



eDelegate Report

Thank you *eChapter* for the support you provided while allowing me to serve as a delegate to the 56th AORN Congress in Chicago. AORN Congress always fascinates me with the nuances of political maneuvering that ensues. I teach Health Policy in a master's program preparing nurse administrators and found this year's Congress to be an interesting political exercise in one committee's achievement of expansion of its power.

The Nominating Committee (NC) achieved its goal to become the responsible party for all leadership role development and retained the right to orchestrate the AORN National ballot at the same time. A Bylaw change was used as the vehicle to accomplish this objective while gaining the support of the seated Board of Directors (BOD) to abdicate their role in the development of leaders for AORN. Leadership development of the Association is a broad spectrum and the NC reports to the House of Delegates (House) not to the BOD. However, the BOD is required to approve any budgetary requests the NC makes in the absence of the House so in effect this could prevent them moving forward with any plans proposed until the next House meets in Denver in 2010 or requiring ratification by the House if the BOD takes action before the House meets. One has to give them credit for the political ploy they executed. My hat is off to them for the style with which this was so artfully and politically accomplished. Whether one agrees or disagrees with the outcome, you have to give them credit for how well they did it.

The other area that I found of interest was the motion requesting Specialty Assemblies (SA) be granted seats at the House beyond the one representing each SA. It was not well received by the House that is made up primarily of local chapters created more by geographic boundaries. Although there are exceptions, *eChapter* being one of those and we are not bounded by geography at all. The question this motion raised for me was; Are we as AORN adjusting or needing to adjust how we define chapters to include interest areas in addition to geographic areas. What would prevent a group of AORN members in one state or SA from coming together as a unit and requesting the formation of a chapter based on the boundary of their state or their special interest? In my mind there is not and should not be anything to prevent a group from forming as a chapter and calling itself a unique name that embodies the interest of that specific AORN group. If that were the case, they would then have the same percent level of seats at the House that all other chapters hold regardless of the outcome of the motion that was defeated. The larger question is, will the SAs and/or the state councils perhaps move forward with this potential option. Time will tell.

Have a great year and again thanks for the opportunity and support to serve you at the 2009 AORN Congress in Chicago.

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