

# The Pacemaker



Newsletter of AORN of Greater Houston #4407

September 2019



## President's Message



Beloved friends, colleagues, and students,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 year for AORN Greater Houston Chapter 4407! It is both an honor and privilege to serve as President of such an illustrious chapter of excellence. As we progress on this journey of excellence together, I hope that each of you will grow and come to appreciate a new found trust in this year's board, nominating committee, and committee leaders. During the induction of new officers, I highlighted the theme of our National President, Missi Merlino, MHA, RN-BC, CNOR, CSSM as: 20/20 Vision: Creating Our Future, Is About Creating the Best Future for Perioperative Nursing. My mission is for us to harmoniously work with all our care team colleagues in the operative theatre and perioperative arena. I envision that we take this further by being keepers of the light, as we keep the 20/20 vision to be healthy 20/20 Nurses. This is best achieved by being holistically healthy, mind, body, spirit, and soul. Demonstration of a valued commitment to rest when needed, engage in exercise, meditate, and willingly communicate to cohesively sustain success with our colleagues, is example ways of accomplishment of such. September is a month of consoling, a friendly month where individual's solve problems, a month of bravery, being fearless, adventurous, loving, and caring. To our allied professional colleagues, Surgical Technologists, we appreciate and welcome you to our meeting this month! September 15-22, 2019 is your week! This month we also welcome and honor our first responders for their dedication and resilience in the face of the unknown during some of the most emergent and unexpected times. Thank you to each of you individually and collectively for being an integral part of our healthcare teams.

**DeShon Burton-Essia, BSN, RN**

**President, 2019-2020**

### **Leadership Team 2019-2020**

#### *President*

**DeShon Burton-Essia, BSN, RN**

#### *President Elect*

**Daphny G. Peneza, MSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM**

#### *Vice President*

**Tammy Campbell, BSN, RN, CNOR**

#### *Past President*

**Ebony Mitchell, MSN, RN, BSH**

#### *Secretary*

**Kevin Lim, MSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM**

#### *Treasurer*

**Nakeisha "Nikki" Washington, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR**

#### *Board of Directors*

**Olivia Lyles, BSN, RN, CNOR**

**Fred Perry, BSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM**

**Cheryl Kelley, MSN, RN**

#### *Nominating Committee*

**Nerissa Dungo, BSN, RN, CNOR-Chair**

**Kaonte Spencer, MSN, RN**

**Veronica Velez, RN, CNOR.**

**Merofo Sano, BSN, RN, CNOR.**

**Ebony Mitchell, MSN, RN, BSH (Advisor)**

#### *Newsletter Editor*

**Kevin Lim, MSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM**

#### *Legislative Committee Chairperson.*



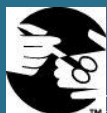
## Hello September

*A new month is before us, an old one left behind.  
The only wish I have for you, is that September is kind*

*Wishing all of my Family & Friends  
a wonderful month ahead.*

# AORN of Greater Houston #4407

## Leadership Team 2019-2020



### The AORN Mission:

Our mission is to promote safety and optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures by providing practice support and professional development opportunities to perioperative nurses. AORN will collaborate with professional and regulatory organizations, industry leaders, and other health care partners who support the mission.

### The AORN Vision:

AORN will be the indispensable resource for evidence-based practice and education that establishes the standards of excellence in the delivery of perioperative nursing care.

### The AORN Values:

*Communication* ~Open, Honest, Respectful

*Innovation* ~ Creative, Risk taking, Leading edge

*Quality* -Reliable, Timely, Accountable

*Collaboration* ~Teamwork, Inclusion, Diversity

#### President 2019-2020

DeShon Burton-Essia, BSN, RN

#### President Elect 2019-2020

Daphny G. Peneza, MSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM

#### Vice President 2018-2020

Tammy K. Campbell, BSN, RN, CNOR

#### Treasurer 2019-2021

Nakeisha Washington, MSN, MBA-HCM, RN, CNOR

#### Treasurer-elect 2018-2019

Nikki Washington, MSN, MBA-HCM, RN, CNOR

#### Board 2018-2020

Olivia Lyles, BSN, RN, CNOR

#### Board 2019-2021

Frederick Perry, BSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM

#### Board 2019-2021

Cheryl Kelley, MSN, RN

#### Board Advisor 2019-2020

Karen White-Edwards, MBA, BSN, RN, CNOR

#### Nominating Committee 2019-2021

Veronica Velez, RN, CNOR

#### Nominating Committee 2019-2021

Kaonta Spencer, BSN, RN

#### Nominating Committee 2019-2021

Merofo Sano, BSN, RN, CNOR

#### Nominating Committee 2018-2020 (Chair)

Nerissa Dungo, BSN, RN, CNOR

#### Past President/Advisor

Ebony Mitchell, MSN, RN, BSH

#### Legislative Chair, 2019-2020

Joanne Oliver-Coleman, BSN, RN, CNOR-E



<3 Emmanuel Dagher

# September 2019 Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

This month's chapter meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept 10, 2019 at Houston Methodist Hospital, Dunn Rio Grande Rm, 6565 Fannin Street, Houston, TX 77030.

