report.

Membership: Officers elected at the May chapter meeting for coming year are: President – Shirley Dukes; President Elect- Pat Hoge; Secretary: Mary Lynne Weemering; Treasurer: Jean Franks; Board of Directors: Vickie Brooks, Karen Evans, Helen Taylor. Nominating Committee: Marie Elliott, Jane Jennings, Girsell Brown.

Newsletter: Becky Churchman needs home or hospital e-mail updates for all members to help reduce our newsletter mailing costs.

Special Awards: Watch for a special award at June's installation of officers meeting. Thanks to all who submitted articles.

T-CORN: A copy of the latest T-CORN newsletter was provided for review. Officers need help with projects, and willingness-to-serve forms are available from Pat Hoge.

Ways& Means: Mary Lynne discussed the sale of scarves to hold pins and badges, along with a jewelry sale at the next AORN Congress. Membership was asked to donate gently used jewelry in preparation for this sale.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Program: Peter B. Graves, RN, BSN, CNOR, Clinical Nurse Consultant presented "*Surgical Site Infections.*"—Pat Hoge



Chapter News...In Brief

APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!

Kudos to Memorial Hermann

The Woodlands Hospital for

hosting last month's meeting and arranging for the chapter program.

Three cheers for **Randy Schoener**, Regent Medical representative, for the great BBQ.

Hat's off to **Peter Graves**, RN, BSN, CNOR, Clinical Nurse Consultant for the informative program on Surgical Site Infection.

Dates To Remember

06/08/06 TNA District #9 Installation of Officers Membership meeting, 1730-1930, The Terrace at W. University Community Room, 5151 Buffalo Speedway

06/14/06 Flag Day

06/18/06 Father's Day

06/21/06 Summer begins

06/21/06 Chapter Installation Dinner, Macaroni Grill, The Woodlands, 1800-??, Spouses, friends and significant others welcome.

07/04/06 Fourth of July

07/13/06 Joint Chapter BOD meeting, Bennigan's, 1960 and I-45 at 1630-2030

07/21-23/06 AORN Leadership Conference, "Building Authentic Leaders: A Partnership for Success," Denver Marriott City Center

08/19/06 TNA NLAC Meeting, Austin, TX, location TBA

08/26-27/06 Second Nursing Alliance Leadership Academy, Louisville, KY

09/14-15/06 TNA Leadership Conference, Austin, TX

11/16/06 TNA District #9 Nursing Celebration, Four Seasons, Houston, TX

Condolences...

to **Diane McNamee** and **Lynn Boeding** in the recent losses of their mothers.

Reminder: Summer Break

There will be no meetings or newsletters for July and August to coincide with the summer months. Meetings will resume 09/20/06 at HNWMC Cali Professional Building. The program will be on "Bioterrorism" by Petra Grami. Have a wonderful summer!

Chapter Stats

As of 06/04/06 chapter #4410 has 113 members 102 regular 7 retired, 2 students 1 Associate, 1 Platinum 1000.

Welcome to **Girsel Brown** of Conroe Medical Center, **Jill Sluder** of Summit, Ass, and **Sharlotte Smith** of TMC Orthopedics.

Accolades

Mary Lynne Weemering has been invited to speak at the RNFA Specialty Conference in

Las Vegas on 09/2006 and has been appointed by President Paula Graling to sit on the Specialty Assembly Task Force for 2006-2007.

Jean Franks has been elected to serve on the RNFA Specialty Assembly Governing Council.

Best wishes to **Dorie**

Grien Watto on her recent marriage.

Becky Churchman has been appointed to the National Legislative Committee (NLC) for 2006-2007 by President Paula Graling.

Summertime Fun Tips

As the weather warms up and more time is spent outdoors play it smart by following some of the following tips:

- Apply sunscreen (min of SPF of 15) before going outside, reapply every 2-3 hrs even though it's waterproof.

- Avoid the sun between 10 am & 3 pm Remember up to 70% of the sun's rays still penetrate a cloudy cover

- Wear protective, light colored clothing. Consider a wide-brimmed hat & sunglasses with a least 99% UVA & UVB protection.

