

OPENING CEREMONY

Embracing Action – Mind, Body, and Spirit in NOLA

Yesterday, on a hot afternoon in New Orleans, President Nathalie Walker, MBA, RN, CNOR literally struck up the band and called the 65th Annual Conference of AORN to session in her classic NOLA-style, leading the band and dancing with the 610 Stompers dance group as she made her way to the stage.

Walker welcomed the AORN Board of Directors and AORN's Executive Director, Linda Groah to the stage before acknowledging AORN's Nominating Committee, the National Committee and Task Force Chairs, and Specialty Assembly Chairs. Walker then noted how chapters and state councils are a vital link between AORN Headquarters and AORN Membership before the State Council Chairs and Chapter Presidents from all 50 states, Washington DC, and Puerto Rico made their way enthusiastically across the stage.

A moving tribute to America's military included dozens of active-duty, uniformed members, joined on stage by the Tulane Air Force ROTC Color Guard. Already on their feet, the thousands of attendees heard AORN member Patsy Bienvenu deliver an emotional rendition of the National Anthem. Debra Guidroz, a full-time chaplain who serves at University Medical Center New Orleans Level I Trauma Center, delivered the invocation.

Volunteer Coordinator Sharon Guardina showed off her Louisiana drawl and Southern hospitality as she reminded the crowd, "Make the most of your conference experience and I hope you won't hesitate to ask us anything!"

Walker introduced the various international organizations and attendees who made the trip to New Orleans this year. Then it was time to give a shout out to the more than 1,900 first-time attendees this year before acknowledging those who have been AORN members for more than 40 years – AORN Legacy Members.

The AORN Expo traditions continued with introductions of past presidents and past board members, respectively known as the Golden Gavel. Walker also reminded the crowd of AORN's collaboration with various associations across the country by introducing their presidents and representatives.

Rob Benton, Expo's Platinum Sponsor Johnson & Johnson's Director of Professional Education Platforms, North America Education Solutions, thanked the crowd and reminded them that, "Nurses are and always have been the backbone of our healthcare system."

The ceremony concluded with AORN President-Elect, Stephanie Davis introducing the guest speaker, Amanda Gore.

Submitted by Carla Beattie, RN, CNOR from: AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo Daily News Monday, March 26, 2018 Edition

First House of Delegates

AORN President Nathalie Walker, MBA, RN, CNOR welcomed members to the first House of Delegates on Sunday morning. State by state, the delegate reporters entertained attendees with their count using sports references, mottos, and weather updates to announce their representation. Georgia, Louisiana, Nevada, Puerto Rico, Utah, Vermont and West Virginia proudly sat their full complement of delegates. Chair of the Nominating Committee, Brandy Miller, reported on the committee's work of the past year, highlighting the committee's 2017 efforts to support election campaigns with new resources and social media opportunities. After receiving more than 175 initial nominations, the committee placed 19 qualified individuals on the 2018 ballot. Voting is open until midnight, March 27.

President Walker announced chapter award winners, including Chapter of the Year, AORN of San Diego. Learn more about this year's various chapter award winners here. Jane Flowers provided the treasurer's report, highlighting AORN's continued financial stability. 2018 is expected to be another solid year of financial performance for AORN and its subsidiaries, the Foundation, Pfiedler Enterprises, and AORN Syntegrity, Inc. With the agenda complete, President Walker used the remaining 15 minutes for open discussion. At the microphones, members shared their support for continuing recognition and rewards for the hard work of the chapters, noting the importance of recognition for chapters, asking for more information sharing between chapters, and stressing the importance of staff and board visits to chapter meetings to keep moving AORN forward.

Submitted by Janet Shortt

Second House of Delegates

At the Second House of Delegates, the president Nathalie Walker opened with a highlights of the many accomplishments of the association and contributions to our profession, " particularly I the areas of professional development, patient safety, health care worker safety and collaborations with organizations that share the AORN mission."

Linda Groah, Executive Director of AORN, gave a report which highlighted the work of AORN in 2017 to bolster member values. She also reviewed critical milestones of AORN's influence over the years. She noted a number of areas which AORN has made a difference.

Larry Asplin, Treasure of the AORN Foundation, gave a report on what the foundation had accomplished during the past year. This includes providing \$1.3 million in funding educational and professional development resources. Along with that was 1,300 professional development grants and 85 academic scholarships.

Next President Walker led the House of Delegates through the discussion and voting on a proposed amendment to the AORN bylaws. The amendment was to require a CNOR for all elected board of directors and nominating committee positions. There was a discussion about the proposal both in favor and in opposition. The amendment was voted down by the House.

The meeting concluded with Brandy Miller, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the results of the 2018 election before proceeding directly to the closing ceremony.

Submitted by Debbie Bartol

First Forum Report

First Forum was held on Saturday afternoon March 25, 2018. Ruth Shumaker, chair of the Bylaws Committee, was the first speaker. She reported on the committee's 2017 charges to:

- Consider whether a proposed CNOR requirement for elected leadership should be expanded to allow for additional accredited perioperative certifications, and
- Explore whether a BSN should be a requirement for elected leadership positions.