Meet the Board 4:00p—4:30p

Around the Horn 4:30p—5:00p

Business 5:00p—5:30p

Education 5:30p—6:30p

## **Education Session (1.0 CE)**

Terri Siebert

Baxter

“Hemostatic Agents”

Nursing Students and Surgical Technologists are welcome. We will have door prizes and light supper.



Date	Topic	Speaker	Meeting Happenings
Sept 10	Hemostatic Agents	Terri Sibert	Honoring Surgical Technologists  Bring items for food bank, donations for Elrod Elementary or \$20, or items for Nora's House
Sept 14	Sickle Cell Houston Walk	Memorial Park (South Picnic loop)	9:00-12:00
Sept 21	Steps Against Melanoma Walk	n/a	7007 Bertner Ave
Sept 21	St.. Jude Walk/Run 5K	n/a	Minute Made park 7:00-10:00
Sept 22	Run from Prostate Cancer 5k Walk & Run	n/a	Texas Southern University
Sept 28	5K Wellness Walk	n/a	Memorial Park Tennis Center
Sept 29	AAA Texas Walk to End Distracted Driving	n/a	Minute Maid Park
Sept 30	Rose Clinic 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Hats and Henna High Tea	n/a	Hotel Granduca  2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

You are also invited to attend our meetings via teleconference:

Call in number **877-209-1359** September participant code is **590474085**

# AORN Greater Houston Chapter 4407

## September 10, 2019 Meeting

- Invite a Surgical Technologist to our meeting. We want to honor them!!! All Surgical Technologist in attendance will receive a Certificate honoring them for their service.
- Two Free Memberships to AST will be given away!! \*\*Must be present when the drawing is held to win\*\*



**THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR PARTNERS  
BEHIND THE MASK**



**Meeting Time: 4:00 p.m.**

**Location:  
Houston Methodist DUNN RIO  
Grande**

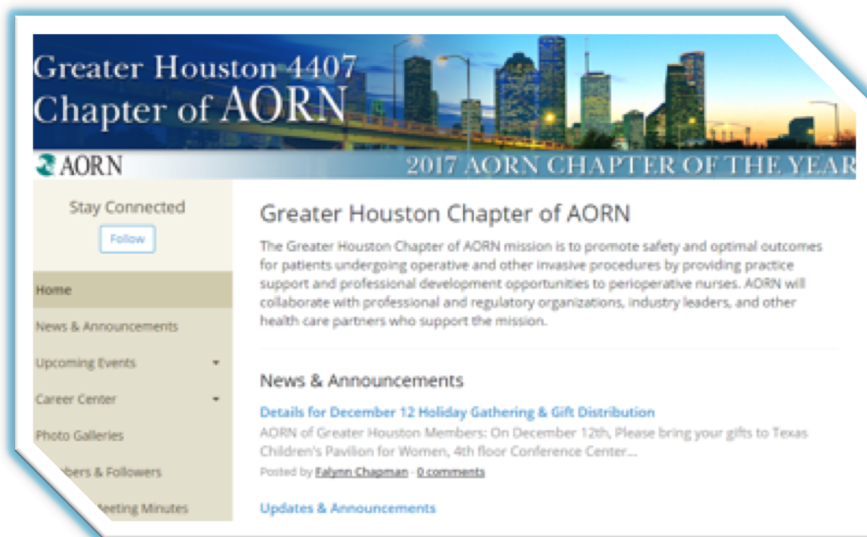
**Teleconference Information:**

**1-877-209-1359**

**Access Code: 590 474 085**

**Students Welcome, refreshments served RSVP at  
<https://aornhouston.nursingnetwork.com>**

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**FOLLOW OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES**

**[www.aornhouston.nursingnetwork.com!](https://aornhouston.nursingnetwork.com)**





## **Hurricane Harvey....TWO Years Later**

One year later and Texas is still bouncing back from the historic and catastrophic Hurricane Harvey. The massive storm made landfall Aug. 25 near the Texas Gulf Coast, and the ensuing rainfall swamped the Houston area, among other regions. Harvey, a Category 4 storm, brought winds that packed a punch -- they were up to 130 miles per hour at one point. Many areas saw gusts topping 100 mph, which led to the destruction of many houses and buildings. Harvey lingered over Houston for four days, overflowing two reservoirs and flooding several highways, along with 25 to 30 percent of Harris County.

