



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.

Fifteen years had passed since I first retired from nursing until my return to the OR. Talk about change and changes! And, I was totally unprepared. Fortunately, my soon-to-be new director calmed me with the following word: "The basics are the same. Sterility is sterility. A sterile conscience is a sterile conscience. Nursing morals and ethics are in place." And, so I began my second perioperative nursing career with those words branded in my brain.

Now, nearly twenty years later, those statements are still rock solid. It is a good thing, too, because the numbers of changes in our surgical world have sky-rocketed. It is a fact of our daily life in the perioperative setting. It applies to every facet whether it has to do with personnel, procedures, equipment, government/accrediting mandates or the general healthcare environment. And, studies have shown how stressful change can be. Therefore, a "Change Attitude" is needed if we are to retain good mental health so we can provide optimal care for our patients. We brought the following tool back from the 2006 AORN Congress. Take it and make it your own.

Take **C**ontrol and set goals

Handle conflict with direct and honest communication

Have a positive **A**ttitude

There is no better time than

Now to make a difference

So, **G**et out of your comfort zone, and

Expect the best.

And remember. Change is inevitable as progress occurs. What do not change are our basics and our values. Those are our foundations.

At Your Service,

Shirley Dukes

Once a Nurse, Always a Nurse.

Colleague Kate Lindsay, who currently lives in China, teaching English, finds time out to rekindle her nursing roots while visiting in Nanjing, China. Kate and her husband, Don, visited the Drum Tower Hospital, which was founded by an American missionary doctor and is considered one of the finest in Nanjing. Kate entertained an audience of nearly 30 nurses representing various specialities of the nursing service. The visit was not complete without a tour of the OR.



Association of Operating Room Nurses

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Legislative News

On the brink of press time, current headline news includes: the Dow Jones closes at an all time high, oil prices drops below \$60/gal, and U.S. Rep. Mark Foley's (R-Fl) scandalous actions has turned the Republicans into a political tailspin which could cost them the control of both houses of the Congress in the upcoming November elections. Prior to adjourning for recess lawmakers worked late into the night on the following legislation which was sent to Pres. Bush for approval: the Terrorism bill that allows military commissions to prosecute suspects that spells out violations of the Geneva Conventions; approved a \$448 billion defense spending bill for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; and completion of approximately \$35 billion homeland security spending bill that overhauls the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and allow for border fencing to discourage illegal immigration.

Legislative events occurring at the national level according to ANA's Capitol Update are: the Medicare Quality Enhancement Act of 2006 (S 3900) was introduced and has gained co-sponsors. This bill would promote access to

Medicare data and foster research on health care quality and efficiency; the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary announced that \$13 million had been released to support evidence-based programs for senior aging services in 16 states. Within the year 35 communities should be up and running; and lastly, a recent CDC study connects ER crowded conditions to nursing shortages in metropolitan areas. These ER's were associated with a higher percent of nursing vacancies, patient volumes, and longer waiting and treatment periods for patients.

AORN continues to monitor RN Circulator language initiatives at the state level. Currently there are 10 states that are considering submitting bills containing such language. In addition, there are multi states where AST language is being closely watched. For a detailed report go to www.aorn.org/governmentalaffairs. Nevertheless, that does not excuse grassroots members from establishing a relationship with their legislators, especially with the upcoming election. Do not forget to vote 11/07. You *do* make a difference. VOTE!

— Becky Churchman, RN, CRNFA

"Do not wait for life. Do not long for it. Be aware, always and at every moment that the miracle is in the here and now."

—Marcel Proust

Chapter 4410 Goals for 2006-2007

1. To support the mission of our national organization.
2. To provide current information on issues, events and scope of practice influencing perioperative nursing.
3. To foster an environment that encourages member participation, mentoring and networking within the membership of the chapter.
4. To promote participation in the Ambassador Program and to actively engage in recruitment/retention of the local membership.
5. To continue the chapter research project and promote research activities.
6. To practice parliamentary procedure during chapter business and board meetings.
7. To nominate fellow perioperative colleague(s) for AORN National office, Outstanding Achievement Awards and other areas of local recognition.
8. To complete the application for chapter award recognition at the annual Congress Award's banquet.
9. To maintain active membership in the state council (TCORN)
10. To promote membership in AORN's Legislative Grassroots Network by sitting legislatively active at the local, state and national level.
11. To promote the profession of perioperative nursing with members of the nursing educational community.

Chapter News...In Brief

Chapter Stats To date there are 40,965 AORN members and 354 Chapters. Of those numbers, Chapter #4410 has 113 members: 101 Standard, 7 Retired (but very active), 2 Student, 1 Associate, 1 Facility and 1 Platinum. Welcome to **Ashley Ballinger** of St. Luke's WCMC.

