

**MEMBERS' VOICES: SEPTEMBER 2013 – JANUARY 2014**  
**Speaking out for nursing: Speaking out for health**

**SUBMITTED BY: Jennifer Johnston c/o Windsor-Essex Chapter**



*For more details, initiatives and upcoming events visit [www.windsorsexrnao.org](http://www.windsorsexrnao.org)*

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

-On Mon. Sept. 11, 2013 Windsor-Essex Chapter (WEC) were invited to set-up a table at the University of Windsor Patient Safety Conference. This opportunity provided a wonderful opportunity to engage with current RNAO members and student members, as well as inform nursing non-members about the benefits of belonging to their professional association.

-On Wed. Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 WEC hosted their Annual General Meeting at Essex Golf & Country Club. We had a great turnout of members, for a fabulous dinner and conversation regarding chapter events and. The event featured two guest speakers: Jean Echlin and Janet Kelly. Jean is a seasoned Nurse Practitioner and fierce advocate for quality patient care. She spoke passionately about the importance of pain management and end-of-life care. Janet, president of the Rotary Club Windsor and leader of Project Jirapa, provided a presentation and update on the project. For more information, see our website [www.windsorsexrnao.org](http://www.windsorsexrnao.org)

-WEC is proud to announce that Jean Echlin was chosen as this year's recipient of the Windsor-Essex Chapter Award of Distinction. Jean's many years of commitment to RNAO, the nursing profession and her community were honoured at the WEC AGM on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>.

-On Tues. Jan 28, 2014 WEC partnered with STTI Tau Upsilon Chapter to host a hands-on workshop featuring a presentation by a CNO representative. The informative presentation provided the over 80 attendees with an update on the CNO's Quality Assurance program. Following a healthy dinner and the 45 minute presentation, attendees had the opportunity to breakout into smaller groups to work on their own 2014 QA Learning Plan. Thank you to Sandra Maxwell and Karen Riddell of Tau Upsilon Chapter for partnering with WEC to host this great event.

-WEC is working hard to engage with our members through social media. Efforts include holding monthly Facebook contest, sending out more emails to members and improving our website. Thank you to Megan Carlone, WEC Social Media Officer and Stephanie McCallum for their great work!

-In the fall of 2013, WEC launched a membership survey to ensure we are meeting the needs of our members. We are excited to report that we received 85 submissions from nurses and nursing students across Windsor and Essex County. Results have been analyzed and a summary report is being prepared. The summary report will be shared soon and the WEC Executive is working to incorporate suggestions and feedback for improvements into our 2014 planning. Thank you to Jody Smith at RNAO Home Office for her support of this important initiative and to all who submitted surveys.

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

-WEC, under project lead Veronika Pulley (RNAO Windsor-Essex Treasurer), has surpassed its goal of raising \$3,600 in 2013 - in support of training a nurse in Ghana, Africa. Money raised, supports efforts by the rotary Club of Windsor (1918) to provide nursing scholarships for individuals to take a telehealth-based nursing program and commit to providing healthcare to their local community. The training consists of a 3 year program at a total cost of \$1200 a year. WEC accomplished their goal by hosting a Nurses' Week Zumba event fundraiser in May 2013, running a raffle at the WEC Annual General Meeting in November 2013, and running a raffle at the ONA Local

008 and 011 Christmas dinner in December 2013. WEC would like to acknowledge the generosity of the many nurses and individuals in our community who supported our efforts. A total of \$3,750 was raised to support this great initiative. WEC has recently been informed that the scholarship monies we raised are supporting a student named Modesta Nukara Tantobo, who is studying in the area of community health nursing. Modesta has expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to pursue her career and has committed to sending progress reports and information about her studies and experiences. WEC will be posting this information on our webpage as it becomes available. For more information about the program, please contact Janet Kelly (President of Rotary Local 1918) [jankelly@cogeco.ca](mailto:jankelly@cogeco.ca) and for more details about the RNAO Windsor-Essex Chapter's efforts, please contact Veronika Pulley [LOCAL011TR@ona.org](mailto:LOCAL011TR@ona.org)

-On Monday November 11th, WEC placed wreaths at local cenotaphs to honour the lives of nurses killed in past and present wars. As well, local RNAO members attended ceremonies and commemorative events on this solemn occasion.

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

-On Thurs. Sept 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 WEC partnered with the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, Go For Health Windsor-Essex and the Diverse Education Committee to host "Nursing Perspective: Health, Healing, and Culture - Cultural Competence Training. This was a hugely successful event that featured guest speakers from the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County. Over 200 nurses attended this morning workshop.

-On Mon. Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 WEC's President Jennifer Johnston consulted with leaders from a number of local nursing organizations (ONA, University of Windsor, STTI Tau Upsilon) and provided media interviews regarding MTV's reality tv show "Scrubbing In". This was an opportunity to advocate for the professional image of nursing.

-On Sat. Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 WEC was proud to host "Pilates with Perks" in partnership with Breathe Pilates & Fitness Studio. This event was a fundraiser in support of the Ryall Family, who have been struck by cancer.

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### **END: RNAO influences healthy public policy to positively impact the D.O.H., supporting Medicare and strengthening a publicly funded, not-for-profit healthcare system.**

-On Fri. Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 a small delegation of WEC RNAO representatives met with MPP Percy Hatfield to discuss local nursing and healthcare issues as part of Queen's Park on the Road. The meeting was very rewarding and provided the opportunity to advocate for improvements to healthcare in the region. Thank you to Shelley Martel and the RNAO Home Office team for their great support.

-WEC was pleased to provide a letter of support for Sun Parlor Home & Victoria Street Manor's pursuit to achieve Best Practice Spotlight Organization designation.

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### **OTHER:**

-In October 2013, WEC held elections for a new Policy & Political Action Officer. Congratulations to Dana Boyd!!

-WEC will be holding a pasta luncheon fundraiser on March 30 at noon to support Amanda and Francis Ryall, husband and wife, as they both battle cancer. Amanda is a Public Health Nurse at the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit in the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program. She works full-time visiting and supporting new mothers in our community. Amanda was diagnosed with breast cancer in the fall of 2013 and is receiving short-term disability which is set to run out in the spring. She does not have long-term disability coverage. Francis worked at Henry Ford Hospital in Michigan as an R.N. as well at St. Clair College teaching nursing before he was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2011. It has spread to his liver. He hasn't been able to work and relies on a small disability pension from the U.S. The Ryalls have been married for 17 years and have four children between the ages of five and nine. Nursing peers are jumping in to support the family. It's our hope that the afternoon will give the family a boost in spirits and reduce stress over financial pressures. Our goal is to sell-out the event, and have 1,000 people in attendance. A pasta fundraiser for the family is scheduled for Sunday, March 30 at 12:00 noon at the Ciociaro Club of Windsor (3745 North Talbot Rd. Oldcastle, Ontario). There will be a raffle and a silent auction at the event.

Tickets for the event can be purchased online via Eventbrite

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children under the age of twelve.

Donations may be made two ways: online at Eventbrite or in person at a Windsor Family Credit Union location (Account No. 1831270). To donate items to the raffle and silent auction, please call Dana Boyd (friend of the Ryalls, colleague and fellow RNAO member) at 519-819-6743 or [dana.jason@cogeco.ca](mailto:dana.jason@cogeco.ca)