

# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AACN

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Dear SFV-AACN  
Chapter Members,*

For critical care nurses across the globe, the last two-plus years of the pandemic have been the biggest challenge many of us have faced in our careers. Chapters across the nation disbanded and forwent educational symposiums. However, our SFV-AACN chapter continued a seamless transition to virtual symposiums to support our community of critical care nurses in the darkest of times. This was nothing short of a miracle. The strong leadership and ingenuity of our past presidents and the unwavering dedication of the entire board made this possible.

As we adapt to an ever-changing world, we will be restarting our live, in-person symposium this fall with enlightening speakers. This is our opportunity to rejoice, laugh, learn, and heal as we lift up one another from all we've endured. Echoing the words of this year's theme - "starting now", we will move forward empowered by hope as our guiding light to transform the future!

I want to thank the chapter members for continuing to attend our symposiums and trusting us to be

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Past PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE

*Dear SFV-AACN  
Chapter Members,*

I want to thank everyone on the SFV-AACN Board and all of our members for their engagement during the past year. Our chapter offered two successful symposia, with great attendance at both. We did some volunteer work, and via our website, were able to make our members and friends aware of more opportunities for engagement and learning.

SFV-AACN is beginning its 50th year this year: that is a huge accomplishment! The chapter was founded as an alliance of cardiac nurses who got together to support their colleagues in the new nursing discipline of cardiac nursing. The chapter joined AACN in October of 1972. It's amazing to look at how that nursing discipline has grown to include so many other areas of expertise, including pulmonary, neurology and stroke care, renal, gastrointestinal, and others, including spiritual and emotional care. Today's critical care nurses are holistically managing patients.

I want to thank all of our Board Members and Past-Presidents for the support I received as your President, and for the excellent example you set as

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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your voice. We hope to bring you more resources for continuing education, scholarship, and community service in the coming year. Thank you to our board for serving to support fellow nurses, despite the overwhelming odds against us. All of you have allowed us to reach our fiftieth-year anniversary as a chapter with many more to come!

*With Gratitude,*

Brandon Luboff  
2022-2023 SFV-AACN President



SFV-AACN has been supporting **ONEgeneration** through member donations at our events.

## **Mission Statement**

Our mission is to support and enrich the lives of older adults, children, and families throughout our diverse communities.

## **Vision Statement**

A kind and equitable community, enriched in intergenerational relationships, thriving with dignity, quality, purpose and security.

## **To Learn More:**

<https://www.onegeneration.org/about-us/>

# *Save the Date!*

**SFV-AACN 2022 Acute Care Fall Symposium:**  
***October 19, 2022***

**Tentatively to be held LIVE AND IN PERSON**

*Details to follow*

*Check out our website: <https://sfaacn.nursingnetwork.com/>*

## Benefits of Membership in SFV-AACN

SFV-AACN provides an opportunity for AACN members to interact with peers and colleagues.

We provide a forum for networking and interacting with national leaders and members to discuss issues related to critical care and advocacy and to be recognized as leaders in their communities.

Involvement in SFV-AACN creates opportunities for professional development, career portfolio building, and a starting point for national involvement in the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

From  
<https://www.aacn.org/nursing-excellence/chapters/faqs-general-information>

## Past-President's Message

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leaders of our chapter. Every challenge I shared was met with confidence and steady guidance to set a good course for the future of the chapter.

"Starting now", I am confidently handing off the leadership of SFV-AACN to Brandon Luboff, whose enthusiasm, intelligence, and leadership skills are perfect for guiding the chapter into the next fifty years of critical care nursing.

I can't wait to see what the future holds for our Chapter!

*With deep respect,*

Kathe Rich

2021-2022 SFV-AACN President



## What is AACN Certification Corp?

AACN Certification Corporation drives patient health and safety through the comprehensive credentialing of acute and critical care nurses, advancing practice consistent with standards of excellence.

Accreditation for AACN certification programs is granted by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certifications (ABSNC) or the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

To learn more, visit:

<https://www.aacn.org/about-aacn/about-aacn-cert-corp>



San Fernando Valley  
Chapter of the AACN  
American Association

[www.sfvaacn.org](http://www.sfvaacn.org)

## Volunteer Opportunities



If you have  
*Volunteer*  
*Activities* you  
want advertised  
here,  
please  
contact  
The  
Newsletter  
Chair  
via the  
SFV-AACN  
Website

## SFV-AACN

Monthly chapter meetings  
are held the second Thursday of every  
month, 7 pm - 9 pm.

