



# Chatham Kent Chapter

## Spring Newsletter 2018

# The Year in Review

by Anita Purdy, RN, MScN, Chapter President

The RNAO Chatham Kent Chapter has had a busy year as new members were welcomed into the chapter and into the executive. We have three current vacancies on our executive and will be recruiting over the next few months and voting for these positions in May/June. Our former chapter president, Betty Oldershaw has moved on to the RNAO Board of Directors as our Region 1 Representative. We were also thrilled to host a visit from Carol Timmings, then RNAO President in October. Members attended various RNAO events over this past year, to learn more about these events, read below.

## RNAO Chatham Kent Chapter Executive

**Chapter President: Anita Purdy**  
(Nursing Professor, St. Clair College, Chatham)

The central person in the executive acts as a crucial point of contact for home office and brings together the work of the whole team. Key responsibilities include:

- organize and chair executive meetings
- produce Members' Voices reports to share the work of the group
- represent the group at RNAO meetings (assembly, AGM, and Queen's Park Day) as well as in the public and the media as needed
- recruit, mentor and support other executive members in their roles

- ensure dissemination of information from RNAO to executive and chapter/region without chapters/interest group members
- manage funds along with the finance executive network officer (ENO)



Anita Purdy

**Communications Executive  
Network Officer: Barb Maloney  
(RN, CKHA)**

The Communications ENO is the hub of communications with the public and the media. As part of the executive team, this person:

- edits the group newsletter
- writes media releases and opinion pieces (with the support of home office)
- monitors media and raises the profile and prestige of nurses
- takes photos, shoots videos and documents group events

**Finance Executive Network Officer:  
Shannon O'Phee (RN, Chatham  
Kent Hospice)**

The Finance ENO provides the financial management for the executive team, and their duties include:

- create a budget each year, together with the rest of the executive
- keep a bank account and records of the group's revenue and spending
- provide financial reporting to home office annually



Shannon O'Phee

**Membership Executive Network  
Officer: Vacant**

The Membership ENO is the person on the executive team concerned with recruiting and retaining members to the group. To this end they are engaged in: recruitment efforts for potential members; i.e.

- events, displays, email or regular mailings
- engaging and encouraging existing members to get involved (home office can assist in coordinating email communications to members)
- recognizing great members by submitting nominations for RNAO Recognition Awards, together with the rest of the executive team
- reaching out to former members to ask them to rejoin

**Policy & Political Action Executive  
Network Officer: Kristy Lalonde  
(RN, CKHA)**

The Policy and Political Action executive member (PPAN) is the leader responsible for the group's advocacy efforts, and is the point person for political action activities. Their role includes:

- meetings with politicians as part of Queen's Park Day, Queen's Park on the Road (QPoR) and Take Your MPP To Work
- acting on and disseminating action alerts to members and engaging them on issues of concern to nurses and nursing students
- providing a strong voice for nursing during elections, by connecting with candidates and organizing health-care all-candidates debates

**Social Media and Information  
Technology Executive Network  
Officer: Vacant**

This position is the point person for the group's social media profile. As part of the executive team, their responsibilities can include: managing the group's social media presence

- updating your group's pages:
- <http://chapters.RNAO.ca> for chapters and regions without chapters

- working closely with the communications ENO, the social media person reaches out to members and engages them in the goals and the work of your group online

**Student Executive Network Officer  
(undergraduate): Vacant**

The student liaison is an associate of RNAO who provides the student perspective to the executive. They are charged with connecting to the nursing student community, doing outreach and encouraging other students to join and get involved in group activities.

**Workplace Liaison Executive  
Network Officer:**

Chatham Kent Public Health Unit:  
Marian McEwan

Disabilities Canada: Michael  
vanDenBerg

St. Clair College: Anita Purdy

Chatham Kent Health Alliance:  
Kristy Lalonde

As a member of the executive, the Workplace Liaison ENO is responsible for connecting with workplaces and with workplace liaisons in their area. They bring the interests of nurses at work to the executive and help to recruit new individual workplace liaisons in nursing workplaces when needed.



Marian McEwan

## RNAO Region 1 Representative to the Board 2017-2019: Betty Oldershaw

RNAO elections for representatives to the Board of Directors occurred in June 2017. We were pleased that our past-president was nominated and elected to represent us. Betty Oldershaw spent many years as our chapter president, working tirelessly to bring the work of RNAO to our members and to share our members' voices with the greater RNAO community. We were fortunate to have Betty as part of our chapter executive and wish her all the best as she takes on her new position on the RNAO Board of Directors.



Betty Oldershaw

## RNAO President Carol Timmings Visits Chatham Kent

The RNAO Chatham Kent Chapter was pleased to host a visit from then RNAO President, Carol Timmings, on Oct. 3, 2017. Carol joined Betty and Anita in a meeting with the Chatham Kent Health Alliance's Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Lisa Northcott and its CEO, Lori Marshall. The group discussed the many pressures facing Ontario hospitals as well as issues facing RNs and NPs. They also discussed the work of the RNAO in advocating for the health of all Ontarians. The group then toured the simulation labs at St. Clair College to view the

interface between students and technology and a program that promotes clinical practice and patient safety in a safe place to learn. The visit culminated with a meeting with second year BScN students and a media interview.



Chatham-Kent Health Alliance



St. Clair College, Chatham

## Chatham Kent Remembrance Day Ceremony

Betty Oldershaw and Marian McEwan honoured RNs who served in the Canadian Armed Forces by placing a wreath from RNAO members at the base of the cenotaph on Remembrance Day. They also had an opportunity to meet with the Chatham-Kent MPP Rick Nicholls.



## Queen's Park Day 2018

RNAO hosted another successful Queen's Park Day on Feb. 22nd. This

event is an opportunity for RNAO members to meet with their local MPP and discuss key topics related to healthcare in Ontario. These topics included: RN replacement, patient-centered health records, fiscal capacity, environmental determinants of health, long-term care, social determinants of health, pharmacare, oral care, and utilizing NPs to their full scope. Anita Purdy met with MPP Rick Nicholls for a spirited conversation on some of these topics. Breakfast was followed by attendance at the Question Period and an afternoon of presentations by members of the Liberal, PC, and NDP parties. The final presentation was "Understanding Homelessness", a panel discussion by Cathy Crowe (street nurse), Joe Cressy (city councillor, Toronto), and Shane Choinard who bravely shared his lived experience with homelessness.



## RNAO Assembly

An Assembly Meeting was held on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, where members received the President's Report and the Chief Executive Officer's Report. These were followed by discussion regarding Queen's Park Day and next steps for RNAO. A presentation was given by Ontario's Chief Nurse, Michelle Acorn, highlighting her role in healthcare.

## **RNAO AGM 2018**

Betty Oldershaw and Marian McEwan attending the AGM in Toronto on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Betty represented Region 1 and Marian represented the Chatham-Kent Chapter. The AGM included voting on resolutions brought forward by members of RNAO. More to follow on this event.

## **RNAO Chatham-Kent Chapter AGM – May 7, 2018**

The Chatham-Kent Chapter is hosting their annual AGM on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Retro Suites Hotel in Chatham. This AGM will include a summary of the chapter activities over the past year, a light luncheon,

and a guest speaker, Carolyn Davies, who will be sharing her experiences in disaster deployment nursing. All members are welcome. If you have not received an invitation with the registration link, please contact Anita Purdy ([anita\\_purdy@yahoo.ca](mailto:anita_purdy@yahoo.ca)).