



South Bay AORN News

The newsletter for The South Bay Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) #0523
November 2006, Year 35, Issue 2

Presidential Pronouncements

By Monique Eriksen, President

Greetings!

Perioperative Nurse Week provides us with the perfect opportunity to share what we do for our patients with the public. It is often said that perioperative nurses are "anonymous," "hidden behind their mask," or "not really nurses." This anonymity is a disservice to our profession because we are professional, educated and competent nurses practicing in a very special area.

We see things that other nurses will never see! Scrubbing in during a surgical procedure offers a first hand look at anatomy and physiology. Multiple pieces of complex equipment may require our expertise. There are often competing demands for our time requiring the ability to multitask and choreograph the activities in the operating suite. But above all, the patient is the focus of our attention. The RN is there for the patient - always watching out for the patient, serving as the patient advocate, the patient's nurse.

I encourage each of you to remember why you chose to become a registered nurse, and why you chose to practice in the perioperative setting. Then take another moment and share with someone else. Take the opportunity that this special week offers, and let your patients, their families and friends, your colleagues in other areas of the hospital, students in the OR, your neighbors, your friends, your family know what it is that the perioperative nurse does, and why it is important that each patient have a perioperative nurse.

Focus on the AORN theme - "Perioperative Nurses: We're There for Safe Care" as the beginning point for your discussion and take it from there. Just let them know who you are and what you do as a perioperative nurse. This will give you the opportunity to reflect on your value to your patients and feel good about yourself.

Wishing you a wonderful Perioperative Nurses Week! 🌴



Perioperative Nurse Week November 12-18, 2006

This year's theme "We're There for Safe Care" conveys that patient safety is a critical element of our daily practice. Share your knowledge about patient safety with others and break out of your anonymity!

Perioperative Nurse Week highlights the history, current opportunities, and future challenges of perioperative nursing. This time of recognition provides a forum for perioperative nurses to publicly share their responsibilities and dedication to patient safety.

September 26, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes

By Barbara Maddox, Secretary/Treasurer

Attendance: Monique Eriksen, Francis Hikido, Aileen Almazan-Cabatan, Sherry Jenkins, Barbara Maddox.

Treasurer Report: Barbara Maddox

Starting Balance: \$5,502.08

Deposit: \$40.00

Ending Balance: \$5,542.08

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September 26, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes

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Old Business:

Long Beach chapter may be interested in combining some meetings this year. The Long Beach chapter put in for a National Congress speaker. Our chapter did also. The chapter is responsible for the speaker's accommodations and meals and AORN sponsors the travel expenses. Our chapter could combine with theirs for this event if either chapter is selected.

New Business:

The legal speaker is unavailable for the November meeting so possible options were explored. Eric Sadang was able to procure a speaker (Dr. Putnam) for the January meeting. We are still working on speakers for later in the year.

Sherry Jenkins agreed to be Education Program Chair to make sure that our CE status and documentation remains up to date.

Chapter bylaws need to be changed to allow fewer members to be present to have a quorum for chapter business and reflect the changes made during our recent elections (combining the position of Secretary-Treasurer) and making the Nominating Committee members appointed positions. Monique will follow-up on this.

Reminder that AORN Congress is in Orlando March 11-15, 2007 and the chapter is eligible to send three delegates.

Discussions regarding need for more committee members and fund raising efforts. It was suggested that perhaps a 50/50 raffle would be an option.

The business meeting was adjourned and followed by the educational program. 🌴



The Operating Room Nursing Council of California (ORNCC)

California Legislative Update

On June 27, 2006 the California State Senate and Assembly passed the 2006-2007 state budget (**AB 1801**) and sent it off to the Governor. On June 30, 2006 Governor Schwarzenegger signed the bipartisan budget which was the first time the budget has been signed on time since the year 2000. The 2006-2007 budgets' general fund is \$101.3 billion and the total is \$131.4 billion. The 2006-2007 budget provided increased funding to enhance California's ability to prepare for, mitigate and respond to emergencies and to strengthen the public health response during a disaster. In an effort to protect public health, funds have been designated to reach out and enroll children who are eligible for Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families program but are not currently enrolled.

2006 Legislative Session

There were two bills of interest which did not pass out of committee and did not make it to the governor's desk. **AB 1964 (Nakanishi)** regarded blood glucose monitoring and the administration of emergency glucagon injections on developmentally disabled adults with diabetes by trained but unlicensed direct care staff. This bill failed passage in the Assembly Health Committee. It was supported by the American Diabetes Association but it is unlawful to dispense medications without a license in this state. The second bill of interest was **AB 651 (Berg)** which was the Compassionate Choices bill. This bill would have given terminally ill Californians with less than six months to live the option of hastening their death. AB 651 failed to receive the majority of votes in the Senate Judiciary Committee and did not move onto the Governor's desk.

