



2020 The Year of the Nurse

Good day friends and colleagues,

As we move into Level 1 lock down in this Covid-19 pandemic, the APPSA President, Marilyn de Meyer and the Gauteng Chapter Board, would once again like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and thanks to all the peri-operative practitioners of South Africa who have put yourselves on the line in service to our country.

We are sure that a number of you have fallen victim to this dreaded disease; while others have lost friends and family. But, through it all, you were always back in the hospitals and clinics where you were needed to care for others. We salute you for your dedication and commitment.

Remember: You don't build a house without its foundation. You don't build a hospital without its NURSES!

With the new regulations slowly coming into operation, and the number of infections reducing, we will be looking at plans and programmes that we will be able to offer you next year. Dates for meetings will be circulated, and we would like you to participate in the planning of future programmes. This year has forced us to confront challenges we never imagined possible. It has stretched our endurance and our limits in ways we could not have dreamed possible. Our plea to you is to help us better prepare for future pandemics – and there will, unfortunately, be another pandemic, maybe not of COVID-19 - please share your needs on identified challenges with us. Tell us what challenges presented themselves to you and for which

you felt unprepared. We want to help find solutions for you – and ourselves. We will try to slot them into scheduled programmes because a solution for one problem may be of benefit to all of us. Also submit names of potential speakers to us so that we can approach them and see if they are able to donate their valuable time to help empower us. Knowledge, sharing and caring is power.

As most of you will know by now we have expanded and redeveloped our website. Because of challenges in the delivering of post, you will now be able to read the August issue of the APPSA Journal online. Challenges faced by the post office and the delivery of mail pushed us to this initiative to ensure that our members do not have to miss out on any of the informative papers that are always made available to you through the Journal. Our appreciation goes to our editor and her team for going the extra mile in ensuring this was possible.

It is with sadness that we have learnt of the passing of Sr Frances (Florrie) van den Heever on 20 June 2020. Sr. Florrie was a long-time member of APPSA – going back to the old SATS days. She was the proud recipient of the Joyce McGuire Trophy and an Honorary member of APPSA. She has left us with many happy and cheerful memories, but also with the sense of how important people are. It also serves to remind all of us that every day – not just in times of a pandemic – we need to value each and every person in our circle. Our condolences go to her daughter Karin, who so lovingly cared for her mother right up to the end.

Please feel free to contact our office in Bloemfontein, for any questions you may have. Guidelines remain available from your Chapter or from Carma Design. Guideline application forms can be requested from carma@gonet.co.za or by calling Carole on 072 825 3124. All information available on our website which can be found at www.theatrenurse.co.za.

In conclusion, let us always remember: “Way back before you were born, God knew there was a need. So God picked your fertile heart and planted a caring seed. Then He waited and watched. Knowing that before too long the desire in you to care and help others would grow and become strong” (EC Heferd)

Be safe and know you are in our hearts and in our prayers. We hope to see you soon, but until then - keep your lamp burning.

God Bless.

Villi Pieterse (Honorary Life President)

Marilyn De Meyer APPSA National Executive Board President and Gauteng Chapter President