AORN Congress - Second House of Delegates
President’s Report, Executive Director Report, Foundation Report, and AORN Bylaws

AORN President Martha Stratton opened the second House of Delegates on Wednesday by saying she is a southerner by birth, a nurse by education and training, and a perioperative nurse by the grace of God. She then proudly reviewed the successes of her term and highlighted the members’ approval of two position statements during a virtual business meeting since the previous Congress. Stratton impressed upon members her sincere appreciation for her opportunity to serve and conveyed the high esteem with which AORN is held in the international community.

Next, Linda Groah presented the Executive Director’s report, highlighting AORN’s value as leaders in evidence-based practice, confirmed by the more than 40 government and other organizations that have requested AORN representation on their boards, task forces, and committees. In response to the member needs assessment survey, AORN now provides Periop 101 students with a membership for one year and is exploring content for a Periop 202 that would be based on surgical specialties such as MIS, orthopedics, cardiac and neuro. This year’s efforts led to 6,100 new members and 7,400 lapsed members who have recently rejoined.

Anne Fairchild, Treasurer of the AORN Foundation, reported on the Foundation’s accomplishments in the past year. The Foundation awarded $160,000 in academic scholarships, 180 professional development grants, and provided to support educational programs and regional seminars focused on current topics affecting the industry.
New in 2016, the Foundation helped launch the AORN Go Clear Surgical Smoke Free Recognition program. Fairchild proudly announced that last year 87% of all Foundation revenue went directly to support resources touching the lives of real nurses. The Foundation raised over $240,000 in the past week in Boston.

President Stratton then led the House of Delegates through discussion and voting on proposed amendments to the AORN bylaws. First, the members nearly unanimously approved an amendment to the bylaws that restores the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee to a more traditional nominating committee by eliminating the committee’s leadership development responsibilities, allowing the committee to focus more exclusively on candidate selection and the election processes.

Next, members considered a bylaw amendment that would have required all candidates for AORN board of directors, officers, and the newly renamed Nominating Committee, to hold current CNOR certification. As part of this discussion, members also considered a proposal to allow for additional accredited perioperative nursing certifications to meet the proposed certification requirement. After robust discussion at the microphones, both proposals were ultimately laid on the table by a strong majority, meaning that AORN will be creating a bylaws committee in the coming year to consider both options regarding certification. The issue of whether a BSN should be required to serve in elected office with AORN will also be considered in the coming year by the same committee.

The meeting wrapped up with Kristy Wheeler, Chair, Nominating and Leadership Development Committee presenting President Stratton with the 2017 election results (see below) that were revealed in the closing ceremony that followed.

Submitted by Janet Wingfield, RN, CNOR from Expo Daily News Delegate AORN Global Conference & Expo 2017