

**MEMBERS' VOICES: OCT 1 – FEB 28, 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.**

- The Windsor-Essex Chapter was pleased to invite Ms. Barb Mildon, President of the Canadian Nurses Association to our region. On Thursday Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, Barb was welcomed to our community at an informal dinner with local nursing leaders, hosted by the Windsor-Essex Chapter. As well, on Friday Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, the Windsor-Essex Chapter held a morning seminar that featured Barb as a guest speaker. The breakfast seminar was called “Call to Action: The Health of our Nation; the Future of our Healthcare System”. Barb spoke about the future direction of our Canadian healthcare system and its impact on the nursing profession. We were thrilled to have a wonderful turnout at both these events.
- The Windsor-Essex Chapter had a wonderful showing of support for our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> at the Essex Golf & Country Club. It was a night packed full of guest speakers and Chapter updates. We heard from BScN students Amanda Levesque & Charlene McInnis regarding the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered community experience with nursing and Kim Miller who presented her thesis findings on “Understanding the relationship between adverse events, patient characteristics, and risk factors among home care patients”. As well, we had an extremely heartfelt presentation provided by Janet Kelly, President Elect of the Rotary Club of Windsor regarding their efforts to improve the hardships and challenges of healthcare workers and residents of Jirapa, Ghana. The Rotary Club received generous donations from our members and employees from the Windsor Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) to assist with this effort. We also presented the 1st Annual Award of Distinction to Heather Gartner. It was an evening of great discussion, good company, and wonderful food.
- The Windsor-Essex Chapter Award of Distinction was developed to highlight the tremendous efforts of a local RNAO member. The 1st annual Award of Distinction was presented at the Windsor-Essex Chapter Annual General Meeting to Heather Gartner a Public Health Nurse who works at the WECHU. Heather, a long-time RNAO member, was recognized by her colleagues for her contributions to nursing as a Public Health Nurse, as well as for championing the Best Practice Guidelines for Smoking Cessation at WECHU. Her letter of nomination was read by fellow colleague Brenda Kir, and Heather was presented with an award and a beautiful orchid. Windsor-Essex Chapter are looking forward to presenting this award again at our 2013 AGM to another deserving RNAO chapter member.
- On Thursday Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, our Chapter hosted “Protect Your Practice—Legal Advice Dinner and Presentation” at the Other Place Catering. We had over 25 attendees for this excellent event which was supported by RNAO’s Legal Assistance Program.
- Our chapter continues to engage with our members through our growing Chapter Facebook Page and websites ([rnao/chapters](http://rnao/chapters) and [www.windsorressexrnao.org](http://www.windsorressexrnao.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.

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

- In the fall, The Windsor-Essex Chapter voted to add a new position to the Executive Committee. Nominations were received for our new Social Media Officer responsible for keeping our membership informed and engaged through social media outlets such as Facebook and our website. Congratulations to Alaina Delaney who is doing a great job!
  - The Windsor-Essex Chapter supported the local Diabetes Wellness Program by buying an ad in the Windsor Star for their special feature spread at the beginning of November.
  - Chapter Executive Communication Officer Lynda Monik nominated a local RNAO member, Kim Watson, for a St. Clair College Alumni of Distinction Award. Congratulations to Kim!
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**END: RNAO speaks out on emerging issues that impact on nurses and the nursing profession, health and health care.**

- It was brought to the Chapter Executive's attention that horizontal violence and bullying were being experienced between local BScN, RPN and PSW students. To assist with preventing further incidences, the Windsor-Essex Chapter hosted a workshop entitled, "Professionalism Across Disciplines: Collaboration is Key" on Friday Dec. 6th, 2012. This afternoon workshop addressed bullying and workplace violence and included presentations by RNAO Home Office Representatives and renowned speaker on the topic Denise Kosta. We had close to 100 attendees, most of whom were students!!!
- Lastly, the Windsor-Essex Chapter submitted a resolution for consideration at the next RNAO Annual General Meeting. The resolution addresses a social justice and equality issue by advocating that males should be included in Ontario's Grade 8 vaccination program for Human Papillomavirus (HPV). At this time only females are funded for the vaccine but studies have shown that morbidity and mortality are experienced by both sexes as a result of HPV infection. Please review the materials presented in our resolution and support us in this important initiative.