

OPENING SESSION

The Opening Session of the 57th AORN Congress was held on Monday, March 15, 2010. The speaker was Janet Corrigan, Ph.D., President and CEO of National Quality Forum. She spoke on the current state of health care performance, goals, and priorities for transforming health care and key ways to drive change-transparency and payments. Dr. Corrigan highlights three collaborative, action-oriented strategies to do this: performance measurement, public reporting and payment. She stated that all three strategies are needed to enact change. She stated "if you can't measure them, you can't improve them. We need standardized measures and measures for different settings. Her example was " measures should be conducted to measure patient-level outcomes, process of care and cost and resource use. Health care professionals have a responsibility to the public to be accountable. The public is seeking more and more health information on line and as time goes, that information is improving. Continuing to encourage accountability and transparency is essential to positive change. The third driver is payment, which is one of the most important drivers of health care. There are three categories in which payment can be made: payment of service, payment of event or condition or payment for care of a population.

According to survey results have showed many people preferred to pay on as as-needed basis while a larger percentage of people preferred to make a pre-defined per event.

It was a very interesting speech, stressing what we, as health care professionals need to be aware. The current delivery system is broken because the current system focuses on services rather than outcomes; there is a lack of accountability for current aspects of care, and the delivery system are very fragmented. The performance measurement needs to focus on the six main priorities (safety, palliative care, overuse, care coordination, patient/family engagement, population health. Quality and cost challenges must be addressed now and greater transparency is the key to engage the public and mobilize stakeholders. Finally payment reform is essential.

Bonnie Garretson

Opening Session and Awards

Submitted by Faye Hughes

AORN President Patrick Voight RN, BSN, MSA, CNOR welcomed the audience to the 57th AORN Congress in Denver. The Opening Session processional was led by the current Board of Directors, followed by the Past Presidents and Board Members respectfully known as the Golden Gavel, Committee leaders, Specialty Assembly Chairs, State Chapter Chairs, Chapter Presidents, Active Military and a host of other dignitaries.

Invocation was given by Father Tom Carzon who read a prayer by Florence Nightingale. Peter Fox sang the National Anthem as US Air force Honor Guard presented the colors. President Voight was presented with the American Flag that was flown over the US Capital on November 14, 2009 in remembrance of the 30th Anniversary of Perioperative Nurses Day. President Voight welcomed guest from the Nursing Alliance and recognized attendees from international organizations.

Individual achievement awards were presented at several points during the ceremony.

Ruth Shumaker RN BSN CNOR was presented the Award for Excellence in Perioperative Nursing.

An inspirational video about Mercy Ships was shown and a representative from Mercy Ships was present to speak.

Awards given:

Extended Service Award- Loyce Jacobs McCulloch

Next Generation Achievement Award- Stephanie Kefer

Outstanding Achievement Perioperative Evidence Based Practice- Ellice Mellinger

Outstanding Achievement Mentorship- Missi Merlino

Outstanding Achievement Volunteerism- Ann McKennis

Outstanding Achievement Perioperative Nursing Practice- Reuben DeKastle

Outstanding Achievement Perioperative Nursing Research- Kay Ball

Outstanding Achievement State Council Leaders- Monica Weishich

At the end of Opening Session, Patrick thanked his colleagues, family, friends, Board of Directors for their support. The meeting was adjourned and the BOD left the stage to the music from the Black Eye Peas.

Jerry G. Peers Lecture

Getting from Volume to Value

Health reform is not about one big bill—it's about many different things going on, including the pursuit of value being driven by people on the street saying, "I think it can be done better and cheaper," according to Paul Keckley, PhD, Executive Director of the [Deloitte Center for Health Solutions](#), during his talk for the Jerry G. Peers Lectureship on Monday afternoon at AORN's 57th Congress. "For health care professionals, reform is also about valuing what you do and instilling trust and confidence in your patients, don't ever let that change."

As for his take on the health reform discussions in Washington, Keckley said health reform is not about bad people, it's about a flawed system, but when discussions on health reform are framed within a scenario of winners and losers, no systemic change can result, he said.

"It seems to me that this discussion of health care may sometimes miss the idea of meaningful, purposeful work," he stressed, noting that perioperative nurses play a key role in promoting this meaningful perspective

on reform by taking an honest look at the system.