The tropical storm dropped 40 to 61 inches of rain in parts of Texas and southwest Louisiana. The storm caused billions of dollars in damage. Only Hurricane Katrina in 2005 caused more in damage, ringing in at \$160 billion, according to weather.com. Harvey wasn't considered a hurricane the whole week. It was downgraded Aug. 26 to a tropical storm. Tens of thousands of people sought temporary shelter as the system moved through. One trillion gallons of water were dumped on the Houston region in the four days the storm moved over the area, **according to the Harris County Flood Control District**. It is estimated that 70 percent, or 1,300 square miles of Harris County's 1,800 square miles, were covered with 1 1/2 feet of water, **officials said**. Harvey was considered one of the worst weather disasters in U.S. history. Texas officials said in September that 82 people died as a result of the storm. We salute all the men and women who risk their lives daily to be of service to others!!! Thank you for being our partners in service!!



**Invite any first responders to attend our September 10, 2019. We would love to honor them on this day of remembrance.**

## Federation of Houston Professional Women's "Woman of Excellence"



*Ebony Mitchell, MSN, RN, BSH*

*This year Ebony, our Past President (2019) and Past President Elect (2018), will be representing AORN of Greater Houston as one of the Federation of Houston Professional Women (FHPW), "Woman of Excellence".*

*Ebony has served and been a supportive and active member of AORN of Greater Houston for 17 years. Join me in congratulating her for this amazing accomplishment and thanking her for her dedicated service to the perioperative nursing profession.*

*Thank you*

*And*

*Congratulations Ebony*

Ebony Mitchell, MSN, RN, BSH served as the 2018-2019 President of the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses Greater Houston Chapter 4407, a 4-Star Chapter and 2017 Chapter of Excellence. Ebony is presently the night weekend Charge Nurse at Memorial Hermann in the Texas Medical Center and a Surgery Scheduler at Houston Methodist Hospital and has an impressive career as a perioperative professional of 17 years. She has been a member of AORN for 17 years. Ebony obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Science in Health from Prairie View A&M University in May 2003. She then matriculated to Chamberlain College of Nursing and obtained her Master of Science in Nursing Administration in 2016. Her career began 17 years ago at Houston Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center. Nursing fulfills her passion for helping people and perioperative nursing gives her versatility in helping a wide range of people across the healthcare continuum from pediatrics to geriatrics.

Ms. Mitchell continues to provide service to AORN Greater Houston Chapter 4407 by serving as an Advisor to the Nominating Committee. She has attended the AORN Global Surgical Conference and Expo since 2014 and been a poster presenter every year, in addition to serving as a Delegate. She is very active in the community and volunteers with several organizations and her church, New Light Christian Center Church. She is a member of the Eta Delta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, Black Nurses Rock, Texas Nurses Association, American Nurses Association, has been recognized as a Top 15 Nurse by the Houston Chronicle, is a Good Samaritan Bronze Winner, is a Memorial Hermann Research Scholar, and has been recognized by AORN as a Forty under Forty leader.

Ebony will receive her award of excellence on September 21, 2019 at the Federation of Houston Professional Women Gala at 5:30 p.m. at the Norris Conference Center located at 816 Town and Country Blvd, Houston, TX 77024.

A woman of excellence and virtue is of **INFINITE** worth. She has her own **divine** mission which is successfully fulfilled with dignity, poise, grace, and love.- *Ebony Mitchell*

The Federation of Houston Professional Women  
Present the



2019 Awards Gala

Saturday, September 21, 2019  
5:30 p.m.

The Norris Center  
816 Town & Country Blvd. Ste. 201  
Houston, TX 77024



# **AORN Greater Houston #4407 Member Code of Ethics and Conduct**

## **Overview**

AORN of Greater Houston requires board of directors, officers, committee members, and all members to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. As representatives of Chapter #4407 and the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (herein AORN), we must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling our responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

## **Purpose**

In accordance with the mission statement of AORN, the following Code of Ethics and Conduct applies to all members of the Association in all membership categories.

## **Standards of Ethics and Conduct**

1. Members' professional conduct shall remain consistent with the vision, mission, and core values of AORN.
2. Members shall conduct themselves in a manner that does not bring discredit upon AORN or its members.
3. Members shall refrain from abusing their relationship with AORN in an improper economic, professional, or other manner.
4. Members shall treat their peers with the utmost dignity and respect, both personally and professionally.
5. Members must feel comfortable to express their concerns, particularly with respect to ethical concerns. Officers have a responsibility to create an open and supportive environment where member concerns and questions are responded to without retaliation.
6. Members shall not misuse information communicated or disseminated through any AORN program or media of any type, whether in person, electronic, or otherwise.
7. Members shall comply with all laws, regulations, and AORN policies regarding privacy and copyright, as well as other tangible and intangible property.

## **Vision Statement**

AORN will be the indispensable resource for evidence-based practice and education that establishes the standards of excellence in the delivery of perioperative nursing care.

## **Mission Statement**

The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses' (AORN) mission is to promote safety and optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures by providing practice support and professional development opportunities to perioperative nurses. AORN will collaborate with professional and regulatory organizations, industry leaders, and other health care partners who support the mission.

## **AORN Core Values**

The Association of periOperative Registered Nurse's (AORN) core values reflect what is truly important to the Association.

