

# the CIRCULATOR



AORN Chapter #4410 • Becky Churchman, editor • North Harris • Montgomery County • Dec. 05-Jan. 06

## 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.

I think it is well that we occasionally review what we are about. AORN is an association dedicated to supporting registered nurses to achieve the highest outcome for patients undergoing operative or other invasive procedures. On our chapter level, we seek to meet this mission by providing educational programs, participating in state/national legislative initiatives, recognizing individuals who excel, involving ourselves in community efforts, offering scholarships, and advocating for our patients by sustaining healthy work environments. But, you may ask, what are healthy work environments and how can we individually or collectively align ourselves?

There are a number of standards that purportedly help us to achieve healthy work environments. Here are a few competencies published by the Institute of Medicine:

- Skilled communication
- True collaboration
- Effective decision-making
- Appropriate staffing
- Meaningful recognition
- Authentic leadership

Let us continue to focus on what we are about and where we are going. We are registered nurses dedicated to achieving the highest outcome possible for patients undergoing operative or invasive procedures. Truly, there are fewer higher callings! Thank you for all you do on behalf of AORN.

Mary Lynne Weemering, Chapter President

AORN Chapter #4410

## Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 14

Landry's Seafood House

1212 Lake Robbins Drive The Woodlands

281-362-9696

Separate checks will be accepted.

➤ RSVP to Karen Kurland at [rkurland@houston.rr.com](mailto:rkurland@houston.rr.com) or

Becky Churchman at [rlchurchman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rlchurchman@sbcglobal.net) by

➤ December 9, 2005 ◀

## We received the many, many much-needed essentials you sent during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Thank you for the empathy, generosity, compassion, and goodwill you have so graciously shown to us. We are overwhelmed by your immense kindness! I speak on behalf of the perioperative staff who, even as our houses were being ravaged by hurricanes, we were separated from husbands, wives, children, parents, siblings, other loves ones, and friends worked untiringly to ensure the care and comfort of our patients. We thank you for your encouragement, for reaffirming our commitment to our profession, and for aiding us with dignity and respect in the midst of the devastation of this catastrophe. You have GREATLY encouraged us. Again, thank you.—Judy Bauer, RN, CNOR, VP of Surgical Services, East Jefferson Hospital



# Association of Operating Room Nurses

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**Karen Kurland**, past president



# Legislative News

Thanksgiving leftovers are barely gone and here we are talking about Christmas and New Years. Needless, to say it has been a busy year. Please, find a brief recap of the current legislative events that are taking place.

1. ANA and grassroots continue to work to protect and increase funding for the nursing workplace development which falls under Title VIII of the Public Health Services Act better know as the Nurse Reinvestment Act. At least \$156 million is needed to fund the program in the 2006 FY. Another bill that complements this one is the Nurse Faculty Education Act (S 1575). This bill **urgently** addresses the **need** for doctorally prepared faculty. The main reason that qualified nursing applicants are being turned away is due to a 76% lack of faculty.

2. On 11/16/05 The Patient Safety Act of 2005 (HR 4349 was introduced by Maurice Hinchey, (D-NY) Carolyn McCarthy, (D-NY) and Lois Capps, (D-CA).

This bill will help promote quality patient

care by allowing the public to have information that allows them to make the best informed decision concerning their care. A similar bill was passed by the Senate 07/21/05 promoting a safe environment and quality patient care.

3. The last bill I'd like to mention is the Emergency Medical Services for Children Act of 2005 (S 670). Recently, Ms. Mary Wakefield suffered a personal tragedy and during this time her past work as a public policy activist came to the forefront and members of Congress introduced this bill on her behalf. Ms. Wakefield can be heard saying, "That a nurse's voice can be the one of the most powerful heard when that voice is used."

In the perioperative arena top priorities remain securing the RN as the Circulator and finding a vehicle for acquiring RNFA reimbursement at the Federal and State level. For more information, refer to [www.capitolupdate.org](http://www.capitolupdate.org) and [www.aorn.org](http://www.aorn.org).

It looks as if we have our work cut out for the coming year. In the words of Les Brown, "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." Have a great Christmas and look forward to seeing y'all in 2006. -Becky Churchman, RN, CRNFA

## Minutes & Notes

Mary Lynne Weemering, President, called meeting to order. Minutes were approved with modifications. Visitors were recognized.

**Financial report:** Beginning balance: \$1,661.26 Ending Balance: \$1,998.44

**Programs:** December 14 - Christmas dinner, spouses invited. Landry's in The Woodlands. RSVP to Becky or Karen. Note date change.

January 18 - Conroe Medical Center Hospital; "Anesthesia Awareness", Dr. Ambrose.

