

*Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words.
Keep your words positive because your words become your behavior.
Keep your behavior positive because your behavior becomes your habits.
Keep you habits positive because your habits become your values.
Keep you values positive because your values become your destiny.*

Mahatma Gandhi

It is hard to be believe a year has gone by already. This time last year we were in beautiful Niagara and I was thinking what have I got myself into!! It has been fast paced, interesting and at times downright hard, but I would do it again in a heartbeat.

Your board has been amazing. Working hard to keep your organisation running.

Strategic planning

ORNAC's last strategic plan spanned 2015 – 2018. Heather has spoken to this in her presentation. Knowing that this was coming to an end this year, we have started the discussions for the next plan. We will look at the last 2 plans, what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done. We will also look at new issues that have been raised from the member survey conducted in the last few weeks. I am excited at what the future brings. I will be reporting back to you in 3 months after discussions are concluded and we have a new plan in place.

Forging alliances and Advocacy

Because no man is an island, ORNAC makes alliances with other like organisations and stakeholders. CNA, CAS, IPAC, industry partners, CPSI and IFPN. These are organisations that we work with to improve patient safety, work on policies that affect how perioperative nurses work and share education.

ORNAC is a member of the Canadian Network of Nursing Specialties and also sits on the Certification Program Advisory Committee at CAN. This has enabled us to have ongoing talks with CNA on issues raised by our members especially on certification. Starting next year members of specialty groups/associations will get

a discount on initial writing and renewal of the perioperative certification. More info to follow as details are ironed out.

The alliance with CAS has resulted in CAS endorsing our standards!! This adds to the value and importance of our standards.

Our Advocacy Pillar Chair has done a tremendous amount of work with CPSI (Canadian patient safety institute) of 2 projects in particular. The SSCL joint position statement and ERC (enhanced recovery Canada) position statement. These 2 initiatives will enhance patient safety and the perioperative nurse's voice was heard by having ORNAC involved in all the discussions planning and implementation when it happens.

Being part of the international perioperative group (IFPN) allows ORNAC to have a voice internationally, learn and share best practice ideas and improve patient safety globally.

Governance

In the past year a lot of work has gone into updating our governance structures. Policies, orientation manual, and our communication tools have been updated. The work continues as we move to updating the bylaws in time for 2019 AGM. Results of the member survey will also be used in updating the bylaws and policies.

Finance

We have taken a hard look at our finances and continue with cost cutting measures to keep the organisation viable. We are also constantly looking at different revenue streams to bring on board. Our membership fees have remained the same for a while, our expenses have risen with increased translation costs and cost of doing business. On the other hand our revenue has been declining due to reduced conference revenue from a decrease in numbers for reasons we all know. Lack of funding, no time off due to staff shortages etc. As we move forward we will continue to balance our income and expenditure as best we can while providing our members with value added benefits.

Member benefits

Education:

We will be launching a new webinar series in July. Watch your inbox. We have heard from our members about timing, content and frequency and are working hard to deliver. We are working with industry partners to bring education to your OR computers via the ORNAC website. Stay tuned.

Standards:

Validation and strengthening of our standards continues with the remaining sections to be completed in time for the 2019 conference. The standards committee is committed, hardworking and passionate about the work they are doing.

In the current climate in healthcare, we often question if what we do makes a difference. With budget cuts, short staffing etc, it is easy to be discouraged and think we do not make a difference. Well, it does to each and every patient that we touch. I have asked this question with regards to ORNAC. And the answer is a resounding yes. This is an organisation of perioperative nurses, for operative nurses, by operative nurses. This is yours and mine. Without us there is no ORNAC. I urge you to share the passion you have for perioperative nursing with your colleagues. Your being here tells me you have that passion. It is up to those of us here today to explain ORNAC to those not members yet. If we lose ORNAC there will be no standards, no voice for perioperative nursing as a specialty. It will be a loss that will be felt for sure.

This is but a summary of the work your organisation is involved in on your behalf.

I leave you with the following -

I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something, and because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do something that I can do.

Helen Keller

