

# the CIRCULATOR



AORN Chapter #4410 • Becky Churchman, editor • North Harris • Montgomery County • May 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.

Every time I access the AORN National website, I am awed by the amount of information available for us to progress in our careers. There is continuing education, conferences in convenient locations, webinars, on-line certificate programs, on-line degree programs and more. For me to encourage you to take advantage of the many offerings of AORN is like, "preaching to the choir", but I think it is upbuilding to remind each other that there is no greater investment than to invest in ourselves and our career. I can readily say that the best thing I ever did for my career was to become certified, obtain my advanced degrees, and volunteer to "work" for AORN. I could not have achieved the same level of success without AORN! Having said this, I now encourage each of you to achieve higher levels of success through your involvement with AORN. You will learn new skills, develop networking relationships, and become more marketable in the process. Control your career!

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

Mary Lynne Weemering  
Chapter President

## May 06-12 National Nurses Week Nurses: Strength, Commitment, Compassion

vs

### Nurses: Reflecting the Excellence

Two themes but one common goal: a goal to promote the recognition of nurses who provide quality patient care to patients, their families and to each other; in addition to educating the public about the value that nursing bring to the table of deciding healthcare policies.

Efforts to make this an annual event began in 1954 and 1965. May 12<sup>th</sup> was proclaimed National Nurses Day by the International Council of Nurses and then in 1982 President Reagan signed a proclamation declaring May 6<sup>th</sup> as National Recognition Day for Nurses.


The week of celebration ends on 05/12, Florence Nightingale's birthday. Nursing has

much to be grateful for including the contributions this invisionary colleague gave us. As we go through the week let us not forget our colleagues who have paved the way before us, for those who serve in the military, for those who we work daily side by side, and for those who will replace us one day. What a great week to seek out others to help mentor, to recognize and to encourage one another's accomplishments. Happy Nurses Week!

—Becky Churchman, RN, CRNFA

Let us each and all realizing the importance of our influences on others- stand shoulder to shoulder- and not alone, in good cause.

— Florence Nightingale



## Association of Operating Room Nurses

### Officers 2004-2005

*President*

**Mary Lynne Weemering**

281-358-9497

[mlw02@earthlink.net](mailto:mlw02@earthlink.net)

*President Elect*

**Shirley Dukes**

phone number

[parishrn@cox-internet.com](mailto:parishrn@cox-internet.com)

*Vice President*

**Becky Churchman**

phone: 281-537-1618

[rlchurchman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rlchurchman@sbcglobal.net)

*Secretary*

**Pat Botts-Foreman**

281-370-8273

[pforeman@tomballhospital.org](mailto:pforeman@tomballhospital.org)

*Treasurer*

**Jean Franks**

281-837-1332

[jeanfranks@msn.com](mailto:jeanfranks@msn.com)

*Newsletter Editor*

**Becky Churchman**

phone: 281-537-1618

fax: 281-580-6693

[rlchurchman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rlchurchman@sbcglobal.net)

*Newsletter Publisher*

**Lynn Boeding**

phone/fax 281/362-8408

[lboeding@aol.com](mailto:lboeding@aol.com)

### Board of Directors

**Robby Brockhoff**

**Pat Hoge**

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**Ann McKennis**

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**Karen Kurland**, past president

### Chapter #4410

#### website:

[www.aorn.net/](http://www.aorn.net/)

[me.asp?site=chapter4410](http://me.asp?site=chapter4410)



## Legislative News

The Texas Legislature is still in the throes of a special session to determine how best to resolve school finance reform issues. Several house bills have passed the House side but bills on the Senate side are having a much harder time finding common ground for approval. The deadline to hash out further disputes and to find a compromise is 05/16/06. Of, course there is the chance of yet another special session if a decision is not reached.

ANA continues to work on increasing funding (to the tune of \$25 million) in the 2007 fiscal year (FY) for Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII). If this goal is accomplished it would bring the 2007 FY funding for Title VIII to \$175 million. When Pres. Bush released his proposed 2007 budget in February 2006 there were no increase set aside for Title VIII. A projection by the Department of Labor states that there will be an increase demand for RN's by 29% by 2014. In addition, 1.2 million RN's will be needed to help provide care for patient needs and to replace retiring nurses. In 2005 98% of applicants who applied for the Nursing Scholarship program were turned away due lack of funding. Fortunately, the Congressional Budget Committees had an empathic ear and heard

## Minutes & Notes

Meeting was called to order by President, Mary Lynne Weemering at 6:00pm.