Communication: Open, Honest, Respectful

Innovation: Creative, Risk Taking, Leading Edge

Quality: Reliable, Timely, Accountable

Collaboration: Teamwork, Inclusion, Diversity

*AORN affords equal opportunity to all persons and does not discriminate with regard to race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, disability, veteran status, marital status, or any other legally protected status in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal laws.*





**Know the legislative representatives in your district!!**

## **Legislative Update – September 2019**

### **86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature is closed**

**Numbers** -The 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature concluded on May 27<sup>th</sup>, passing 1,429 bills in its 140-day session. Texas had a record 7,324 bills filed. TNA tracked 438 bills to assist us. Approximately 145 of those bills were on behalf of our NLAC partners. Governor Abbott vetoed 58 bills.

**Positives** - This session, nursing legislation addressed a variety of health care concerns, including APRN scope of practice, nursing education, mental health issues, workplace advocacy concerns, women's health, and more. Even though there was **not** a lot of nursing legislative action passed this session we did have some successes. We were able to procure \$20 million for the Nursing Shortage Reduction Program. HB 2410 passed allowing nurses to verbally call safe harbor protection. HB 278 allows virtual meetings between an APRN and a collaborating physician. HB 387 allows an APRN to complete return to work documents. HB 2243 authorizes nurses to maintain and administer medications for students with asthma. HB 18 provides a provision requiring schools to notify parents regarding the presence of a school nurse on campus.

**Policies** - This summer TNA held their 2019 Policy Summit. Besides gaining knowledge about the importance of our involvement in policy and advocacy initiatives, the attendees participated in interactive sessions that explored health care trends, workforce demographics, nursing issues and the influence nurses have. Even though the legislature is not in session, the development of policies for legislation passed is constantly taking place. Updates will be provided as received.

**Sept. 1** - Several bills had effective dates of September 1, 2019. Smoking age is raised to 21. Board of Nurse Examiners has determined that it will need to raise licensed vocational nurse renewal fees by \$3, making the fee \$45; registered nurse fees by \$3, making the fee \$68; and advanced practice registered nurse fees by \$4, making the fee \$54.

**Meeting** - TNA is in the process of planning a virtual NLAC update meeting for the near future. There will not be a face to face meeting until spring of 2020. In the meantime the various organizations will be developing their legislative priorities.

**TCORN** - (Texas Collaboration of perioperative Registered Nurses) our state council arm, is working closely with AORN and TNA to propose a Smoke Evacuation Bill. This is being strategically planned and will need some good input from all. If you are not an individual member of TCORN, be sure to join at [www.tcorn.org](http://www.tcorn.org) for the latest information.

**Thanks** - Special thanks to my committee Ebony Mitchell, Deshon Burton-Essia, Patricia Rodriguez, Darlene Murdock, Nakeisha Archer, & Karen Edwards as well as many of you who took the time to respond to alerts during the Texas Legislative Session.

# BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



**AORN Greater Houston #4407**

This month's chapter meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct 8, 2019 at Houston Methodist Hospital-Dunn Rio Grande Rm, 6565 Fannin Street, Houston, TX 77030.

**Meet the Board 4:00p-4:30p**

**Around the Horn 4:30p-5:00p**

**Business 5:00p-5:30p**

**Education 5:30p-6:30p**

**Education Session (1.0 CE)**

**Kelly Wellbrock**

**"Proper Prepping"**

**Nursing Students and Surgical Technologists are welcome. We'll have door prizes and light super.**



Date	Topic	Speaker	Meeting Happenings
Oct 5	Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure		Medical Volunteers 8:00 a.m  1000 Bagby Street
Oct 6	Rose Clinic: The Rose Takes Center Stage		Ensemble Theatre  Shifts:  10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  12:30p.m.-2:30p.m.  2:30p.m.-4:30 p.m  4:30 pm.-6:00. P.m.
Oct 8	Proper Prepping	Kelly Wellbrock	Food bank donations, toys, items for Nora's House
Oct 8	Prepping	Kelly Wellbrock <b>**Wear Pink**</b>	Pinked Out for Breast Cancer
Oct???	Perioperative Nurse Day at the Capitol		TBA  TCORN is organizing
Oct 19	Elrod Elementary Periop Fun Day	AORN Greater Houston and MD Anderson Cancer Center	Elrod Elementary

## *AORN OF GREATER HOUSTON AMBASSADOR PROGRAM*

AORN of Greater Houston #4407 would like to have at least one representative from each employer (hospital) represented in our chapter. Please email Daphny Peneza ddaffn@yahoo.com if you are interested!

### *AMBASSADORS FOR COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES*

*PURPOSE:* To keep members informed of chapter activities via conversations, bulletin board and act as a recruitment delegate for non-members at your facility.

*DEFINITION:* An Ambassador for Communication is a chapter member that volunteers to increase communication between the chapter and the health care institution employees. To become an Ambassador, contact the chapter president and you will gladly be accepted.

