

**MEMBERS' VOICES: January 1, 2011 – March 31, 2011**  
**Speaking out for Health: Speaking out for Nursing**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jennifer Johnston – President, Windsor/Essex Chapter – Region 1

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**Policy/Political Activity**

- On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 our Chapter partnered with the Windsor Essex Community Health Centre to host a Community Action Event focusing on the experience of Homelessness. Cathy Crowe was our guest speaker and she engaged in a presentation on *Street Health* and led a walkabout through a Windsor community to help raise awareness about homelessness and the need for more community services. We had 45-50 attendees at the early morning breakfast presentation. Local media were invited to bring awareness to our community about this important issue.
- The Windsor/Essex Chapter submitted a Resolution that has been accepted and is being voted on, at the upcoming AGM on April 8, 2011. The Resolution is concerning 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.
- On March 30, 2011 we are hosting a dinner seminar called, "Nurses Call the Shots" which will engage local nurses in learning how to become politically involved. We anticipate a large attendance as this was an area that many of our members expressed interest in.

**Media Communications**

- For the Cathy Crowe event, our media release attracted a number of reporters that ran stories and sound clips throughout the day. CBC television and radio, along with an article in the Windsor Star provided broad media coverage of this successful and well-attended series of events.

**Member Services**

- The Windsor/Essex Chapter is currently maintaining 2 websites to ensure the ease of communication with our members:
  - 1 independent one: [www.windsoriessexrnao.org](http://www.windsoriessexrnao.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.
- On March 7, 2011 the Windsor/Essex Chapter is co-hosting a dinner event with Tau Upsilon entitled, "Breastless, Braless and Beautiful". The speaker for this uplifting event is Patricia Sealy, a local Nurse who will share her incredible journey and experiences of breast cancer.
- In March, we will be circulating the next edition of our Chapter Newsletter.

**Recruitment and Retention**

- On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 we have been invited by the University of Windsor Nursing Society to host a Luncheon for the nursing students. This event will showcase what RNAO has to offer for students and allow Chapter Executives to engage more with the student community.
- On March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the Windsor/Essex Chapter will have a display booth at the University of Windsor Career Fair. Members of the Chapter Executive will work alongside Neil Halper from RNAO Head Office to provide an opportunity for students to learn more about the RNAO.

-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 coming months.

### **Student Representation**

-The Windsor/Essex Chapter are co-organizing a Luncheon scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> with the Nursing Student Society of the University of Windsor to provide nursing students with information on the benefits of RNAO membership. We anticipate a good turnout.

-The Executive committee connected with the student representative at the University of Windsor and St. Clair College to develop a partnership and strengthen the relationship between nursing leaders in our community and the nursing student population.

-All Chapter Events are heavily advertised to Nursing Students at the University and College.

-We now have two enthusiastic Master's of Nursing Students engaged with our Executive to provide us with insight and guidance.

### **Emerging Issues**