

The American Organization of Nurse Executives and Global Citizenship

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AONE President Michelle Janney, Croatian Nurses Association President Mirjana Dumancic, AONE CEO Pam Thompson, and AONE President-Elect Linda Knodel at the AONE/HUMS International Congress in Zagreb, Croatia.

During the last 2 decades, the AONE has progressively increased international activities. Past President Lois Kercher was an early pioneer in this effort. In 1983, she was part of a delegation of the American Society of Nursing Service Administrators, the precursor organization of the AONE, members who traveled to the People's Republic of China. The delegation toured Chinese hospitals and provided lectures to Chinese nurses. This program, organized by the China-US Scientific Exchange Program, opened doors to greater understanding of the global issues that all nurses share.

Globalization is impacting many aspects of American society, and nursing has especially been impacted over the past few decades. Global issues such as nurse migration, pandemic infections, natural disasters, man-made disasters, and geopolitical unrest have made it clear that no nation can remain isolated and unaffected by world events and trends. With these facts, the American Organization of Nurse Executives' (AONE) leaders and members increasingly understand that leaders along with their communities and health care organizations work in all arenas, from local to national and international.

The AONE has focused on 4 major initiatives to expose AONE members to the mutual interests of the US national agenda and the agenda of global colleagues. These 4 initiatives include attendance at the International Council of Nurses (ICN) meetings, participation in professional delegations facilitated by People to People International, an ongoing relationship with the Croatian Nursing Association, and the provision of leadership development programs in Africa. Highlights from each of these activities create the story of AONE's growing involvement in international activities.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

The ICN is a federation of more than 130 national nursing associations, representing more than 16 million nurses worldwide. There are many programs within the ICN, but AONE's priority has been attending the international meetings held every 2 to 4 years. President Rhonda Anderson (1993 to 1994) was the first AONE president to attend an ICN meeting as an official representative of the AONE. In 1999, President Carol Bradley attended the ICN Centennial Celebration in London. During that conference, the global impact of AIDS was discussed, especially as it related to nurse migration and the devastating impact AIDS was having on the nursing community in Africa.

Tanzania participants with Pam Thompson, Beverly Hancock, and Chris Martorella (AONE faculty).



In 2001, President Dianne Anderson and Pam Thompson, executive director, traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, beginning a tradition of both leadership roles in attendance. This was followed by President Kathleen Sanford and Pam Thompson attending the 2006 Taiwan ICN meeting. At this meeting, there was an informal gathering of all nurses from the United States who were in attendance, a first recognition that US nurses were attending in greater numbers. It was also at this meeting that 2 AONE abstracts describing the AONE leadership development initiatives were accepted, beginning the realization that the AONE tools had international application.

The 2007 ICN meeting in Yokohama, Japan, was a major milestone for the AONE. Six abstracts were submitted with hope that 2 would be accepted. All 6 were accepted, and President Linda Everett was barely able to attend other educational sessions as she presented the 6 abstracts. She received feedback from many international attendees that they were using the AONE Nurse Executive Competencies in their home countries, validating their application to an international audience. President Donna Herrin attended the 2009 ICN meeting in Durban, South Africa, and presented 2 AONE programs. Again, feedback that the AONE competencies were being used in many countries around the globe was received. Especially of note at this meeting was the growing use of the AONE Nurse Executive Competencies in Asia.

The 2011 ICN meeting in Malta was attended by President Cheryl Hoying and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Pam Thompson. President Hoying continued the precedent of presenting for the AONE. She also hosted a small gathering of nurse leaders with interest in what international associations could do collaboratively to promote nursing leadership. This meeting set the stage for the 2013 ICN meeting in Melbourne, Australia. There, President Michelle Janney con-

vened a meeting of over 50 international colleagues interested in the creation of a global alliance to address leadership development. As the meeting progressed, it became clear that the issues facing the various countries were more similar than disparate. Workforce shortages, generational differences in the workforce, and a lack of formal leadership development programs dominated the conversations. AONE leaders left the meeting, charged to complete an international assessment of leadership development resources and to explore what unique resource could be provided by the members of this alliance. That assessment was completed and sent back to the participants; however, there was no consensus on the unique resources required to achieve implementation.

A follow-up meeting for the alliance was planned for the 2016 Seoul, Korea, ICN meeting. However, the Korean meeting saw a significant decline in attendance due to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome outbreak in Seoul. Many Asian countries banned attendance by their nurses, and many nurses canceled their planned attendance. The alliance meeting was canceled and will be reconsidered for an upcoming 2017 meeting in Barcelona, Spain. President Linda Burnes Bolton and CEO Pam Thompson copresented with the Emergency Nurses' Association on the topic of mitigating violence in the workplace. Despite low attendance at the ICN, the audience for the symposium brought forward the common issues nurses face around the world related to dealing with violence.

In summary, attendance at ICN meetings has allowed the AONE to keep abreast of global health issues and their impact on nurses world-wide. It has also given the AONE opportunity to share leadership development resources and receive feedback from colleagues across various countries. The AONE is viewed as a credible source for leadership

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