

Registered Nurses Association Of Ontario
PROVINCIAL NURSE EDUCATORS INTEREST GROUP

PNEIG

Newsletter Winter 2003

DATES TO REMEMBER

RNAO AGM April 10-12 2003 at the
Toronto Markham Hilton Suites
PNEIG AGM Breakfast Meeting
April 12, 2003 register through the
RNAO



PNEIG EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

President: Anne Simmonds
Co- Communications: Gail Beagan
Beth Cowper-Fung
Finances: Dixie Goetz
Membership and Services
Ann Brokenshire
Policy and Political Action:
Beverly Morgan
Janice Elliott
Betty Rowley
Anne Lamesse
Interest Group Liaison:
Debra Ruetz
NSO Liaison: Elizabeth Amaral

GREETINGS FROM OUR CHAIR

PNEIG – Moving Forward

Greetings to our members from across the province! As I write this note, we – here in Toronto – are experiencing our first respite from a bitter cold winter season. (I know – you people up there in the North are so used to this.... but, *please*, its all relative...). With this break in the weather comes the promise of spring and new growth...and that is where we find ourselves at PNEIG. After a long season of what might have seemed like hibernation to those of you who were wondering about the ‘presence’ of PNEIG, we have emerged with a structure and a focus that reflects the wishes of our members. PNEIG is now poised for growth in terms of being a proactive and relevant voice on issues concerning nursing education across Ontario.

About a year and a half ago, PNEIG was faced with a lack of leadership and no clear direction. We collected surveys from our members and devoted our last AGM in April of 2002 to brainstorming with over 50 educators to fine tune a direction for this year. Based on your input, we developed two objectives for the year. One was to draft Terms of Reference that would provide us with the structure we needed and the second was to explore the pressing issue of a lack of clinical placements and preceptorship in nursing education.

We are pleased to report that we have moved forward on both of our objectives. Your executive had several meetings throughout the year including a day-long meeting in October to draft Terms of Reference. These have been posted on our web site (www.pneig.ca) for review and input from members. We have also been working with RNAO and the Education committee, as well as other associations, to define the present crisis in clinical nursing education and to work collectively and creatively towards viable solutions. We are also

working on an exciting initiative with RNAO's student group – Nursing Students of Ontario – to look at the role that nursing educators can play in creating safe environments for nursing students to learn, particularly in their clinical placements.

Leadership Opportunities!! As you can see, PNEIG is well positioned to move forward. What we need now are members who will take over leadership positions on the executive. Yes, there is a time commitment involved, but it is not overwhelming and you are not alone. PNEIG executive members have the support of each other as well as direction from RNAO head office. I would love to see our interest group continue to build on the momentum of the past year and I will be continuing on in the role of past-president. I urge all of you to seriously consider involvement in PNEIG executive. Not only will you be providing a forum for nurse educators across Ontario, but also you will reap the personal and professional rewards that come from knowing you worked hard to make a difference. Please contact me or any of the executive members listed in this newsletter or on our web site for more information on how you can become involved.

All the best
Anne Simmonds
President – PNEIG

Leadership Opportunities in PNEIG

PNEIG Elections: calling all members. This years elections for the PNEIG executive will be held at the Annual General Meeting. We need representation from all over the province so now is the time to think about putting your name forward to be part of this exciting time for PNEIG.

Current positions that are up for election this year:
President
Co-communications ENO

Other positions that are in the executive are always looking for members to help with are
Membership and Services ENO
Policy and Political Action ENO
Interest Group Liaison
NSO Liaison

If you would like to know more about the positions or the amount of work involved please feel free to contact any of the executive. (listed at the end of the newsletter)

Please consider putting your name forward for any of these positions. To nominate yourself or someone else please email Anne Simmonds, anne.simmonds@senecac.on.ca, or Beth Cowper Fung, bcfung@nygh.on.ca. You can also think about it and let us know at the AGM. Nominees should attend the AGM, if that is not possible they can be elected by proxy vote but please let us know so that we can be prepared.

PNEIG Annual General Meeting – April 12th, 2003

Our AGM will be held in conjunction with RNAO's AGM, April 10th – 12th, 2003 at the Hilton Suites Toronto/Markham Conference Centre. Our AGM will be a breakfast meeting, from 9:00am – 11:00am on Saturday, April 12th, at a cost of \$5.00 per person. You must register in advance for the breakfast meeting and can do so through RNAO at (416) 599-1925 or by filling out a registration form on-line at www.rnao.org.

