

Spring Ahead - Fall Back

By Jackie Waisman

Once again, the fall season is upon us. Our busy lives seem to get even more hectic as fall kicks off the start of school, social activities, a return to full workloads and the list goes on. For most of us, fall also signals a time change on our clocks - Spring Ahead - Fall Back. ORNAC faces the same time clock in the 90's. Is this the time to move ahead or fall back? Tough decisions for us all!

ORNAC is presently facing some very challenging and exciting issues, including: •Lobbying for OR Experience in Basic Nursing Programs; •RN's as First Assistant to Surgeon; •RN's as Assistant to the Anaesthetist; and •Certification; all of which have been discussed for a number of years and recently have gained tremendous momentum. These major issues demand a lot of volunteer time. Members of your associations, both provincially and nationally, must gather and assimilate volumes of information, share this information in an effort to establish a consensus across Canada, then await your feedback before presenting a national plan on behalf of all perioperative nurses.

As Canadians, and especially as health care workers, we watch and listen to hear how our health care system is being realigned and recreated. Concurrently, while decisions and revisions are being made to our total health care system, ORNAC must make decisions on the Association's direction and focus. Herein lies the dilemma, do we spring ahead or fall back?

At the recent ORNAC board meeting in Québec City, held in conjunction with the ORNAC National Conference, I had the opportunity and pleasure of being part of a very motivated group of ORNAC members who have a great vision for your association. ORNAC was celebrating its tenth anniversary and reflecting on how it all began, where we are today and what is our vision for the future. Our focus was and remains - meeting membership needs.

As I browsed through past issues of the *Canadian Operating Room Nursing Journal*, I came across a President's Message written by the first president of

ORNAC, Valerie Shirreff. In her message Val, writes of the formation of ORNAC and the objectives which were determined in April, 1983. She wrote:

"For many of us, this was the realization of a dream after many years of hard work, sacrifice and dedication to a cause. The creation of this association, however, is only a beginning, albeit, an historical and propitious one. Now, it must be nurtured through its formative stages, sustained and nourished until it has a strong and vibrant past with which to grow upon. In other words, as operating room nurses, it is your's and my task, together and as members of a professional fraternity, to guide it to maturity".

The tenth anniversary marks a time in the association's growth to take a safety check and determine which issues require time and commitment from our membership. We have made it through those formative stages and today we have a strong and vibrant association. By addressing the current issues we are following through with the visions of those representing ORNAC in 1983, we are guiding the association to maturity. It is time for ORNAC to "Spring Ahead" and as for the "Fall Back"- let's leave that to only the time pieces in some provinces!

Until next time...remember, "You are the wind beneath my wings".



Jackie Waisman is President of ORNAC, effective, June, 1993. She is the Nurse Manager, Operating Room and Recovery Room, Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre, Red Deer, Alberta.

Don't forget. . .

to order your
free
uniform catalogue

1-800-461-0033



THE DISCOVERY COLLECTION

Lac-Mac Limited, 849 Dundas Street, London, Canada N5W 2Z8
(519) 432-2616 Fax 1-800-461-0001