August 31, 2006 was the end of the 2005-2006 legislative session and the Governor had until September 30, 2006 to veto, sign, or allow bills to become law without his signature. This was the second year of a two year session and because of the many compromises by both the Democratic leaders of the legislature and the Republican governor, this session has been seen as one of the most productive legislative sessions in recent memory. As of the writing of this report on October 1, 2006, the Governor has taken action on 1172 bills, signing 910 and vetoing 262. There are no bills remaining on the governor's desk.

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Tuesday, November 28, 2006

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

6 p.m. Business Meeting and Registration

6:15 p.m. Announcements

1.5 free contact hours (BRN # 11117)

South Bay AORN presents:

“Chest Trauma”

This course will discuss management of penetrating and non-penetrating chest trauma, including cardiac and aortic injuries.

Bassam Omari, MD

**Chief, Cardiothoracic Surgery
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center**



Torrance Memorial Medical Center, Health Conference Center
3330 Lomita Blvd., Torrance

Health Conference Center is adjacent to the West Parking Structure (Free Parking!)

www.torrancememorial.org/maphcc.htm for a map

RNs, STs, students, CRNAs, MDs, the public - everyone is welcome!

Next meetings:
November 28, 2006 and
January 23, 2007



The Operating Room Nursing Council of California (ORNCC)

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On September 19, 2006 the governor signed several bills into law to help children get the health coverage they need, improve the care of terminally ill children, and increase preventative care and early detection of disease. These bills were **SB 437 (Escutia)**, **AB 1745 (Chan)**, **AB 2560 (Ridley-Thomas)**, and **AB 2651 (Jones)**. Governor Schwarzenegger commended the legislature on their prescription drug plan. **AB 2911 (Nunez and Perata)** would carry out the provisions of the plan to require pharmaceutical companies to provide discounts for low and middle income residents within three years or risk having their brands excluded from the Medi-Cal formulary. On September 29, 2006 the governor signed AB 2911 into law and it will provide approximately five million Californians with access to up to 40% savings on brand name drugs and up to 60% savings on generic drugs. The governor also signed **AB 2877 (Frommer)** into law which will create a website to help consumers find the pharmacy selling his or her needed prescription drugs at the lowest retail price.

AB 1667 (Saldana) provided that any individual with exceptional needs, any pupil with a disability and any pupil requiring specialized physical health care services during a school day may be assisted by designated school personnel. This bill was signed by the governor.

AB 1591 (Chan) would allow all nurse practitioners to directly bill Medi-Cal for services provided. Currently only those certified as family and pediatric NPs could directly bill for their services. This bill was signed by the governor.

SB 1309 (Scott) expressed legislative intent regarding nursing education, grants, loan assumptions, and faculty recruiting and retention. The governor signed this bill into law sighting his continued support of efforts to expand and strengthen nursing programs and address the nursing shortage

The healthcare bill veto of note was **SB 840 (Kuehl)** which would have created a single-payer, government-run health care system. The governor called the plan a serious and expensive mistake which would cost the state billions, lead to new taxes on individuals and businesses without solving the critical issue of healthcare affordability.

SB 1204 (Perata), the lift team bill, required acute hospitals to institute health care worker back injury prevention programs and assess issues related to safe patient lifting. This bill was vetoed by the governor for the second year. The governor stated that significant progress has been made by hospitals of all sizes implementing lift policies and he wanted to support flexibility regarding lift policies rather than impose a "one size fits all" mandate.

California: A bill requiring licensure of ambulatory surgical centers, **AB 2308**, sponsored by George Plescia, was amended on May 30, 2006 to require a workgroup from the Department of Health to convene and study the potential licensure requirements and implications for ASCs. The original bill language would have required an RN circulator to be present in each operating room as required by the hospital licensure regulations. This bill was enrolled (sent to the Governor's desk) on August 31, 2006.

AMA Resolution / ANA opposition initiative: AORN is evaluating joining an initiative to address an initiative undertaken by the American Medical Association to study health professionals' scopes of practice and support efforts to protect medical scope of practice in state legislatures and regulatory bodies. The Coalition for Patients' Rights, whose membership is comprised of various nursing organizations and non-physician health professionals, met in Washington D.C. on August 15, 2006 to develop a strategy to oppose the AMA initiative. AORN representatives attended to observe. A Board decision has not yet been made to join the coalition. 🌿