Regardless of what happens this week in Washington as the current health care reform bill is slated to be voted on, Keckley said health reform will continue to be discussed at the state level and that the health system will naturally evolve because it is no longer affordable.

Looking ahead five, 10 and 15 years from now he predicts a very different health care system in the United States that includes four key changes:

- Increased transparency of safety, outcomes and costs
- Increased integration of health delivery
- Lower payments from Medicare, Medicaid and commercial plans
- Profit with purpose

Despite the opposition surrounding public dialogue on health reform that has occurred, Keckley is very optimistic. "Isn't it great that for more than a year, people have had to think about health care? We now have some recognition that the delivery system for health care has something to do with cost and that each of you contributes to outcomes that are the result of teams, not individuals—this is something policy makers are beginning to think about."

Respectfully submitted by: Jane Hutt, RN
First House of Delegates Report - Pat Frasher

The Financial Health of AORN and its branches were announced. Policy changes @ AORN, Inc., caused a gain only due to budget cuts including the following: AORN, Inc., with frozen wages and benefits and layoffs; AORN Works with cuts in consulting services. AORN is budgeted for break-even record books in 2010.

Among the Officers' annual reports was the statement of strategy focus as leaning toward the future to OR environmental scanning/trends of people, service, quality, finance, and growth.

I. People Pillar –

1. Nursing Alliance Quality Group was formed and a perioperative summit is planned.
2. Evidence Based Learning – increased exposure and availability through journals and online webinars
3. OR Nurse Link initiated January 2010

II Service Pillar –

1. Enhanced Technology Infrastructure
2. Meetings, Leadership, Fall Conference, Executive Symposiums
3. Revised correct surgery checklist – collaborated with JCAHO and WHO

III Pillar Quality –

1. Industry Seal of Recognition
2. Expanded Periop 101
3. Development of position, description and evaluation tools
4. Updated PNDS to 3rd edition

IV Pillar Finance –

1. There is now about \$500,000.00 in profit, but not without the sacrifices stated above. AORN will keep away from the money reserves at all costs

V Pillar Growth –

1. There is less decrease than projected
 - A. critical investments have been in technology, ambulatory surgery, recommended practices, knowledge-based competency and confidence-based learning.
 - B. “Syntegrity” is a \$2,000,000 investment that involves electronic documentation, CERNER, SIS, Medical Record Solution
 - C. Regulatory and Mandatory Reporting
2. Strategic Planning – environmental scans
 - A. 9/10 hospitals are having cutbacks
 - B. work force shortage due to various reasons
 - C. requirements to increase operational efficiencies
3. 2010-11 Strategies:
 - A. membership – industry and healthcare organizations
 - B. lines of business – nursing ed, congress, membership (4 publications) and nursing practice.
 - c. advocate for nurses
 - d. manage AORN assets to meet needs
 - e. promote excellence in periop practices

The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee (NLDC) announced that there were, for the 2010-11 year, 135 members nominated, and of that 123 were eligible and of that 38 accepted the nomination which trickled down to 19 persons on the ballots.

AORN Foundation announced that 37% of attendees have made donations. Their motto is “Your Investment, Our Promise”.

AORN Works was incorporated in 2003. in 2009 was in the black by \$47,000 before taxes and \$27,000 net profit

There are 5 new local chapters this year: 049 Arkansas, 057 California; 1426 Southern Illinois; 3109 Princeton NJ and 4714 Massanutten VA

BOD audit for 2009 was OK. 2010 still being done.

The rest of the meeting was the New Business which was the proposed: dues increase, position statements x 2, and bylaws amendments x 3.

Forum-submitted by Janet Wingfield

The Forum was held on Wednesday, March 17. There was much discussion related to Proposed Dues Increase. There has been no increase in dues amount since 2003 although inflation has increased 17.9%. Current dues do not cover all services which leave a \$27/member deficit. We are no longer able to expect revenues.

The Proposed Position Statement on the Care of the Older Adult in PeriOperative Settings was presented and the AORN Position Statement on RN First Assistants was reviewed.

