

ORNAC in a Nutshell

By Corina Balcom, Secretary ORNAC.

The Board and Executive of the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada met in Ottawa, April 26 & 27, 1997. The meeting was attended by five Executive and twenty Board members. Following are highlights of the meeting:

1. Plans were finalized to conduct a Forum during the National Conference. The purpose of the forum is to determine the major issues of concern of OR nurses across Canada and in so doing give ORNAC board members more direction.

2. The Executive conducted a self evaluation of ORNAC using a document "Standards for Associations" from the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation. ORNAC has a process in place that meets the Standards, but needs to look at outcomes.

3. There is a need for a study guide for the CNA certification exam. The Standards/Education Committee will review study guides presently used by several provinces and endorse a final document as a guide rather than pursuing the development of one from the CNA.

4. A National Membership ad-hoc committee has been formed to investigate ORNAC membership cards and numbering system.

5. The Awards Committee announced ORNAC - Johnson & Johnson Bursary recipients for 1997:

Brenda Kingdon,	Manitoba	\$500.
Karen Parsons,	Nova Scotia	\$250.
Barbara Benoit,	B.C.	\$100.

6. The Bylaws Committee continues to update, revise and develop new policies for the Rules and Regulations Manual to guide Board members.

7. A draft of the 1998 Standards has been circulated to the Executive and Board for review. Plans are for French and English versions of the new document to be available, January 1998.

8. The Telemedicine schedule for the Fall 1997 session has been prepared and will be published in the Journal.

9. A Position Statement has been prepared on the Environment and will be in the new Standards document. This committee has changed to an ad-hoc status.

10. The French Translation committee is making plans to prepare the ORNAC video "Behind the mask" in French.

11. Public Awareness will be investigating the

costs of a WEB page for ORNAC. The Committee will also prepare a statement on the RN in the OR which can be used as a framework for release to media, the government and other agencies. A pamphlet will be developed for the public to promote perioperative nurses.

12. The Advanced Nursing Practice committee has been working closely with the Canadian Anesthetic Society (CAS) and Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) in preparing a proposal for "Funding for a National Analysis and Competency Profile for Anaesthetic Assistants". Approval for funding is being sought through Human Resources Development Canada.

ORNAC has observer status at NAFTA meetings on the Nurse Anaesthesia Educational requirements and mobility between NAFTA countries Project, in order to ensure it is understood there is no role for nurse anaesthetists in Canada.

13. Plans for the World Conference in Toronto, September 8-12, 1997, are in the final stages. Canadian attire for Friendship night will be available at the World Conference. Several Canadian speakers have been chosen including Muriel Schewchuck as keynote speaker and Dr. Joan Donald as the closing speaker. Others include Marion Morrissey, Marla Ewen, Jean Reeder and Audrey MacDonald.

International Planning committee members are seeking an expanded role for the member countries and have initiated discussion and a proposal for the formation of an International Perioperative Nursing Organization. This may include:

- being a stand alone organization,
- being affiliated with ICN, or
- expanding their current role with AORN.

14. Future National Conferences are being planned for Halifax, June 13-18, 1999, Banff in 2001 and Manitoba in 2003.

15. The meeting concluded with elections. The ORNAC Executive for 1997-1999:

President:	Donna Farid
Past-President	Vija Hay
President -Elect	Marlene Hill
Treasurer	Shelly Zareski
Secretary	Corina Balcom

(Adapted from the minutes of April 26 & 27, 1997.)

Past President's Message

By Vija Hay, RN, CPN(C)

As my term as President draws to a close, I wish to thank the Executive and board Directors who have served ORNAC in the past two years. I value their support, dedication and commitment to this Association. We have shared the same vision and worked by consensus. Through their efforts the Association continues to progress.

I particularly thank Jackie Waisman, Past President, who leaves the Board. Her commitment to ORNAC spans many years of service as a Board of Directors member, Executive, Committee member and Chair, as well as Chair of a National Conference.

I also thank the Provincial Associations for work well done, and the continued strong motivation to maintain their Associations viability.

We proudly congratulate Joan Donald in recently attaining her Ph.D., and Anne Hughes on being the recipient of the Isabelle Adams Excellence in Perioperative Nursing Award.

During the past two years we have seen unending transition and have been challenged in our careers. ORNAC is well aware of the impact of changing economy and technology on our profession and patient care. It is encouraging to note that ORNAC has remained strong and the membership numbers remain stable. In alignment with our Mission Statement of promotion and advancement of excellence in perioperative patient care, and professional and personal enhancement of OR Registered Nurses, the Executive and Board have worked to advance perioperative nursing practice, participated in and promoted perioperative certification, reviewed and revised ORNAC Recommended Standards of Practice. Striving for accountability and quality, the Executive carried out a self-evaluation of the Association, and held an open Forum at the National Conference. We are compiling a report from this Forum for the next issue of the Journal.

As President of ORNAC, my focus has been on promoting excellence in perioperative nursing practice, promoting professional responsibility and accountability through dialogue with our membership.

As we move into the future, we in ORNAC and as individual nurses need to challenge the old ways of doing things and look for opportunities to move out of old patterns. But let us not lose sight of our past and our core values, so as to stay true to our profession and our patients. Recognize professional and personal achievements and celebrate successes.

I look forward to assuming the new responsibilities of Past President, and will continue to work in promoting excellence and advanced perioperative practice, to foster partnerships, and to assist in creating direction of ORNAC that serves its members.

In closing, I urge you to embrace the future, explore new opportunities, and be current and aware of key issues. I call on you to become partners with ORNAC in dealing with new issues and new directions in shaping our professional future.

It has been an honor and privilege to be President of ORNAC. Thank you and best wishes for your personal and professional success in the future.

Vija Hay, RN, CPN(C), is a Consultant, Surgical Services, Ottawa. She is the immediate Past President of the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada.

