

2008 Annual President's Report

This year has been another year of excitement and unexpected pleasures for our organization. In early January, the NECOEM conference committee began meeting and formulating the conference that you are at today. MaAOHN members attended but we had low expectations for many of our ideas to be accepted. I have to say that the physician group we worked with could not have been more accommodating. We asked that nurse speakers do some of the presentations and that we change the award luncheon to Thursday. Both of those changes were made and I am happy to say that attendance this year is the highest ever – over 310 people, we only had 229 last year, and the number of nurses who attended is one of the reasons for the jump in attendance. Forty MaAOHN members signed up which is also unprecedented. I would like to thank the members of the committee and Anne LaFontaine, who is the vendor chair, for their work. Anne's hard work netted us over \$7,000. Each chapter will receive a check for \$1,000 to use as they see fit.

Planning meetings will begin again in January and we are looking for volunteers to help us with topics, speakers and vendors. The meetings are done by conference call, there are usually 3 or 4, each lasting an hour. This is a great opportunity to contribute to our organization and is not a huge time commitment. If you have an idea but can't be on the committee, please email the "Contact Us" on our website with your idea and we will bring it up at the meeting.

Gail Carchietta, membership chairperson, worked tirelessly through out the year to target opportunities to get new members. I am happy to say that she now reports our membership to be 194. This is up from 178 in 2007. While the rest of the country is facing a serious membership decline, we have actually seen a 10% increase. Gail's ideas on reaching out to those who attended NECOEM last year who were not MaAOHN members and reaching out to new members has certainly paid off.

Our website continues to be a favorite of many members. In the last 12 months there have been 9,379 visits to the website from about 2,500 different visitors. Our new "Job Posting" page has been a huge success. Since October there have been 189 hits. We now charge \$50.00 for an ad that will stay up on the web for one month. To date, we have collected \$400 which will be divided amongst the 4 chapters.

In April, MaAOHN celebrated occupational health nurses week at the State House by signing alliances or agreements with OSHA, HEHNA and the Department of Public Health. By doing this, we have aligned ourselves with these agencies and have agreed to work cooperatively with them. You should have received an alert from DPH a few weeks back concerning the sharps issue with flu vaccine. This is one example of how we hope to better connect ourselves with other agencies which will only enhance our practice.

Our taxes are filed, we are financially sound, our by-laws and policy and procedure manual is up to date, we've held a successful election, our website is well maintained and we have supported our chapter's financial well being and; on December 1, the application for the 2009 Chapter of the Year Award was delivered to AAOHN. Keep your fingers crossed!

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Donahue, BSN, RN, COHN-S/CM

President, MaAOHN