

# Chapter Chatter

ASSOCIATION OF PERIOPERATIVE REGISTERED  
NURSES

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN CHICAGO CHAPTER #1411

Chapter Website: <http://www.nwscc.org>



*President: Tey O'Meara*  
*President-elect: Nelia Gonzales*  
*Vice-President: Tita Lacson*  
*Secretary: Carrie McGraw*  
*Treasurer: Celia Arrogante*

## SEPTEMBER - 2011

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## President's Message for September

Welcome back! I hope everyone survived the steamy summer days. Just think how much fun you had when below zero temperature comes around. Guess what? Fall is almost here and it is time to get back in the swing of things and make plans for 2011-2012.

One of the benefits of being a President is attending the Leadership conference in Denver, Colorado. This is an excellent opportunity to network with leaders from other chapters. Additionally, the workshop provides ideas and resources to help local chapters have a successful year. This year's focus is on safety practices, lean OR, and the future of nursing.

The board and committee members met in July to strategize our chapter activities and implement some ideas from the Leadership Conference. This year's goals are:

- Grow:** -increase chapter monthly meeting attendance and membership. At the end of the year, members who had perfect attendance from September of 2011-June of 2012 will be entered in a raffle. The winner will win \$50 from our Scholarship Fund.
- Connect:** -start and finish meetings on time; stick to the agenda  
-board members to socialize and sit with new members  
-use the newsletter as a venue to post changes in AORN Standards of Practice.  
-inform members of available resources from AORN, such as OR Link and free CE offerings.
- Have Fun:** -invite exciting speakers. Ann Marie Herlehy, AORN National President is our guest speaker for November.  
-plan fun activities during monthly meetings. A Zumba instructor will be at the November meeting for an invigorating hour of lesson.



We are looking forward to making this an exciting year for you. Please stay tuned!

Tey O'Meara, RN, MSN, CNOR

**2011-2012**

**Chapter 1411 Officers**

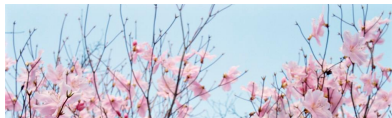
President: Tey O'Meara  
 President-elect: Nelia Gonzales  
 Vice-President: Tita Lacson  
 Secretary: Carrie McGraw  
 Treasurer: Celia Arrogante

**Board of Directors**

Mary Pedersen  
 Gayle Steinberg  
 Joann Matsakis  
 Felicia Schallmo

**Committee Chairs:**

**Education:** Mary Pedersen  
**Research:** Carrie McGraw  
**Scholarship:** Susan M. Clausen  
**Hospitality:** Patricia A. Szymczak  
**AORN Foundation:** Debe Gonzales  
**Membership:** Jessica Ambrosia  
**Legislative:** Randolph Schild  
**Newsletter:** Rose Ladao  
**Ways & Means:** Celia Arrogante  
**Nominating:** Kathy Folena  
**WebPage Master:** Randolph Schild  
**Outreach:** Jodi Gaski  
**Historian/Parliamentarian:** Jodi Gaski  
**Spring Workshop:** Patricia Lueders



We Need  
 Your E-mail  
 address for  
 speedy  
 Newsletter  
 Delivery.

# Future Meetings:

**2011-2012 AORN Chapter 1411**



**September 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Neuro Anatomy Cranial Repair**  
 Presented by Michele Wittbrodt (Stryker)

**October 11th**

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm: NaturalHistory, Diagnosis, and Therapy Options

**October 15th**

ICORN Meeting at Swedish Covenant Hospital  
 CEU Presentations beingarranged with more details to follow

**November 12th**

Monthly Meeting (Saturday) at GlenbrookHospital  
 Celebrate Nurses' Week  
 Presenter: Anne Marie Herlehy  
 Zumba Class to follow

The Chapter officers encourage you to support your chapter by attending monthly meetings. Come and network with other OR nurses, enjoy a dinner out, and accrue free CEU's at each meeting. Bring a colleague who might be interested in joining!!

