



Perioperative Nurse Week, November 8 – 14, 2009

Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Perioperative Nurse Week may be one of my favorite times of year. It's an excellent reminder to all of us – our colleagues as well as ourselves – about the importance and value of our profession. We may work in the scrub role, as a circulating nurse, a RN first assistant, an OR director, a consultant, or in one of many other career paths, but along every path, we demonstrate each day our education, professional standards and commitment to patient safety. This special week shines a much deserved light on all of us.

Our theme, Reaching the Peak of Perioperative Practice, is a call to action. I encourage you to identify and speak out on ways you might further improve safety, quality and collaboration in your facility and in support of the future of the perioperative nursing community. My hope is that through collaboration we continue advocating on behalf of safe patient care.

I hope you will also take this time to reach out to your colleagues, especially those new to the profession or the OR. Many of us have been lucky enough to receive mentoring as we tested our education and knowledge in real life situations. Working with a team that's built on trust and support can make a difference in our confidence and in the quality of care we provide our patients.

What else can we do to reach the peak of perioperative practice as individuals and as a profession? What actions can we take this week and this year to improve our skills and expand our knowledge? How can we make our patients safer? I ask these questions every day, as I know you do, too. During Perioperative Nurse Week, let's encourage others to work with us to find answers that will improve the future of safe patient care. Let's work together to reach our personal and professional peak of perioperative practice.

Best wishes to all of you and sincere thanks for the excellent work you do.

Sincerely,

Patrick E. Voight RN, BSN, MSA, CNOR