Our AGM provides a great opportunity to network with other nurse educators from across the province. The agenda for the meeting will include tabling of our new Terms of Reference, election

of executive officers as well as an opportunity to have some small group round-table discussion on nursing education issues.

Political Action Update

At the RNAO AGM last April, 3 resolutions relating to Nursing Education were passed and received high priority from the RNAO Board. The resolutions were:

Priority # 1

RESOLUTION # 1 under New Business

Submitted by Sue Coffey, RN, DNSc(c), Region 7, Janet Jeffrey, RN, PhD, Region 6, Alexandria McGregor, RN, EdD, Wellington Chapter

BE IT RESOLVED that RNAO lobby the Ministry of Health to develop a formulae and funding mechanisms for the financial remuneration of teaching health agencies that participate in the clinical education of nurses, similar to those used to compensate agencies for the clinical education of medical students, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that RNAO partner with the Council of Ontario University Programs in Nursing (COUPN) and other appropriate nursing organizations to maximize the strength of the above lobby.

Priority # 2

RESOLUTION # 2 under New Business

Submitted by Sue Coffey, RN, DNSc(c), Region 7, Janet Jeffrey, RN, PhD, Region 6, Alexandria McGregor, RN, EdD, Wellington Chapter

BE IT RESOLVED that RNAO lobby the provincial government and, in particular the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities, to revise funding formulae and increase the funding for nursing education to resolve the historic inequities and address the changing environmental factors described above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that RNAO partner with the Council of Ontario University Programs in Nursing (COUPN) and other appropriate nursing organizations to maximize the strength of the above lobby.

Priority # 3

RESOLUTION # 3

Submitted by Region 6

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that RNAO lobby the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to provide increased funding to universities to expand current doctoral programs in nursing and to increase the funding available to those universities interested in developing doctoral programs in nursing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that RNAO encourage universities currently offering doctoral nursing programs to offer more aspects of the programs in innovative ways, so as to increase their accessibility and flexibility.

PNEIG ACTION:

PNEIG has been working throughout the year to address the issues identified in the above resolutions. We noted early on that there were several organizations and groups involved and that many initiatives were underway. The problem was that due to the complexity of the issue and the wide range of responses involved, it was hard to identify 'who was doing what'. We also struggled with the role of PNEIG – should we be spearheading activities or informing members or both? In discussions at our executive meetings and in consultation with RNAO, we decided one effective role for PNEIG to play across the province would be to inform members of the initiatives underway and make the reports available for comment and follow-up. Our uniqueness is that we have the 'ear' of over 700 nurse educators from and therefore we have the opportunity and responsibility to make our voices heard on these issues.

Please read the reports and forward your comments to PNEIG. Your perspective as educators is invaluable as we try to address some of these pressing issues and develop strategies for change. Below is an initial list of some of the reports available.

- Education Committee report: We felt strongly that a co-ordinated effort –especially when lobbying politically for change – was essential. Our views were echoed by the Education committee of RNAO, which has recently drafted a report entitled “Profile of Issues in Nursing Education” . The report summarizes the factors influencing the present crisis in clinical nursing education and identifies the initiatives that are underway. As soon as this report is approved by the Education committee, we will make it available on our web site for PNEIG members.
- GTA consortium: PNEIG was represented at this forum in which several stakeholders involved in clinical placements of nursing students met to discuss solutions to the present crisis. The work of the consortium is being compiled in a report, which will be presented to this group at the end of March, 2003. We have asked to make this report available to our members following discussion at the March meeting.

Other Reports Available

- “Nursing Education Think Tank Report”: This report was drafted in October 2003 with input of nursing leaders from government, education at a gathering that was hosted by RNAO in partnership with the Office of Nursing Policy – Health Canada, and the Nursing Secretariat. The report is posted on the PNEIG website for your information (www.pneig.ca)
- COUPN “Position Statement on Nursing Clinical Education” – March, 2002. This report evolved out of concern about the availability of clinical practice environments for nursing students. The report is posted on the PNEIG website for your information (www.pneig.ca)
- COUPN “Funding Nursing Clinical Education” Report, revised September 2002. Produced by the nursing effectiveness, utilization and outcomes research unit (NRU).

