

The Bridge

AORN of The San Francisco Bay Area



Chapter #0512

January 2022

Co-President's Message

A year has come and gone and with it, hopes that “things will get better”. We make resolutions to make changes to our personal lives whether losing weight, saving money, or fixing something you have put off for a long time. But, we are all dealing with the struggles of a pandemic and the political and social crises that are associated with it. It is hard to be optimistic about 2022 when we see much of the same types of events unfolding daily- surges, burnout, shortages.

Yet, there are things to be grateful for: miracle vaccines have lessened the impact of the disease, the economy is holding steady, and the job market is booming. The lay public has come to finally appreciate all the hard work of nurses. But, with the burden the pandemic has placed on the healthcare industry, nurses need more than just thanks. They need a good ego-boost.

AORN has just the medicine for that- The Global Surgical Conference and Expo in New Orleans. This is the place where O.R. nurses can be celebrated, catered to, and recharge. It offers stimulating educational sessions, inspirational speakers, networking opportunities, and a warehouse-sized display of the latest in surgical technology. All of this available in a city that knows how to party!

This year, AORN takes the chance that following Covid guidelines and many of our members vaccinated, we can and will hold the event in person. This year, the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter will send a delegation to New Orleans to represent you at business meetings where policies are discussed and implemented that impact your practice. In addition, the Association also seeks to meet the needs of those who cannot attend or do not feel safe attending in person. However you choose, please plan to join the many events even online. And, as the Orleans say, “Lessez Les Bon Temps Roulez”!

Alice Erskine
Co-President, AORN of The San Francisco Bay Area

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 26 AORN Live Webinar, 10am
- Jan. 29 Monthly Group Hike,
Lands End Trail, SF, 9am
- Feb. 1 & 2 AORN Live Webinars
10am
- Feb. 3 Chapter Board Meeting
via Zoom, 7pm
- Feb. 9 Deadline - Early Bird
Registration for AORN
Global Surgical Conference & Expo
- Feb. 19 Free Chapter Webinar
- details coming soon
- Feb. 21 - AORN National Voting
March 22
- March 19 - 23 AORN Global Surgical
Conference & Expo,
New Orleans

Great opportunities to help
others seldom come,
but small ones surround us
every day.

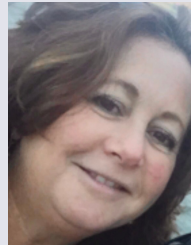
~ Sally Koch

2021/2022 Chapter Officers & Board



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Announcements

First-Time AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo Attendee Scholarship

Congratulations to Elizabeth Sasser- our scholarship winner!!! Elizabeth first won the scholarship two years ago, but because the in-person AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo was canceled both in 2020 and 2021, she was not able to attend.

We look forward to seeing Elizabeth and our chapter members in New Orleans in March!



Chapter Delegates for AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo

We'd like to congratulate the following members who will be representing our chapter as delegates at the 2022 Global Surgical Conference & Expo in New Orleans in March.

Joy Chau
Anne Condon

Michael Domingo
Alice Erskine

Merideth Lewis

Co-President Colleen Fiammengo will be serving as Delegate Chair.

Clinical Corner

A scrub tech asked - During a scar revision, the surgeon discovered bullet fragments or shot. I asked if we should give these to a policeman. The nurse said "Yes", but the surgeon said it wasn't necessary because they were from an accident that happened a long time ago. The nurse said she would handle it the way evidence is handled anyway, just in case. After the case, we showed the specimen to the charge nurse but she didn't know what to do. So, we sent them to pathology. Was that right?

Answer - Even though the surgeon said these metal pieces were from an old "accident", it is possible that is what the patient told him, but it may not be true. The pieces should have been handled with a non-metal instrument and placed in a dry, plastic container. A law enforcement officer should have been consulted and the specimen turned over to the officer. The officer's name and badge number should be written in the operative record and an incident notification written stating how the specimen was handled. It would be up to the officer to determine whether to perform an investigation.

If you have any questions about clinical issues, please contact Alice Erskine, MSN, RN, CNOR at aerskine52@comcast.net.

Chapter Board Member Spotlight

Alexa Mefford, BSN, RN, CNOR Board Member



What do you enjoy about being an OR nurse? What are some challenges? Among many other reasons, I enjoy getting to work with new research and rapidly advancing technologies in healthcare. However, working with so many different and strong personalities can be a challenge.

If you hadn't become a nurse, what career would you have chosen? I would be an Investigative journalist because I've listened to too many true crime podcasts.

Where do you work? I am brand new to the UCSF Parnassus Guts Pod!
How long have you been an OR nurse? I first started in the OR in 2018 at Sequoia Hospital. Shoutout to my Periop 101 mentor, Teri Albertolle!

Specialties? I circulate many different specialties but mostly scrub general and gyne. I also love doing robotic cases.

What do you do to relax or have fun outside of work? I recently started surfing and taking beginner tennis lessons. Otherwise, I love traveling, hanging out with my dog, and buying more houseplants.

What inspired you to become an OR nurse? I have always been fascinated by surgery. I enjoyed reality TV shows like Dr. 90210 and knew I wanted a job that would keep me interested for the rest of my career. My sister also just happens to be an OR nurse.