### *RESPONSIBILITIES*

1.) Obtain permission from employer to set up a mass communication tool (email, use a designated bulletin board or designated area of a bulletin board to post information about local and national AORN activities.

2.) Design and decorate the bulletin board with AORN in big letters at the top

3.) Include the following on the bulletin board.

- An invitation to join the professional organization for perioperative nurses
- Application form with Chapter #4407 entered on form
- Member benefits
- Why you belong to the chapter
- Calendar of activities for current year
- Map for each activity location with parking information
- Current copy of Newsletter
- Web address for the Greater Houston Chapter

4.) Extend an open invitation to non-members to carpool/walk with you to the next meeting

5.) Post your name, phone number, email for further information

6.) Place your membership number on the blank application forms for your reward

7.) Setup at least 1 in-service for a member of the board to present a short presentation to perioperative staff about membership rewards at your facility

*Committee Chairs will contact via email ALL Ambassadors when there are special event notices created or when volunteers are needed. The Ambassadors will print and post the notice.*

AORN GREATER HOUSTON  
PRESENTS ELROD ELEMENTARY  
KIDS FUN PERIOP DAY



MD ANDERSON LUNG STATION

**PERIOP NURSES ARE THE BEST**

SAT, OCTOBER 19, 2019

8:00AM-1:00PM

**FREE REFRESHMENTS FOR ALL**

PLEASE SIGN UP TO ATTEND AT

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/elrod-elementary-kids-fun-periop-day-tickets-71822058711>

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# AORN BOARD UPDATE

## SEPTEMBER 2019



OR EXCELLENCE®  
*where leaders meet, learn and grow together*

**REGISTER NOW!**

**Oct 3-5, 2019 | New Orleans, LA**

Your 2019-2020 Board remains very productive under the strong leadership of President Merlino. Many Board members are out in the community representing and connecting with members and non-members alike. Several Board members are preparing to attend OR Excellence in early October. Our next Board meeting in Denver is scheduled for early December. It is not too late for you to plan to attend OR Excellence. We would love to see you there. For more information or to register: <http://www.orexcellence.com>. There are also many AORN Live events to attend across the nation.

The September issue of the *AORN Journal, The Official Voice of Perioperative Nursing*, includes many great articles with certification as the focus for this month. Many other great articles and free CE's are offered in *The Journal*. One free CE article of special interest to me is "Back to Basics: Preventing Workplace Bullying." Be sure to read President's Merlino's message, "Creating our Future through Preparedness".

See details of AORN events and deadlines listed on the following pages.

It is our pleasure to serve you.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

**Darlene B. Murdock, BSN, BA, RN, CNOR &  
Nakeisha M. Archer, MBA, RN, NE-BC, CNOR, CSSM**  
Board of Directors



### **2019-2020 National Ballot now available**

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Nominating Committee, our 2019-2020 National Ballot is available. Congratulations to everyone who is on this year's ballot!! For more information, <https://aorn.org/about-aorn/governance/voting-matters>

### **Beyond the Essentials Workshops this Fall!!!**

Join us this fall at a one-day workshop to advance your strategies for putting the latest guidelines into practice. AORN nurse authors of the *Guidelines for Perioperative Practice* will take you beyond the basics with discussions of top patient-centered approaches and clinical skills to take back to your facility to improve quality. You'll also take part in hands-on activities using surgical devices and scenarios that help boost confidence and enhance patient care.

#### **Beyond the Essentials: Advancing Patient Care**

September 28	Dallas, TX
October 19	Charlotte, NC
October 26	Los Angeles, CA
November 2	Kansas City, MO
November 9	New York City, NY
November 16	Seattle, WA

#### **Beyond the Essentials: Enhancing Quality Care**

September 21	Chicago, IL
October 19	San Francisco, CA
October 26	Orlando, FL
November 2	Atlanta, GA
November 9	Houston, TX
November 16	Baltimore, MD

**\*\*Please note there are 2 different series presenting different topics**

For more information (Advancing Patient Care series): <https://aorn.org/events/beyond-essentials-series-1>

For more information (Enhancing Quality Care series): <https://aorn.org/events/beyond-essentials-series-2>

### **Fall Nurse Executive Leadership Seminar: How to Develop a High-Performance Team**

Join us this fall for an engaging, one-day seminar where OR leaders, business managers and directors from PACU, HR, and SPD gain insights and the skill set needed to thrive in the unique perioperative setting and inspire high-performing teams to deliver quality care.