Proposed Bylaws Amendments related to Eligibility-Elections- Terms- Vacancies and Removal were presented. One revision was the Officers, Board of Directors and the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee shall be elected by members in good standing with voting rights. The rationale being that it allows all eligible members in good standing have a vote. Another revision stated nominations for all elected positions may be made no later than 45 days prior to the commencement of

voting. This would allow nominations from the membership in addition to the original ballot presented by the NLDC.

In addition the Proposed Bylaws Amendment related to Meetings was covered. The recommendation was the annual business meeting of the association would be held at the annual Congress. Members in good standing with voting rights who are present at the meeting constitute the voting body at the annual business meeting. The rationale was it allows for an inclusive opportunity to capture the will of the members.

The final Proposed Bylaws Amendment related to Official Publication. The revision was the BOD shall establish and maintain vehicles of communication for the Association. Information carried therein shall constitute official notification to the membership at all times. This recommended change would allow other vehicles such as AORN Connections to be recognized as official communication in addition to the AORN journal. This change would present better opportunities to disseminate information.

The Forum allowed the opportunity for me as a delegate to hear open discussions from the membership related to the proposed changes. It provided a chance for me to be informed about the changes and thus have a voice with my one vote. I would like to thank the Richmond Chapter AORN for the opportunity to serve as a delegate for the 57th AORN Congress. It was an educational and rewarding experience.

Congress 2010 Delegate Report

The Second House of Delegates:

The second House was dedicated to voting on Proposed position statements and Bylaws amendments.

1. The Position Statement on the Care of the Older Adult in the Perioperative Setting passed with no discussion.
2. The Position Statement on the RN First Assistant passed with no discussion.
3. The proposed dues increase finally passed after being increased by \$25 per year to cover the services provided to every member with the dues. Therefore, effective July 1, 2010, annual dues for AORN will be \$125 per year.
4. Bylaws Amendments:
 - a. Article VII related to Eligibility – Elections – Terms – Vacancies – Removals, passed after section 5 was removed. Therefore, all members in good standing with AORN will be able to vote for Officers, Board of Directors, and Nominating and Leadership Development Committee, and nomination for elected positions must be made no later than 45 days prior to voting.
 - b. Article VIII related to Meetings, passed after a motion was made to substitute language that had been previously written in the pre-Congress Journal. Article VIII, A, 2 lists who will comprise the voting body of the House of Delegates.
 - c. Article XI related to the Official Publication, passed as written.
5. Other business brought to AORN Board for investigation:
 - a. Suspend education meetings during business meetings
 - b. Spend time at House discussing practice issues rather than bylaws
 - c. Explore the possibility to increase the amount of dues that is given to chapters per member
 - d. Give individuals the right to choose a chapter
 - e. Avoid changing Congress layout each year
 - f. Allow members to choose Journal delivery method, i.e. email vs. postal mail
 - g. Examine the price of the the Recommended Standards books vs CD
6. Introduction of new Officers, Board of Directors, and Nominating and Leadership Development Committee

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Martin

Hokie Nation wins the duel for QuizBowl champions

The wild, wild west-themed QuizBowl was a roaring success with four teams dueling for the title of QuizBowl champions. The judges were aptly dressed in western garb with Cecil King, RN, MS, CNOR, as a gunslinger and Renae Battié, RN, MN, CNOR, and Kathy Gaberson, PhD, RN, CNOR, CNE, ANEF, as saucy saloon girls. All that was missing was tumbleweed tumbling across the stage. In the first round, the Pennsylvania Kissers edged out the Richmond Rockin Robins for their spot in the finals. Hokie Nation won the face off in round two against the Graue Mill Grinders. During the final round, Hokie Nation and the Pennsylvania Kissers returned to the stage for another match. Each team fought a good fight, but in the end, Hokie Nation emerged from the smoke of battle as the winner.



Hokie Nation



Pennsylvania Kissers



Richmond Rockin' Robins



Graue Mill Grinders

Award winners recognized during QuizBowl

AORN Journal authors, Chapter Excellence award recipients, and the 2010 Chapter of the Year were recognized for their achievements in between quiz bowl rounds at the Perioperative QuizBowl held Wednesday. AORN's network of 350 chapters serve as the grassroots of the association and the immediate resource for supporting members' perioperative practice. The Chapter Excellence Awards recognize and spotlight chapter accomplishments in a variety of areas. Seventeen chapters entered this year, and awards were presented to nine chapters.