Dates to Remember

- 10/09/06** Columbus Day
 - 10/12/06** TNA District #9 Business Mtg & Program, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital, 5:30PM
 - 10/18/06** Chapter Meeting & Program
 - 10/16/06** National Boss Day
 - 10/21/06** Rolling Stones concert, Austin
 - 10/24/06** United Nations Day
 - 10/29/06** Daylight Saving Time Ends
 - 11/07/06** Election Day
 - 11/12-18/06** Perioperative Nurse Week, "We're There for Safe Care"
 - 11/15/06** Chapter Meeting & Program
 - 11/16/06** TNA District #9 Nursing Celebration, Four Season Hotel
 - 12/13/06** Christmas Social location TBA
- NOTE THE DATE; THIS IS THE 2ND WED OF DECEMBER
- 01/27/07** TCORN Workshop, Austin, TX
 - 03/05-06/07** Nurse Day @ the Capitol, Austin, TX
- ## 2006-2007 Chapter Meetings
- 10/18/06** Children's Museum, The Woodlands Mall, Program by Melissa Thomas, RN, Museum Director, Topic TBA
 - 11/15/06** Tomball Regional Hospital, Program by Kathy Bunker, RN, Canine Rescue & Research (confirmation pending)
 - 12/20/06** Christmas Social, details TBA
 - 01/17/07** Conroe Regional Medical Center, Program TBA
 - 02/21/07** Program by Bev Kirchner, RN, BSN, CNOR, CASC, AORN National BOD, HNWMC Cali Building
 - 03/21/07** No Chapter Mtg (AORN Congress)
 - 04/18/07** Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital, Program on Lap Bands
 - 05/16/07** Legislative program, speaker

pending, Methodist Wil-
lowbrook Hospital

06/20/07 Installation of
Officers, location TBA

Applause, Applause

...to **Gina Lopez**, RN, BSN, representative with Ethicon ENDO-Surgery, INC for the wonderful Lasagna dinner and all the fixings for last month's meeting.

...to **Mary Lynne Weemering**, RN, MSN who presented the program on DVT and PE emboli. This was a repeat performance for Mary Lynne, as she had presented at the RNFA Specialty Conference in Las Vegas.

New Safety Initiative Launched AORN is preparing to send out 13,000 Fire Safety Tool Kits to its members in management beginning the 1st of October. AORN collaborated with experts from Emergency Care Research Institute, R. Phillips and Associates, Assoc. of Healthcare Risk Management and the American Society for Healthcare Engineering of the American Hospital Assoc.

ANA Tobacco Free Initiative The American Nurses Association & American Nurses Foundation is patterning with the Robert Wood Johnson funded Tobacco Free Nurses Initiative. As the largest group of health care professional, nurses have a tremendous potential to effectively implement smoking cessation, interventions and advance tobacco use reduction goals proposed by Healthy People 2010. Nurses must be equipped to assist not only smoking cessation, but preventing tobacco use and promoting strategies to decrease exposure to second hand smoke.

The ANA & ANF promotes the mission of Tobacco Free Nurses to the nation's registered nurses through its constituent associations, members, & organizational affiliates. If 2.2 million working nurses in the U.S. each helped one person per year to quit smoking, nurses would triple the U.S. quit rate. (Accessed 09/26/2006) >>more on page 4



Viva Las Vegas! There was a meeting of the minds at the RNFA Specialty meeting in Las Vegas in September. Back row, from left, Byron Bulingame, Jill Stanfield, Sue Duval, Paula Graling, Jean Franks and Lora Lee Grutkowski. Front row, Mary Jo Steiert, Patrick Voight, Marlene Craden and Sheila Allen.

AORN Chapter Committee Chairs

- Budget & Finance
Jean Franks
- CEU/Programs
TBA
- Legislative
Becky Churchman
- Membership
TBA
- Newsletter
Becky Churchman
Pat Hoge
- Community Service
Ann McKennis
- Research/Scholarship
Pat Hoge
- Special Awards
TBA
- Policy/Bylaws
Becky Churchman
- TCORN
Pat Hoge
- Communication
TBA
- Historian
TBA
- Ways/Means
TBA
- Nominating Committee
Robby Brockhoff
Marie Elliott
Jane Jennings
Girsel Brown
Lois Gronau-Fietz

**Chapter #4410
website:**
[www.aorn.net/
me.asp?site=chapter4410](http://www.aorn.net/me.asp?site=chapter4410)



Save for the Cause

Start saving those pink lids off the Yoplait yogurt containers if you are a yogurt-eater. Bring to the chapter meetings and we have until 12/06 to send in. Yoplait will donate monies to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. *Help find a cure!*

Want To Say **THANK YOU!**

Want to send a card to our Troops? Visit www.letsaysaythanks.com You are able to pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a soldier you is serving in Iraq. You do not get to pick who it goes to but the good thing is it goes to some member of the armed services. It only takes a second and it's FREE. Won't you send your card today?