- Drink plenty of water & protect your skin with a moisturizer daily

- Remember some medication may increase your sensitivity to the sun.

—continued - **Legislative News**

Now, a final note concerning issues affecting the peri-operative practice includes the date for National Time Out Day (NTOD), which has been set for 06/21/06. Rep. Marcy Kaptur is cosponsoring House Resolution # 825 while Sen. Mary Landrieu is cosponsoring Senate Resolution # 482. Please, call, email, or write your congressman/women asking them to support these resolutions. In addition, the National Legislative Committee (NLC) will be meeting in Denver, CO 06/10/06 to review their charges set forth by Pres. Graling, to determine the target states for 2006-2207, and discuss other legislative initiatives. Pres. Graling has an exciting year planned for all peri-operative colleagues. Hold on to your britches and jump aboard!! To sign up go to: www.aorn.org/governmentaffairs.

Have a wonderful summer & look forward to seeing ya'll in September!— *Becky Churchman, RN, CRNFA*



Pat Hoge laughs with a student as she recently presented nursing as a profession at a Career Day at her grandchild's school.

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

Becky Churchman

TCORN

Pat Hoge

Communication

Pat Foreman

Historian

TBA

Ways/Means

Karen Kurland

Robby Brockhoff

Nominating Committee

Robbie Brockhoff

Lois Gronau-Fietz

Pam Meesaros

Mary Oates

Karen Kurland

Clinical and surgical factors that can affect patient's risk of death or stroke following carotid endarterectomy.

Even though there are certain guidelines for selecting appropriate patients for carotid endarterectomy, nearly eleven percent of patients appear to be inappropriately selected to undergo the surgery. A recent study, supported in part by the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality just may improve selection of patients and identify those in need of closer monitoring after a carotid endarterectomy.

A study of 1,972 patients treated by sixty-four surgeons at six hospitals was undertaken in 1997 and 1998. Researchers analyzed the patient's medical records to identify clinical, radiographic, surgical, anesthesia, and medical management variables that went along with the patient's deaths or strokes within a month of their surgery.

The researchers concluded that there were three clinical factors that would double or triple the odds of complications (meaning strokes or death) within thirty days post-op. These factors were 1. stroke as the indication for surgery, 2. presence of active coronary artery disease, and 3. contralateral carotid narrowing of fifty percent or more.

Death or stroke was the outcome for 2.28 percent of the patients who underwent a carotid endarterectomy who were without carotid symptoms, 2.93 percent of patients with carotid transient ischemic attacks, and 7.11 percent of those who underwent the surgery because of a stroke. The research did find that two surgical techniques reduced the odds of death or stroke, 1. local anesthesia by 70 percent, and 2. patch closure by 37 percent. —*Pat Hoge*

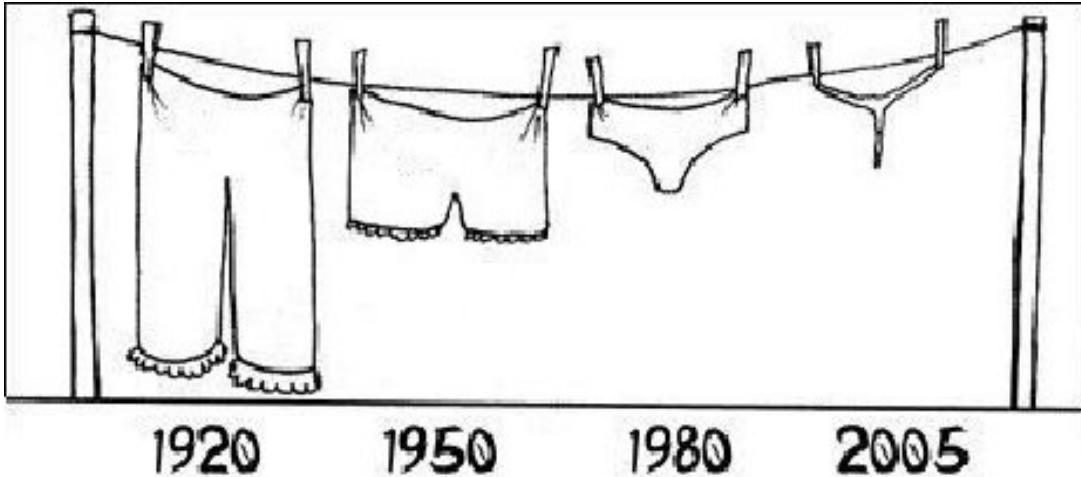
**Politics in a
real sense
is the people—
who takes the
time to
participate?**

