The AORN Mission
AORN is the professional organization of perioperative registered nurses whose mission is to promote quality patient care by providing its members with education, standards, services and representation.

The AORN 53rd Congress in Washington, D.C. has come and gone. I think that I can speak on behalf of the delegates and all other who attended by saying that we came home exhausted, but fulfilled. The highlights were the presentations of Newt Gingrich and Vice Admiral Richard Carmona, the Surgeon General. Both gentlemen spoke about health care and the need for change. Newt Gingrich said that real change will come when third party payment for healthcare ceases. Dr. Carmona spoke about the need for care among the underprivileged and underserved population and how the shortage of nurses was critical to this agenda. Time didn’t allow for them to articulate the particulars of how to accomplish change in the delivery of healthcare, but I hung on every word.

No trip to Washington is complete without a visit to the Smithsonian museums, however, there are so many wonderful sights to see that it would take weeks to see everything. And, not the least to be mentioned was that the cherry blossoms were beginning to burst out!

I want to thank our chapter for the opportunity to serve you as a delegate. Our delegates were diligently attending the Forums and House of Delegates to participate in the business of AORN. Please watch the upcoming AORN Journals for the details of election results, approval of position statements, and minor changes in the by-laws. Our delegation was pleased with the election results and we all look forward to continuing success under the leadership of Paula Graling as the AORN National President.

I want to give a special thanks to Ann and Jeff McKennis who spent much time and effort to compose the DVD for the chapter AWARDS. Even though we didn’t win this year, we felt that it was because we had won Gold AWARD last year and a chapter cannot win two consecutive years. So, this coming year is before us and we will move ahead with the joy and enthusiasm that defines our chapter.

Please read elsewhere in this newsletter about Houston’ own Edna Ashy who won the Jerry G. Peers Award. Congratulations Edna!

Remember the Children’s Museum and thank you for all you do on behalf of AORN.

Mary Lynne Weemering, Chapter President

Sister Chapter Colleague
Wins Peers Award
Friends and colleagues share their congratulations with Jerry G. Peers award winner Edna Ashy, third from left. Colleagues include Jane Shinn, Dana Petri, Carol Tyler, Joanne Oliver, Pat Hercules and Trish Seifert.
News

The NCCA March Madness is over with Florida winning it’s 1st men’s basketball title, Harley Davidson motorcycle icon turns 60 this year, Texas District 22, Rep. Tom Delay announces his retirement leaving a vacancy in the unexpired term, Katie Couric leaves NBC to anchor the CBS evening news, and the Immigration Bill has the country in political unrest thus marking sharp partisan differences and likely postponing any vote indefinitely.

Enough discussion regarding headlines news, now for the real “meat” of the report, an overview of legislative issues relating to nursing and perioperative practice. On a national note our Congressman are looking to the future to address health care reform. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) has introduced, S 2229, a bill to provide high quality affordable health care to all Americans beginning at birth till death. A companion bill, HR 4683 was introduced by Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) and was referred to the following committees, Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and the Government Reform of the House of Representatives. Sen. Kennedy’s proposal is of course voluntary, allowing people to stay with current employed-sponsored plans. A second piece of legislation that has been introduced is The Expanded & Improved Medicare Act for All Act, HR 676, by Rep John Conyers (D-MI). This bill would establish a national health insurance program to cover all persons who live in the U.S. and it’s territories.

Children’s Museum Update:

Sadly, our DVD did not win any awards from AORN, but the Children’s Museum is a winner in a big way. Director, Melissa Thomas has sent us the following:

The Woodlands Children’s Museum receives project funding from The North Harris County Branch AAUW Educational Foundation. The grant submitted and approved was requesting support in the amount of $2,500.

The funds awarded will be disbursed in support and sponsorship of the Operating Room exhibit. Specifically, the funds would be divided into two principle areas: procurement of anatomy models and healthcare equipment to expand hands-on education and programming provided by the museum with free health care. To date this bill has 68 cosponsors. It is of paramount importance that nurses review these bills and voice their concerns to their congressmen. Just think what could happen if 2.9 million nurses voiced their concerns about the delivery of health care.

