

MEMBERS' VOICES: APRIL 1 to AUGUST 31, 2014
Speaking out for nursing: Speaking out for health

SUBMITTED BY: Jennifer Johnston, Chapter President on behalf of the Windsor-Essex Chapter



For more details, initiatives and upcoming events visit www.windsorsexrnao.org

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

-Congratulations Eva Lewis, this year's recipient of the Lois A. Fairley Community Nurse of the Year Service Award. Eva is a well-known Kingsville nurse who has spent her 43-year career at the Leamington hospital. She currently works in the outpatient surgical unit. Eva has touched many patients' lives with her compassionate care. The awards ceremony was very well attended and took place on April 23rd at the Tayfour Campus - now known as Hotel Dieu-Grace Healthcare.



-WEC is working hard to engage our members through social media. Efforts include posting and sharing content to our Chapter's Facebook Page and through Instagram. We have been promoting the use of our hashtag #weRNAO to capture and share pictures of chapter activities. Thank you to Megan Carlone, Windsor-Essex Chapter's (WEC) Social Media Officer for all her efforts.



-On June 4th, WEC continued their annual tradition of supporting and congratulating nursing students who wrote the CRNE. Members of the Chapter collaborated with Faculty of Windsor Nursing Staff to present students with a congratulatory chocolate treat and information about the benefits of RNAO membership, as they exited their exam. The Chapter is very proud to welcome these bright and eager New Graduates to the profession. Thank you again to the College of Nurses for allowing us to set-up a display table at the exam.



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 April 4th, WEC was thrilled to co-host our 2nd Annual Complementary Therapies Event entitled, "Where are we today with Practice and Research?" This exciting event was organized in collaboration with RNAO-CTNIG (Complementary Therapies Nurses' Interest Group), and CHNA (Canadian Holistic Nurses' Association). The evening featured local complementary therapy practitioners, a healthy dinner, a presentation by Kim Watson, vendor booths and opportunities for participants to experience mini-sessions of complementary therapy treatments. Thank you to Kim Watson, Crystal Hepburn, RNAO-CTNIG and CHNA for their efforts in organizing such a successful event. Also, a big thank you to Hospice of Windsor for permitting us to host this event in your beautiful building.



-This year's National Nursing Week was very busy and was a huge success!!! WEC collaborated with Tau Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) to celebrate nurses in our region. A digital slideshow that included a collage of photos of nurses from across fields and sectors was developed and showcased through social media and at local Nursing Week events. The slideshow has been viewed over 1000 times and can be found on YouTube when you search for "The many faces of Windsor-Essex County nurses."

-In addition, WEC is very proud to have prepared the 10th Anniversary edition of our Nursing Week Feature in the Windsor Star. This initiative was a massive undertaking which took many months of preparation and planning. Thank you to Lynda Monik for her leadership on this project and to all the WEC executive team who contributed to the success of this exciting project. In addition, a very big thank you to the Windsor Star Team for all their hard work and dedication. This year's Nursing Week Special Feature Section was published on May 3rd.



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

-There was robust discussion in our region by many of our chapter members concerned with the RNAO resolution on euthanasia put forth at the AGM in April. Prior to the AGM, the WEC Executive heard from many local nurses and reviewed considerable literature on this issue in advance of sending our Chapter Consultation Representatives (formerly known as Voting Delegates). We wish to thank all our members who submitted feedback and research to our Executive Team.

END: RNAO influences healthy public policy to positively impact the determinants of health, supporting Medicare and strengthening a publicly funded, not-for-profit health-care system.

-On May 30th, WEC hosted *Politics & Pancakes* an All-Candidate event in preparation for the Provincial elections. The event featured 7 candidates from all parties (except the PC's), inspiring opening remarks from RNAO President Vanessa Burkoski and expert moderation by CBC Windsor's TV anchor Asha Tomlinson. This event drew out over 50 attendees as well as media coverage from local TV, radio and newspapers. Key issues raised included: minimum wage, social determinants of health, education, RN positions, food security, plans for the new local hospital being built, etc. Event evaluations were very positive. Attendees expressed that they wished there was even more time for discussion and candidates conveyed their appreciation for the well-organized forum and for the opportunity to talk directly with nurses and the public about local issues. A huge thank you to Dana Boyd for her superb leadership and organizing skills that made this event so successful!