



### 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.

National AORN President, Paula Graling has chosen the following theme for her presidential year:

Promoting Our Practice

Protecting Our Patient

Preserving Our Future

These themes struck a loud chord in me for they encompass who we are, what we do and what we need to accomplish as perioperative nurses. Therefore, it is fitting that we adapt President Graling's theme as our own. We can use these statements to guide our chapter through this year and direct our activities to their accomplishment. We need to tell the world who we are and why what we do is important to its well-being. We must continue to emphasize our ongoing role as frontline agents for patient safety. And, last, but definitely not least, we must educate today's student nurses about the role and importance of perioperative nursing. We must encourage them to consider joining our ranks, thus insuring that future patients will receive the care of competent, well-trained RN's specializing in the surgical arena.

This is a year that offers significant challenges and opportunities. The rewards could be invaluable. Please accept my invitation to be part of this adventure. Bring your talents, enthusiasm and resources. Together we can accomplish much. I look forward to seeing you and being part of your team.

At Your Service,

*Shirley Dukes*

"Good, better, best. Never rest.  
'Til good be better and better best." -Mother Goose

## We need YOU to Volunteer at the Children's Museum

Please look at this list and try to sign up for the Museum. I will not be able to be there in October as I am taking a class, so I really need extra volunteers. If a different day and time works for you, PLEASE just let me know. Thanks and thanks for all you do!—Ann McKennis

### SEPTEMBER

Thursday 7th 10 - 12

Thursday 21st 10 - 12

### OCTOBER

Thursday 5th 10 - 12

Thursday 19th 10 - 12

### NOVEMBER

Thursday 2nd 10 - 12

Thursday 16th 10 - 12

Thursday 30th 10 - 12

### DECEMBER

Thursday 14th 10 - 12

Thursday 28th 10 - 12

# Association of Operating Room Nurses

## Officers 2006-2007

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# Legislative News

**A**s primary elections draw to an end, one finds the general election right around on the corner on 11/07/06. Election candidates are not the only groups preparing agendas and keeping a pulse on the legislative environment.

Nursing groups are working with legislators not only to promote safe patient handling but also safe chemical handling. Projects are being established to encourage retiring military nurses to seek a second career as nursing faculty to help with the shortage of faculty in nursing schools. A new nursing group called the Nightingale Policy Group has been founded. The mission is to showcase the expertise of seasoned policy nurses and promote change by encouraging other colleagues to advocate for health policy. For more info, please visit the Nightingale Policy Group website.

Perioperatively speaking the legislative front holds the following news: 1. National Time Out Day (NTOD) has been filed in the House and Senate. SR 482 passed out of the Senate unanimously on 06/16/06. On the House side the bill needs Republican

sponsors, but with the upcoming General election, it does not appear a priority issue. 2. RN Circulator and RNFA Reimbursement initiatives are being pursued in California, Georgia, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Tennessee. 3. The Association of Surgical Technologist (AST) has stated that they may initiate legislative language pertaining to education and certification requirements in the following states: Florida, Massachusetts, Maine, Kentucky, North and South Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Texas. 4. The National Legislative Committee (NLC) public policy survey was sent to approximately 22,000 AORN members on 08/18/06. The goal of the survey is to obtain the pulse of the membership on what they feel are the legislative interests, priorities and initiatives of AORN. Results of the survey will be used to make recommendations to the AORN BOD for future legislative initiatives. For more info, please visit [www.aorn.org](http://www.aorn.org)> government affairs tab.

As the Texas Legislature convenes in 2007, please plan on joining your peri-operative colleagues and becoming legislative active. —Becky Churchman, RN, CRNFA

## PINK...PRETTY...& POWERFUL

You do not have to be around AORN President Paula Graling very long to learn that her favorite color is pink. Pink is a color long associated with femininity, elegance and graciousness. In recent years it has come to be associated with the accomplishments of women in the business world and a broad spectrum of professions. It is also a festive color denoting fun and sweet memories. Webster defines pink as a noun meaning the highest/finest example, "pink of perfection." All of the above applies not only to Paula but also to all of you. So, we will begin this chapter year with a tribute to all of our perioperative colleagues and friends who exemplify the attributes of this special color. COME TO THE SEPTEMBER MEETING WEARING, CARRYING OR TOTING SOMETHING PINK, be it scrubs, shoes, notebook, pen, socks, thermos, or whatever! Let's celebrate ourselves and have some fun. Who knows? You just might go home with a door prize.

