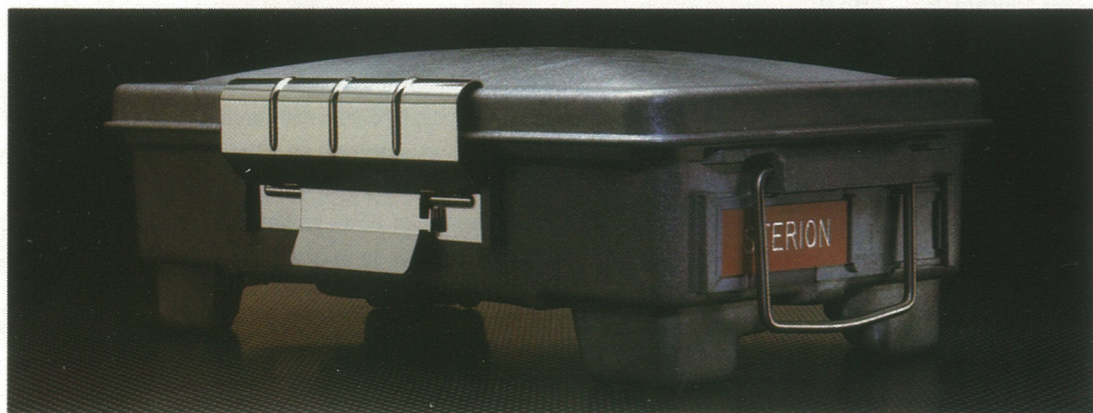


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President's Message

My pursuit of the office of President represents the culmination of many years of caring, participation and commitment to promote operating room nursing as a professional role in developing and maintaining quality care to surgical patients. I have proven my commitment and I now pledge that I will continue to serve the Canadian Operating Room Nurses Association with enthusiasm, dedication, concern and be open-minded to meet the needs of the membership and support and defend the on-going ORNAC goals, as well as establish new ones for the membership and peri-operative nursing.

On behalf of the new executive, I take this opportunity to thank Joan Donald, the Past President, and her executive for a job well done. It is no easy task to be available practically every minute for ORNAC and still be available to one's work duties, family, friends and personal time. I, and the new executive, hope we will be able to fill our predecessors' shoes. The guidance, support and feedback from the board is invaluable, and we, the executive, will continue to rely on this group of dedicated nurses.

I believe ORNAC has an opportunity to mold peri-operative nursing practice through education, standards, research, involvement with the C.N.A., and where possible, actively involved in legislative acts that govern our practice. A strong international link has been developed and the executive will maintain and uphold this link which will keep us in touch with world affairs and concerns in nursing.

I, along with the executive will work with and through the membership in making accurate, decisive, and informed decisions. Some decisions may not be popular, but will be based on feedback and made to the best of our ability. A person who trims oneself to suit everybody will soon whittle oneself away.

We must not put each other in a win/lose situation. Compromise is the answer. This is the important issue. We have volunteered to do the very best we can for ORNAC. Each member has something to offer, some more than others; but we must make everyone feel welcomed and proud to be associated with ORNAC. Communication and constructive criticism will make our association viable and strong. A reputation is easier kept than restored.

An organization does not succeed by leadership alone, but through the strengths and involvement of

its membership. In this we have a wealth of expertise and commitment. Major issues facing ORNAC presently include: lobbying for O.R. experience in the basic nursing program; developing competency statements for the peri-operative nurse; developing a position on RNs as 1st Assistants; eligibility for Board and Executive offices. Issues for the future: a scholarship/bursary program and, research and certification for the peri-operative nurse. We will succeed if we are prepared to lend a helping hand.

There has always been a strong unity - coast to coast - which was clearly demonstrated during the successful 11th National Operating Room Nurses Conference in Toronto where we had the opportunity to exchange ideas, concepts and attitudes, and where there existed a strong, common bond of professional kinship. This bond will strengthen our commitment to our profession, to ORNAC, our patients and to our peers. I am confident in our future as we face the challenges of the 90's.

We must develop innovative strategies to meet these challenges and to uphold the rights of patients and nurses in their quest for a realistic balance between cost, quality and access to care. Nothing is accomplished without a dream. If you aim at nothing, you will hit nothing.

The new ORNAC executive:

- President - Gloria Stephens - B.C.
- President-elect - Carol Lenox-McDougall - Ont.
- Vice-president - Jackie Waisman - Alberta
- Secretary - Anne Hughes - NFLD.
- Treasurer - Carol Starr - Ont.
- Past-president - Joan Donald - N.B.

We, the executive, look forward to a great future enabling us to contribute to the growth and further development of ORNAC in a collaborative effort with the provinces. I close with this poem:

*"What you can do, or dream
you can, begin it.
Courage has genius, power
and magic in it.
Only engage, and then the
mind grows heated;
Begin it and the work will
be completed."*

(Diane Ritter)



Gloria Stephens
ORNAC President