**MINUTES:** Approved as written. Visitors were recognized and welcomed. New student member Maricela Rodriquez was present.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Not available

*Conroe Regional Medical Center was thanked for hosting the April meeting, providing program and arranging the great food which was provided by Healthtronics.*

**PROGRAMS:** *May:* Memorial Herman Woodlands-Topic Surgical Site Infections. *June:* Installation of officers at Macaroni Grill in The Woodlands. 5:30pm social -7:00pm dinner.

Joint Board Meeting will be held on July 13<sup>th</sup> at Bennigans on 1960 and I-45 at 6:30pm.

**LEGISLATIVE:** Rebecca Churchman reported that Lobby Day at Congress was a big success with over 20 states having breakfast receptions. The *National Time Out Day* resolution has been drafted for introduction into the Senate and House and is awaiting a bill number assignment number to be announced in early June. *National Time Out Day* is June 20. There are 11 states, which have RN *Circulator*

ANA and 13 other health related organizations. Senators Barbara Milulski (D-MD) & Susan Collins (R-ME) Representatives, Lois Capps, RN (D-CA) and Steve LaTourette (R-OH) have joined the forces with their support asking for \$25 million in funding. To date, more than 140 members of the House and 1/4 of the Senate are in support of the increased funding. Please, contact YOUR Senators and Representatives for support of increased funding for Title VIII. Grassroots does make a difference.

RN Circulator bills have passed in the House and Senate in Illinois and Florida and are on their way to the Governor's desk for signature. Congratulations, to all who helped see this to fruition. Other states that have RN Circulator initiatives before them are California, Georgia, Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and Washington.

The 2006 Time Out Day Resolution has been drafted and sent for introduction in both the House and Senate according to AORN's Government Affairs May Legislative Update. Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) has agreed to sponsor on the Senate side and Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) is pondering sponsorship in the House.

For more info regarding any of these issues please go to: [www.anapoliticalpower.org](http://www.anapoliticalpower.org) and [www.aorn.org](http://www.aorn.org) then policy tab. - *Becky Churchman, RN, CRNFA*

initiatives bills outstanding. There are also nine states who have surgical teach and surgical assistant legislative initiatives before them. AORN Headquarters is watching this closely.

Joanne Oliver reported that OR Tech schools will be required to have a Certified OR Tech to do surgical training of students.

**SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS:** AORN Leadership Conference will be in Denver in July and will be attended by President-Elect, Shirley Dukes. Chapter 4410 will pay airfare for Shirley.

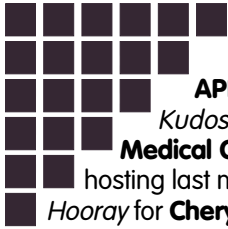
Mary Lynne Weemering will speak at RNFA meeting in Las Vegas.

**NEWSLETTER:** All newsletter correspondence must be received by the first of the month.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** A sign up sheet was passed for volunteers to work at the Children's in the Woodlands on the upcoming dates assigned to our chapter. Volunteers are needed desperately. Please save your leftover medical items for the children. \$2,500.00 has been donated by AORN to spend on the Children's Museum.

**SPECIAL AWARDS:** Ann McKennis was thanked for the great job she and husband, Jeff did on the preparation of Chapter 4410 DVD

-cont. after News Briefs



# Chapter News...In Brief

## APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!

Kudos to **Conroe Regional Medical Center** for graciously hosting last month's meeting.

Hooray for **Cheryl Roth**, RN, APN, for the great program on women's health and *The Red Hot Mamas*.

Three cheers for **Pat Alejas** and **Caren Lorino** of Healthtronics for the wonderful chicken alfredo, salad and dessert served at last month's meeting.