**New this Year: Reward for attending meetings. Will raffle names at the end of the year-\$50 from Scholarship Fund.**

**Meeting Location:**

**Lutheran General Hospital**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Floor Green Room**  
**Board Meeting 5:00 pm**  
**Business Meeting 6:00 pm**  
**Educational Offering 7:00 – 8:00 pm**



## **ICORN Meeting**

**Swedish Covenant Hospital**

**5145 North California Avenue**

**Chicago, IL. 60625 (773-878-8200)**

**October 15, 2011**

**0800AM-1200Noon**

**Registration starts at 0800am**

**Breakfast will be provided**

**2.0 contact hour**

**Program and Meeting Agenda will be announced**

## **Member Resources**

### **ORNurseLink - A PeriOperative Community**

ORNurseLink is an online community from the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) that provides operating room professionals a place to connect with each other and exchange helpful resources, ideas, and practices.

This link provides access to Groups (Chapters, State Councils, and Specialty Groups), Discussions, Posts, News and Events. Members have full access to OR Nurse Link by logging to [aorn.org](http://aorn.org).

Join Special Groups such as “The Joint Commission Group” to share survey tips and information. You can also join conversation in “Group Spotlight” on timely news and practice issues through the AORN news discussion group. View “Hot Topic Discussions” and join existing discussions or create your own point of interest.

It is still in working progress for most chapters and State Councils, but eventually it will be the site to view chapter/state council’s updates, news and events. Our chapter is working to transfer our website’s information to this link. This site is provided free to all chapters and state councils.

## AORN CONGRESS 2012

Please plan ahead of time for next year's Congress in New Orleans. If you are in the priority list to be a delegate based from points awarded due to your active participation in the chapter and you are unable to go, please notify Tita Lacson ASAP to give more time for the other available delegates to make arrangements.



***Any ideas for chapter fund raising events? E-mail your ideas to our treasurer and our Ways and Means Committee Chair: Celia Arrogante at [carrogan@yahoo.com](mailto:carrogan@yahoo.com)***

## **Report**



### **The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health**

Released: October 5, 2010  
Type: Consensus Report  
Topics: [Health Care Workforce, Quality and Patient Safety, Health Services, Coverage, and Access](#)  
Activity: [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing, at the Institute of Medicine](#)  
Board: [Studies under the IOM Executive Office](#)

With more than 3 million members, the nursing profession is the largest segment of the nation's health care workforce. Working on the front lines of patient care, nurses can play a vital role in helping realize the objectives set forth in the 2010 Affordable Care Act, legislation that represents the broadest health care overhaul since the 1965 creation of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. A number of barriers prevent nurses from being able to respond effectively to rapidly changing health care settings and an evolving health care system. These barriers need to be overcome to ensure that nurses are well-positioned to lead change and advance health.

In 2008, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the IOM launched a two-year initiative to respond to the need to assess and transform the nursing profession. The IOM appointed the Committee on the RWJF Initiative on the Future of Nursing, at the IOM, with the purpose of producing a report that would make recommendations for an action-oriented blueprint for the future of nursing.

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Through its deliberations, the committee developed four key messages:

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
- Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
- Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.
- Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and information infrastructure.

The United States has the opportunity to transform its health care system, and nurses can and should play a fundamental role in this transformation. However, the power to improve the current regulatory, business, and organizational conditions does not rest solely with nurses; government, businesses, health care organizations, professional associations, and the insurance industry all must play a role. Working together, these many diverse parties can help ensure that the health care system provides seamless, affordable, quality care that is accessible to all and leads to improved health outcomes.

### **The Latest New Benefits of Membership! (from National)**

**New [Automatic Renewal Program](#):** Save time and ensure your membership is always current by enrolling in AORN's new Automatic Renewal Program. You'll reduce your mailbox clutter and help AORN "go green".

**New [Installment Billing Program](#):** AORN members now have the option to pay their annual membership dues in 3 easy installments.

**New [AORN Webinars](#):** As a member, you now receive free educational webinars. AORN webinars cover hot and essential perioperative nursing topics. Visit the online calendar and look for webinars marked "free to members." *A valuable new benefit.*

### **Chapter Membership Update:**

Member Type	Count
Standard Member	134
3-Year Member	24
Retired Member	12
2-Year Member	7
Associate Member	6
Lifetime Member	2
Facility Member - 1 Year	1
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<b>Total Members</b>	<b>186</b>

## State of Illinois and Regional Legislative News



### From the state of Illinois

Greetings,

I have been named to the post of Illinois State Legislative Coordinator by AORN. I welcome the opportunity to fulfilling the responsibilities of this position and I intend to try to keep you all fully informed as to what is going on in the state legislatively.

