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President's Message

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

This issue of the *Canadian Operating Room Nursing Journal* marks a major milestone — ORNAC has assumed ownership of the Journal, and has begun a relationship with our new publisher **Clockwork Communications**. The arrival of this Journal in your mailbox represents hours of work by the ORNAC Editorial Advisory Committee, chaired by **Kim McLennan-Robbins** of Alberta. Sincere thanks to everyone involved in making this issue a reality!

As you read through this issue, please jot down your thoughts and ideas for us. ORNAC would truly appreciate your comments on the Journal — what you like, what you think could be improved, or any new ideas you many have for the Journal. What would you like to see? Please contact your provincial ORNAC Board representatives, or send your comments direct to ORNAC through our website: www.ornac.ca

I would also encourage you to consider submitting an article. Our Journal is only as good as the submissions we receive! Please take the time to stop, and consider what you can contribute to the Journal. The *CORNJ* provides us with a way to communicate issues and information, and to positively influence the thinking, feelings, and behaviours of others. Remember that articles submitted by Canadian perioperative nurses are eligible for the *J&J Drake-Thompson* editorial award of \$3,000 — it's time to get your computers fired up!

As I write this message, the *United Nations International Year of the Volunteer* has just ended. I salute the many volunteers who support perioperative nursing across Canada. Volunteers, who contribute their precious time and energy to advance the interests of perioperative nursing, lead our professional provincial associations and ORNAC, and have a positive impact on surgical patient care. While everyone is busy and has commitments, remember that any organization's success and effectiveness rests on the participation and abilities of its members. Take time to consider what you can do to make a difference in your professional organization, and what opportunities that

would provide you in return.

Professional organizations have three roles: to support individual practitioners; to advance the interests of the profession; and to serve the public (Merton, 1958). One of the ways in which ORNAC fulfils its professional mandate is through the publication of standards, which Merton states must be in the vanguard, continually thrusting forward and raising the standards of the profession. As you are aware, ORNAC has once again embarked on a review of our Recommended Practices — please send your comments to the *Standards Committee*, again through the website.

Merton also notes that only the local constituent groups can provide the forum in which issues can be threshed out before action on them is taken nationally. To be able to speak for the profession an association must be representative of as large a percentage of the profession as possible. Your participation in your local OR nurses' association is critical to our success at both the provincial and national levels. Consider asking a colleague who has not participated before to attend the next meeting or workshop with you — it is only through participation that we will improve our association! 🌟

References:

Merton, R.K. (1958). *The functions of the professional association. The American Journal of Nursing*, 58 (1), p.50-54.

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Mary Knight, inf., BScN, MN, CPN(C), est la présidente de l'Association des infirmières et infirmiers de salles d'opération du Canada. Elle est coordonnatrice de projet du bloc opératoire de chirurgie adulte, au Health Sciences Centre, à Winnipeg, Manitoba

