

Middlesex- Elgin Chapter

newsletter)))

January
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Issue

Annual General Meeting Summary

On November 23, 2021, the Middlesex-Elgin Chapter held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) virtually via Zoom. Our chapter executive was joined by RNAO President Morgan Hoffarth and some of our chapter members. After greetings from our previous Chapter president Janet Hunt and Morgan Hoffarth, our current president, Jamal El-Firikh, highlighted some of the work the Chapter has done since the beginning of our membership year; this included our All Candidates Debate leading up to the Federal Election in September, our support of World Homeless Action Day with the London Homeless Coalition, and our Nominate a Nurse Contest.

Our executive then asked our members what they would like to see from the Chapter in terms of three areas: political action, educational opportunities, and membership experience and communication. In terms of political action members supported home office's chosen topic for QPOR of the RN human resource crisis, and expressed interest in the Chapter exploring the issues of the lack of resources for community nursing and declining number of educators in nursing academics. In terms of educational opportunities, members expressed interest in the topic of management of reactive behaviours. When asked about communication with the Chapter those members present felt communicative via email and social media was very good and informative. Members supported a focus on self-care for membership activities based on the current climate in nursing.

If you have any ideas about political action, educational opportunities and topics, or ways the Chapter can serve our membership this year, please contact us via our email or social media pages at any time!

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Queen's Park On the Road Summary

This fall, our chapter celebrated a successful virtual Queen's Park on the Road (QPOR) event that centered on the RN Human Resource Crisis. The chapter executive as well as our membership were able to meet with various local MPPs, including Terence Kernaghan, Peggy Sattler, Teresa Armstrong, and Jeff Yurek. After reviewing RNAO's evidence and recommendations, nurses were able to share their own unique experiences regarding nursing understaffing and wellbeing, and their subsequent impacts on patient care. We heard from nurses with experience in long term care setting, acute care hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and community care organizations. Each nurse expressed concerns about their workplace and recognized the ripple effect that the RN Human Resource Crisis had on the healthcare system as a whole. All our local MPPs had the opportunity to ask any of the attendees additional questions and we were able to have a constructive conversation about RNAO's recommendations to combat the crisis. RNAO Middlesex Elgin Chapter would like to thank all the MPPs for their time and consideration of the discussed recommendations, as well as the attendees who shared their experiences. If you would like to learn more about this year's QPOR topic, please visit <https://rnao.ca/events/queens-park-on-the-road>.

Avenues of Nursing Summary

On November 30th, members of Middlesex Elgin Chapter supported the Western-Fanshawe Nursing Students Association in their annual Avenues of Nursing event. This year the event used a virtual format to introduce student nurses to a variety of nursing roles that they may not experience within regular placement opportunities. The students met nurses from public health, mental health, long term care, pediatric intensive care, geriatric psychiatry and the inter-community health centre. They learned about the variety of skills needed to work in these areas, the opportunities available to practice nursing within them, and ways in which they could enhance their resume that may increase their ability to secure employment in these roles. About 50 students attended the event and had the opportunity to ask questions throughout. Many described having a better understanding of the nursing roles at the end of the event. Our thanks to all the RN members from Middlesex Elgin who supported this event.

Contact us at:

Middlesex-Elgin Chapter website:

<https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/chapter/43/about>

Chapter email: middlesexelgin.rnao@gmail.com

Or via our social media pages listed on page 1

Upcoming events:

Writing Resolutions Webinar live via ZOOM January 20, 2022 at 7:30 p.m

Registration link now available via email and our social media pages. After registering you will receive a confirmation email with the event zoom link. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please email the Chapter at middlesexelgin.rnao@gmail.com (listed in full at the bottom of this page).

New Workplace Liaison!

Our Chapter executive is pleased to welcome our new workplace liaison Sarah Nieuwets! Sarah holds a Masters in nursing and currently works as the Professional Practice Leader for the Middlesex Hospital Alliance. We are excited to have Sarah as a part of our team!