### Dates To Remember

**05/05-07/06** RNFA "Tips, Tales & Tidbits," Orlando, FL, Embassy Suites. For more information, please go to [rnfa.ventures@hotmail.com](mailto:rnfa.ventures@hotmail.com).

**05/06-12/06** ♥ National Nurse Week ♥

**05/11/06** TNA District 9 Membership meeting, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital, Conference Room A & B, 1730-1930 Program by Capt. Vincent Gacilos, RN, Brook Army Medical Center on *Initial Burn Management*

**05/12/06** Florence Nightingale's birthday

**05/14/06** Mother's Day

**05/17/06** Chapter meeting, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital (MHTWH), "Surgical Site Infections" See flyer for more info.

**05/20/06** Armed Forces Day

**06/21/06** Chapter Installation Dinner, Macaroni Grill, The Woodlands, 1730-??, Spouses, friends and significant others welcome.

**07/13/06** Joint Chapter BOD meeting, Bennigan's, 1960 and I-45 at 1830

**07/21-23/06** AORN Leadership Conference, "Building Authentic Leaders: A Partnership

for Success," Denver Marriott City Center

**08/19/06** TNA NLAC mtg, Austin, location TBA

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

**11/16/06** TNA District 9 Nursing Celebration, Four Seasons

### Chapter Accolades to...

...**Cheryl Stevenson**, RN, CNOR, who recently joined the ranks of CCI/AORN's CNORs.

...**Girsel Brown** for volunteering her time and energy to a "goodwill" trip to Jamaica.

...our faithful **museum volunteers** who continue to selflessly volunteer their time and talents on Thursday mornings. Thank you for all you do from all of your full-time colleagues!

...**Cheryl Stevenson** and eight of her nursing colleagues from Methodist Willowbrook hospital for volunteering at the Champions Forest Baptist Church Health Fair. Please note, if you or another colleague have recently become a CNOR or a CRNFA, please let me know so you can be recognized.

**Chapter Stats** Nationally, there are 361 AORN chapters. As of 04/29/06, Chapter #4410 has 115 members: 104 standard, 7 retired, 2 student, 1 associate, 1 Platinum 1000 Welcome to **Misty Pobiak**, Texas Heart; **Mary Jo Downs**, HNWMC; **Ardene Nichols** and **Cynthia Britt** of St. Lukes; **Greg Clements**, Kingwood; **Peggy Davey**, Methodist Willowbrook; **Amanda Enerson**, student nurse; and **Lynn Mulkey**.

### Minutes & Notes -cont. from page 2

which was submitted for awards application at 2006 National Congress. Our chapter did not win but our DVD entry was great.

T-CORN: Volunteers needed for next Congress to help with workshops. New officer willingness to serve forms is available from Pat Hoge. Individual membership is \$15.00. Luncheon at Congress was funded by PSI.

WAYS & MEANS: Mary Lynne suggested that selling jewelry at a booth at next years Congress might be something to think about as a chapter fundraiser.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Ballot for May's election of officers is: President Elect-Pat Hoge; Secretary- Mary Lynne Weemering; Treasurer- Jean Franks; Board of Directors- Pat Foreman, Karen Kurland, Vicki Brooks; Nominating Committee- Jane Jennings, Marie Elliott, Girsel Brown.

Program presented by Cheryl Roth: "Power of Women in Healthcare".—Pat Foreman



### Tapestry of Diversity

This Tapestry of Diversity was woven and presented at Congress for its debut unveiling.

## 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**

## 2006-07 CHAPTER BALLOT

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

**PAT HOGE**

### SECRETARY

**MARY LYNNE WEEMERING**

### TREASURER

**JEAN FRANKS**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS (3 TO BE ELECTED)

**VICKI BROOKS**

**PAT FOREMAN**

**KAREN KURLAND**

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE (3 TO BE ELECTED)

**MARIE ELLIOTT**

**JANE JENNINGS**

**GIRSEL BROWN**

### Nightingale Pledge

I solemnly pledge  
myself before God  
And in the presence of this  
assembly

To pass my life in purity  
and to practice my profession  
faithfully.

I will abstain from  
whatever is deleterious and  
mischievous, and will not take  
or knowingly administer any  
harmful drug.

