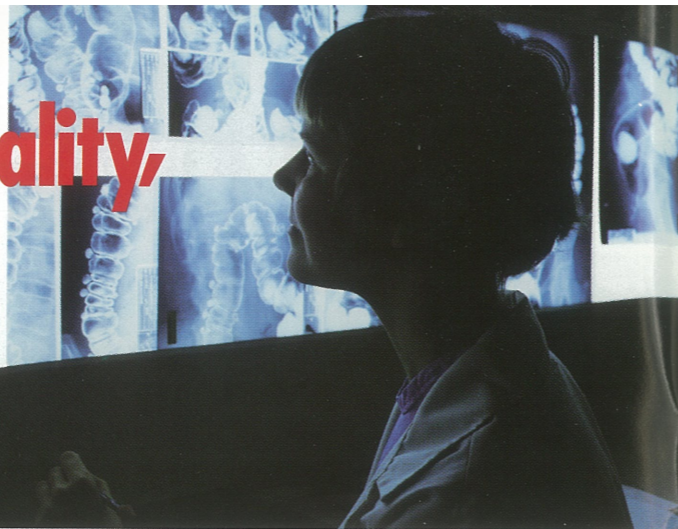


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From Grassroots to President

By Marlene Hill, RN, CPN(C)

For my first "President's Message" I would like to introduce myself on a personal and professional level and thereby establish a rapport with you, and perhaps provide motivation to other perioperative Registered Nurses to become involved in their professional associations.

I am married and have two daughters of whom I am very proud. One of my greater accomplishments was in raising these girls and seeing them venture out into the world with their own set of values, beliefs, and desires. Now that the girls are on their own, Marvin and I remain in our home with a wonderful view of the Northumberland Strait and Victoria-By-The-Sea. It is a rural area with a 30 minute commute to work. My mother, sisters and brother live around us in their own homes on our family farmland. It is wonderful to have the security of family close by, and we respect each other's privacy. Both vegetable and flower gardening are enjoyable hobbies and provide me with a measure of peace and well-being. For me, this is paradise.

I graduated from the diploma nursing program at the Moncton Hospital School of Nursing in 1972 ready to conquer the world and be the best nurse I could be. I was determined not to get in a "rut" like some of the "old nurses" I'd encountered. Well guess what? I've become one of those "old nurses" but I can assure you I have never been bored in my life, and the love of nursing and the desire to "conquer the world" remains strong. Nursing has always been good to me and for me.

My employer is the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. I work part-time as a perioperative registered staff nurse and am proud of that fact. I feel strongly that the combination of commitment, competency, knowledge and ability to interact well with others are the qualifications which gave me the confidence to run for President-Elect of ORNAC two years ago.

My active involvement with ORNAC began in 1989, and since then have met wonderful people provincially, nationally and internationally. I have

had opportunities for travel and have the satisfaction of knowing that I have contributed positively to OR and general nursing practice decisions. From these accomplishments I have developed greater self-esteem.

I have served on the Executive of ORNAC in the position of President-Elect for two years, Treasurer for four years, and as member and/or chairperson for several ORNAC committees. My proudest accomplishment was to have been Chair of the Standards/Education Committee and was responsible for overseeing the publication of the 1998 *Recommended Standards For Perioperative Nursing Practice*. I am currently gathering data for the publication of the 2003 *Communiqué*, an historical document covering ORNAC's accomplishments over the next five years.

Throughout the years, deriving enjoyment in carrying out responsibilities has been a high priority for me. It's revealing to discover that when the fun disappeared, the responsibilities became tedious chores. We must all strive to enjoy ourselves, our families, community and our co-workers, taking time to "smell the roses". We should endeavour to bring to work a positive attitude, maintain a physical, psychological and spiritual balance and treat others with respect. I believe these are secrets of success and methods of leading very fulfilling lives.

Each of you has the ability to make a difference in your environment/work/organization. The first step is always the most difficult. During my term of office, I challenge you to become more positively involved in nursing decisions and collaborate with ORNAC and myself to provide an organization which will best serve the membership most effectively. ■



Marlene Hill, RN, CPN(C), is President of the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada. She is Staff Nurse, Operating Room, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.