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President's Message

By Mary Knight, RN, BScN, MN, CPN(C)

Sometimes we are fortunate, and opportunities arise that take us down a career path that is rewarding and satisfying. However, making plans and strategic choices will place you in control, and nurture your perioperative nursing career.

Develop yourself - Assess your talents and skills and pursue personal development opportunities.

Utilise resources when needed - When you have successes, share them with those you are mentoring. When "character-shaping" experiences occur, consult your mentors for affirmation of your skills and strengths.

Become a futures thinker - Today's reality will not be that of tomorrow. Associate yourself with those who are succeeding. Place yourself to be part of decision-making opportunities for tomorrow's work world.

Navigate organisations - Know how organisations function, so you can successfully navigate them to achieve your goals. Develop leadership skills to influence people and situations to expand your sphere of influence.

Position yourself for recognition - Develop your communication and presentation skills so that you can express your thoughts and passion for perioperative nursing and patient care. Partner with a colleague to present an inservice, or educational session.

Retire actively - Consider how you can continue to participate in your life's profession - write articles, volunteer, or stay active within your provincial O.R. association.

As you are reading this, my term as ORNAC President has come to an end. *Marlene Hill*, Past President and *Sheila Billiard*, Treasurer both leave the Executive - thank you for your hard work and contributions! The collective wisdom of all the individuals with whom I have worked over the years at the ORNAC Board makes it challenging, stimulating and dynamic, and everyone is to be congratulated for their efforts to advance the perioperative nursing profession.

The accomplishments of the ORNAC Executive and Board during the past two years reflect the efforts of this dedicated group of volunteers. The ORNAC Board reviewed its structure and processes last November, and affirmed its commitment to the Standards, the CORNJ, www.ornac.ca and the National Conference as the foundations of our organisation. In the fall, the ORNAC Constitution and By-Laws will be revised to incorporate the outcomes of that review.



One of the most obvious successes is ORNAC's ownership of this Journal. Many individuals have worked diligently to make this a successful venture, and will continue to do so. Another venture has been to revise the ORNAC Recommended Standards, which will be published this fall. This edition will have a new format, so that revisions and new modules can be incorporated, with the intent of keeping the document current.

The website is undergoing revisions, and will continue to evolve. Plans are underway to develop mechanisms to utilise the website to facilitate the work of the ORNAC Board, as a "cyber national office". The 18th ORNAC National Conference is now over, thanks to the hardworking Conference Planning Committee from MORNA members. And of course, planning is already underway for National Conferences in Montreal (2005) and Victoria (2007).

I would like to say a special thank you to my family - Mike, Jamie and Mom, who have coped with my travels and extra workload. My employers, friends, and colleagues who supported me in many ways during my terms as President-Elect and President also deserve special recognition. Your unwavering support has enabled me to fulfill the mandate of the offices, and is truly appreciated.

Best wishes to *Margaret Farley*, your incoming ORNAC President, and the newly elected Executive. Leading a volunteer organisation is challenging, as everyone is busy in both our careers and personal lives! ORNAC is fortunate to continue to find capable individuals with a strong commitment to perioperative nursing to carry on its goal of "Promoting Excellence". ❁

Mary Knight, RN, BScN, MN, CPN(C), is President of the Operating Room Nurses' Association of Canada. She is the Director, Programs & Patient Services, Surgery & Women's Health Programs, at Victoria General Hospital in Winnipeg, MB.

Mary Knight, infirmière enregistrée, BScN, MN, CSP (C), est présidente de l'Association des infirmières et infirmiers de salles d'opération du Canada. Elle est directrice des programmes et des services aux patients ainsi que des programmes de santé des femmes et de chirurgie, à l'Hôpital général Victoria à Winnipeg, au Manitoba.