—*Daniel Inouye*



**1823 Ash Meadow
Houston, Texas 77090**

Proof of Global Warming:



Fun & Games At The Children's Museum

...starring **YOU!**

Here is the schedule for the next few months. We are very excited that the Children's Museum will be moving to a new location in the Woodlands Mall, where the upstairs of Mervyn's use to be.

The Grand Opening is Saturday, June 10, for those who want to help with the festivities. Please let me know when and if you are able to drop by. My contact info is below. On the June 8th date, we will be surveying the new space and familiarizing ourselves with the facility. Any or all are welcome to join us. Park by the upper level entrance to old Mervyn's (south side of mall). I have been told the door will be open.

Please keep saving supplies: ace wraps, bulb syringes, etc. We welcome any and all help. Would LOVE to see an oximeter donated. Tell your anesthesia folks (they always want new stuff!)

Thank you again for all your help and dedication to this project.

Please post these dates where you will see them and you are welcome whether you have signed up or not.—Ann McKennis
mckennis@mac.com 281-367-5033 cell
 832-928-6687

Thursday, June 8

10 am - noon: Ann, Karen, Pat—*Preview new facility.*

Tuesday, June 20,

10 am - noon: Pat, Ann, Karen, Dori—*Special demonstrations and crafts re-bandaging.*

2 - 4: Ann, Karen, Jane Jennings —*Time Out info for parents**Newspaper will be there!!!!*

Thursday, June 22

10 am - noon: Karen, Pat

Thursday, July 13

10 am - noon: Ann, Karen, Pat, Karen Evans?—*Special program to be determined: need help!*

2 - 4 pm: Ann, Karen, Dori, Karen Evans?

Thursday, July 27

10 am - noon: Ann, Pat

Thursday, August 10

10 am - noon: Ann, Pat, Shirley D.

Thursday, August 24

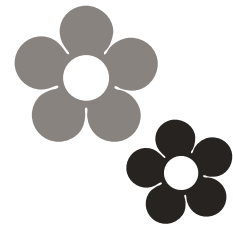
10 am - noon: Ann, Pat

Thursday, September 7

10 am - noon: Ann, Pat

Thursday, September 21

10 am - noon: Pat, Karen



Values...

- ❁ To realize the value of a sister ask someone who doesn't have one
 - ❁ To realize the value of 10 years: ask a newly divorced couple
 - ❁ To realize the value of 4 years: ask a graduate.
 - ❁ To realize the value of 1 year: ask a student who has failed a final exam.
 - ❁ To realize the value of 9 months: ask a mother who gave birth to a stillborn baby.
 - ❁ To realize the value on 1 month: ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.
 - ❁ To realize the value of 1 week: ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.
 - ❁ To realize the value of 1 minute: ask a person who has missed the bus, train or plane.
 - ❁ To realize the value of 1 second: ask a person who has survived an accident.
- Time waits for no one, Treasure every moment you have. You will treasure it even more when you can share it with someone special.*
- ❁ To realize the value of a friend or family member: **LOSE ONE.**
- Anonymous



AORN Chapter #4410
North Harris/Montgomery County

cordially invites you and guests to attend the

**2006-07 Installation Dinner
& Ceremony of Officers**

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Romano's Macaroni Grill

**1155 Lake Woodlands Drive • The Woodlands
The Woodlands Mall
281-367-3773**

**6:00–6:30 pm • social/cocktails
6:45 pm • Installation of Officers Ceremony
7:00 pm • Dinner**

Order from the menu • separate checks • cash or credit card

RSVP by June 16 to Pat Hoge @ 281-353-5831 or jhoge@houston.rr.com

Spouses, friends & significant others welcomed!

AORN