

Mar 2009

Volume 2



# ORNAA

OPERATING ROOM NURSES OF ALBERTA ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER



## Message from ORNAA President

The days are getting longer and the thoughts of warm and sunny days are starting to permeate and warm our inner soul. This vision reminds us that the minds and souls of Perioperative Registered Nurses are nurtured by both formal and informal means. The art and skill of care giving, patient advocacy, and technological mastery are examples of what nurtures our perioperative being. We are taught and integrate some of this in our basic nursing programs. However, knowledge and nursing practices incessantly metamorph due to evidenced generated from research and technology continues to evolve with each passing day.

How does one keep up with these changes and meet the continuing competency requirements of our professional association?

Reading peer reviewed journals, attending regular in-servicing sessions provided by your employer, attending local education sessions hosted by professional groups and associations (i.e. local ORNAA district, CARNA), or attending conferences are some examples of fostering professional competency.

We are currently living and working in a climate of organizational restructuring with fiscal responsibility and many perioperative nurses are seeking creative ways to attend and fund some educational opportunities. Simply ..... Alberta nurses may not be granted educational leave and funding to attend conferences. I believe this is an unfortunate circumstance that will not be permanent. However, in the mean time, I would like to share some creative planning some of our perioperative colleagues have instituted to attend the ORNAC National Conference to be held in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador June 7-12 of this year. They started by asking for vacation for the time needed; as ORNAA members they requested funding from their local district's education fund, they also applied to ARNET and to local bursary/trust funds for additional monies; they secured accommodation by renting a house in the host city for the week and filling it to capacity with other delegates. Airlines have been offering seat sales and reasonable flights are available. Many meals are included in the conference registration so cost for food will be minimal if cooked at the rental house. The message sent by these creative nurses is that conference attendance can be accomplished by thinking "outside the box". And ..... who thinks faster on their feet and creatively problem solves better than a Perioperative Registered Nurse???

I look forward to seeing many of you at the National ORNAC Conference and/or at the Provincial ORNAA Conference in Red Deer, October 21-24, 2009.

Kelly Kuz  
ORNAA President

### Articles Posted since last newsletter:

Jan09—SCORNA—Lifeskills in France

Jan09—SCORNA-ORNAA Conference 2008

Jan09-SCORNA-2008ORNAA Conference Perspective

### Inside this issue:

Rising Star Recipients 2008	2
Retired but not forgotten	3
District Reports	4
OR Slate	5

## Promising Star Award Recipients 2008 (Award Certificate, Promising Star Pin and paid one year District membership)

### Esther Park—Calgary

Esther quickly developed into a leader by doing the charge role on nights. She has consistently demonstrated responsibility and accountability for her own actions. She is not afraid of challenges and yet knows when to ask for help. She is a great team player with good communication skills. In emergency situations, Esther remains calm, cool and collected which helps create a respectful environment that minimizes stress and anxiety. I have seen her admit a patient for an emergency AAA, calm the patient and relatives with quiet confident words at the same time effectively doing her job. She always has a kind word for her colleagues and takes time to teach new staff and students in the OR.

Regardless of the situation, Esther consistently applies the principles of aseptic technique to reduce the potential risk of infection to the patient and health care team. She is willing to share knowledge and skills and supports a positive learning environment for the health care team.

Esther has managed to juggle working full time and taking the time to provide care for her grandmother all without complaining. She is an active member of the Korean community and enjoys playing a variety of sports. She will be taking on the role of hospital representative for SCORNA starting September 2008.

Esther is truly a promising star in the OR and will rise to be a great OR nurse. I am indeed privileged to work with her.

### Larissa Hunka—Edmonton

Larissa's professional practice is clearly demonstrated by her surgical conscience. She uses her acquired knowledge in the theatres to ensure that aseptic technique is followed to meet the highest of surgical standards.

