

Board of Directors Nominee Article

Date: April 23, 2025

Name: John Lowe, RN (he/him)

Nominee For: Vice-President, Region 5

Greetings, respected ONA members:

I am allowing my name to stand for the position of Vice-President, Region 5. I am confident I have the knowledge, leadership, and experience needed to fulfill this role while adhering to and advancing the Statement of Beliefs, Constitution, Vision, Mission, Values, and Policy. I'm here to serve you, the member. Additionally, as a front-line rural emergency department nurse, I possess the skills to solve and support the most critical patient presentation, to a hospital power failure and everything in between.

To best introduce myself, I have captured my proud nursing career and ONA experience below.

Worked Nursing Experience:

- RN in my 22nd year of Nursing
- Graduate of St. Clair College – Thames Campus, Chatham in 2003
- HCA Braemar Nursing Home, (1998-2002)
- Wingham & District Hospital, (1999-2007)
Orderly on Chronic/Rehab unit while attending college (1999-2003); RN on Med-Surg, Special Care Unit, ER & Day surgery (2003-07). I was the first and only staff member to ever transition from Orderly to RN.
- Huronlea Home for the Aged, casual RN (2003-07)
- Huron County Health Unit – Immunization Team, casual RN (2003-07)
- Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (2007-present)
Stratford site – Critical Care Unit (2008-2011)
Seaforth site – Med/Surg, ER, Day surgery/PACU (2007-08, 2010-2012) I was the first “male nurse” at Seaforth Hospital.
Clinton site – ER (2011-2020)
Seaforth site – ER (2020 - present)

ONA Education:

- Graduate of ONA Novice & Advanced Leadership summits (2012, 2014)
- Yearly attendance at Regional Health & Safety Caucus
- Yearly attendance at Provincial Human Rights & Equity Caucus

- In-person workshops: Harassment/Mobbing/Bullying; Intro to/Representing Members w/ Human Rights; Supporting members w/ Addictions; Resolving Conflict; Local/BU elections; Grievance process; More Than Social Media; Conducting effective meetings; PRCW's – all sectors; CNO privacy; CNO health inquiries
- Completion of numerous ONA E-learning courses

ONA Experience:

- Current Local 21 Coordinator now in 5th term (2015-present)
- Hospital Central Negotiations Team (2023)
- Region 5 member on PCM/Biennial Design Team (2020-2021)
- Local 21 Health & Safety lead (2007-2021) Certified in 2004
- Region 5 member on Provincial Election Team/Complaints Committee (2016, 2017-2019)
- Local 21 Secretary serving one 2-year term (2013-2014)
- Site representative, Seaforth hospital - Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (2011-2012) and (2021-2022)
- Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Labour Management committee (2012-2017) (2021-2022)
- Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Negotiations committee (2022)

Community Engagement & Involvement:

I take great pride in my extensive volunteer background, particularly my impactful role as a volunteer firefighter with the Huron East Fire Department at the Brussels station from 2007 to 2015. This experience not only highlights my commitment to serving the community but also reflects the unique and vital contributions I've made in my area.

It was then that I decided to submit my name to hold the position of Councillor for the Municipality of Huron East - Brussels ward (2014-2021, re-elected Oct 2018). As a Councillor, I sat on the following boards & committees: Brussels, Morris & Grey Recreation Board (previous chair); Brussels Cemetery Board; Brussels & Area Fire Board (chair); Brussels/Huron East Community Development Trust (secretary); Brussels Community Alliance; Huron East Personnel Committee; Huron East Water & Sewer Committee and the Coalition for Huron Injury Prevention (vice chair).

I am a volunteer item writer and reviewer for the nationwide examination that licenses Registered Nurses in Canada. First, the CRNE that was originally administered by the Canadian Nurses' Association in Ottawa. Now, the exam is called NCLEX and conducted by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) in Chicago.

I have been strongly affiliated with the Royal Canadian Legion since joining in 1998 and have held various offices, including two-term President of Br. 218 Brussels, Poppy

Chair, Honours & Awards chair and Zone C-1 Youth Education chair (4 years). I have also been the District C Youth Education chair since 2011 and was re-installed at 2nd Vice President at my Branch this month.

In 2019, I became a member of the Brussels Agricultural Society and served as Treasurer for 3 years. I continue as Director of the Photography & Art section and parade coordinator.

Each month, I have the privilege of volunteering as a cook for the Soup N More program at my village church. This is a community effort to prepare hot meals for those in need.

On my days off from the hospital, I work as a substitute (spare) school bus driver. This helps ensure any vacancies are filled, supporting parents to ensure their child has transportation to school.

Since 2020, I have sat on the Brussels Santa Claus parade committee and act as treasurer and assist with forming-up parade entries/floats.

I see the ongoing challenges we face in every sector, yet I am inspired by our resilience. The continued lack of respect from employers and our provincial government, with their 'do more with less' mentality, is deeply concerning. I believe in the power of maintaining our hard-fought wins from previous years. I am truly grateful for the successes we've achieved over the past 50+ years. You can count on me to be your regional voice. My community involvement reflects my deep dedication and commitment to making a difference wherever I go.

I want to emphasize that my community involvement is much like how a union operates – serving a broad base, including everyone, and working together to get the job done for the common good. We are our own community that sticks together. Always remain professional, treating each other kindly, and continuing to support one another through both challenges and successes.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

I can be reached at lowe17@bell.net

A TRUSTED, KNOWLEDGEABLE, VALUED & COMMITTED LEADER.

I HUMBLY ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Lowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small "RN" or similar mark at the end.

Signature of Nominee