The summer has been relatively quiet in terms of nursing initiatives in the state legislature. All of the bills mentioned in my report had been in process last spring. The major focus of the summer has been the state budget, as you all have probably already have heard on local news outlets. Even these reports were drowned out by the budget battle in Washington.

#### Perioperative Nurse Week:

I have submitted a request to the Governors Office for a Proclamation for the State of Illinois to recognize Perioperative Nurses Week which is November 7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Last year 17 states officially recognized Perioperative Nurse Week.

#### Legislative News:

The following bills are in process in the State of Illinois.

House Bill 282 and Senate Bill 1296 are bills which sets a minimum direct care registered nurse to patient ratio for each unit of a hospital was referred to committee.

House Bill 1684 and Senate Bill 1577 are bills which states that hospitals must adhere to safe patient handling practices related to lifting equipment, accessories, and a safe lifting team. This bill is meant to help prevent injuries to patients, staff and other health care workers associated with the lifting transferring or movement of a patient. This bill has passed both houses and now awaits the Governors signature to become law.

House Bill 2939 is a bill that provides the ability of any member of the general public to request and receive a copy of the hospital staffing plan. This bill has been referred to committee on rules.

Senate Bill 1749 seeks to amend the Registered Surgical Assistance and Registered Surgical Technologist Title Protection Act. This proposed amendment seeks to establish a minimum education requirement of having attended a nationally accredited surgical technologist program, previous employment at certain entities, or completion of military training programs.

Registered Nurse First Assistants (RNFA) must now be reimbursed at an appropriate non physician modifier rate if the payor would have paid for the services of physician providing the same services. This does not provide for payment to hospital employees.

Randolph Schild PhD(c), MN, RN/APN, CNOR

State of Illinois Legislative Coordinator

## From Region 3

The national legislative committee has budgeted funds for legislative action for all 10 states in region 3. Our regional states include: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Each of the states will have a set amount for legislative action. Our state legislative coordinator, Randolph Schild, will be reporting on what legislative actions are being considered. AORN is active in working with both ANA and CMS to promote their 2011 legislative priorities.

We as an organization are working on being a partner on the national legislative committees as partners in advancing our priorities in Washington, DC. The ANA has been willing to assist us in this matter. As for the relationships with CMS, Craig Jefferies is diligently working with them to advance our priorities. The national priorities for 2011 are as follows:

1. **RN as circulator:** AORN maintains that every surgical patient deserves a perioperative registered nurse for the duration of any operative or other invasive procedure and actively promotes laws and regulations to ensure the supervisory presence of the professional RN in the perioperative setting both at the state and federal levels
2. **Preserving and Protecting the Perioperative Registered Nurses Scope of Practice:** AORN will preserve and protect the Perioperative Nurses' Scope of Practice including the role of the [Registered Nurse First Assistant \(RNFA\)](#) by working with the appropriate regulatory and legislative bodies for language regarding education, certification, regulation, supervision, delegated nursing functions, roles, responsibilities, and duties. AORN will monitor, evaluate, and respond to any proposed legislative initiatives by allied health care professionals that may affect the perioperative nursing scope of practice and profession
3. **Supporting Workplace Safety and Patient Safety Initiatives:** AORN will protect the health and safety of nurses in the perioperative setting by supporting legislative and regulatory initiatives that create and maintain a safe perioperative work environment that promotes safe patient care. AORN encourages legislative and regulatory efforts to establish an accountable, trusting patient safety culture that reflects individual and collective values, beliefs, behaviors, and skills in the operating room.
4. **Advance Positive Healthcare Improvements:** AORN will actively participate in health care delivery system improvements at the federal and state level to promote the role of the perioperative registered nurses in achieving optimal patient safety. AORN will also actively participate in federal and state discussions on health care change to promote standardized data collection at the point of service to substantiate for improvements in patient safety and quality. AORN will collaborate with other organizations to advance positive health care improvements but will not endorse specific candidates.

### A quick update:

On the federal side the joint commission (TJC) has published accountability measures for quality performance in which 85% quality performance is to be attained. CMS has also published rules regarding ambulatory surgery centers to report quality data to them. AARP will also be involved in an effort to promote the Future of Nursing.

In order to provide quicker and universal access to its website, AORN is working on developing a link that will help members to get in faster with a goal of 5 second time limit.

Sophia Schild, EdD, MSN, RN, CNOR  
Region 3 Legislative Coordinator