President Patrick Voight, RN, BSN, MSA, CNOR, and Diana McDowell, RN, MSN, CNOR, Awards Committee chair, recognized the following winning chapters:

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

AORN of Columbia River Region

GOLD

Small chapter: AORN of Coastal South Carolina

Medium chapter: AORN of Central Texas

Intermediate chapter: AORN of Columbia River Region

SILVER

Medium chapter: AORN of North Harris-Montgomery County

Intermediate chapter: AORN of Austin Area

BRONZE

Medium chapter: AORN of Treasure Valley

Intermediate chapter: AORN of Metro Detroit

Large chapter: AORN of Greater Indianapolis

Large chapter: AORN of Greater Kansas City

The Writer's Contest Awards recognize authors of quality *AORN Journal* articles. Four article categories are included in the contest—Clinical, Management, Education, and Research. For an article to be considered for the award, at least one author on a manuscript must be an RN and an AORN member. All *Journal* authors whose articles meet this requirement and whose articles are published during the calendar year preceding Congress are eligible. Winning articles are chosen based on points awarded by *Journal* editors, review panel members, and editorial board members.

Liz Cowperthwaite, *AORN Journal* managing editor, presented awards to the following 2009 *AORN Journal* Writer's Contest winners:

- Clinical Category: "Glycemic Control: A literature Review with Implications for Perioperative Nursing Practice," by Kristina Kittelson, BSN, RN. Her article was published in the November 2009 issue.
- Management Category: "Social Support During Anesthesia Induction in an Adult Surgical Population," by Ian P. Mayne, BSc(Hons), and Cora Bagaoisan, RN, MSN. Their article was published in the February 2009 issue.
- Education Category: "Starting a Health Care System Green Team." by Elisa A. Mejia, BSN, BA, and Barbara Sattler, RN, DrPH, FAAN. Their article was published in the July 2009 issue.
- Research Category: "An Evidence-Based Process for Evaluating Infection Control Policies," by Stacey S. Freeman, RN, MSN, PCNS, CNOR, MAJ, ANC, USA; Gregory L. Lara, RN, MSN, PCNS, CNOR, MAJ, ANC, USA; Monique R. Courts, RN, MSN, PCNS, CNOR, MAJ, ANC, USA; Linda J. Wanzer, CIV, MSN, RN, CNOR; and Sandra C. Garmon Bibb, CIV, DNSc, RN. Their article was published in the March 2009 issue.

Closing Session – AORN Congress 2010

Submitted by Tamie Zobel

Dr Charles R Denham gave the closing session education portion. Dr Denham spoke on powerful leadership concepts front line nurses need to improve care. He discussed the latest measures applied to health care acquired infections. The latest positions taken by various groups on patient safety were also discussed.

The power of stories examples included:

The Dennis Quaid twins story – Accidental overdose of heparin.

Braxton Rel – A 10 year old who died 13 hrs after a tonsillectomy. His parents have still not been given a reason for his death. Part of his remains still is being held by the medical examiner.

Julie Thao – Nurse who gave an epidural dose through an IV port. The ports were identical. This was a 4 systems error. The nurse and the Department head took responsibility for the action.

Josie King - 18-month-old girl that died because of communication and teamwork failures that led to misused narcotics and dehydration. In her case, full disclosure prevented a lawsuit and resulted in her teaming with the hospital to create a safety center that has saved lives and improved care performance.

Marshall Ganz – Sociologist involved in getting Obama in office with grassroots efforts had his own story to tell. His son had a near miss when the anesthesia provider miscalculated kg to lbs.

All of the lessons and videos are free to anyone interested. Copyright permission is given to copy all articles from their website. If interested visit their website @ safetyleaders.org.

During the closing session the highlight video was shown. 10,155 attended congress, with 4,922 being members. 97 students attended, and 351 international members attended. 65% of the attendees donated \$100,000 during Congress. Donations included the Silent Auctions, 5K Run, and donations. The tour program was a success. The staff award went to the IT Department. The theme for next year's President, Charlotte Guglielmi is "Freedom to Be".