February 15 - Tomball Regional Hospital; ""Head injuries in Athletes."

March - No meeting, AORN Convention.

May - Memorial Hermann The Woodlands; TBA

June - Installation of officers; location TBA

**Community Services:** Chapter members including Ann McKennis, Lillie Mae Kearns and Karen Kurland volunteered at the Children's Museum at the Woodlands Mall on 11/11. At 10 am they played with the children and did a mock OR. At 7 pm they attended an adult fundraiser. Ann, who is very active at the Children's Museum, bought and distributed buttons promoting Perioperative nursing. Future dates for our chapter to volunteer is Dec. 1, 14 and 29. Please help. Ann is taking donations to purchase puppets for the children.

**Research:** Pat Hoge presented a short research article on "Alcohol Based Hand Wash."

**Legislative:** NIWI now has 12 applicants.

Four states are pursuing RNFA reimburse-

ment but this may not happen on a National Level due to lack available funds. Flu bill #375 and Stroke Prevention Treatment bill #898 have been submitted to the Senate.

Symptoms of stroke : inability to smile, raise hand, or to complete

A short sentence.

**Newsletter:** Becky will revise chapter members e-mail addresses in order to send newsletters by email, which will be a savings to the chapter. Please give corrections to Becky. The December/January newsletter will be combined.

**Special Awards:** Ann McKennis needs work-related photos from members to use in DVD and essay presentation that she and Jeff are preparing for our Chapter to submit for a National Award at Congress.

**T-CORN** - Workshop 1/28/06 in Austin, Texas at the LaQuinta by the Medical Center. Registration to seminar is \$40. Program will be on "Disaster Preparedness" and will include National-level speakers. Our own Joanne Oliver is the National Chairperson who coordinates all T-CORN chapter chairpersons.

**Ways and Means:** Last hot dog sale was not profitable and will no longer be done as a fundraiser for chapter. Other types of fundraisers and being considered and suggestions are welcome. The following were discussed: Raffle of gift-wrap, Las Vegas night, and increase in chapter dues.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Perioperative Nurses Week was discussed.

## Chapter #4410 website:

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

—continued on page 4

# Chapter News...*In Brief*

## What Happened at the RNFA Meeting?

Jean Franks, RN, BSN, CRNFA, and president of the Texas RNFA Network, attended the Texas RNFA Network Meeting in Austin at Seton Hospital October 29. According to Jean, 16 members and three new members were present. They discussed the RNFA Forum in Boston, including legislative updates. There was time for open discussion about RNFA issues. The next meeting will be in Dallas 04/29/2006 after Congress.

## Dates To Remember

- 12/07/05** Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 12/14/05** *Christmas Dinner*, Landry's in The Woodlands
- 12/21/05** First Day of Winter
- 12/25/05** Christmas Day
- 12/31/05** New Year's Eve
- 01/11/06** Chapter BOD Meeting, 1830-2030, Cali Professional Building at HNWMC
- 01/18/06** Chapter Meeting at Conroe Regional Hospital on *Anesthesia Awareness*
- 01/21/06** Greater Houston's Triple Star Gala
- 01/28/06** TCORN Conference, *Response in Crisis*, LaQuinta Hotel next to north Austin Hospital. For more information, refer to [www.aorn.net/home.asp?site=texas](http://www.aorn.net/home.asp?site=texas)
- 02/15/06** Tomball Regional Hospital
- 04/08/06** Regional Mtg, MDA, Hickey Aud.
- 04/19/06** *Post-Congress Review*, Conroe Regional Medical Center
- 05/17/06** MHTWH, topic TBA
- 06/21/06** *Installation Dinner*, TBA

**ACCOLADES!** ...to **Ann McKennis**, who will be speaking at the SOHN meeting in Portugal, Spain. ...to **Schelle Wagner**, the OR Manager at St. Luke's, The Woodlands...to **Mary Lynne Weemering**, the OR Director at Spring Branch Medical Center.

**#4410 Bound For DC** As of 06/30/05 our Chapter membership was 107, and based upon the formula for delegates allocated by the AORN Bylaws, Chapter #4410 is eligible to sit **4** delegates at the 53<sup>rd</sup> AORN Congress in Washington, D.C. In addition, we are eligible to name **4** alternates to replace one of the four in case of emergency. Enclosed in this newsletter you will find an Activity Sheet. If you would like to serve as a chapter delegate (selection is based upon a points system based on chapter involvement.) Please complete the form and return to B. Churchman, Chapter V.P. at [richurchman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richurchman@sbcglobal.net) or fax 281-580-6693. Delegates will be announced at the 01/

18/06 chapter meeting.

