

**MEMBERS' VOICES: MAY 1 – SEPT 30, 2012**  
**Speaking out for nursing: Speaking out for health**

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

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**POLICY/POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

-On June 28<sup>th</sup>, MPP Teresa Piruzza attend Take Your MPP to Work at Windsor Regional Hospital. Teresa had a tour of the facilities and had the opportunity to sit down and discuss nursing issues with a group of eager nurses.

**MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS**

-The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Nursing Week Special Section in the Windsor Star on Friday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 was a resounding success!!! Thank you to the Windsor-Essex Chapter Executives who worked on this with the Windsor Star Team in the development of the 8 page, full colour publication celebrating nurses' week. A special thank you to Lynda Monik – Communication Executive Officer who was our lead coordinator and mastermind on this initiative.

-The Windsor-Essex Chapter has created some eye-catching business cards to hand out at events. These full colour business cards have the main RNAO Home Office website address along with our local Chapter's website address and logos for Facebook & LinkedIn. The hope is that we can increase our social media web presence through this initiative.

-Our Social Media Executive Officer, Mercedes Phalavong has been working hard to post meaningful and interesting item on our Facebook Fanpage. The Executive also ensures that our websites (both through Home Office & independently) are updated regularly and contain photos & details of past & upcoming events.

**MEMBER SERVICES**

-The Windsor-Essex Chapter in partnership with the Fairley Family, handed out its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lois A. Fairley Community Service Award on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012.

21 nominations were received for 12 nurses. 7 nominations were received for the winner, Ursula DeBono, who is the Pediatric Oncology Satellite Coordinator at WRH. The award ceremony took place at the Hospice of Windsor at 11am and was very well attended. There was approximately 30 present. All 4 previous Lois Fairley award winners were present as well. There was media present from AM800, CBC radio, CBC television, Windsor this Week and the Windsor Star. All of them reported about the award. Thank you & congratulatory letters were sent to all nominees. A thank you letter was also sent to the Hospice for hosting the event & for supplying complimentary refreshments. Pictures are posted on our chapter website.

[www.windsorsexrnao.org](http://www.windsorsexrnao.org)

## **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

-The Windsor-Essex Chapter set a number of goals for 2012-2013 including increasing our Chapter Membership by 139 members, increasing our Facebook Fanpage members to 30+, increasing our Chapter Website page views to 10,000+ and increasing our LinkedIn Group to 20+ members. Currently we have accomplished a number of our goals including having over 30 Facebook Fanpage members and surpassing the 10,000 page views on our website.

-Congratulations to all New Graduates who wrote their CRNE exam this past June. Members of the Windsor-Essex Chapter teamed-up with the University of Windsor Faculty of Nursing to provide congratulatory chocolates shaped like syringes to the over 250 students who wrote the exam. Each chocolate syringe had a note expressing,

“Congratulations on completing your nursing exam. Welcome to the Nursing Profession! The Windsor-Essex Chapter of the RNAO and the Faculty of Collaborative Nursing BScN are proud of you and your accomplishments”.

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

-On June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the Windsor-Essex Chapter partnered with the CARE Centre for Internationally Educated Nurses to host a networking and information session. Attendees had the opportunity to share their experiences, increase their knowledge and meet other nurses living in Windsor-Essex. Light refreshments were served and a brief presentation was given by RNAO Windsor-Essex Chapter President Jennifer Johnston. The presentation provided an overview of how to navigate the RNAO's new website, info about how to apply for professional development funding and also described the benefits of RNAO membership. Thank you to all who attended!!!

## **EMERGING ISSUES**

-The Executive learned from a number of local nursing students, that there were some concerns regarding horizontal violence and harassment between BScN & RPN students in the area. Representatives from the RNAO Windsor-Essex Chapter are working with the local College, University, RPNAO & RNAO Home Office to host an education & awareness session on this important topic.

## **OTHER**

-The Windsor-Essex Chapter is proud to support local community agencies and charities. In June, we donated a gift basket on behalf of the Chapter to the Centre for Seniors Windsor, for a door prize at a fundraising event to raise money for a new Seniors' Transportation Van.