September 26	Cincinnati, OH	October 22	Chicago, IL
October 3	San Diego, CA	October 24	Atlanta, GA
October 10	Wayne, NJ	November 5	Dallas, TX
October 15	Pittsburgh, PA	November 7	Palo Alto, CA
October 17	Cambridge, MA	November 19	Nashville, TN

For more information on the Fall NELS: <https://aorn.org/events/nurse-executive-leadership-seminar>

### **Call for Poster Abstracts for Anaheim**

Become a poster presenter and share your ideas and work with the global perioperative community. Categories include clinical improvement and innovation, research, design/concept, and evidence-based practice. The deadline for submission is **September 27, 2019**. For more information or to begin, click on the link: <https://www.aorn.org/surgicalexpo/perioperative-nurse-education/posters>

### **Individual Achievement Awards**

Honor a colleague's dedication to perioperative nursing by nominating them for an AORN Individual Achievement Award. Nominations for the individual award categories are being accepted through **October 8, 2019**.

Outstanding Volunteer Leadership  
Outstanding Achievement in Mentorship  
Outstanding Achievement in Perioperative Nursing Clinical Practice  
Outstanding Achievement in Perioperative Nursing Management  
Outstanding Achievement in Perioperative Nursing Research or Evidence-Based Practice  
Outstanding Achievement in Perioperative Education, Clinical or Academic  
Promising Professional Achievement Award

Nominations for the Jerry G. Peers Distinguished Service Award are open through **November 1, 2019**.

For details on each award or to begin the submission process, go to: <https://aorn.org/community/awards-programs/individual-achievement-awards>

### **Build Your OR Career: NEW Leader Membership Options**

Are you a perioperative leader? Consider becoming a Leader Member. You now have the option to either upgrade your current membership or renew with a multi-year or Lifetime Leader Membership. Leader Membership benefits include free and discounted leadership events, free online leadership courses, and more. Learn more at <https://www.aorn.org/join/leader-membership>

### **Open for Public Comment**

The AORN Guideline for Laser Safety will be available for public comment beginning on **Sept 30 thru October 30**. To review this document, <https://www.aorn.org/Aorn-org/Events/Public-Comments>

### **\*\*Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo dates**

- Anaheim, CA: March 28-April 1, 2020
- Orlando, FL: April 17-21, 2021
- New Orleans, LA: March 19-23, 2022
- San Antonio, TX: April 1-5, 2023

### **AORN Journal PODCASTS**

Did you know that the AORN Journal has podcasts every month?!?! Yes! Another way to learn about the latest in Perioperative nursing. They are all identified on the cover of the Journal and you can also check them out on the Wiley website-

<https://aornjournal.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/18780369/homepage/podcasts.htm>

### **Now available on the AORN Facility Reference Center**

Updated guidelines for Surgical Attire and Unplanned Hypothermia will be e-released on 7/1/2019. They will be available in 2020 print edition of the guidelines. For more information on the FRC:

<https://www.aorn.org/education/facility-solutions/facility-reference-center>

### **Periop 202: Orthopedics**

Periop 202 courses for total knee arthroplasty, total hip arthroplasty and spine procedures are now available in the orthopedic library. Perioperative professionals who take each stand-alone course will learn

the workflows and evidence-based practices for a specific procedure prior to being assigned to that surgery. For more information, visit [www.aorn.org/periop202](http://www.aorn.org/periop202)

### **National Legislative Forum:**

Don't forget ~ the National Legislative Forum (NLF) calls will be held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm Mountain Time (5:30 pm Pacific; 6:30 pm Mountain; 7:30 pm Central; 8:30 pm Eastern). The NLF is open to ALL AORN members who are interested in legislative affairs. The next call is scheduled for **Monday September 16<sup>th</sup>**. For more information, members can sign up for the National Legislative Forum at: <https://myaorn.realmagnet.land/national-legislative-forum-sign-up>

### **Chapter Leader Town Hall:**

The next Chapter Leader Town Hall is scheduled for **Thursday Sept 19<sup>th</sup>** @ 6pm MOUNTAIN time. Register at - [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_go-TiaVYSCir5supbwPrXg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_go-TiaVYSCir5supbwPrXg)

Save the date for future Town Halls. They are scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>, both at 6:00pm Mountain Time.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### ***Prep for CNOR Live \*\*NEW dates added***

Sept 14-15, 2019 | Midland, MI  
Sept 14-15, 2019 | St. Louis, MO  
Sept 21-22, 2019 | Durham, NC  
Sept 21-22, 2019 | Jersey City, NJ  
Sept 28-29, 2019 | Hingham, MA  
Sept 28-29, 2019 | Tampa, FL\*\*  
Oct 5-6, 2019 | Boston, MA  
Oct 5-6, 2019 | Randallstown, MD  
Oct 5-6, 2019 | Troy, MI  
Oct 5-6, 2019 | Little Rock, AR  
Oct 5-6, 2019 | Providence, RI  
Oct 12-13, 2019 | Spokane, WA  
Oct 12-13, 2019 | Southfield, MI  
Oct 19-20, 2019 | Boston, MA  
Oct 26-27, 2019 | Chicago, IL\*\*  
Nov 2-3, 2019 | New York, NY  
Nov 9-10, 2019 | Statesville, IL\*\*  
Nov 9-10, 2019 | Tuscaloosa, AL\*\*  
Nov 9-10, 2019 | Warren, MI  
Nov 16-17, 2019 | Hammond, LA\*\*  
Nov 23-24, 2019 | Round Rock, TX\*\*  
Dec 7-8, 2019 | Houston, TX\*\*  
Dec 7-8, 2019 | Skokie, IL\*\*  
Dec 14-15, 2019 | Boston, MA

Member Cost is \$149 – Non-Member Cost is \$169

Go to <http://www.aorn.org/events/prep-for-cnor-live> for more details and to register.