I will do all in my power  
to maintain and elevate the  
standard of my profession,  
and will hold in confidence all  
personal matters committed  
to my keeping and all family  
affairs coming to my knowl-  
edge in the practice of my  
profession.

With loyalty will I  
endeavor to aid the physician  
in his work, and devote  
myself to the welfare of those  
committed to my care.

## Noninvasive Tests May Miss Breast Cancer

A study supported by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has concluded that four common noninvasive tests for breast are not accurate enough to routinely replace biopsies for women who receive abnormal findings from a mammogram or physical exam.

Magnetic resonance imaging, ultrasonography, positron emission tomography scanning, and scintimammography were found by researchers to miss a significant number of cases of cancer, compared with immediate biopsy for women at high enough risk to warrant evaluations for breast cancer. Only about one in five women currently experiencing a biopsy has breast cancer. This means that 80% of women who underwent the surgical procedure ultimately did not have cancer. Accurate noninvasive tests could reduce the number of women needing to undergo a biopsy.

However, the research Comparative Effectiveness Review, Effectiveness of Noninvasive Diagnostic Tests for Breast Abnormalities, indicates that four common tests would miss four to nine percent of cancer

cases. The four tests reviewed in the study and their results were:

1. MRI- For every 1,000 women who had a negative MRI, about 962 would have avoided an unnecessary biopsy, but 50 women would have missed cancers.

2. PET (Positron Emission Tomography Scanning) – For every 1,000 tested negative, about 924 would have avoided an unnecessary biopsy, but 76 cancers would have been missed.

3. Ultrasonography – For every 1,000 women with negative results, 950 would have avoided the surgical biopsy, but 50 cancers would have been missed.

4. Scintimammography – For everyone 1,000 negative results, 907 would have avoided the biopsy, but 93 would have missed cancers.

The findings are calculated based on average risk of cancer, but risk may vary widely, based on age, family history, and specific findings on mammograms or physical examinations. The report indicates that women who wish to have a noninvasive procedure in lieu of a surgical biopsy should discuss their individual risk of cancer with their health provider.—*Pat Hoge*



**1823 Ash Meadow  
Houston, Texas 77090**

## RNFA: THE EXPANDED NURSING ROLE

Three local Registered Nurses have completed an extensive course and Internship over the past year to qualify as Registered Nurse First Assistants.

The Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) is an expanded role for the perioperative nurse who has acquired additional education, knowledge and experience to efficiently and effectively assist the surgeon, not only in the operating room, but throughout the patient's perioperative care.

In today's ever changing healthcare arena, patients, surgeons and facilities will benefit from the continuity of care that an RNFA provides. Becoming an RNFA takes years of experience, built upon an established foundation of broad clinical experience, highly developed technical skills, and knowledge gathered both inside and outside of the operating room. An extensive knowledge of case management, anatomy, physiology, wound healing, and physical assessment affirms the RNFA as a multicompetent team member.

The well trained RNFA functions as well and at times more effectively, in the role that has traditionally been fulfilled by medical students, residents or second physicians. The stringent requirements and training for this specialized role ensures the surgeon increased time efficiency and revenue, and ensures the RNFA a vehicle to advance the expanded roles and respect of perioperative nurses.

The AORN officially recognized the RNFA as a component of perioperative nursing in the early 1980's, and the role has increasingly evolved and gained respect. The AORN requires the minimum qualifications to practice

as an RNFA include an RN license, certification in perioperative nursing (CNOR) and successful completion of an approved RNFA program that meets the AORN recommended standards.

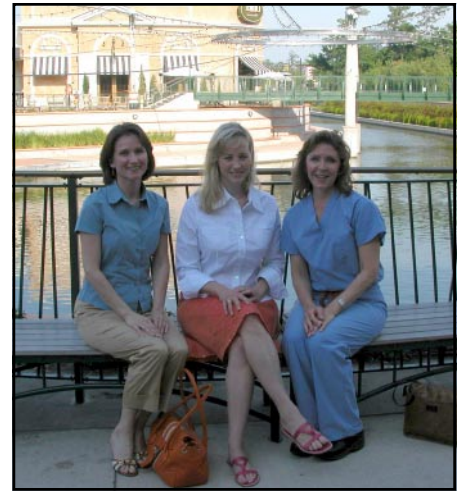
The Texas Council of Perioperative Registered Nurses (TCORN) has designated "preservation and protection of the perioperative nurse's scope of practice" as two of their four legislative priorities for 2005-2006, ensuring RNFA and CRNFA financial reimbursement. The active legislative involvement of nurses in expanded nursing roles has proven effective in changing laws with the AORN seeing three major victories in 2005. All state boards of nursing recognize the RNFA role.