Now, for a perioperative update… there are eleven states that have RN Circulator initiatives bills going on of some fashion. Those states included: California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois (Passed the RN Circulator bill & is on its way to the Governor’s desk), Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and Washington. In Oregon, the RN Circulator is in the final stages of the rule making process. There are nine states that have surgical tech & surgical assistant legislative initiatives before them. Those states include: Arizona, Georgia, Florida, Missouri, Michigan, Oklahoma, Tennessee, South Carolina, & Kentucky. On a final note, the 2006 National Time Out Day Resolution has been drafted for introduction into the Senate and House and is awaiting a bill number assignment to be announced in early June. In addition, the "Lobby Days" at Congress was a huge success. Over 20 states had breakfast receptions, session presentations, and exhibits floor tours with their congressmen/women staffers. Despite the House of Delegates conflict there were 140 members who made Capitol Hill visits to meet with staffers. The Government Affairs website is now "live" and can be accessed by going to: www.aorn.org then clicking the "policy" tab. – Becky Churchman, RN, CNFA

A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens - citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization.–George Herbert Walker Bush
**Chapter News...In Brief**

**PLAN AHEAD, really ahead! ...**
mark your longterm calendars for these upcoming AORN Congresses in exciting destinations:
- Orlando, FL March 11-15, 2007
- Anaheim, CA March 30- April 3, 2008
- Chicago, IL March 15-19, 2009
- Denver, CO March 14-18, 2010
- San Antonio, TX March 13-17, 2011
- San Diego, CA March 3-7, 2013

**Dates To Remember** *(these are for this year’s calendar!)*

- 04/14/06 Good Friday
- 04/15/06 Deadline to file taxes
- 04/19/06 Chapter Meeting, Post Congress Review, Conroe Regional Medical Center, 1800-1900, Program 1900-2000
- 04/29/06 TNA District #9 presents “contemporary Legal Issues in Nursing Practice: A Mock Trial,” 0800-1200, The Terrace at West University Community Room, 5151 Buffalo Speedway, for more information, please go to www.tnadistrict9.org.
- 04/29/06 TX RNFA Network meeting, Austin, TX
- 05/05-07/06 RNFA “Tips, Toles & Tidbits,” Orlando, FL, Embassy Suites. For more information, please go to rmfa.ventures@hotmail.com.
- 05/06-12/06 ❤ Nurses Week ❤
- 05/11/06 TNA District 9 General Business meeting, 1730-1930, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital
- 05/14/06 Mother’s Day
- 05/17/06 MHTWH, “Surgical Site Infections”
- 05/20/06 Armed Forces Day
- 06/21/06 Installation Dinner, TBA
- 07/21-23/06 AORN Leadership Conference, “Building Authentic Leaders: A Partnership for Success,” Denver Marriott City Center
- 11/16/06 TNA District 9 Nursing Celebration, Four Seasons

**TCORN Update**
The Texas Council of periOperative Registered Nurses (TCORN) met Monday, 03/20/06 for its yearly business meeting. There were 160 colleagues in attendance for the sit-down luncheon which, by the way, was underwritten by our friends in the industry, Products for Surgery (PSI). Officers elected for the 2006-07 term are: Chair: Terri Goodman, Dallas; Chair-Elect: Tricia Rodriguez, Houston; Vice-Chair: Loyce McCullough, Austin; Secretary: Lori Donovan, Mid Cities (Arlington); Treasurer: Reggie Prince, Bay Area (Houston). TCORN is the voice for twenty-six local chapters at the TNA Nursing Legislative Coalition Agenda (NLAC) (which met 03/25/06 in Austin, TX) concerning perioperative legislative issues. On a national note there are twenty-one members who are serving on a national capacity of some form of another. TCORN would like to graciously thank PSI and Peggy Forcelli of White Star Medical, Inc for making the luncheon a success. For more information regarding the meeting go to: www.aorn.net/home.asp?site=texas

