



LNCAC President's Address

By Angela Sibbald, RN, BSN

When I took the CanLNC course back in June, 2008, I never thought I would find myself standing here in front of you all as President of the LNCAC. I am both honoured and excited to be here representing the LNCAC.

Back in January, 2014, we voted to assume a new fiscal year that runs from January 1st, to December 31st each year. This means that we will be having another AGM in Jan/Feb of 2015. Be assured, although we will start accepting member fees in Decembers for 2015-16, you will have until February 28th, 2015, to complete your renewals or new member status (in order to provide for this adjustment).

Over the next few months, we will continue to ensure that the new LNCAC website is ready for you to use – we hope it will be more user friendly in terms of streamlining the membership process as well as increasing membership opportunities for allied health care professionals, graduate nurses and student nurses. In addition, we will be exploring membership options for the legal community. In the meantime, please continue to access the current website as we finalize the details for the new website.

Most of our current and past membership has been comprised of RNs, many of whom are LNCs and those who are working toward completing LNC courses. Please note, that even if you haven't taken a recognized course, but have been working on cases for the legal community, you can join us in the Active membership category. We want to encourage those who aren't LNCs but interested in medical legal issues to join the association as Associate members so that you can build your networking and increase your medical legal knowledge. Remember that your fees are tax deductible through your business.

We would also like to encourage junior nurses (less than 5 years' experience) and student members to join us as well even if they aren't qualified to work as LNCs yet as you will benefit from the many learning opportunities that come with membership.

The Legal Nurse Consultants of Canada has been approved as Associate Members of the Canadian Nurses Association – Specialties Group. We have also been recognized in Canada as a specialty of nursing – what we need now is to determine what we need to do to work towards certification. As long as our members are made up of 60% RNs, we can continue to advance towards certification and maintaining our Associate membership status.

What are the benefits of Membership?

It will help your business thrive and increase your competence as a LNC, giving you the ability to:

- Growing your knowledge base to become better LNCs by:
 - Accessing education sessions via WebEx and educational conferences using membership rates.
- Develop relationships with other LNC's at the chapter level and across Canada.
- Networking with the legal community.
- Contributing to a yearly newsletter/journal that contains articles written by LNCs and the Legal Community.
- Future opportunities: business sites, software technology updates.

We would like to encourage our members to attend LNCAC Membership Meetings. Your presence at Membership meetings can benefit you and your colleagues professionally. Your input is so valuable in helping the LNCAC grow and prosper and grow as a professional group. Decisions that will benefit you and the organization rely on your input and involvement.

I want to thank those of you who have stepped forward to assist on the various committees. Your involvement enriches the organization and makes sure that the goals of the LNCAC are being moved forward. Together we have the opportunity to effect change within the organization and our nursing expertise as LNCs.

I am both privilege and honoured to be working with a team of amazing women who have been working hard to get us back into momentum. I want to introduce the TEAM – Heather Johannessen, Heather Preston, Aliyah Mawjii, Marcy Saxe Braithwaite (Ontario Chapter President) and Pat Kermeen (BC Chapter/GVLNCA President). Not everyone can be here today but I want to thank them for the determination and enthusiasm they have shown in moving this organization forward.

Provincial Chapters and Fee Allocation -

Currently we have two chapters:

- Ontario – Marcy Saxe-Braithwaite, President - marcy@wmc.on.ca
- Greater Vancouver – Pat Kermeen, President - pkermeen@shaw.ca

Alberta is hoping to establish their own chapter. I would encourage you to establish your own provincial chapters so that you can also network and provide educational opportunities closer to home.

Once new Chapters have been accepted, they will be eligible to receive official recognition as a chapter at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Each chapter is responsible for providing a reporting tool to the LNCAC Secretary and President in order to maintain their official chapter status with the LNCAC. A detailed financial statement must be made available upon request.