She is trusted to participate competently in both the circulating role and scrub role. As an intermediate perioperative practitioner moving to expert level she is able to anticipate the needs of the patient in the perioperative environment. In the short time she has been in the staff nurse roll she has become a role model and mentor in her ability to take charge of complex situations.

She is consistently assessing the perioperative environment to ensure patient safety as is evidenced in application of correct site surgery policies and safer health care now.

Her professionalism is demonstrated in her ability to respect confidentiality without prejudice, of both patient and colleague.

Larissa's nursing practice inspires and refreshes.

***Please submit all snips and snaps articles electronically to:***

**education@ornaa.org**

**Include your full name,  
district and, if applicable,  
the references.**

Next newsletter deadline May 29

## Retired...But Not Forgotten

# Yvonne Schuller

## Retired... But Not Forgotten...

The **Stollery Children's Hospital Surgical Suite** recently celebrated **Perioperative Nurses Week** with a party to honour the career of Yvonne Schuller, our friend and colleague. Yvonne graduated from the Edmonton General Hospital School of Nursing in 1961. After graduation she secured employment in Montreal before she ultimately returned to work in her training grounds in Edmonton. Yvonne held several positions at the General Hospital and Royal Alexandra Hospital before coming to The University Hospital Day Surgery and The Stollery Children's Hospital Surgical Suite, where she worked until her retirement. Yvonne received awards upon graduation from nursing school and continued to be recognized until the end of her career receiving Reach Awards on three occasions from Capital Health.

Linda Socher (n.d.), ORNAC President, reiterated the efforts of nurses like Yvonne Schuller from the ORNAC website, stating:

The Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada is always honoured to recognize the contributions of all Preoperative Nurses to patient care. The theme for Preoperative Nurses Week 2008 was *Inspiring Excellence in Safe Patient Care*. During this week especially we take time to recognize and acknowledge all Preoperative Registered Nursing Colleagues across Canada. We draw attention to our practice behind sterile doors. We impact patient's lives every day through commitment, focus, compassion and excellence in Preoperative Nursing Care. Preoperative Nursing is a dynamic process guided by theoretical knowledge, ethical practices, research, specialized clinical skills and caring practice. (¶1-3)

We were honoured to celebrate the remarkable career of Yvonne Schuller at a brunch with many of her colleagues and friends. Everyone in attendance could attest to Yvonne's commitment to excellence in perioperative nursing care and were very proud to have been part of her team. She was always professional, positive and patient in her delivery of care. Her expertise, inspirational teaching and unconditional respect for both patients and staff have become a benchmark for many of us.

We will miss her in our daily practice setting but wish her a well deserved happy healthy retirement.

Yvonne you did it all! Congratulations & Happy Retirement!

Peggy Ziegler RN CPN[c]  
Stollery Children's Hospital, Edmonton Alberta.

### References:

Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada (n.d.) *Perioperative nurse's week*. Retrieved January 13, 2009 from [www.ornac.ca/nurses week.phtml](http://www.ornac.ca/nurses%20week.phtml).

## ***District Reports***

### **NORNA - Michelle Tolton**

Greetings from the snowy north, and looking for signs of spring.

Our NORNA membership consists of 46 members, from the QEII, Peace River, McLennan, Seba Beach and Yellowknife.

One of our members has travelled to Chicago to attend the AORN's 56<sup>th</sup> annual congress, "Embrace the Future", March 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>.

A few of our members are planning to attend ORNAC's 21<sup>st</sup> National Conference in St-John's NL, coming up in June.

We have an upcoming Education Session planned for March 26<sup>th</sup>, our guest speaker will be Sue Styles and the topic will discuss issues surrounding "Teaching Students in the Operating Room". This session will be teleconferenced to our rural sites.

### **NCORNA - Pam Rooney**

Our current membership includes 243 members, with one more still to come.

Our meetings have had great turn outs. Our last meeting was very interesting. We learned all about the HPV virus and that we should vaccinate our daughters. Unfortunately, if our daughters do not fall into the grade Five to Nine age group, we are responsible to vaccinate them at our own cost, which could be upwards of \$500.00.

