



Greater Chicago Area Chapter


American Association of Critical-Care Nurses

GCAC-AACN

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To: GCAC-AACN Members and Followers
From: Phil Abenojar – GCAC-AACN President (2020-2021)
Date: August 20, 2020
Subject: Member Update

The Greater Area Chicago Chapter of AACN is committed to ensuring that an active communication channel exists between the leadership team and its members and followers. A quarterly member update will be released, more often with new updates, as we reimagine and redefine how to deliver continuing education programs to you.

- **Annual Theme.** The theme for this year is **This Is Our Moment – All In.** Traditionally, the announcement of the annual theme is disclosed on the last day of the National Teaching Institute (NTI) and Critical Care Exposition. However, the CoViD-19 pandemic upended everything we used to do traditionally. Instead, Liz Bridges, our new president, announced the new AACN annual theme on June 23rd on YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaU93Nrwy60>. Her inspiration came from her experience during her deployment to Afghanistan with a mission to bring our wounded soldiers home. What she witnessed was a team or a system, not a person, working together to fulfill that mission – **ALL IN**. Moreover, 2020 is the Year of the Nurse and Midwife. The world celebrates our unique role, especially during the CoViD-19 pandemic, and as the most trusted profession – **THIS IS OUR MOMENT**.
- **2020-2021 Chapter Leadership Transition.** The transition meeting for the new leadership team concluded on August 8th. It was a virtual event. The core objective of the transition meeting was to establish the direction of GCAC-AACN by identifying short- and long-term goals and objectives. Relevant considerations steered by the CoViD-19 pandemic were adapting to changing circumstances, doing things differently – an opportunity to innovate, protecting the chapter's strategic anchor of providing continuing education and supporting certification, and formalizing performance expectations and operational management.
- **Educational Meetings and Programs in the era of the CoViD-19 pandemic.** As of August 3rd, AACN has recommended against face-to-face meetings until the end of the calendar year. The recommendation was grounded on safety, legal, and contractual considerations. One of the primary objectives during the chapter transition meeting was how the leadership team could reimagine and redefine the chapter educational events. We will update you soon. For now, we continue to explore innovative platforms to better meet your evolving continuing education needs, especially in caring for our COVID-19 patients and their family. Furthermore, we plan to publish a schedule of events in advance. Registration to the virtual events will be through Nursing Network (NN). For continuing updates, please follow us on Nursing Network and other social media platforms.

Follow us on social media:

