

OHNIG E NEWS LETTER

O.H.N.I.G.



**OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH NURSES
INTEREST GROUP**

OHNIG E Newsletter #25
Feb 22, 2009

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OHNIG
www.RNAO.org

OHNIG/RNAO
www.RNAO.org/groups/ohnig

OHNIG WEBSITE
www.ohnig.org

I invite any OHNIG member to become a guest of OHNIG next year to attend for yourself a "Day at Queens Park"

1. My "Day at Queens Park" on Jan 22 2009 was Awesome!
2. OHNIG AGM Minutes Reflect 2009 Goal - Student Outreach Program
3. Nursing Students "Health and Safety Protection" in Workplaces
4. Barb Davies, Student Nurse Focuses Sight on Occupational Health Nursing
5. "RNAO Interest Groups Matter" - IG Chairs Surveyed for Mutual Issues
6. Membership in RNAO/OHNIG Brings BONUS REWARDS
7. Spring into RNAO AGM and OHNIG Tea Party Saturday April 25th at 1:00 pm

1. My "Day at Queens Park" on Jan 22 2009 was Awesome!

"A Day at Queen's Park" was an eye-opening event for me.

Organized annually by RNAO, "A Day at Queen's Park" offers registered nurses the chance to attend the Ontario legislature and discuss health-care related issues with politicians.

I was skeptical at first. However, once involved in the process, I got hooked! I did not have expectations the politicians would do everything we asked; I just wanted to hear their responses. Most importantly, I got to see what RNAO does best – lobbying.

On the evening before the event, we gathered together for an informative session about lobbying. I was impressed with the RNAO preparation of the attendees. In a group session, RNAO presented the primary current political issues. Everyone separated into smaller groups with a leader. We discussed scripted questions and were coached in how to generate appropriate questions and responses. RNAO transformed the attendees into enthusiastic "lobbyists" overnight.

Early Thursday, we hustled to a Queen's Park meeting room to hear the politicians' speeches. This session included Health Minister David Caplan, John Tory and others. Afterwards, RNAO members asked questions on issues of poverty, pesticides, competitive bidding for community nursing, NP-led clinics and the need for 9,000 nurse positions. Some rhetoric was exchanged but there were positive replies. Doris Grinspun, Executive Director, RNAO, proposed that the leaders consider a minimum of 3,000 nurse positions this year for a concession on another issue.

Thursday afternoon, the attendees divided into smaller groups and, quite literally, jogged on the city streets to meet with individual politicians in many different government buildings. In these smaller groups, we had the opportunity to ask questions of the politicians and voice our opinions. Our nurse group leader guided the specific issues tabled.

By the end of the day, despite feeling slightly brain dead, I was excited about the opportunity for nurses to be heard.

OHNIG ENDS Goals 2007

1 Promote the Image of Occupational Health Nursing

- Strengthen the Public Image of Occupational Health Nurses through Education and Communication

- Provide Insight to the Highly Skilled Professional Nursing Services provided by Occupational Health Nurses

- Establish Value Added Occupational Health Nurse Role Model

2 Create Alliances that Promotes Occupational Health and Safety Collaboration

- Provide Guidance, Leadership and Planning For Occupational Health and Safety Knowledge Transfer

- Focus on "Health and Safety Practice in Action"

- Focus on Protection of the Key Stake Holder the Worker in the Workplace

On Friday, I attended the politically-focused RNAO Assembly Meeting. It gave the 140 attendees an opportunity for dialogue. We also heard a panel of presenters who gave information on the following important issues:

- Escalating poverty, and subsequent major increases in poor health
- Seniors Care Advocacy Council – the need for Long-Term Care to improve conditions for the elderly
- NP-led clinics are now a reality, but negativity continues with certain parties
- Physician’s assistants – a *NEW* position that requires one year of training
- Pesticide ban strengthening – toxic chemicals and increased cancer risk – the need for higher risk control
- Cease competitive bidding for Community Nursing Care agencies.

As OHNIG members, if we want to see changes in the implementation of health care, we should each individually express our concerns to our local politicians. They are interested in our input. This is something we often don’t get around to doing, but it is essential. If I can do it, YOU can do it!
Jill King OHNIG Chairperson

2. OHNIG AGM Minutes Reflect 2009 Goal - Student Outreach Program

The OHNIG AGM took place by a teleconference meeting on Sat, Dec 6, 2008. OHNIG executives reflected on the END Goals established in 2007 [see sidebar]. It was decided that this year’s goal would include an outreach program entitled “*Student Outreach Program – Health and Safety Protection You Need to Know before Entering Your First Workplace*”.

OHNIG will prepare three Health and Safety Fact sheets. These will highlight ‘quick’ need-to-know facts about Health and Safety regulations, workplace responsibilities and risk protection.

The OHNIG AGM Dec 7th, 2008 **minutes** reflect our END Goals this year. OHNIG will do student nurse Health, Safety and Well-being awareness on

- leading causes of occupational and environmental health and safety risks in health care places
- ways to stay a “healthy worker”
- alliances that promote Occupational Health Collaboration
- Best Practice Guidelines Occupational Health and Environmental Safety
- techniques that eliminate or reduce risk exposures
- Occupational Health Nurse as a professional Nurse who provides Health, Safety and Well-being for workers

Our goal this year is to provide student nurses with a basic grounding in Health and Safety protection in the workplace. OHNIG intends to provide accessible, sustainable knowledge for long-lasting protection from workplace injury and illness.

OHNIG ENDS Goals 2007

3 Work Proactively in Collaboration with Organizations to make Workers Safe at Work

- Promote “Healthy Workers” with Occupational Health Nursing Best Practices
- Support Healthy Work Environments using Organizational Total Loss Control Management
- Eliminate or Reduce Leading Causes of Workplace Risk that Cause Injury and Illness

WHO

World Health Organization

The Role of the Occupational Health Nurse in Workplace Management

http://www.ohnig.org/WHO_Occ_Health_Nurse_Role.pdf

RNAO

BPG HWE Workplace Health, Safety and Well-being of the Nurse

http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=1203&SiteNodeID=241&BL_ExpandID=

3. Nursing Students “Health and Safety Protection” in Workplaces

The OHNIG executive leaders employed “reality thinking” and decided this year to focus on what student nurses need to know when they enter their first workplace. This safety information will continue to be helpful throughout their careers.

The OHNIG Student Outreach Panel planned a three stage program. The first stage starts with the panel developing three resource fact sheets that will be used for distribution. At the same time, a letter to the university school administration will announce student outreach *health and safety at work*, and ask how best to integrate this into the schools.

The second stage will be a timely distribution of the health and safety fact sheets. The OHNIG website will be restyled to accommodate access to a “Student Corner”, including the quick fact sheets, a student survey of effectiveness and links to resources the students need to know.

The last stage is at the OHNIG AGM in November. Invited students will be asked to participate with OHNIG members in a round table discussion (i.e. their student placement, perception of usefulness of the health and safety information and to discuss the student survey results). If the program works, OHNIG will continue it into the next year.

If OHNIG members want to contribute their help, sponsor a nurse student placement or share workplace experience they have had with a student placement: Please contact Jill King at info@ohnig.com.

4. Barb Davies, Student Nurse Focuses Sight on Occupational Health Nursing

At the January RAO Assembly meeting I was delighted to meet with Barb Davies, an experienced Canadian student nurse, and hear about her experience in her Occupational Health placement. Barb eagerly expressed her interest in occupational health nursing.

“I became interested in Occupational Health Nursing during a second year clinical placement. An occupational health nurse had come to the floor to ensure all staff members had been given the flu vaccine. I was able to ask this nurse a few questions about Occupational Health Nursing. When I got home, I looked into this occupation and quickly learned that occupational health nurses work with the employee and the employer to maintain, promote, and restore health and safety in the workplace. This research led me to become a member of the RAO’s Occupational Health Nurses Interest Group and the Ontario Occupational Health Nurses Association. These two groups have guided my knowledge and learning about Occupational Health and how a nurse is there to help.

Now that I am in my last year of the BScN program at Laurentian University, I have had the opportunity to work with Occupational Health Nurses to gain a broader perspective. I have learned about the complexity involved in working with employers while keeping within the guidelines set by the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. I have been able to gain knowledge about disability management, health promotion, and management of several programs.

BPG Health Safety and Well Being of the Nurse Guideline

http://www.rnao.org/Storage/36/3089_RN_AO_BPG_Health_Safety.pdf

A MUST READ!

Appendix

Pages 81 to 96

**ENVIRONMENT
COUNT DOWN**

EARTH DAY

Sat March 28 8:30 pm

Cities around the world turn off their lights for one hour. To Raise Global Awareness of Climate Changes!

Outreach New Members!

OHNIG Brochure

http://www.ohnig.org/Brochures/Brochure_no_1.pdf

RNAO AGM

April 24th 2009

OHNIG TEA PARTY

Sat. April 25th 1:00 pm

Celebrating Occupational Health Nurses with 25 years as COHN-C

COHN-C is a National Certification with CNA in a nursing specialty

http://cna-aiic.ca/CNA/nursing/certification/default_e.aspx

All of these aspects set Occupational Health Nursing apart from working in a hospital setting. Being able to provide a healthy workplace that allows for increased productivity, decreased absenteeism, and reducing the cost for the employee is encouraging. The more I have learned about Occupational Health Nursing, the more I know this is the field for me.

Barbara Davies

4th Year Laurentian University Nursing Student

Canadian Nursing Students Association (CNSA) Director of Membership Services 2008-2009.

5. "RNAO Interest Groups Matter" - IG Chairs Surveyed for Mutual Issues

Currently Ruth Schofield, Interest Group Representative to the RNAO Board of Directors, is conducting a research survey on how interest groups can join together on common issues and mutual projects that benefit all interest groups. The survey results are due by March 20th 2009.

RNAO Interest Groups are important in realizing RNAO mission and ends. I attend three Interest Group Chairs meeting a year. These provide a forum where OHNIG can share strengths and collaborate on key initiatives with other interest groups. Ruth Schofield indicates she will work with the survey results to assist interest group efforts to be stronger and more effective. The results of the survey will be shared in aggregate and discussed at the next Interest Group Chairs meeting.

Jill King OHNIG Chairperson

6. MEMBERSHIP in RNAO/OHNIG Brings BONUS REWARDS

OHNIG members are alerted to the bonus being given by RNAO. As an RNAO member, if you bring into RNAO a new RN member, you get a reward. Have that new member put your name on their RNAO application as the person who referred them. That way, RNAO will ensure you receive your \$20.00 Gift Certificate.

OHNIG members who "Get 7" new RN members are rewarded by RNAO with a free membership. Let us know if you successfully achieve your FREE RNAO membership!

OHNIG members, please refer to RNAO website for the various ways you can join: www.rnao.org/join.

7. Spring to RNAO AGM and OHNIG Tea Party Saturday April 25th at 1:00 pm

Spring is back and that means the RNAO AGM on Friday April 24, 2009. Come join the general assembly and participate in RNAO efforts to help all Registered Nurses. If an OHNIG member wants to join me on Thursday April 23rd at the RNAO "Communication Workshop", just email me for details: info@ohnig.com.

OHNIG has planned a Tea Party at 1:00 pm Saturday April 25th 2009. OHNIG wants to pay tribute to Occupational Health Nursing, which is celebrating 25 years as the first specialty professional nurse certification program. OHNIG invites those registered nurses who wrote the very first examination to our OHNIG TEA PARTY. Details will follow in an OHNIG membership memo. Invitations will be sent to special guests. Join us please.

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