On a more somber note, pink is a color of remembrance. It is the official color of Breast Cancer Awareness Month coming in October. Since our October meeting is coming late in the month, we will launch our Wreath of Remembrance and Honor project in September. We will have a wreath available and we will be able to purchase a flower in remembrance of a loved one, colleague, friend or family member who has passed on and/or to honor a cancer survivor. Although we are spotlighting breast cancer, we are not limiting the project to that alone. A donation of \$5.00 will be accepted for each flower. Fifty per cent will be donated to the American Cancer Society and fifty per cent will remain with the chapter. A Book of Life will keep a record of both the donor's name and the name of the person remembered/honored. Join us in this tribute as we celebrate and remember the lives of those special people who have touched our lives.

# Chapter News...In Brief

## Chapter Stats Total

Membership-115; Standard-103;  
Retired-7; Students-2; Associate-1;  
Facility-1; Platinum 1000-1.

A big welcome to #4410 to the following members: **Girsel Brown** and **Donna Hameier** of Conroe Regional; **Delores Knutson** of the Surgery Center of The Woodlands; **Sue Roof, Kelly White** and **Christine Martinez** of HNWMC; **Dorothy Serralles**, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital; **Laura Barker**, and **Drew Montgomery** of ConMed Electro-Surgery.

## Dates to Remember

- 09/14-15/06** TNA Nursing Leadership Conference, Austin, TX  
**09/2006** Chapter Mtg at HNWMC, Cali Professional Bldg (see flyer for details)  
**09/23/06** First day of Autumn  
**09/30/06** Susan G Komen Race for the Cure, Sam Houston Park, please see the website at [www.komen-houston.org](http://www.komen-houston.org).  
**10/09/06** Columbus Day  
**10/12/06** TNA District #9 Business Mtg, 5:30 pm, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital  
**10/29/06** Daylight Saving Time Ends  
**11/07/06** Election Day  
**11/16/06** TNA District #9 Nursing Celebration, Four Seasons Hotel  
**03/05-06/07** Nurse Day at the Capitol, Austin, TX

## 2006-2007 Chapter Meetings

- 09/20/06** HNWMC Cali Building  
**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** Location TBA, Program by Bev Kirchner, RN, BSN, CNOR, CASC, AORN National BOD  
**03/21/07** No Chapter Mtg (AORN Congress)  
**04/18/07** Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital, Program on Lap Bands  
**05/16/07** HNWMC, Cali Professional Bldg, legislative program, speaker pending  
**06/20/07** Installation of Officers, location TBA

## 2006-07 BOD Meetings

- 10/30/06** Cali Prof. Bldg. 1830, room TBA  
**01/25/07** 1830 Location TBA  
**03/01/07** 1830 Location TBA

All board meetings are open to the membership. Any agenda items should be presented in advance to Pres. Shirley Dukes @ [parishrn@cox-internet.com](mailto:parishrn@cox-internet.com).

**Installation of Officers** The official installation of officers took place 06/21/06 at the Romano's Macaroni Grill in The Woodlands. The event was so well attended we needed additional seating. Despite having to raise our voices a decibel or two above the crowd, the installation was conducted by Karen Kurland. In addition, to celebrating we also honored one another by giving the Chapter Champion Award to Shirley Granger, the Chapter Spirit Award to Lois Gronau-Fietz and an honorary award to Margie Sokolowski.

**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!

**NLAC Meets** The legislative arm of the Texas Nurses Association (TNA) met in Austin, TX 08/19 to begin plans for a nursing agenda for 2007 Texas Legislative session. The Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition (NLAC) was represented by 19 different nursing specialties. The BNE Sunset Review will take center court this session. The BNE goes under Sunset review every 12 years. The agency is reviewed by the legislature to determine if it is fulfilling its need and meets its required functions. Other items will include health care reform, nursing shortage, creating cultures of safety, continued competency, hours worked and advanced practice issues.

Peri-operative nursing was represented by AORN of Greater Houston, TX Council of per Operative Registered Nurses (TCORN), TX RNFA Network, & Society of Otorhinolaryngology & Head & Neck Nurses (SOHN). Those in attendance from Chapter #4410 were: Becky Churchman, Jean Franks, Karen Kurland, and Ann McKennis.

## 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)



**Achieving A Rocky Mountain High** at the the Denver Leadership Conference are from left, AON President Paula Graling; Chapter #4410 President Shirley Dukes; AORN President-Elect Mary Jo Steiert; AORN BOD member, Patrick Voight, SA; future task force member, Mary Lynne Weemering and AORN BOD member, Claire Everson.

