

Middlesex- Elgin Chapter

newsletter)))

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Issue

Middlesex-Elgin Annual General Meeting 2023

On November 29, 2023, our chapter brought in the holiday season with members of the Middlesex-Elgin Chapter for the Annual General Meeting which was held at the BMO Centre. This year's annual general meeting focused on gathering members to discuss what the chapter has accomplished over the past year while also brainstorming new objectives and goals for the chapter.



Left: Brainstorming for community engagement, advocacy, membership events, and education opportunities by chapter members. Right: Members gathered to listen as chapter president Janet Hunt reviews the chapter's budget and chapter activities over the year.

Input from members on activities and event ideas were also discussed along with the annual financial review and updated budget for the chapter. The meeting also included a membership celebration to recognize and award long-standing members of the RNAO and our Middlesex-Elgin Chapter. The meeting concluded as members brought in the spirit of the season and participated in candle making in which they created their own candle that they got to take

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home. Thank you to the members who joined us for a fun filled night, we look forward to meeting you all and new members of our chapter at the next Annual General Meeting.



Left: Chapter President Janet Hunt with recipients of the member service awards, Wendy Vlassic, Cathie Turner and Carol Young-Ritchie. **Right:** Result of member's candle-making process activity at the event.

RNAO Student Representatives Host Connect and Conquer Event

On October 24, 2023 the Middlesex-Elgin Chapter hosted a student led event at the Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre hosted during the RNAO Fall Tour featuring a visit from our CEO Dr. Doris Grinspun. The Connect and Conquer Event allowed students to voice their concerns and pose questions regarding RNAO and nursing. Dr. Doris Grinspun, Chief Executive Officer of RNAO joined as a featured speaker at the event. Topics of the presentation included explaining the various positions within the RNAO, the education surrounding Indigenous culture in Canada, International Affairs and Best Practice Guidelines (IABPG), as well as current global issues that the RNAO was involved in. The audience included nursing students from the Fanshawe and Western nursing programs and members of the RNAO Middlesex-Elgin Chapter. Anna Khalitova, one of the student representatives of the Middlesex-Elgin Chapter shares her experience as a nursing student at the event.



Left: Dr. Doris Grinspun pictured with a group of nursing students at the Connect and Conquer Event. **Right:** Student Representatives Emily Presswood and Mackenzie Thiessen with Dr. Doris Grinspun delivering presentation to students.

Upcoming events:

Winter Fun: Tube Slide at Boler Mountain

Grab a friend and join the Middlesex-Elgin Chapter on February 6 from 6-9 pm for an evening of tubing fun at Boler Mountain.

Registration is limited, sign up [here](#).



RNAO Board of Directors

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) is looking for talented nurse leaders to join RNAO's board of directors for 2024-2026. Submit your nominations today and help guide the future of the association. Apply [here](#).

Call for Resolutions!

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) is looking for submissions for resolutions to be presented at the Annual General Meeting. The deadline to submit is January 31, 2024. For more information, review instructions and guidelines [here](#).

“As a Western-Fanshawe Nursing student, I found meeting Dr. Grinspun and learning more about RAO and Dr. Grinspun’s journey in her nursing career exciting. We learned that students can participate in the RAO in numerous ways from student placements to opportunities to attend board meetings inspiring me to continue my journey. Overall, the Connect and Conquer event was eye-opening and showed the possibilities for students in the RAO and allowed us to form lasting connections within the RAO.”

Let’s Talk: TransHealth

On Jan 17th Middlesex-Elgin Chapter co-hosted an educational webinar with the Rainbow Nursing Interest Group (RNIG) with the purpose to explore the experience of transgender people in our healthcare system. Fifty members from all over Ontario joined the rich discussion that provided us with a better understand of the transgender community, the hurdles they face in accessing healthcare, and some helpful strategies on working with members of this community. Thank you to our wonderful panel and members for joining, we look forward to hosting similar events in the future.



Chapter members Janet Hunt and Joey Lawson along with members of our panel including: Shelley Evans, RN, PhD, President of RNIG, Robert Alsberry, RN, Transhealth nurse, Centre Town Community Health Centre in Ottawa, Robyn Hodgson RN, Transhealth nurse, London Intercommunity Health Centre, and Tay McKenzie-Picot, Person of lived experience as a non-binary client of healthcare services.

Members Attend London Homeless Memorial Event

On October 13, 2023 members of the London community gathered to honour the lives of those who have died as a result of homelessness. Members of the Middlesex-Elgin Chapter were in attendance and donated flowers to show their support at the event. Friends of the deceased, people who had overcome homelessness, volunteers, non-profit partners, and members of the London community attended the event. Attendees of the event heard speeches from members of the London Homeless Coalition along with a message given by our own chapter president Janet Hunt.



Left: The names of the people who have lost their lives due to homelessness in London showcased at the London Homeless Memorial Event.

A memorable quote from one of the speeches at the event that touched members was, “Homelessness is not the problem. Homelessness is the result of the problem”. Attendees were reminded of the complex layers and factors that contribute to homelessness including mental health, addiction, and access to housing. Sarah Abdel Gabar, Middlesex-Elgin Chapter Social Media Executive Network Officer attended the event and said, “I was really thrilled that RNAO supported this event and I would hope we continue to support events that stand in solidarity with the homeless population in London in the future. As nurses, I believe it is our responsibly to educate the public and advocate for homeless individuals”.

Queens Park on the Road (QPOR): Middlesex Elgin Chapter has been busy!

Annually, RNAO members are asked to meet with their MPPs locally to advocate for the platform issues outlined by home office. This year we decided to bring the MPPs to an informal meeting with nurses from a variety of sectors. Twenty nurses attended and provided the 3 area NDP MPPs with their stories of lived experiences on the front line of nursing and health care. We spoke to the 2 main platform issues of: 1. The toxic drug supply, and 2. The RN-staffing crisis. Terence Kernaghan MPP for London North, Peggy Sattler MPP for London West and Teresa Armstrong MPP for London-Fanshawe all attended and were very receptive to our concerns. While Rob Flack MPP for London-Middlesex-Elgin was unable to attend the meeting, we did meet with him virtually on January 17. Mr. Flack seemed open-minded and interested in hearing what we had to say. He was pleased to hear that RNAO has presented several recommendations and felt they could help the staffing challenges that many organizations are experiencing. We look forward to continuing these discussions at Queen’s Park Day on February 29.



Left: Members of the Middlesex-Elgin Chapter with MPPS Terence Kernaghan, Peggy Sattler, and Teresa Armstrong at the Queens Park on the Road 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