October is...

time to think apple cider, football games, Columbus Day and pink for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

To help find a cure for the cause, the 16th annual Race for the Cure took place 09/30/06 in Downtown Houston. This year organizations are donating a portion of their sales from clothing, throws, cosmetics, jewelry, accessories, candies and food to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

The most effective method of early detection of breast cancer is mammogram screening. In a recent survey it was shown that 40% of women had not had a mammogram in the last year. Often times the reason behind this is cost. Mammograms are not a luxury but a necessity that all women should have once a year. While the American Cancer Society is an avid supporter of the CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program to provide access for screening and treatment to uninsured/underinsured women between the ages of 50-64 it is still not enough. The current program serves about 20% of the eligible women and there is a risk that funds will be decreased by Congress. **Have you had your mammogram this year?**

Breast Care Screening Guide

Exam	Age	Frequency
Mammogram	40 & over	annually
Clinical breast Exam	32-39	every 3 yrs
Exam	40 & over	annually
Breast Self Exam	20 & over	monthly

A complete breast care program consists of a clinical breast examination, monthly self-breast examinations. Mammograms are the most efficient way to detect breast lesions too small to be felt or seen. It consists of two or more low dose x-rays. Mammograms are usually not painful, but some slight discomfort may be experienced due to the compression of the breast.

Clinical Breast Exam: This exam is performed by your health care provider. This is an excellent time to take advantage of a demonstration of self-exam.

Self-Breast Exam: Performing your own breast exam is called a self-breast exam. This should be done once a month approximately a week after your period ends. In the event, you have irregular periods, check your breast the 1st day of every month.

NATIONAL NEWS (continued from page 3)

The 2007 AORN ballot has been announced:

President-Elect (1 to be elected)

Susan Banschbach (OK)
Michelle Burke (NY)

Treasurer (1 to be elected)

Kathleen "Kate" O'Toole (MD)
Nathalie Walker (LA)

Board of Directors (4 to be elected)

Rhonda Anders Judy Clayton
Claire Everson Peter Graves
Bev Kirchner Jane Kusler-Jensen
Norrie MacLraith Marilyn Sanderson

Nominating Committee (2 to be elected)

Jane Alcock Nancy Fellows
Randall Jenkins Karen Knapp
Karen White

Quiz Bowl is Back....Back by popular demand is the evidence-based practice Quiz Bowl. The chance to sign up for a team and assign a captain is now until 11/10/06. To determine if your team qualifies testing will be held 12/11-15/06. The 4 final teams will be announced

01/2007. The date for the Quiz Bowl is 03/14/07.

2007 Congress Grants Available

AORN Foundation is offering grants to OR Managers, staff RNs and Chapters. The deadline to apply for individual grants is 02/09/07. Chapters are eligible for the Ruth P. Shumaker Endowment Grant by meeting the Chapter Challenge (donating \$1/per member to the Foundation between 04/01/06 & 03/31/07). To find out more info go to: www.aorn.org/foundation/grants.asp.

Help Fund The Future The AORN Foundation is requesting individual members to contribute to the Foundation. The 2006-07 drive is called "Funding the Future." During the last fund drive approximately 3% of AORN members contributed to the drive. The Foundation would of course, like to see that percent increased. Personal contributions of any amount make a significant difference and are tax deductible. You may visit Foundation at www.aorn.org/foundation.