We have yet to choose a topic for our May annual meeting, but, we are hopeful that it will be a topic which will attract large numbers of members.

We have bandied about a few topics, but have come close to "colour personalities", and how they work well, or not, with each other.

Our group has had two people come forward to volunteer to be on the Core Conference Group for the Edmonton 2013 National Conference.

All in all, it has been a good year, and we are all looking hopefully to Spring.

### **CORNA - Tammy Dodge**

To date the CORNA membership is 32

Our March workshop "Patient Pediatric Simulator" by Traci Robinson was well received. Over 20 RNs, 2 Anesthesiologists, and 1 respiratory therapist participated in our mock set up. Special thanks to the Red Deer Operating Room for allowing us to take over 2 of the empty theatres. We had case carts, crash carts, and MH carts in the room. There were 4 scenarios in total. By the end of it, the adrenal was pumping, staff were running codes, inserting catheters, opening stat instrument sets, IVs, mixing Dantrolene.....it felt so realistic. Look for pictures in the June newsletter.

Next meeting May 26th, speaker TBA.

### **SCORNA - Catherine Kelly**

Current membership to date is 171 (167 plus 4 honorary). We are continuing to promote SCORNA membership to our new staff.

Our first general meeting of 2009 was January 13<sup>th</sup> hosted by Foothills Medical Centre site. The topic was "Staff Abuse" with a speaker from CARNA providing and informative insight into this all too commonly occurring issue.

Perioperative Nurses week was celebrated at each site with cake, pizza, coffee and prize draws. SCORNA supported this with a \$50.00 cheque for each site.

We are looking forward to an educational and fun Spring Workshop for our members to be held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

All SCORNA members are extremely proud of the outstanding job of our conference committee for the planning and execution of the 2008 ORNAA provincial conference. We thank them for all their hard work.

We will be providing funding support for members to attend the 2009 ORNAC National conference and certification/recertification.

### **SORNA - Bev Reach**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for the 2008/2009 fiscal year was held in Lethbridge on November 20, 2008

Spring Workshop planning is going well... Medicine Hat planning committee is organizing same

Magda Waldner will be the Education Director for Lethbridge

Dinner meeting held at Lethbridge restaurant in celebration of OR Nurses Week - partially funded

by SORNA.

Power point presentation was given by Bernie Johnston on her experience in Ecuador with CAMTA (Canadian Association of Medical Teams Abroad).

Next meeting March 19, 2009 – teleconference





## THE OR SLATE

Is there someone you would like to congratulate? A new achievement or milestone in your district or facility? Something interesting you would like to share with the membership?

Email this information to [education@ornaa.org](mailto:education@ornaa.org)

- Reminder to submit nominees for the Muriel Shewchuk Leadership Award and the Promising Star Awards.
- Look at the events section for district meeting information
- ORNAA Hosting the 2011 National Conference!!! Want to volunteer or be on the National Committee? Information available on [www.ornaa.org](http://www.ornaa.org)
- Share your inspirations stories and poems with other ORNAA members. Recently did research for a degree course? Why not submit an article to snips and snaps and you may qualify for a writing award.



### Membership Forms:

District Treasurers, please send your membership forms to :

Pam Rooney  
9923 83 Street  
Edmonton, AB  
T6A 3N3

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ORNAA Provincial

27th AB Provincial - SORNA hosting-Surgical Technologies Ongoing Practices

Red Deer, AB October 21-24, 2009

Gloria Nemecek, Conference Chair [conference@ornaa.org](mailto:conference@ornaa.org)

### ORNAC Conferences

21<sup>st</sup> National St. John's, NL June 7-12, 2009

22<sup>nd</sup> National Regina, SK 2011

### International

AORN Chicago, IL March 15—19, 2009

\*\*Look at the ORNAC website for additional conferences\*\*