### ***ASC Administrator Skills Course***

Sept 17 - Sept 20

AORN Headquarters, Denver, CO

Member Cost is \$2000 – Non-Member Cost is \$2250

Go to <https://www.aorn.org/events/asc-administrator-skills-course> for more details and to register.

### **Upcoming Webinars – Free to Members & \$11 for Non-Members**

#### **Guideline Update: Sterilization Packaging**

Speaker: Erin Kyle, DNP, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC

**September 24, 2019 @ 10am Mountain (9am Pacific; 10am Mountain; 11am Central; 12pm Eastern).**

How should perioperative team members select and use sterilization packaging products? Join us for this webinar to learn guideline updates and evidence-based, best practices to implement at your facility to promote safe patient care.

#### **Guideline Update: Sharps Safety**

Speaker: Mary Ogg, MSN, RN, CNOR

**October 1, 2019 @ 10am Mountain (9am Pacific; 10am Mountain; 11am Central; 12pm Eastern).**

Perioperative team members work in a high-risk environment for exposure to bloodborne pathogens from percutaneous injuries. Join us for this webinar to learn evidence-based interventions to implement in your facility to significantly reduce sharps injuries.

#### **Applying the ANA Code of Ethics to Your Perioperative Nursing Practice**

Speaker: Kathryn Schroeter, PhD, RN, CNE, CNOR

**October 3, 2019 @ 10am Mountain (9am Pacific; 10am Mountain; 11am Central; 12pm Eastern).**

This webinar reviews principles of bioethics and the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses. Specific application to perioperative nursing practice will be highlighted including the topics of nurses' conscientious objection, organ donation/transplantation, resuscitation orders and patients' rights to self-determination.

#### **Addressing Ergonomic Concerns in Perioperative Environments**

Speaker: Mary Pellowski, OTR/L, CHT, CEAS and Yeu-Li Yeung, MS, OT/L, CPE, CSPHP

**October 30, 2019 @ 10am Mountain (9am Pacific; 10am Mountain; 11am Central; 12pm Eastern).**

This webinar will examine ergonomic concerns and potential solutions within perioperative environments as recommended in the AORN Guidelines.

#### **Autologous Tissue: Guideline Update 2020**

Speaker: Julie Cahn, DNP, RN, CNOR, RN-BC, ACNS-BC, CNS-CP

**November 13, 2019 @ 10am Mountain (9am Pacific; 10am Mountain; 11am Central; 12pm Eastern).**

This webinar will review the updates made to the Guideline for Autologous Tissue Management in the 2020 edition of the *Guidelines for Perioperative Practice*.

For more information and to register: <https://www.aorn.org/events/upcoming-webinars>

**\*\*Don't forget: ALL webinars are available for CEs via replay for one year!!! If you missed one of the recent offerings, it's not too late!!**

## **Representation**

September 2-3, 2019  
APSF Board Meeting  
Phoenix, AZ  
Linda Groah

September 7, 2019  
Chapter 2101 AORN of Baltimore 70th Anniversary Celebration  
Holly Ervine

September 9, 2019  
Chapter 2902 AORN of Las Vegas Chapter Meeting  
Missi Merlino

September 10, 2019  
Chapter 2101 AORN of Baltimore Chapter Meeting  
Holly Ervine

September 21, 2019  
Chapter 0512 AORN of San Francisco Bay Area Board Chapter Visit  
Holly Ervine (Also attending: Missi Merlino, Lizz Pincus)

September 28, 2019  
Chapter 4801 AORN of Evergreen Washington Fall Education Workshop  
Holly Ervine

October 3-5, 2019  
OR Excellence Conference  
New Orleans, LA  
Missi Merlino, David Wyatt, Holly Ervine, Lizz Pincus, Vangie Dennis, Nakeisha Archer, Bill Duffy, Brenda Larkin, Darlene Murdock, Kristy Simmons & Linda Groah

## 2020 AORN National Ballot

Meet the candidates for the 2020-2021 AORN term of office. Voting opens March 2, 2020. *VOTING MATTERS!*

### **CANDIDATES for President-elect ( 1 to be elected)**

### **STATE**

Holly S. Ervine, MSN, RN-BC, CNOR

GA

Jane Flowers, MSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM(e), NEA-BC, CRCST