Minutes & Notes

September 20, 2006

- Meeting called to order by president Shirley Dukes at 1800
- Becky Churhman thanked Gina Lopez from Ethicon for delicious dinner from Lasagna House and providing projector for tonight's program
- Shirley said a thank you to all nurses and AORN members for hard work and welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting
- Mary Lynne Weemering and Shirley Dukes attended the leadership conference, shared some of the highlights and offered to help everyone promote periop nursing
- Agenda was reviewed and everyone was encouraged to read the goals prior to the next meeting for approval
- Go online for AORN national news
- Joan Hesslink from Conroe was introduced as a new member and thanked for making the wreath on display with discussion regarding the wreath as follows: **1**—honor cancer survivors and remembrance of those who have passed on; **2**—white cards for those who passed on; **3**—pink cards for survivors; **4**—\$5.00 donation for either with half of proceeds to cancer society and other half to chapter; **5**—small flowers will be added to wreath and a permanent record will be kept of donations; **6**—encouraged to take cards to work; **7**—memoriam cards available for your records
- Last meeting minutes unavailable
- Shirley announced that there were 107 members in June and 115 members to date
- Bank balance is \$1883.55
- Pat Hoge presented a research article from Research report regarding implantable defibrillators used for life-threatening heart conditions could also be used prophylactically to save money and increase life expectancy by 1-5 years; Karen Kurland announced that she knows someone who has one and is doing well
- TCORN-Joanne Oliver announced that next meeting will be 1/27/2007 in Austin; we have representatives from AORN of Greater Houston and Montgomery County
- Communications- Becky mailed 26 newsletters to London and China, the rest were sent by e-mail. Joanne congratulated her on the excellent newsletter and participants unanimously agreed. Shirley Dukes announced that there were several

wonderful comments at the back of room and encouraged everyone to take a minute to read them. Becky needs everyone's current e-mail addresses; we have started selling advertising space on the back of the newsletter for \$25.00 per month to offset newsletter costs; Donna Hameier, a new member, will help with this project

- Legislation-Becky reminded members to read report in newsletter; copy of TCORN gazette is available; NLC meeting was held in August in preparation for the upcoming 80th legislative session; AST's are asking for credentialing to increase education and want to repeal the RN circulation nurse law that was passed two years ago; Texas nurses sent multiple e-mails and calls regarding this issue; *National Time-Out Day* still needs our support; *Cap Whiz* is now up and running at AORN Government Affairs.

- Joanne Oliver updated AORN website
- Shirley stated that newsletter would list programs for this year; February meeting will change to 2/14/07 due to conflict with Ash Wednesday and December meeting will change to 12/13/06 due to Christmas.

- Community service- Karen Kurland presented the Chapter Champion Award to Shirley Grainger; sign up sheet form volunteering at Children's Museum was passed around: times were on Thursdays from 10-12 or you could call Museum and set up another time; it is necessary to sign into their log binder for their documentation of volunteer hours; 10/11/06 Junior League is sponsoring school at museum; Bobby Brockhoff announced donation of pulse ox to Museum; Memorial Hermann will also donate a pulse dosimeter to the Museum, they are also preparing a video for display at the Museum per Helen Taylor; a copy of museum guidelines are in black book at Museum; note picture of Museum volunteers in this issue of AORN Connection; reminder that Museum has moved to Woodlands Mall second floor; Karen read a thank you card from Margie Sokolowki and said that Pat Connell moved to Florida

- Ways and Means- Mary Lynne demonstrated fundraiser scarves, she stated that Joanne Oliver wore one at Congress that everyone loved; Mary Lynne asked for 4 volunteers to sew scarves and return to next meeting; Rita, Shirley, Helen, and Pat volunteered; goal is to have 150 scarves ready to sell at Congress; BIG THANK YOU to her husband for cutting out material; Length of

Research Report

Up to twelve percent of tissue examined by pathologists for cancer result in diagnosis errors.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality supported a study that found twelve percent of pathology reports for cancer were diagnosed incorrectly. These errors can lead to incorrect patient management plans and delays in cancer treatment. The study was not sure whether the errors were due to misinterpretation of the sample or poor clinical sampling of the tissues.

Pathology errors in patients undergoing test to determine the presence or absence of cancer or precancerous lesions was examined at four hospitals over a one year period. Errors were dependent on the hospital and range from about two to ten percent of gynecologic cases at various hospitals. Misinterpretation errors ranged from five to fifty-one percent and the remaining errors were due to clinical sampling problems.

Patient harm was associated with forty-five percent of gynecologic pathology errors and thirty-four percent on non-gynecologic errors. Researchers estimated, using the number of errors calculated in the study, that 127,950 patients per year in the U. S. will suffer harm as a result of errors in the diagnosis of cancer in gynecologic and non-gynecologic specimens. —Pat Hoge

AORN Chapter #4410

North Harris/Montgomery County

proudly presents

An Overview of The Woodlands Children's Museum

presented by

Melissa Thomas, RN, CHILDREN'S MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

SOCIAL 5:30 PM

BUSINESS MEETING 6:00-7:00 PM

PROGRAM 7:00-8:00 PM

Refreshments will be provided.

bring a friend!

**The Woodlands Children's Museum
The Woodlands Mall**

No contact hours will be awarded for this presentation.