Marian Thurmond, Anne Bailey-Gonzalez and Veleen Simms attended The Professional Nursing Seminars RN First Assistant Program in Taos, New Mexico through the University of New Mexico. Taos is one of the oldest programs in the U.S. and draws students from all over the country. The director **LOUISE M. PASAKA, RN, BSN, CNOR, RNFA, FNP** has been an RNFA since 1972 and instructing since 1980. The staff does an excellent job and has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share. Procedures for tying and suturing are taught during class and practiced during the extensive internship. All RNFA's have a sponsoring Physician during their internship to assist in their education and training.

*Marian Thurmond, RN, CNOR*

*Ann Bailey-Gonzalez, RN, CNOR*

*Veleen Simms, RN, CNOR*



*Veleen Simms, Marian Thurmond and Ann Bailey-Gonzalez pause at The Woodlands Waterway to compare notes and case logs.*

## The Children's Museum Still Needs YOU

*Join the fun!* We still need volunteers to help at the Museum. We especially would like members to sign up for the two sessions of summer "Museum Explorers", the 4 - 5 year old camps to be held the weeks of June 19 - 23 and July 10 - 14. More details will follow in the coming months. There are two sessions for each camp, morning 9:30 - 12:30 and afternoon, 1:00 - 4:00. I am hoping that some of our working members will ask to get off work early and come to the Museum to help from 2 - 4 pm. On the calendar you will see Tuesdays listed, but *anytime* during those weeks will be helpful.— *Ann McKennis*

**Sign up as often as you can. Contact Ann McKennis at [mckennis@mac.com](mailto:mckennis@mac.com).**

### Museum Sign Up CALENDAR

Thursday, May 4	10 - noon
Thursday, May 18	10 - noon
Thursday, June 8	10 - noon
Tuesday, June 20	1 - 3 or 2 - 4
Thursday, June 22	10 - noon
Thursday, July 13	10 - noon
Thursday, July 27	10 - noon
Thursday, August 10	10 - noon
Thursday, August 24	10 - noon
Thursday, September 7	10 - noon
Thursday, September 21	10 - noon

## Pending Election for the Slate of Officers for 2006-2007:

President: **Shirley Dukes**

President-Elect: **Pat Hoge**

Vice President: **Becky Churchman**

Secretary: **Mary Lynne Weemering**

Treasurer: **Jean Franks**

BOD: **Robby Brockhoff**

**Lillie Mae Kearns**

**Vicki Brooks**

**Pat Foreman**

**Karen Kurland**

Nominating Committee:

**Robby Brockhoff**

**Marie Elliott**

**Jane Jennings**

**Gysel Brown**

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

proudly presents

**Surgical Site Infections**

presented by

**Peter B. Graves, RN, BSN, CNOR**  
CLINICAL NURSE CONSULTANT, REGENT MEDICAL

**Wednesday, May 17, 2006**

**1.0 contact hours have been approved**

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 on Accreditation.

**SOCIAL 5:30 PM**

*bring a friend!* **BUSINESS MEETING 6:00-7:00 PM**

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

*Refreshments graciously provided by MHTWH*

**Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital**  
**Conference Rooms A & B**  
**9250 Pincroft Drive • The Woodlands**

>>>DIRECTIONS: Exit I-45 North, at Research Forest/Tamina and exit onto the feeder road. At traffic light, take a left on Research Forest (it's a right if you're coming from the north). Go to the second light, (this includes the light at the Interstate overpass) turn left onto Pincroft Drive. You will see the hospital on the left about a block down. Enter the front entrance and turn left into the classrooms.

**AORN**