She shared the committee's research, literature review, and member survey results. The bylaws committee is recommending that as the House of Delegates considers a certification requirement for AORN elected leadership positions, the only certification under consideration should be the CNOR. There were questions from the floor about how a CNOR requirement for elected leadership might affect retired members, international members, and whether it is ok for AORN to disqualify a percentage of its membership from eligibility for leadership positions. Does a CNOR's clinical focus reflect leadership skills desired for elected leadership positions? The committee shared its work on the membership's preference regarding BSN and shared concerns with a BSN requirement instead of a general baccalaureate degree requirement. Ruth Shumaker confirmed the committee's recommendation that elected positions in AORN not require a BSN at this time. The proposed bylaws change will to be voted on by the House of Delegates on Wednesday March 28, 2018. Claudine Duffrene spoke about her school's work in incorporating perioperative nursing education into her nursing school program. Professor Duffrene shared how her school partnered with perioperative services to provide clinical experiences for students learning the fundamentals of perioperative nursing. AORN Government Affairs manager Danielle Glover updated members on AORN's work advancing its policy agenda. Government Affairs analyzed, monitored and responded to over 100 pieces of legislation during the 2017 session. Highlights this year are AORN's pending RN Circulator bill in Vermont and surgical smoke evacuation bills in Rhode Island and Colorado. During open discussion, members asked for an update on AORN's survey regarding potential changes to the AORN logo. President Walker reported that the consensus was to refresh the logo rather than change it.

Respectfully Submitted
Jean Watling

Second Forum Tuesday, March 27, 2018

They are going to lower the number of requirements for CAS (Chapter Accountability Standards) from 18 for membership. Specialty assembly changing standards to new accountability standards. Specialty Assembly Tool Kit – there is a 35 page book for SA's. This resource guide is available on OR Nurselink. Questions were raised such as – Why is AORN not supporting BSN for National Candidacy? There were many members who spoke up and thought there should be a requirement for a BSN in order to sit for National Office. There was discussion on point of use cleaning by OR techs in the OR. We should encourage techs to do the same. Surgical Attire- Skull caps continue to be a topic of discussion. These caps need to be covered by disposable bouffant caps. Cathy Sweeney BSN, RN, CNOR

Jerry G. Peers Lectureship

Connie Podesta a former radio and TV personality, author and therapist for 30 years was the keynote speaker for this interactive experience.

Connie shared that if we could decode human behavior and understand why people do and say what they do we would all have healthier relationships. She views humans in 4 categories-squares, triangles, circles and squiggles! Squares are organized, detailed and work independently, Circles are sociable, peace keepers optimistic-“fix everyone else”, Triangles are a bit obsessive compulsive, detailed and focused, competitive and have a 3 minute attention span, and Squiggles are innovative, a bit unorganized and possess a lot of ideas-“think outside of the box”. Throughout this experience we gleaned that the key to success is how you choose to relate to, communicate with, be accountable to, resolve conflict and gain respect from others will directly impact your ability to have and sustain healthy relationships. Connie shares that we need to stop treating others as WE want to be treated, but start treating them how THEY want to be treated, so we can ACT rather than REACT!

Submitted by Janice Heizer

Closing Ceremony Report

The 65th Annual Global Surgical Conference & Expo came to a traditional end on Wednesday afternoon when President Nathalie Walker, MBA, RN, CNOR passed on the gavel to President- Elect Stephanie Davis, MSHA, RN, CNOR, CSSM.

“This week has been such an inspiration and I hope each of you have had the same shared experience I encountered,” Walker said, starting off the ceremony. “It certainly was a chance for all of us to reconnect, recharge, and revitalize our commitment to this amazing culture and association.”

The crowd then sat back and enjoyed a video of events, highlights and happenings from the past week in New Orleans.

Walker shared that with the help of each attendee AORN supports a local charity each year as a way to give back to the annual conference host city. This year The Edible Schoolyard New Orleans was selected and Executive Director Claudia Barker accepted the \$5,000 donation on stage.

Founded in 2006, Edible Schoolyard New Orleans changes the way children eat, learn, and live at five FirstLine public charter schools in New Orleans. Their aim is to improve the long-term well-being of their students, families, and school community by integrating hands-on organic gardening and seasonal cooking into the school curriculum, culture, and cafeteria programs.

Walker then presented the AORN Staff Award which is an annual award given by the Board of Directors. This year the award went to the staff who helped make the Guidelines Implementation Workshops so successful.

Volunteer Coordinator Sharon Guardina joined Walker on stage to receive her award for leading the conference volunteer efforts. From there, the AORN Headquarters staff and all the volunteers were thanked for making this such a fun, welcoming, and productive week for all attendees.

AORN Executive Director, Linda Groah, MSN, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC, FAAN went on to present Walker with a gift showing her appreciation of her presidential efforts.

“You have been steadfast and determined as President of AORN, under your leadership the Board of Directors made many significant decisions that will position the association well into the future,” stated Groah.

Walker then invited the newly elected 2018-2019 Board of Directors and Nominating Committee and President Davis to the stage. Davis officially took the reins of the association from Walker. She reminded the crowd that next year’s annual conference will be held in her hometown of Nashville, TN from April 6-10, 2019.

“AORN has helped me grow as a leader and hone my skills as a perioperative nurse,” Davis said. “The professional development opportunities, like this amazing conference that AORN provides, can lead you on a journey that can be much more than you ever dreamed. Where will your journey lead? When you say ‘yes’ the sky is the limit!”

The 2018 Election Results are in...

Congratulations to the newly elected AORN officers. Results were announced at yesterday’s Second House of Delegates

President-Elect

Missi Merlino, MHA, RN-BC, CNOR, CSSM

Vice President

Holly S. Ervine, MSN, RN, CNOR

Secretary

Elizabeth S. Pincus, MSN, RN, CNS-CP, CNOR

Board of Directors

J. Stephen Balog, MSN, RN, CNOR, RNFA

Darlene B. Murdock, BSN, BA, RN, CNOR

Kristy P. Simmons, MSN, RN, CNOR

Nominating Committee

Heidi L. Nanavati, MSN, CRNP, CNOR

Leilani A. Salimone, MSN, RN, NE-BC, CNOR

Jamie Ridout, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC

Submitted By Nicole Meredith