## A Round of Applause!...

to **St. Luke's, The Woodlands**, for hosting last month's meeting and providing the wonderful spread of food ...to **Tracy Silverman**, the representative for Aspect Medical Service for the program on "BIS" Monitoring.

**Reminder** There will be no January newsletter. This combined December/January newsletter allows the staff to spend time with their families during the Christmas holidays.

**Chapter Stats** Chapter membership holds steady at 110 members. That's 103 standard members and 7 retired members.

**Congratulations to Kathy Louie** for completing the RNFA Course!

**Condolences to Greta Snell** in the recent passing of her mother.

## National News

- AORN has earned the 2005 Cheer's Award from The Institute for Safe Medication Practice (ISMP) for the Safe Medicine Administration Tool Kit.
- Grant applications are available! The AORN Foundation is offering grants to attend the 53<sup>rd</sup> AORN Congress to nursing students, staff nurses and OR managers. The deadline for application is 02/10/06. For more info see: [www.aorn.org/foundation/grants.asp](http://www.aorn.org/foundation/grants.asp)

## Minutes & Notes (continued from page 2)

Theme: "Vital to Care, Knowledge to Share."

- TNA dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel; 11/17.
- T-CORN workshop; 1/28
- SOHN Seminar; 4/8

**Communications:** Chapter 4410 will be allowed four delegates and four alternates to the National Congress held in Washington, DC in 2006. Activity sheet for selection of delegates for Congress is in this newsletter.

Judy Bauer and East Jefferson Hospital in New Orleans sent our chapter a thank you letter for our support after Katrina.

*Tapestry of Diversity*, a project of National AORN president with chapter participation. Scholarships available from National AORN Foundation.

Ambulatory Surgery Certificate Program available on line. CNOR preparation available on-line. Free contract hours if article submitted 45 days in advance.—*Pat Foreman, RN, CNOR*



**Girls Just Having Fun!** Chapter #4410 was represented at the TNA District #9 Nursing Celebration Dinner held 11/17/05 at the Four Seasons Hotel. From left, Jeff and Ann McKennis, Frances and Becky Churchman, Earland and Mary Lynne Weemering, and Karen and Tom Kurland

## 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 Meeszaros**

**Mary Oates**

**Karen Kurland**



## CELEBRATING PERIOPERATIVE NURSE DAY AT THE WOODLANDS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Chapter Members were delighted to celebrate Nurses' Day with school children and the museum staff at Market Street in The Woodlands.

Noted fitness expert, Scott Cole presented his *Get Fit America for Kids* program combining tai chi, yoga and taekwondo. We were right there in the middle of things, and despite sore muscles the next day, we had a great time.

That evening, a fundraiser was held for adults in the museum. Chapter members were there to help, while promoting the museum and perioperative nursing. We were even called to assist a Market Street shopper in distress. Thanks to all who helped make this a great event!

Kudos also to those who supported the Museum's Silent Auction, and a special thanks to Cheryl Stevenson for her donation of pediatric scrubs to the Mu-

seum on behalf of AORN.

Anyone who would like to donate money for nurse puppets (\$20 each), please contact Ann McKennis or Karen Kurland.

Join us for Museum fun on these Thursdays in December: 1, 15 and 29th from 10 am until noon. You will have a great time (and can shop and have lunch in festive and beautifully decorated Market Street). For directions, go to [www.woodlandschildrensmuseum.org](http://www.woodlandschildrensmuseum.org).

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!—Ann McKennis, RN, CNOR



**Working for "LOVE"** Members who assisted with the evening fundraiser event for the Children's Museum were from left, Diane Barnett, Nancy Newsom, Amy Eberly and Becky Churchman.

**Who Needs Curves?**  
From left, Lillie Mae Kearns, Scott Cole, Karen Kurland and Ann McKennis take a breather after working out with fitness guru, Scott Cole.



1823 Ash Meadow  
Houston, Texas 77090

# 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

**PLEASE COMPLETE & RETURN TO BECKY CHURCHMAN BY JANUARY 18, 2006**



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

proudly presents



**The Current Info Regarding**  
**Anesthesia Awareness**

presented by

**Dr. Ambrose**

*bring a friend!*

**Wednesday, January 18, 2006**

**1.2 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**

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

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

**Conroe Regional Medical Center Auditorium, 1st floor**



>>>DIRECTIONS: Coming from the South, take I-45 North, exit the Gladstell exit; Make a U-turn over the freeway to get on the South bound feeder. The entrance to the hospital campus is about 3/4 of a mile. Turn right and follow the signs to the Women's/Newborn's Entrance. This is the entrance closest to the Auditorium and is the old Main entrance.



**AORN**