**Chapter Stats**
Nationally, there are now 361 AORN chapters. Six new chapters have formed and joined our ranks. As of 04/07, Chapter #4410 has 109 members: 100 standard, 7 retired, 1 student, 1 associate
Welcome to Maricela Rodriguez, SN3, Montgomery Co. College Nursing student; Patrick Schelfhout, Mediflex, Inc.; Sally Coombs, Woodlands OP Surgery Center; Susan Tomte and Denise Whitehouse, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital.

**53rd AORN Congress Results** *(indicates newly-elected members)*
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- Secretary, Jane Flowers*
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- Susan Banschbach, Claire Evison, Anne Marie Herlehy*, Beverly Kirchner, Rosemarie Schroeder, Deborah Spratt*, Patrick Voight*
2006-07 Nominating Committee:
- Lynn Gentz*; Marion McCall*; Darin Prescott; Rose Seavey, Linda Timmons*

Legislation Committee Hosts Champagne Reception
Committee members pause for recognition and a photo opportunity. From left, Nathalie Walker, Board Liaison, Becky Churchman. Diane Sullivan, Bill Duffy, chair; Colette Garton and Sharon Robinson.

**AORN Chapter Committee Chairs**
- Budget & Finance
  - Jean Franks
- CEU/Programs
  - TBA
- Legislative
  - Becky Churchman
- Membership
  - Pat Foreman
- Newsletter
  - TBA
- Policy/Bylaws
  - TBA
- Special Awards
  - Ann McKennis
- Research/Scholarship
  - TBA
- TCORN Update
  - Pat Foreman
- Historian
  - TBA
- Ways/Means
  - Karen Kurland
- Nominating Committee
  - Robby Brockhoff
- TCORN
  - Pat Hoge
- Communication
  - TBA
- Historian
  - TBA
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Below you will find dates that we need volunteers to help at the Museum. We especially would like members to sign up for the two sessions of summer “Museum Explorers”, the 4 - 5 year old camps to be held the weeks of June 19 - 23 and July 10 - 14. More details will follow in the coming months. There are 2 sessions for each camp, morning 9:30 - 12:30 and afternoon, 1:00 - 4:00. I am hoping that some of our working members will ask to get off work early and come to the Museum to help from 2 - 4 pm. On the calendar you will see Tuesdays listed, but anytime during those weeks will be helpful.

Please save supplies for us: aseptos, bulb syringes, oxygen masks and ace wraps to name a few. We would love to have an oximeter and a wheelchair if anyone knows a donor.

Remember, this is a Chapter project and we want as many of you involved as possible. Thank you and a special thank you to Pat Hoge who went to Market Street last Saturday to help.— Ann McKennis

Museum Sign Up CALENDAR

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<td>Thursday, April 6</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 4</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 18</td>
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<td>Thursday, June 8</td>
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<td>Thursday, August 10</td>
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<td>Thursday, August 24</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 7</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 21</td>
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Sign up once, twice, as often as you can. To sign up, contact Ann McKennis at mckennis@mac.com.

When I find myself fading,
I close my eyes and realize
my friends are my energy.
—Anonymous

1823 Ash Meadow
Houston, Texas 77090

AORN Chapter #4410 delegates representing you at Congress.
Back row, from left, Robby Brockhoff, Pat Hoge, Karen Kurland and Mary Lynne Weemering
Front, from left, Becky Churchman, Jean Franks and Shirley Dukes.