Where do you work? John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek.

How long have you been an OR nurse? I've been an OR nurse for 3 years.

Specialties? I scrub and circulate most specialties. I enjoy trauma and neuro cases.

What do you do to relax or have fun outside of work? I like to spend time with my girls. I especially love to watch them play soccer. I also like nature and love to hike. I enjoy dancing to Latin music and reading.

What inspired you to become an OR nurse? I have worked in the OR for almost 19 years. I started as a unit secretary and my charge nurse at the time introduced me to the scrub role. He pushed me to become a scrub tech and with the help of my director and the staff in the department, I worked as a tech for 14 years. What inspired me to become an OR nurse was seeing the



compassion, dedication, commitment, skills and knowledge of all the nurses I was working with. They are all amazing and do a fantastic job.

What do you enjoy about being an OR nurse? What are some challenges? I enjoy taking care of my patients. I think our most important role as an OR nurse is being the voice of the patient while they are under anesthesia. I also love teaching the new staff and especially new nurses. Challenges of being an OR nurse is all the new technology we have to keep up with and learn about.

If you hadn't become a nurse, what career would you have chosen? I was going to become an architect.

Margina Villatoro, BSN, RN Board Member



Monthly Group Hikes

We can all use the opportunity to reduce some stress and improve our well-being, as well as connect and network with each other, especially during these challenging times. What better way to accomplish this than to get outside and enjoy nature during a hike!

Corresponding secretary, Joy Chau, RN and chapter member, Carmela Palacio, RN will be leading monthly hikes around the Bay Area. Hikes will vary in location, difficulty and distance.

Join us on this month's hike on Saturday, January 29th at Lands End Trail in San Francisco. More details can be found at our chapter website.

Do you have a favorite trail that you would like to suggest and have us consider for our monthly hike? Email Joy at jbchaurn@gmail.com.

MedShare Volunteer Morning Cancelled

MedShare has cancelled our January 29th volunteer morning session due to the currently high transmission rates of COVID-19 in the community.

Our next scheduled volunteer morning session will be on Saturday, April 23rd.



SPRING EDUCATION WORKSHOP

SAVE THE DATE | MAY 7, 2022



JOIN US FOR OUR

MONTHLY GROUP HIKE

A 3.4-mile moderate hike on a loop trail following the
Coastal and Camino Del Mar Trails from Lands End Lookout

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022
9 AM
LANDS END TRAIL, SAN FRANCISCO

Family, friends & dogs welcome.

RSVP by January 28th - aornsfbayarea.nursingnetwork.com



Voting will be open from February 21 through midnight, March 22, 2022.



President-elect (1 to be elected)

CANDIDATE	STATE
Brenda G. Larkin, MS, RN, ACNS-BC, CNS-CP, CNOR, CSSM	OR
Elizabeth S. Pincus, MSN, MBA, RN, ACNS-BC, CNS-CP, CNOR	CA

Vice President (1 to be elected)

CANDIDATE	STATE
Darlene B. Murdock, BSN, BA, RN, CNOR, CSSM	TX
Kristy P. Simmons, MSN, RN, CNOR	LA

Secretary (1 to be elected)

CANDIDATE	STATE
Laura A. Gayton, MHA, BSN, CNOR, CSSM	IL
Jamie Ridout, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR, CASC, NEA-BC	NC

Board of Directors (5 to be elected)

CANDIDATE	STATE
Donna J. Doyle, DNP, RN, NE-BC, CNOR	OH
Deborah Marie Ebert, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CNOR, CCRN, CPAN, CAPA	TX
Jessica L. Gruendler, DNP, RN-BC, CPHQ, CNOR	CA
Robert J. Levin, MSN, RN, RRT, CNOR	PA
Megan K. Nolan, MSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM	MA
Rebecca K. Vortman, DNP, RN, CNOR	IL
V. Doreen Wagner, PhD, RN, CNOR, FAORN, FAAN	GA

Nominating Committee (3 to be elected)

CANDIDATE	STATE
Crystal Bricker, MSN, RN, CNOR	IL
Carol Ann Devlin, MSN, RN, CNOR	PA
Hung-Fu Charlie Lin, MSN, APRN, NP-C, CNOR	CA
Susan Lynch, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CNOR	PA
Roderick D. McArdle, MSN, BA, RN, CNOR	MA
Daphny Peneza, MSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM	TX
Olivia Jean Raymond, BSN, RN, CNOR	ME

December 11th Education Event & Holiday Party

We had a wonderful turnout for our first in-person chapter education event in nearly 2 years! Special thanks to Ivy Montgomery and Melzi Surgical for organizing, presenting, and hosting the event at Trapeze Restaurant in Burlingame, as well as for their generosity in giving away five \$50 Amazon gift cards as raffle prizes! It was a great day of learning and of networking and reconnecting with our perioperative colleagues over some delicious food!



December 31st Ladybug & Mushroom Hike

Braving the cold temps, some big puddles and quite a bit of mud, a small group enjoyed the chapter's New Year's Eve morning hike on the Stream Trail at Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park in Oakland in search of ladybugs and mushrooms! Unfortunately, there were no ladybugs to be found, but there was definitely an abundance of mushrooms!