PNEIG – NSO (Nursing Students of Ontario) Initiative

Nursing Students of Ontario have identified the issue of student nurse ‘abuse’ in clinical placements as something that needs to be addressed. We will be working with NSO to plan a symposium on this topic which we hope will help to define the issue and move us towards the creation of safe and positive learning environments for nursing students. We believe that this issue is influenced by the broader system-wide problems relating to clinical nursing education cited in our political action section of this newsletter.

When we first discussed the issue with NSO, my initial reaction was that the word ‘abuse’ might be too strong. However, as we discussed the scope of the problem more fully, we realized that the term is appropriate because it speaks to what the students are experiencing. Although we are just in the early planning stages, we are aware of the need to involve all stakeholders in this issue, including students, educators, staff nurses, management and others. It will also be important to avoid the ‘blame game’ and to keep the focus on identifying the factors that contribute to the present situation and collectively coming up with strategies for change.

We are in the process of forming a planning committee to move this initiative forward. If you have a particular interest in this area and might be interested in attending the symposium, please email me at anne.simmonds@senecac.on.ca .

Wanted: Educators and Researchers in Community Health Nursing

Are you interested in community health nursing issues? Do you teach or conduct research in community health nursing? If so, perhaps you would be interested in joining the Research and Education "Advisory Committee." The purposes of this committee are:

- to identify important educational and research issues pertaining to community health nursing
- to exchange ideas and information about community health nursing education and research
- to suggest recommendations in addressing community health nursing issues

Ideally, committee membership will include one faculty member of every nursing program in an Ontario University or College. Committee members will meet approximately 2-3 times per year by teleconference. If you are interested in obtaining more information or would like to join this Advisory Committee please contact me at cwg@uwo.ca or by phone (519-661-2111 ext. 86584)

Cathy Ward-Griffin
CHNIG
Team Leader of Research and Education

In Praise of Students

Congratulations to those interest groups for the great success in recruiting student members. (RNs steer student recruitment drive in your Nov/Dec. issue.) I would like to say a special thank you to Anne Simmonds and the Provincial Nurse Educators Interest Group for their continued support of the initiative. At Fanshawe College we had a similar drive but this one could be titled Students steer student recruitment drive! **Cassandra Varricaro**, a third year diploma student and our student workplace liaison, and **Erin Hedges** our RNAO representative for the second year of the Fanshawe/UWO Collaborative program created their own recruitment campaign. The result**225** new student members! In March 2002 these two students and several others from Fanshawe and UWO held a very successful job fair. Cassandra and Erin wanted to use the funds they had raised to benefit students and to benefit RNAO so they offered to pay one half of the membership for any student that wanted to pay the other half of the new \$20 fee. Both the Middlesex/Elgin Chapter of the RNAO and the Nursing Faculty at Fanshawe are very proud of these two future nurses and we have commended them on their initiative and investment in the professional organization. Thank you Cassandra and Erin.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars!!

- **PNEIG AGM** – Saturday, April 12th, 2002 at the Hilton Suites, 8500 Warden Avenue, Markham, Ontario L6G 1A5. Our AGM will be held in conjunction with the RNAO AGM. We will be looking for new executive members to carry on with the important work of PNEIG. If you think you might be interested in an executive position, please contact one of the executive members listed for more information
- **RNFOO** (Registered Nurses Foundation of Ontario) scholarship application deadlines. 3 PNEIG awards of \$1000.00 each are available to nurse educators in Ontario. See their web site at: www.rmfoo.org

PNEIG Executive Contact List 2002- 2003

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Your Contact Information

Attention all PNEIG members!!

Please take a moment to update your personal contact information on line. Whether it is a change of address/work or home phone/fax number and home/work or email addresses. All you have to do is logon to the RNAO web site at www.rnao.org and access the "Members Only" Section which will provide prompts on how to update your information.

This will give RNAO home office greater capacity to communicate with its members and ensure that members are informed on what their professional organization is doing for them. This will also enhance our email communications initiative, a communications tool in place at some local chapter/interest groups which links a local chapter/interest group "ambassador" with all its chapter/interest group members.

Networking

Valda Christian is currently pursuing her MSN on line with the University of Phoenix. She is keenly interested in corresponding with others enrolled in this program for support and perhaps a book exchange. Valda is also interested in an unofficial mentor. She can be reached at: christiansupport@rogers.com or by phone at: (H) (905)-623-0495, (Cell) (905)-404-4208

Look for the PNEIG

Web site

www.pneig.ca