

**MEMBERS' VOICES REPORT: April 1 – September 30, 2011**  
**Speaking out for Health: Speaking out for Nursing**

**Kindly return to Penny Lamanna at: [plamanna@rnao.org](mailto:plamanna@rnao.org)  
or by fax to 416-599-1926 by August 26, 2011**

**SUBMITTED BY: Jennifer Johnston - Essex Chapter President**

**POLICY/POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

-The Essex Chapter submitted a Resolution that was passed at the Annual General Meeting on April 8, 2011. The Resolution concerns a call for a review of the RNAO's internal process relating to the Nursing Education Initiative. See the RNAO Windsor/Essex website for more details and to read the Resolution.

-Jennifer Johnston, along with Kelly Mertens gave a presentation on Monday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to Amherstburg town council regarding RNAO's stance on nuclear energy. They asked the council to consider supporting a moratorium on nuclear energy decisions until further research can be done. Carolyn Davies, Nurse Practitioner & Amherstburg Town Counselor, made a motion based on the presentation and the council passed it. See the chapter website for a copy of the presentation that was given.

-A number of our members have drafted letters and email responses to action alerts put out by RNAO in order to voice our opinion and exercise our ability to engage in political action.

-On Friday September 16, 2011 the Essex Chapter is partnering with the Windsor Nursing Honour Society Tau Upsilon to host Politics & Pancakes: A Pre-Election Dialogue on Health and Healthcare. We anticipate a good turn-out of politicians, local nurses, members of the public and representation from the media.

**MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS - THIS SECTION RELATES TO YOUR INTERACTION OR COMMUNICATION WITH MEDIA – NOT COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS**

-On Friday May 6, 2011 the 7th annual edition of the Nursing Week Insert was published in the Windsor Star in celebration of nursing week. Members of the Essex Chapter Executive Committee worked closely with Windsor Star representatives to design and publish this 6 full-colour page spread. Articles highlighted the great work of local area NP's, RN's, RPN's and nursing students with topics such as: the new grad initiative, Windsor Regional Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Response Team, Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital's Critical Care Outreach Team, Footcare Community Nursing, Asthma Educator and Nurses Volunteering Abroad.

-On Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the Lois Fairley Award was presented to honour a nurse nominee who has shown dedication to the art of nursing. The award was presented to Carole Gill at a well-attended ceremony at Windsor Regional Hospital, with local television and radio station coverage. This award is presented on behalf of the Fairley Family and the RNAO Essex Chapter in the memory of Mrs. Lois A. Fairley who was a passionate and caring nurse in the Windsor/Essex Community.

-For the Politics & Pancakes Event, September 16<sup>th</sup> we plan to circulate a media release and expect attendance from local print, radio and television stations.

## **MEMBER SERVICES**

-The Windsor/Essex Chapter is currently maintaining 2 websites to ensure the ease of communication with our members:

1 independent one: [www.windsorsexrnao.org](http://www.windsorsexrnao.org)

1 though Head Office: [www.chapters.rnao.ca/essex](http://www.chapters.rnao.ca/essex)

Both continue to be updated regularly and both provide members with access to past Meeting Minutes, Chapter Newsletters, Pictures and PowerPoint Presentations from past events.

They also provide members with a Calendar of upcoming events and their details.

There has been overwhelming positive response to these initiatives.

-The Essex Chapter continues to circulate more editions of their newsletter that gives members a brief update on past and upcoming events. Many members have expressed their appreciation for this ongoing initiative.

## **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

-On Wednesday June 1<sup>st</sup>, members of the Essex Chapter attended the Windsor CRNE Nursing Exam site at the WFCU Centre. Kim Dalla Bona, Jennifer Johnston, Pat McKay and Kelly Mertens, handed out granola bars with a message attached, as the students left the exam room. The message congratulated the students on completing their studies and their exam, and welcomed them to the nursing profession. A table was also set-up to provide the students with pamphlets and handouts regarding the benefits of the RNAO.

-On Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the Essex Chapter is planning to have a booth display at the University of Windsor Patient Safety Conference.

-The executive are working closely with RNAO Head Office IT department to maintain and develop our online presence. This important initiative allows improved communication between RNAO chapter members as well as better engagement of the executive committee with the general membership. We hope to launch a Facebook Fan Page in the fall.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATION / INVOLVEMENT WITHIN LOCAL CHAPTER / REGION WITHOUT CHAPTERS / INTEREST GROUP**

-Essex Chapter Executive are currently collaborating with the University of Windsor Nursing Society and the St. Clair College Nursing Student Council to host RNAO presentations at both sites in the fall.

-The Executive Committee continues to strengthen their relationship with the local nursing student population and is planning fall events to connect students with nursing leaders in our community.

## **EMERGING ISSUES**