**History of AORN**

In the 1940’s, a group of OR nurses in New York City felt a need for an association - one for staff nurses as well as supervisors.

On the evening of Jan 28, 1949, the first meeting of the Association of Operating Room Nurses of New York City met. The purpose, aims, and objectives of an organization for OR nurses were presented and the group decided unanimously to go forward with its plans for an organization.

Shortly thereafter, OR nurses in other cities began to discuss the formation of similar groups. By the middle of 1949, OR nurses were organizing in Texas, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Louisiana.

By the end of 1950, there were 26 AORN groups nationwide.

By 1951, AORN of New York City had become a nucleus for the groups that had formed. The primary goals of the Association were to:

* stimulate OR nurses in other parts of the country to form similar groups,
* pool and share nursing knowledge and technology,
* provide the surgical patient with optimum care through a broad educational program,
* make a body of knowledge available to OR nurses,
* motivate experienced OR nurses to share their expertise with others, and
* be an Association for the benefit of all professional OR nurses

Almost from its beginning, AORN groups used were offered a section in the Hospital Topics publication. This provided a medium for chapter news and for articles of general interest submitted by OR nurses.

The first AORN national conference was held in New York in Feb 1954. The total registration was 1,823.

At the fourth National AORN conference, held in Feb 1957, 52 delegates attended the first delegate’s breakfast. This was one of the most important meetings ever attended by delegates. It was at this meeting that a plan to form an independent national organization was presented and approved.

Two years later, in Aug 1959, at the midyear Board meeting, a proposal for a new official association journal was adopted. OR Nursing would replace the section in Hospital Topics.

In 1960, AORN received its certificate of incorporation and henceforth would be the Association of Operating Room Nurses, Inc.

Since the inception of AORN, there has been action, change, and upward mobility. AORN now gives research grants, Project Alpha awards, outstanding chapter activity awards, educational scholarships, the Award for Excellence in Perioperative Nursing, and they hold World Conferences.

AORN is a strong moving force in the changing health scene. The aims, objectives, and philosophy of the Association have evolved into a sophisticated nursing discipline that has a positive impact on perioperative nurses.

AORN has more than 250 Chapters in most states, including one virtual chapter. They are the vital link between National AORN and local members. Participating in your local chapter is a great way to get more involved in the perioperative nursing community and enhance your leadership skills. Get involved today!

# References

*AORN Community*. (2022, August 21). Retrieved from AORN: https://aorn.org/community/aorn-chapters

Driscoll, J. (January 1989). AORN History - How We Shaped Our Future. *AORN Journal*, 189-213.