

The journal of the REGISTERED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO (RNAO)

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EDITOR'S NOTE KIMBERLEY KEARSEY

Members urged to have a say

MEMBERS ARE BEING ASKED TO DO something of great importance between March 18 and April 4. For the first time in RNAO history, individual members* will vote on governance issues that impact the work of the association. In addition to deciding who sits on the board of directors and who represents the profession as president, members will now have a say in the selection of auditors and a fee increase that has been proposed by the board of directors (see page 7).

We published news of the fee increase, and RNAO's new bylaws that allow all members a vote, in our Nov/Dec 2012 issue, and include important details again in this issue (pages 2 and 7) because the items that will be decided by members are of critical importance to the future activities of RNAO. Members can also visit www.RNAO.ca/AGM2013 to read a Q&A about RNAO's new bylaws and what it means for you as a member.

In this issue's President's View (pg 5), you will read why Rhonda Seidman-Carlson is asking you to support the board's proposed fee increase. The rationale behind it is evidence-based, and the concern for what might happen if members don't take this responsibility seriously, is genuine.

Busy lives and mounting responsibilities are often behind people's reluctance to set aside time for matters they may not view as "urgent" at a particular moment in time. Rest assured, this responsibility will not take much of your time. And I can say this from personal experience.

Although I am not eligible to vote, as a staff member at RNAO, I was asked to create an account at myRNAO.ca to test the functionality of this latest online resource for members. You are being asked to do the same in order to vote between March 18 and April 4. I know this will take you minutes, because that's how long it took me. The process was user friendly and simple. And the technical support was there for me – and will be for you – if you need it. In fact, staff will be on standby during and after office hours to help during the voting period.

Members have always said they value the voice that they have through RNAO (read more about this in the CEO Dispatch on pg. 6). There's never been a more important time to share your voice with RNAO, and to vote on issues that will help the association continue the work it does on your behalf. **RN**

*Associates, friends of RNAO, and students excluded