The Children’s Museum Needs YOU
AORN Congress Report

The 53rd AORN Congress was held 03/19-23/06 in Washington, D.C. As of noon Thursday 03/23/06 there were 12,662 individuals registered for the Congress. From the exhilarating open ceremony (where there was very few dry eyes in the audience after hearing the national anthem sang) to closing session, the four delegates and 2 alternates were never lacking for anything to attend or do. The week provided for opportunities to hear speakers such as Melodie Chenevert; William Atkinson, Pres. & CEO at WakeMed Hospital Systems; Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House; Richard Carmona, RN, MD, MPH, FACS, Vice Admiral, US Surgeon General; Col. Joseph Rozek, (ret) Executive Director Home Land Security and Traci Lynn.

The infamous Quiz Bowl made its return debut with Victoria Steelman, Bill Duffy, Jane Rothrock, Ellen Murphy, and Trish Seifert. The “Eyes of Texas” won the final round of competition. The “Eyes” colleagues are from the Dallas area.

The Capitol Steps and Gary US Bond was Tuesday night’s exhibitor’s event. More than 100 revelers joined Mr. Bond on stage at the end of the performance. Look out, Tom Jones!!

Thursday left bitter sweet emotions with us as we faced the results of the elections (elation VS disappointment for the candidates), closing of the weeks activities, and saying good-bye to colleagues that we often only see once a year.

Despite being dead tired and having aching feet, there was not a colleague present who was not toying with the idea of how they could plan to attend next year in Orlando, Florida. Hope to see everyone in Florida… one thing is certain – we’ll have warmer weather.

For more info regarding the week visit www.aorn.org and read the Congress News.

Simple Tests To Identify A Stroke

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, a lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S Ask the individual to smile.

T Ask the person to talk, to speak a simple sentence. (coherently) i.e… “It is sunny out today.”

R *Ask him or her to Raise both arms.

Note: Another ‘sign’ of a stroke is this: Ask the person to stick out their tongue. If the tongue is ‘crooked’, if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

If he or she has trouble with any one of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

Edna Ashy:

Jerry G. Peers Award Recipient

The Jerry G. Peers award was created years ago by the colleagues of Jerry G. Peers, in recognition of this visionary AORN leader. The individual who receives this award has given unselfishly of their time and energy via their contributions to AORN. Through these contributions they have made an impact on the growth, progress and welfare of AORN. This surprise award was announced on Tuesday during the Jerry G. Peers Lectureship.

This year’s winner is fellow colleague, Edna Ashy, RN, BSN, from the sister Houston chapter of Greater Houston. Many colleagues have worked and known Edna over her fifty-plus year perioperative career and cannot think of a more deserving individual for this award. Congratulations, Edna!!!

The secret of joy in work is contained in one word—excellence.

To know how to do something well is to enjoy it.

—Pearl Buck

Do You Read Me?

Facts to ponder regarding American reading habits according to the American Library Association National Endowment of the Arts & the PEW Internet & American Life Project:

- Number of libraries in the US: 117,659
- Adults who read a newspaper each weekday in 1964: 80%
- Adults who read a newspaper each weekday in 2003: 54%
- Rank of the U.S. among 150 nations in its literacy rate: 49th
- Adults who read novels or short stories in 2003: 45%
- Adults who read a play in 2003: 4%
- Internet users who read blogs: 27%
- Internet users who don’t know what a blog is: 68%

Yup, that’s who you think it is! Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House, pauses during a brief introduction by President, Sharon McNamara.
proudly presents

Red Hot Mamas

Power on Women in Health

presented by

Sheryl Roth, RN

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

1.2 contact hours have been approved

Contact hours for this continued nursing educational activity have been applied for through the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, Inc., an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

bring a friend!

SOCIAL  5:30 PM
BUSINESS MEETING  6:00-7:00 PM
PROGRAM  7:00-8:00 PM

Conroe Regional Medical Center
Auditorium, 1st floor

>>>DIRECTIONS: From the South, take I-45 North, exit the Gladstell exit; Make a U-turn over the freeway to get on the South bound feeder. The entrance to the hospital campus is about 3/4 of a mile. Turn right and follow the signs to the Women’s/ Newborn’s Entrance. This is the entrance closest to the Auditorium and is the old Main entrance.)