February 2005 Newsletter

February Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 10th
Arthur’s Garden Deli
3727 Blackhawk Rd. Rock Island
Supper/Meeting 6:00
Yes, we are starting the meeting 1/2 hr. earlier to include time for discussion of AORN proposed statements

Program 7:00
Dr. Peter Pardubsky
Synthes Locking Plate Technology for Fractures
CEU program
no cost to AORN members
AORN MEETING MINUTES  January 15, 2005
The meeting was called to order at 0918 by President Ginny Sones.
A quorum was established and introductions were made. The November minutes were reviewed and approved as
printed in the newsletter.

**Board Meeting Report ---Ginny Sones**
George Brown has stepped down as Treasurer. The board approved Helene Robinson to finish his term of office.
Chapter funding for Congress participants was approved in the amount of $700 for each delegate, alternate, and our
Congress incentive recipient, Kelly Heppe for a total of 7 people ($4900). This will leave approximately $1000 re-
main in our checking account when all nut money is deposited.

**Officer’s reports:**
**Treasurer--- Helene Robinson**
Financial statement- $1694.30 in checking, $90.97 in savings. Funds received: John Terrell/ Spring Seminar-
$300.00, St. Jude/golf outing-$500.00

**Committee reports:**
**Education---Julie Shafer**
February 10, 2005 meeting to be held at Arthur’s Garden Deli. Dr.Pardubsky and
Quad City Ambulatory will host the presentation including a hands-on presentation of
Synthes locking plate technology. The February meeting will start @ 6:00pm. to allow
extra time for discussing the new AORN proposed position statements.
Videos will be shown at the February and March meetings to discuss 7 proposed position
statements that delegates will discuss for approval at Congress in April.

**Legislative---Katie Galbraith, Jennifer Stiles, Margaret DeReus** No report

**Membership---Vari Nelson/Ginny Sones**
Total membership-81. It was suggested to openly discuss AORN meetings at all staff
meetings at individual facilities. Ginny presented a CD-ROM developed by AORN
National Membership Committee as a membership promotion.

**Bylaws---Dale Farmer No report**

**Nut Sale---Paula Metz, Helene Robinson, co-chairs**
Several bags of nuts/coffee remain and are available for purchase. Total sales not
known at this time.

**Spring Raffle---Laura Gayton, Drew Starenko** Not present

**Unfinished business:**
Vari Nelson and Amy Rodgers to audit the treasury books.

**New Business:**
Habitat for Humanity will be building six new homes so we will likely be able to participate at some time this sum-
ner.

**Announcements:**
ICORN developing pin shaped like state of Illinois with AORN logo on it. Our chapter
could apply for a table and sell at Congress.

**Adjournment:**
The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.
The program was a presentation called, "The Wheel of Life" by Chaplain Becky David, manager of Spiritual Care at
Genesis.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly J. Heppe, RN
As I’ve talked about previously, Bill Duffy has dedicated his year of service as AORN’s President to a celebration of our value as perioperative nurses. I find myself thinking, ‘What do I have to celebrate? My position as an evening charge nurse doesn’t seem extraordinary’. In Bill’s President’s Message in the April 2004 AORN Journal, he says, “Pause a moment and think back to a time you made a difference in a patient’s life. Your actions could have been dramatic or something as simple as letting a patient know you cared about him or her. It is a wonderful feeling to reflect on that memory. The world is a different place because of you. Some individuals reading this may think their actions were not that important because another nurse would have done the same thing. That other nurse probably did do the same thing, but that does not lessen the impact you had on that patient. You touched his or her future, you made a difference, and you should celebrate that.”

A patient comes to mind from about 25 years ago. I worked as a private scrub for a plastic surgeon. A man in his 60’s had a large skin cancer on his face that needed to be removed at the hospital under local anesthesia. I talked to this patient about what would happen at the hospital and assured him I would be there with him. He seemed a little nervous, but nothing out of the ordinary. The surgery went fine, the patient did well. He came into the office for a follow-up appointment and stitch removal. He took me aside and told me he absolutely could not have made it through the surgery without my help. I didn’t feel I had done anything unusual, but I could see in this man’s eyes the difference I made on one frightening day in his life.

In Harold Kushner’s book, Living a Life That Matters, he refers to the annual Academy Awards. He wrote, “I have always been intrigued by the supporting-role category. I don’t know what it is to direct a movie. I have no idea what goes into composing a musical score or designing the costumes. But I know the feeling—I suspect we all know the feeling—of being a supporting actor in other people’s movies, not being in the spotlight but doing things that shape and drive the plot……..Like Dickens’ David Copperfield, we may yearn to be the star of the movie of our lives but most of us will never attain that billing. Others will be at the center of the action, and we will be there in a supporting role, making important things happen in the process.”

