

# SPOTLIGHT ON ORNAC MEMBERS

## AN INTERVIEW WITH JANE MCDONALD RN, BSCN, CPN(C).

**Submitted by:** Catherine Harley, RN, eMBA, ORNAC Executive Director.

Jane McDonald RN, BScN, is Care Facilitator of Peri Operative Services at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) in Ottawa, ON. She has been a Perioperative Registered Nurse since 1984 after completing the Post-Graduate Perioperative course offered at the Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston, ON. She worked there until 1989 when she moved to Ottawa and worked at the Riverside Campus of the Ottawa Hospital until 2003. She then moved to CHEO as the Clinical Leader for the OR and then to her current role as the Care Facilitator of Perioperative Services. CHEO has eight ORs and services all departments (Orthopaedics, General Surgery, Urology, Plastics, ENT, Oral Surgery, Dentistry, Ophthalmology, Gastro-Intestinal, Cardiac, and Neurosurgery). In 1997 Jane wrote her CPN(C) she has renewed it four times since. She also obtained, while working full time, her BScN from Ottawa University in 2009. Jane has been active within her regional perioperative nursing association (ORORN) for many years and was recently the volunteer coordinator for the 2013 ORNAC National & International Conference with IFPN.



Jane McDonald RN, BScN, CPN (C)



When did you become interested in a career in the OR?

During my second year of nursing I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit the OR during my surgical rotation and that was it... I loved it! The team work, technical aspects, and the fact that every case was a little bit different interested me. I also knew some nurses who worked in the OR at Hotel Dieu and thought it was the most interesting aspect of nursing.

Tell us about the role you play in the OR at the CHEO.

My job is to ensure that the daily activities of the units run smoothly and to trouble shoot situations that may arise in the OR, Post Anesthetic Care Unit, Day Surgery or the Pre-Assessment Unit. I work closely with the Perioperative Manager, Material Technician, Nursing staff, and Physicians to ensure that the

staffing and equipment needed is available. Since the introduction of the LEAN initiative (a project to identify opportunities to enhance our work environment and improve Family Centred Care) to our Perioperative areas I have been involved with many work groups looking to improve efficiency. I am a member of the Team in Charge (TIC) and work with the Anesthesiologist in charge and Surgeon in charge to improve the function of Perioperative areas. We review the daily OR schedules, monitor each room as the day progresses and plan the Urgent Emergent allotted time.

What are the most difficult decisions you have to make in the OR?

I find it difficult when we have to cancel scheduled surgeries. The families of our patients book time off work and many have family members travelling from all over the country to care of our tiny patients after surgery. They are also

## SPOTLIGHT ON ORNAC MEMBERS (cont.)

AN INTERVIEW WITH JANE MCDONALD RN, BSCN, CPN(C).

It is important to encourage people to take an interest in their professional body – explaining the benefit of membership is an important start.

often anxious to have the procedure completed. It is a difficult when the TIC team has to cancel surgery for one reason or another.

**What type of work environment do you prefer?**

I enjoy working as part of a team in a tertiary hospital where there is a support system for nursing staff. I prefer to work where there are eight to ten ORs and where you can become familiar with your team members so there is more of a personal touch.

**How long have you volunteered with your regional OR group and in what roles?**

I was a member of South Eastern Nurses' Operating Room Association (SENORA) while in Kingston and became involved with Ottawa Regional

periOperative Registered Nurses' Association (ORORNA) when I moved to Ottawa. I started as a member then as a Hospital Representative followed by many years in the roles of Secretary, Treasurer, President- Elect, President, and now Past-President.

**How do you inspire people to get involved in their Regional Group?**

Membership has decreased in our area and all across the province and the country. It is a hard thing to explain. We have many younger nurses joining the Perioperative specialty and we know many have young families and commitments. I have found that offering interesting education sessions and activities that interest them helps attract members. A few years ago we did a Sports Medicine conference, with the opportunity to network with team doctors, followed by an Ottawa Senators hockey game. Another conference we hosted was held at a Spa, with a 'healthy you' theme, and was a big hit with our local membership.

It is important to encourage people to take an interest in their professional body – explaining the benefit of membership is an important start. Education and patient safety are at I feel are the important reasons to stay involved as I believe it is our responsibility to keep up to date on the newest technology and standards. The chance to meet and network with your peers is invaluable. A challenge you thought was unique to you, or your team, has likely been experienced by others... and someone may have already created a solution that you can use!

**Tell us about your role as Volunteer Coordinator for the 2013 Conference.**

We had a wonderful group of volunteers for the conference here in

Ottawa in April. There were approximately 50 Perioperative nurses from the Ottawa area that helped with the day to day activities. I liked to tell them that they were the glue that held it all together! The group handled a broad range of responsibilities. Welcoming people at the airport; manning the Surgical Safety Checklist kiosk at the Rideau Center; assisting with registration; hosting duties; staffing the ORNAC information booth; welcoming speakers; monitoring at the presentation doors; and helping with the social activities. It was a great group to work with. If something needed to be done someone just rolled up their sleeves and pitched in!

**How did you keep everything so organized?**

I started with a Word table listing every duty that we were needed for on each day and assigned each task to one or more individuals. The final document was sent to everyone by email a couple of days before the conference so they were aware of their upcoming tasks. I tried to have each individual on duty for only a portion of the day so that they would also be able to take part in the conference events. The volunteers were using vacation days for their Conference time and I tried to respect this.

**Any words of advice for those interested in volunteering with their regional, provincial, or national association?**

I would say "Just Do It!" It takes everyone's support to make a difference. If you want things to change you must get involved. It does not matter at what level or how much time you can give – you CAN make a difference. Don't be discouraged if something does not work out. Just ask yourself what you could have done differently... and then try again.