MD

### **CANDIDATES for Vice President (1 to be elected)**

### **STATE**

Karen M. Knapp, BSN, RN, CNOR, CRNFA

MI

Elizabeth S. Pincus, MSN, MBA, RN, ACNS-BC, CNS-CP, CNOR

CA

### **CANDIDATE for Secretary (1 to be elected)**

### **STATE**

James (Jay) Bowers, BSN, RN, CNOR

WV

Darlene B. Murdock, BSN, BA, RN, CNOR

TX

### **CANDIDATES for BOARD OF DIRECTORS (3 to be elected)**

### **STATE**

Rhonda L. Anders, MSM, BSN, RN, NE-BC, CNOR

IN

J. Stephen Balog, MSN, RN, CNOR

SC

DeNene Cofield, BSN, RN, CNOR

TN

Linda K. Connelly, PhD, MSH, ARNP, CNOR

FL

Merideth D. Lewis, MSN, RN, CNOR

CA

Brandy L. Miller, MHA, MSN, RN, CNOR

IN

Kristy P. Simmons, MSN, RN, CNOR

LA

Kristy A. Wheeler, MSN, RN, CNOR\*

MD

### **CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (3 to be elected)**

### **STATE**

Sarah Bosserman, MSN, RN, CNOR

PA

Amy Brunson, MSN, RN, CNOR

TX

Darleen A. Dagey, MSN, RN-BC, CNOR

VA

Sonja W. Furr, BSN, RN, CNOR

NC

Jeffrey R. Keane, BSN, RN, CNOR

MA

Molly Kucera, MBAHC, BS, RN, CNOR

IA

David Reinhart, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR

GA

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### Nominations by Petition

\* Article VII, Section 2(C) of AORN's bylaws provides: "Nominations by petition for all elected positions may be made immediately after the Nominating Committee presents its slate of candidates, but no later than 45 days prior to the commencement of voting. The candidate's name will be placed on the ballot after eligibility has been verified."

## Save The Date

# AORN Greater Houston First Fall Ethics Symposium

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7:00 Registration/Vendor Table Viewing

7:45 Welcome to the Symposium

8:30 Melissa Graham, BSN, RN-BC

9:00 Trafficking (Sarah Koransky)

9:30 Trafficking Training (Baylor College of Medicine Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences from Baylor College of Medicine)



10:30 Break/Vendor Table Viewing

11:00 Opioids (Jeneview Martis)

11:30 Forensics (Jaime Ferrell)

12:30 Raffle/Closing/Certificates  
Special thank you to all of our volunteers, vendors, and speakers! Without your willingness to serve, this symposium would not have been a success! We are truly grateful for each of you!

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### CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

#### MEMORIAL HERMANN PROVIDER

"Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Texas Nurses Association- Approver, an accredited approver with distinction, by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation."



#### Cost:

Early Bird (prior to Nov. 8th):

\$35.00 per person with a group of 5

\$35.00 per individual

Nov 9-15: \$40.00 per person

At the Door: \$50.00

Students: \$20.00

Sponsorship available

For more information contact:

Ebony Mitchell: (281) 450-2391

DeShon Burton-Essia: (832) 785-1108

Register on our website at:

<https://aornhouston.nursingnetwork.com>

/nursing-events/118031-trafficking-opioids-and-forensics-in-the-city#!registration

TRAFFICKING, OPIOIDS, AND FORENSICS  
IN THE CITY SYMPOSIUM

PRESENTED BY

AORN GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER 4407

November 16, 2019

MEMORIAL HERMANN TMC CONFERENCE  
CENTER AND ATRIUM

7:00 am-1:00 pm



STOP CHILD TRAFFICKING



# PREP FOR CNOR LIVE



**2-Day Program  
17.4 Contact Hours**



**SOME PEOPLE LEARN BETTER IN PERSON. IF THAT'S YOU, REGISTER TODAY.**

Learn test-taking strategies, create a study plan, & review CNOR® exam subject areas.

**Saturday, December 7, 2019**

7:45 am – 4:30 pm

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

8:30am – 3:15pm

Hosted by  
Memorial Hermann-TMC

Memorial Hermann-TMC  
Hermann Conference Center  
6411 Fannin Street  
Houston, TX 77030

**Register online by  
Wednesday, December 4, 2019**

[www.aorn.org/events/prep-for-cnor-live](http://www.aorn.org/events/prep-for-cnor-live)

**Pricing:**

\$149 – AORN Member

\$169 – Non-Members

**Registration includes:**

- 4 month online subscription to the AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice.
- Two online assessments



Interested in being a delegate for the AORN Global  
Surgical Conference & Expo?

Fill out the willingness to serve (WTS) form &  
registration form on the website!

Due January 14, 2020

Send completed form to

[ndwashington@houstonmethodist.org](mailto:ndwashington@houstonmethodist.org)

AND

[ddaffrn@yahoo.com](mailto:ddaffrn@yahoo.com)

Thank you for your interest!

<https://aornhouston.nursingnetwork.com/page/45111-willingness-to->