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## President's Message

By Margaret Farley, RN, CPN(C)

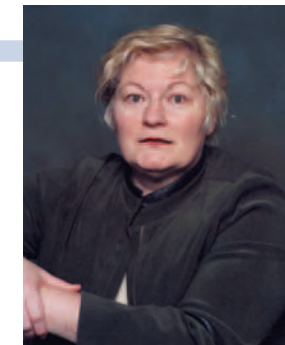
Last year, as I traveled on ORNAC business, I found that I was coming across the same topics no matter where I was. At the 18<sup>th</sup> National ORNAC Conference, the *National Association of Theatre Nurses (NATN) Annual Congress*, the *Operating Room Nurses Association of Alberta (ORNAA)* conference or at meetings with the *Saskatchewan Operating Room Nurses Group (SORNG)* the topics and the themes were pretty consistent. Our world may be physically vast, but it seems we are all dealing with the same issues around the world.

In Harrogate, UK, Calgary, Alberta, Humboldt, Saskatchewan, and Winnipeg, Manitoba, speakers addressed similar topics – infectious diseases, recruitment, retention, leadership, and mentoring/preceptorship – all topics some of us may be tired of discussing! If so, be comforted by the fact that you do not suffer alone. No matter your location on the globe, it seems you will be dealing with these same issues.

In Harrogate, at our *Council of National Representatives* meeting for the *International Federation of Perioperative Nurses (IFPN)*, President Kate Woodhead asked each of the attending countries to tell us the top three perioperative nursing issues in their home country. From A to Z (or Australia to Zambia) it was the same three issues being voiced – recruitment, retention, and staff shortages.

Leadership is often deemed to be somebody else's domain. Many feel they do not need to lead because they have not been placed in a leadership job or role. Leaders are not instantly created once they reach a certain career level or earn a certain title. They grow in to leaders throughout their career – often right before our very eyes! The leader within your perioperative setting is the person teaching, mentoring, encouraging colleagues, or acting as one of your unit's decision makers. This is not a title – it's an attitude.

ORNAC business has often taken me away from my own perioperative setting. However, I still find myself surrounded, in every different room in every different city or town, by perioperative leaders from every job offered in theatre nursing.



As the year advances, so do our leaders. Shortly after you receiving this journal we will witness the first ever IFPN Seminar Day! This event will take place in Adelaide, Australia, on Wednesday, April 28, 2004.

That venue will find an abundance of leaders forging the future and advancing our specialty. ORNAC will be well represented by Past-President Mary Knight. Mary has been asked by IFPN to speak and one of her topics will be *SARS – a Chinese & Canadian Perspective*. Once again, different venue, similar issues!

So what can we all learn from this? How can we be part of the global solution? There are many ways that each of us can help lead perioperative nurses, and our practice, toward solutions.

- Get involved with a committee • Attend conferences to learn different perspectives on the problem and solutions • Keep in touch with ORNAC so that you know what others are doing • Share your knowledge and ideas for solutions - conduct research, write articles • Participate in job fairs • Attend high school career days • Always be positive about the field of nursing as you never know who may be listening • Be a mentor*

As 2004 advances so can we all. I wish you all increased knowledge, new ideas, and continued growth this year and for many years to come. 🍁

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