## **It's A Call For Entries: NIWI Award 2007**

Once again, AORN is participating in the Nurse In Washington Internship (NIWI) Award, a program sponsored by the Nursing Organizations Alliance. This scholarship started in 1998 when the AORN BOD approved a recommendation from the National Legislative Committee (NLC). AORN awards two scholarships to individuals who show an interest in public policy and in becoming potential leaders for AORN in the legislative arena. The presentation will be in Washington, DC, March 11-14, 2007. Applications are being accepted now for this awesome program. The deadline is October 15, 2006. Please note that NIWI is the same time as AORN Congress in Orlando. For more information, go to [www.nursing-alliance.org/niwi.cfm](http://www.nursing-alliance.org/niwi.cfm) or [www.aorn.org/gvtaffairs/niwi.asp](http://www.aorn.org/gvtaffairs/niwi.asp).



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# Installation Dinner Brings Winners To The Table

The North Harris Montgomery County Chapter announced the 2006 Award winners at the installation dinner in June. Congratulations to the following members:

## Margie Sokolowski

Margie is a founding member of the chapter and has been a faithful member all these years. For her support and many years of valued service she is a gift and a blessing to our chapter and we honor her for her many years of service.

## Lois Gronau-Fietz

Lois received the Chapter's Spirit Award. She has had an exceptionally challenging year and through it all has been an active dedicated member of the chapter. It is with thanks to Lois that the chapter has had a slate of officers each year; she has been a dedicated Nominating Committee Chairperson and we all thank her.

## Shirley Granger

Shirley received the Chapter's Outstanding Service Award. Although retired, Shirley has remained an active member of our chapter. Over the years she has served in many capacities, but we are most indebted to her many years of service in the area of fund raising. It was Shirley's dedication that made our many "hot dog" sales a success and we thank her.

## Mary Lynne Weemering

Mary Lynne completed her year as Chapter President and we are grateful for her work and dedication. She is a wonderful leader, mentor and role model and served the Chapter with pride and enthusiasm. Thank you from each and every member.—Ann McKennis, awards chairperson

## U.S. Surgeon General Steps Down

Press releases announced that Surgeon General Richard Carmona, RN, MD, is returning to civilian life after serving four years as Surgeon General. Many AORN colleagues may recall hearing him address a full house during the General Session of the AORN's 53rd Congress in Washington, D.C. The message he left us that day was "one of making things a little bit better every day." I believe he did make a difference and things are better in a small way. He will truly be missed by many. Farewell, colleague!

*Joy can only be real only if people look upon their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness. —Leo Tolstoy*



**All Dressed Up With Places To Go...**Chapter #4410's newly-installed officers pose for a photo op. Back row, from left, Jane Jennings, Becky Churchman, Shirley Dukes, Pat Hoge, Cheryl Stevenson, and Karen Evans. Front row, from left, Lillie Mae Kearns, Helen Tomb-Taylor, Robbie Brockhoff and Lois Gronau-Fietz.



**Comparing notes** after the NLAC meeting on 08/19/06 in Austin, TX: Becky Churchman, Karen Kurland, Joanne Oliver, Ann McKennis, Denise Jackson, Tom Jones, Dawn Duncan, Jean Franks, and Terri Goodman.

**AORN Chapter #4410**  
North Harris/Montgomery County

proudly presents

***Who's Got The CLOT?***

presented by

**Mary Lynne Weemering, RN, CNOR, MSN**

**Wednesday, September 20, 2006**

**1.2 contact hours are pending**

Contact hours for this continued nursing educational activity have been applied for through the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, Inc., an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission

**SOCIAL 5:30 PM**

**BUSINESS MEETING 6:00-7:00 PM**

**PROGRAM 7:00-8:00 PM**

*bring a friend!*

*Refreshments graciously provided by Ethicon-Endo Surgery, INC*

**Cali Professional Building**

**17117 Cali Professional Building, Classroom A**

**(Directly across the street from the Emergency Room at HNWMC)**

>>>DIRECTIONS: : From 1960 West turn north (right if coming from the east & left if coming from the west) on St. Edwards Dr. There is a stone HNWMC marquee at the beginning of St Edward's. Street dead ends into Judiwood. Cali Professional Building is the one story flat building on the right just before Judiwood. .

**AORN**