

MEMBERS' VOICES: February 2014 & March 2014

Speaking out for nursing: Speaking out for health

SUBMITTED BY: Jennifer Johnston, President 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.

-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. We are even giving away RNAO Dollars for contest winners! Thank you to Megan Carlone, WEC Social Media Officer and Stephanie McCallum for their great work in this exciting area!

-On February 27th, WEC held an interactive workshop called “Caring for Self in a Caring Profession” at the Ojibway Nature Centre. The workshop provided 45 nurses and allied health professionals with knowledge and coping skills to guard against burnout. The presentation and healthy dinner was very well-received and an excellent presentation was given by Rita Dibiase. RSVP for this event was overwhelming and a waiting list had to be started! Unfortunately, a small room was booked for the event – so due to tremendous interest, a second session was organized for March.

-On March 26th, an encore presentation of “Caring for Self in a Caring Profession” was held at the same location - this time with a larger room. Over 75 nurses and allied health professionals participated in this great workshop. Thank you to Rita Dibiase for sharing her expertise and passion with all the participants.



-During the months of February and March, WEC has been working with RNAO-CTNIG (Complementary Therapies Nurses' Interest Group), and CHNA (Canadian Holistic Nurses' Association), to plan an interactive evening event featuring local complementary therapy practitioners. The event is being held on April 4th and will feature a healthy dinner, a presentation by Kim Watson, vendor booths and opportunities for participants to themselves experience many different types of complementary therapies through hands-on session. Thank you to Crystal Hepburn for taking the lead for WEC on this intriguing event.

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.

-In February, WEC President Jennifer Johnston attended a community engagement and information session concerning Windsor-Essex County Health Unit's work to prepare and submit a MOHLTC grant funding proposal to address childhood obesity - called the Healthy Kids Community Challenge. This is an exciting project proposal that RNAO WEC has supported by providing a signatory endorsement and a promise to be involved if the proposal is successful.

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 is proud to be currently working on preparing the 10th Anniversary edition of our Nursing Week Feature in the Windsor Star. Chapter executive members have been busy making phone calls to hundreds of potential sponsors and collaborating with the Windsor Star to highlight the significant role that nurses play in our healthcare system. This initiative is a massive undertaking which takes 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 have contributed to this exciting project. This year's Nursing Week Special Feature Section will be published in early May.

-As well, WEC & Tau Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) have been collaborating on an additional project for Nursing Week entitled, “The Many Faces of Windsor-Essex County Nurses Project.” This exciting project is a digital slideshow that includes a collage of photos and voice recordings of nurses from across fields and sectors of Windsor and Essex County. The digital slideshow will be showcased at Nursing Weeks events across the region and through social media outlets. The goals of the project are to celebrate the dedication and contributions of Windsor-Essex County nurses, highlight the importance of collaboration between nurses working in all sectors, and emphasize that through inter-professional partnership nurses are leaders and a force for change.



-During the month of March, WEC has been actively promoting and receiving nominations for our 7th Annual Lois Fairley Community Service Award. A media release generated much interest from local media outlets and a few interviews were given.

-Additionally, WEC is planning a number of Take Your MPP to Work visits in April and May.

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

-Representatives from WEC Executive participated in this year's Queen's Park Day and spring Assembly Meeting. We had the opportunity to meet with MPPs Taras Natyshak and Percy Hatfield. There was excellent discussions and advocacy regarding 4 key areas: Canada Health Accord expiring March 31st 2014 ~ call to renew the Accord; Need 17 000 more RN's; Increase Minimum Wage to \$14; Health System Restructuring ~ reducing redundancies. In addition, WEC were thrilled that at the Assembly Meeting - RNAO Home Office chose to use our Letter to the Editor on the topic of HPV vaccination equality for men - as an example of an effective media communication piece!