

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sharon Hollett RN, BN, CPN(C), ORNAC President, works as a staff nurse in the operating room at the Saint John Regional Hospital in New Brunswick. Sharon specializes in cardiac, plastics, and orthopedic surgery. She is a Past-President of NBORN and served as the New Brunswick Board Director on the ORNAC board for three years. Sharon has also held the positions of Secretary and President-Elect for ORNAC.

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ORNAC members started a significant conversation this fall when we successfully reached many of our members, through an online town hall format, and began a discussion about our membership categories. There is debate about our relationship with our perioperative nursing colleagues and around whether it is time for a change to ORNAC's membership categories. Should Licensed/Registered Practical Nurses (LPNs/RPNs) be categorized as full members with voting privileges and the ability to serve on the Board of Directors? It has been a challenge to effectively chair these town hall meetings to ensure that all voices are heard but it is, however, proving to be rewarding work. This has resulted in a frank and open conversation that will determine how we move forward as an organization. I have, over the past year, heard from both Registered Nurses and Licensed/Registered Practical Nurses in my workplace and through my role with ORNAC on this subject. The views expressed to me on full membership status for LPNs/RPNs has been divided.

According to our by-laws, only Registered Nurses who are employed in the Canadian perioperative setting

qualify to be a full member of ORNAC. Licensed/Registered Practical Nurses currently qualify to be an associate. There are some distinctions in these two categories with the biggest differences being that a full member has the right to attend and vote on ORNAC business at the Annual General Meeting and sit on the ORNAC Board of Directors.

My message from the September issue of this journal contained an outline of the latest business discussions taking place at the board level. Members will see that work on our by-laws continues and the board met in August to discuss this further. The current by-laws are available on the ORNAC website (www.ornac.ca and choose the About Us drop down menu). We ask members to review these and become familiar with how ORNAC's by-laws are currently worded. Think about what you feel needs to be changed for the future course of ORNAC. I am asking each member to become involved and to add their voice to this conversation on a national level. ORNAC is your association and your participation is essential. This discussion regarding membership categories has been taking place, in one form or another, for some time. Consider joining a Town Hall meeting for the latest information.

Are we still connecting on a direct professional level in the operating room? Listen to any setup conversation (the ones we have while setting up our cases) anywhere in Canada! Yes, sometimes we do discuss weekend plans and the latest Netflix series when things are quiet. But when a patient is seriously ill these conversations critically connect all the nursing staff as a part of the perioperative nursing team. We rely on each other to discuss concerns quickly and efficiently. We make decisions together about issues that we know will affect our patients' outcomes. I will often ask my colleagues their opinions on the best way to handle a situation when it arises. I value these discussions.

Think about adding your voice to the ORNAC conversation. Reach out to your ORNAC Board Director to discuss your thoughts and share your opinion (the Director's email addresses can be found on page 4 of this journal and on the website under About Us/Leadership). It is you, the members, who will ultimately make this decision. We want to hear from you! 🍁

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Hollett". The signature is fluid and cursive.