>>>DIRECTIONS: The Children's Museum is located in The Woodlands Mall, upper level at 1201 Lake Woodlands Drive. The Museum is located closest to the Six Pines Drive Mall entrance. Enter the Museum on the second floor of the former Mervyn's location around the corner from the new Macy's store. For further direction go online at www.woodlandschildrensmuseum.org.

AORN

AORN Chapter #4410 •• Activity Record

"I submit the list below on which I have calculated the points for my activities from September 1 through June 31 of the previous educational year. I understand that the actual awarding of points is the responsibility of the board of directors and that their ruling is final."

➤ Meetings Attended: (one point per meeting plus bonus points if applicable)

_____ 10 meetings + 5 bonus points (total: 15) _____ 7 meetings + 2 bonus points (total: 9)
 _____ 9 meetings + 4 bonus points (total: 13) _____ 6 meetings + 1 bonus points (total: 7)
 _____ 8 meetings + 3 bonus points (total: 11)

➤ Committees: Chairman —8 points, Member—5 points

_____ Nominating _____ Ways & Means
 _____ Newsletter _____ CEU & Program _____ Membership (Chairman
 _____ Legislative _____ Workshop — 8 pts., Member—3 pts.)

➤ Committees: Chairman — 6 points, Member—3 points

_____ Budget & Finance _____ Public Relations _____ Research
 _____ Special Awards _____ Bylaws _____ Historian
 _____ Communication _____ TCORN _____ Scholarship
 _____ Officer or Board Member (Previous educational year)—12 pts.

➤ Speaker at Chapter-Sponsored Educational Activity

_____ at chapter-sponsored educational activity—6 points.

Please specify offering: _____

_____ at non-chapter sponsored Educational Activity—4 points.

Please specify offering: _____

➤ Chapter-Sponsored Activity:

_____ Student Interest Workshop (Participant = 2 points)
 _____ Chapter Workshop (Attend = 2 points; Worked = 3 points)
 _____ Bi-Annual Fund-Raiser (3 points per event)
 _____ Other activity as deemed appropriate by the Board

Please list _____

➤ Current Certification Status: (1/1 through 8/31 of previous education year)

_____ CNOR—3 points expiration date: _____
 _____ CRNFA—3 points expiration date: _____
 _____ ACLS—3 points expiration date: _____

➤ National Participation:

_____ 7 points Officer or Board of Directors
 _____ 5 points Nominating Committee
 _____ 5 points National Committee Chairman
 _____ 3 points National Committee Member
 _____ 2 points National AORN Seminar or Workshop

List: (Attach CEU credit) _____

_____ Publishing in professional nursing journal = 4 points
 _____ Membership in other nursing organizations = 1 point
 _____ Attending college course/nursing-related = 1 point

Total Points _____ as calculated by member: _____

signature

Three CHEERS For Our VOLUNTEERS!

Here's the Children's Museum Schedule for the rest of 2006:

10/5: 10 - 12 Karen, Shirley G, Pat Hoge

10/19: 10 - 12 Karen, Shirley G, Pat Hoge

11/2: 10 - 12 Karen K, Shirley G, Pat Hoge

11/16: 10 - 12 Ann, Karen, Pat Hoge, Becky

11/30: 10 - 12 Ann, Pat Hoge, Lillie Mae

12/14: 10 - 12 Ann, Pat Hoge

12/28: 10 - 12 Ann, Karen K, Pat Hoge

If you would like to join the fun, contact Ann McKennis at mckennis@mac.com.

Minutes & Notes, continued from page 5

scarves is 60" and cut 8 1/2; Pat Hoge volunteered to hand stitch and press scarves as needed; Mary Lynne and husband will continue cutting scarves for each meeting, you may help if you can cut and sew; proposed to sell scarves at January TCORN meeting and add item to website; Robby announced that she would sell jewelry at Congress and displayed pendants, earrings, bracelets at the meeting

- Shirley announced that NSNA want OR nursing put back into the curriculum; AORN has a whole program available to present to colleges on their website and Shirley volunteered to help present.

- Marie Elliott and her mother, Mary Story donated 2 baskets to raffle at meet-

ings; raffle tickets will be brought to next meetings to sell opportunities; proposed to take pictures of baskets and take to hospitals to sell raffle tickets

- Shirley announced that if you had a pink post it note on the bottom of your chair, then you won a door prize

- Shirley introduced Mary Lynne as speaker for tonight's program on "Who's Got the Clot?" 26 attendees Key point was for all nurses to do a Risk Assessment for DVT's; SCIP (surgical care improvement project) website-www.medqic.org/scip and there is a DVT free registry

- Thank you to Mary Lynne for an outstanding program—submitted by Cheryl Stevenson

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***Advertising design help available.
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