

MEMBERS' VOICES: February – March, 2013
Speaking out for nursing: Speaking out for health

SUBMITTED BY: Jennifer Johnston, Windsor-Essex Chapter President

END: Engage with registered nurses and nursing students to stimulate membership and promote the value of belonging to their professional organization.

- Chapter representatives set-up a display table during the Nursing Games held at the University of Windsor in late March. The goal was to engage with nursing students from across the province about the benefits of being part of their professional association.
- Our Chapter continues to engage with our members through our growing Chapter Facebook Page and websites (rnao/chapters and www.windsorsexrnao.org). We have also joined with the other two chapters in our region to jointly host a Region 1 Facebook Page with the goal of promoting RNAO events and initiatives across the region.
- April, May and June will be busy months for our Chapter. Upcoming engagement events include: Nursing Documentation Seminars on April 17th/18th, Complementary Therapies event on April 19th, the 6th annual Lois A. Fairley award ceremony on April 26th, Display booth at the Windsor Regional Hospital Education Fair being held on May 7th/8th, hosting a Zumba charity event in support the Rotary Club of Windsor 1918's program to train a nurse in Ghana, and much much more! For more details please visit www.windsorsexrnao.org

END: RNAO advances the role and image of nurses as members of a vital, knowledge-driven, caring profession, and as significant contributors to health.

- On February 6th, RNAO Windsor-Essex Chapter met with MPP Taras Natyshak as part of Queen's Park on the Road. The meeting was very fruitful and was centered around main advocacy points outlined in the RNAO's platform.
- On February 22nd, Chapter members met with MPP Teresa Piruzza as part of Queen's Park on the Road. Similar topics were discussed.
- On March 13th, RNAO Windsor-Essex Chapter arranged to host MPP Taras Natyshak for a full day of touring as part of "Take Your MPP to Work Day". Taras was welcomed for tours and discussions with local nurses at Windsor Regional Hospital, Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit and the Windsor Essex Community Health Centre. A nursing luncheon was also arranged to provide Taras with the opportunity to speak to nurses working in the field. The whole day was a successful showcase of the nursing profession across different sectors and informed MPP Natyshak about local challenges facing our healthcare system. A media advisory was sent out prior to the event and there was great interest from local media outlets leading up to the day and on the day of the event.
- RNAO Windsor-Essex Chapter members have been busy collaborating with the Windsor Star to highlight the significant role that nurses play in our healthcare system, in our 9th annual Nursing Week insert that will be published the first week of May.



END: RNAO speaks out on emerging issues that impact on nurses and the nursing profession, health and health care.

- On March 4th, local chapter members joined over 200 citizens in participating in the “Save our Services” rally as part of the Ontario Day of Action for Health Care called by the Ontario Health Coalition. Chapter President Jennifer Johnston was asked to speak at the microphone on behalf of nurses. Interviews were also given to local radio stations. This was a very powerful event that brought to light the detrimental effects of budget cuts affecting our provincial healthcare system. This rally was in response to the Liberal government renegeing on commitments to fund 48 healthcare beds needed for our community. Since the rally, the government has made amends and is working with local hospitals to fund the beds promised!

