

RNAO Windsor-Essex Chapter Annual General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Oct 17th 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Location: Essex Golf & Country Club, 7555 Matchette Rd. Windsor

Attendees: Over 60 Chapter Members

On October 17th the Windsor Essex Chapter of RNAO hosted members and guests for our Annual General Meeting at the Essex Golf and Country Club. There were approximately 60 people in attendance for this spectacular evening.

6:30pm

Kelly Lawrenson (Membership Executive Officer) was our hostess for the evening as our Chapter President Jennifer Johnston was out of town for work. Kelly introduced the Chapter's Executive Committee and highlighted Chapter events from the past year. Many events were noted, such as Queen's Park day, Take your MPP to work day, and also the Lois Fairley Award winner, Ms. Ursula DeBono. All events helped support the organization's efforts to speak out for nurses and speak out for health. A delicious dinner was served.

6:45pm

Kelly informed the group that after surveying our members and going through proper channels with the RNAO Board of Directors, our chapter will now be officially called the Windsor-Essex Chapter, instead of the former Essex Chapter. This effort was undertaken in order to ensure that our Chapter name best represents our membership from across Windsor & Essex County.

7:00pm

Open microphone for any updates or member concerns. Carolyn Davies, past Chapter President, long time RNAO member & CCAC nurse practitioner addressed members and asked for support relating to the RNAO's Enhancing Community Care for Ontarians Discussion Paper (White Paper). Carolyn asked that RNAO possibly set up a panel discussion between RNAO & CCAC to address this issue.

Action Item: The Executive is looking into this. Jennifer has been in discussions with RNAO Home Office and Carolyn Davies.

7:15pm

Student members of the RNAO, Amanda Levesque and Charlene McGinnis presented a brief slideshow highlighting the impact Registered Nurses have within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered population. Many measures of comfort and understanding were highlighted to ensure that the LGBT population is treated with the same care and compassion as other clients. Amanda & Charlene also highlighted the Windsor-Essex Chapter's support of the 2012 Windsor Pride Parade.

7:30pm

Kim Miller (Chapter Policy & Political Action Officer) presented her study findings after successfully defending her thesis on "Understanding the Relation Between Adverse Events, Patient Characteristics and Risk Factors Among Home Care Patients."

7:50pm

Slideshow presentation by Janet Kelly, President Elect of the Rotary Club of Windsor #1918 to discuss the hardships and challenges healthcare workers and residents of Jirapa, Ghana face on a daily basis when accessing basic needs and sustainable solutions. The slideshow focused on the previous initiatives the charity has completed and the impact of their current

projects. The current project involves working collaboratively with Jirapa locals to empower the population to ensure that sustainability is possible. Due to a recent grant, every \$ 1 donated to this project has the potential to become \$5.40. The Windsor Rotary Club #1918 also has a “train a nurse” program which provides a local nursing student \$500 a year for 3 years. Janet also accepted donations of baby clothes and medical supplies from many RNAO members and non-members from across Windsor-Essex County. Donations will be taken to Ghana in the next couple weeks. A huge thank you was extended to the Windsor Essex County Health Unit for their extremely generous donation to this cause. Janet took many questions and had great feedback regarding how to get involved.

8:15pm

Presentation of 1st Annual Windsor-Essex Chapter Award of Distinction to Heather Gartner recognizing her contributions to our community and her integral role as a Public Health Nurse. Heather was acknowledged for the many ways that she has demonstrated professionalism and support for RNAO over her distinguished career, including her work as a Best Practice Guidelines Champion for Smoking Cessation at Windsor Essex County Health Unit and mentoring many nursing students. Fellow colleague Brenda Kerr read her nomination letter to members and presented the award. Heather received a beautiful plaque on behalf of the RNAO Windsor-Essex Chapter and a stunning live orchid.

8:30pm

Thank you to all our members for attending. Meeting adjourned.