



Linda Sampson

“What would it take for me to be the best leader?” Ahhh....this was my favorite thought as I came away for the 56th annual AORN Congress. The challenge to be the best at whatever we choose was presented to all participants by the keynote speaker in the opening event. The question begs some serious thought and consideration for those that want more for themselves.....

The Congress welcomed 1,200 first time attendees. Delegates to the 2009 Congress were 1,157 strong. I was a member of the first time attendees and a proud delegate from the eChapter to the 56th Congress.

Sunday, I arrived in Chicago and immediately met with my eChapter colleagues for the first time, as we prepared our events for the week. Well planned agendas for sitting in the House of Delegates provided 70 members direction for participation in the Congress forums. Our group was distinguished from the other 1100 delegates by the custom designed eChapter scarves that graced our necks for the duration of the week.

The House of Delegates accomplished voting for and selecting the new national officers for AORN, amending bylaws with language changes that will promote the future growth of AORN, and accepting three new position statements. These position statements include: key components of a healthy perioperative work environment, noise in the perioperative practice setting, and perioperative care of the patients with DNR orders.

I personally attended many managerial and practice sessions that educated, encouraged, and introduced new ideas. Several guest speakers inspired and motivated us all, with their insight into the challenges of the future.

Some of my favorite phrases that I will remember and think about often are:

“We can’t change the force or direction of the wind, but we can adjust our sails”

“There are incredible opportunities masking as insolvable challenges”

“Are we driving with the brakes on?”

“Set goals that don’t exist and ask what if and why not?”

This week was an incredible experience for me as a first time attendee and a delegate to the 56th AORN Congress!!!