If we all had a personal guardian angel like George Bailey did in “It’s a Wonderful Life”, we could be shown all the lives we’ve touched, the differences we’ve made. But without a ‘Clarence’ at our side, much of the impact we have on other’s lives will not be seen by us. We need to trust that we DO touch lives and make a difference.

Kushner also writes in his book, “Can we, in our anonymity, affect history? Rarely can we, by what we do alone, move mountains and make a difference. But by being good people and doing good things, we can, as members of a community dedicated to goodness, change the world. We can matter……..One man alone can’t defeat the forces of evil, but many good people coming together can. I believe that. I believe that ordinary people joining forces can do things that heroes acting alone can’t do.”

I think as members of AORN, we are in that community that can move mountains and make a difference. Celebrate your highly respected professional organization. Can you work in the operating room without being an AORN member? Sure you can, lots of people do…but then you would just have a “job”. Celebrate the fact that you are one among 40,000 in your professional organization who can be a part of life-changing decisions determining the path of your profession. This is an exciting time and also a time of crisis in healthcare. By celebrating our value, we can face the challenges ahead with confidence and energy.

Ginny Sones, RN, CNOR
President, AORN of the Quad Cities
Please be sure that your personal information (address, phone #s, e-mail address) is correct at AORN headquarters by going to the AORN website: www.aorn.org and click on “members” then “member services” then “update member info”. This can only be changed by you. Please make sure there is an e-mail address where you can be notified of the newsletter being on the Genesis website. This will save our chapter $$$ in postage.

Thanks!

AORN Proposed Position Statements

From Bill Duffy, 2004-2005 AORN President:

“In keeping with our promise this year to focus our work on issues affecting our practice environment, our taskforces and committees have developed a series of Position and Guidance Statements that will articulate the perioperative nursing profession’s stand on key issues. Developing the Position Statements was only the beginning of our work. The next step is to get the word out about the statements and the rationale behind them so your members and interested perioperative nurses can form their own opinions and participate in discussion on the statements at the local level. Hopefully these initial discussions will enhance your delegates’ ability to participate in the national debate.

In an effort to generate meaningful discussion about the Position Statements that will be voted on at the 2005 House of Delegates in April, AORN is developing a series of CD-ROMs and presentations to facilitate practice issue discussions within your chapter.”

The first video contains discussion on 2 AORN Position Statements: 1) Fatigue associated with long hours and working on-call 2) The orientation of nurses to the operating room. These issues affect ALL perioperative nurses, whether or not they are AORN members. Please plan to participate and bring nonmember guests to also participate.

By doing so, you can send chapter delegates to the 2005 Congress with the background and knowledge to vote on AORN position statements and help all perioperative nurses realize the value of their opinions and participation in our profession. We began discussing the first position statements at the January meeting though I was unable to show the accompanying video. I will show the video at the February meeting and we can continue discussing. I should also have the CD-ROM for the other 5 position statements before the February meeting. We will discuss whatever time allows. In March, the program for our meeting will be devoted to these discussions as well as candidates for national offices.

These position statements (and videos) can be viewed and/or printed from the AORN website, www.aorn.org. Click on “AORN Position Statement Videos” in the blue box. Also, AORN members can earn 3.4 contact hours (free) for viewing the videos and completing an evaluation.

Your opinions are valued! Don’t miss this opportunity to contribute your opinions on practice issues in your profession.

AORN Purpose

The purposes of this Association are:

1. To unite registered professional operating room nurses for the purpose of maintaining an Association dedicated to the constant endeavor of promoting the highest professional standards of perioperative nursing practice for the optimum care of the patient before, during, and after surgery;
2. To provide opportunity for continuous learning through diversified educational activities;
3. To study, discuss, research, and exchange information in the field of perioperative nursing;
4. To hold meetings at intervals for the purpose of this Association;
5. To cooperate lawfully with other professional organizations, health care facilities, universities, industries, technical societies, research organizations and governmental agencies in matters affecting the foregoing purposes of the Association;
6. To otherwise lawfully adopt policies and conduct programs for the improvement of perioperative nursing practice provided that the policies and programs are consistent with the requirements that the Association is not organized for profit and no part of its earnings inure to individuals.