*Please join us!*

Depending on COVID status, we meet live,  
virtually, or both.

Check out the website monthly for the  
Latest information.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of CRITICAL-CARE NURSES

**August 4**  
**10-11 am PT**



**Nurse-to-Nurse Quarterly Town Hall**

Location: Virtual

Join AACN's new president, Amanda Bettencourt, and board director Alvin Jeffery for our quarterly check-in to discuss all things nursing. You are invited to join the conversation, ask questions and hear how AACN is advocating for nurses and healthy work environments.

**August 11**  
**10-11 am PT**



**Vasopressors and Pressure Injury Risk in the Critically Ill**

Location: Virtual

Despite receiving the best care, too many patients still have pressure injuries — and vasopressor medications are thought to increase this risk. Join us for this free webinar by associate professor and advanced practice nurse Jill Cox. Cox will discuss the evidence, current clinical guidelines and potential interventions.

*“Rebooting ourselves for a new AACN year,  
we will start now with renewed hope.  
Because hope transforms.  
We can break new ground.  
And, along the way, let’s be prepared  
to ruffle some feathers. We will do this together.  
We are not alone. And we will do it Starting Now.”*

*- Amanda Bettencourt , AACN President*



# SFV-AACN Board Members 2022-2023

## Executive Board Members

*President:*  
Brandon Luboff



*President-Elect/  
Vice President:*  
Olena Svetlov



*Treasurer:*  
Lindsay VanLeeuwen

*Treasurer-Elect:*  
Ana Villalobos

*Secretary:*  
Mary Fekete



## Chairpersons

*Accommodations Chair:*  
Cindy Kapucija



*Certifications &  
Nominations  
Chair:*  
Lily P. Santos



*Community/  
Volunteer Chair:*  
Nancy Stewart

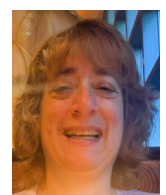


*Historian/Social  
Media Chair:*  
Pam Guevarra



*Liaison Chair:*  
Randy Sanoff

*Membership  
Chair:*  
Denise  
Chapnick



# SFV-AACN Board Members 2022-2023

## Chairpersons

*Newsletter Chair and  
Webmaster:*  
Kathe Rich



*Registration Chair:*  
Kathy Cadden

*Scholarship Chair:*  
Lisa Barile



*Special Quarterly  
Events Coordinator:*  
Olena Svetlov



*Student Relations Chair:*  
Mara Weingarten



*Vendor/Exhibit Chair:*  
Mary Fekete



**Please see page 8 for Members-at-Large**

## Chapters: An Important Part of AACN

Chapters promote and advance the mission and vision of AACN at the local level.

They make a difference in the healthcare profession and in their local communities, offering opportunities for leadership, education, and service.

Get involved with SFV-AACN —

It's a great way to enhance your AACN membership.

# SFV-AACN Board Members 2022-2023

## Members-at-Large

Jose Chavez



Cassandra Craig

Lerjik Darvanesian

Marie Foster

Theresa Hurtado

Jacqueline Interiano



Sandra Kochoa

Sharmaine Laurel

Anita Martinez



Natasha Okonkwo

Mina Sadighi



Randy Sanoff





# What's SFV-AACN Been Doing?

During the past year, while SFV-AACN has been meeting virtually, there's been a lot going on!

Hopefully you were able to attend one or both of the Acute Care Symposia that the chapter held last spring and fall. Our one-day Fall Symposium was held virtually. Over 100 critical care nurses and associated healthcare professionals benefitted from addresses by Dr. Prabhdeep Sandhu, on TAVR and Care of the Post-STEMI, Nursing Interpretation of Cerebral Imaging: CT, MRI and Angiogram by Pam Nye, Heart Failure by Randy Sanoff, Healthy Work Environments by Anna Dermenchyan, CRRT by Dr. Noha Barsoum, MD, and Maternal Early Warning Triggers (MEWT) by Brandy Rachel Frye.

For our 2022 Spring Symposium offered a large range of topics. On day one, we had presentations by Dr. Maurice J. Berkowitz on Etiology of Coagulopathy in Critical Care, Ventriculostomies: The Dangers and Benefits by Pamela Jane Nye, ECMO by Alice Chan, Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection by Dr. Christian Sandrock, Impella by Liisa Sukovich, and Maternal Arrest by Brandy Rachel Frye. We were also treated to a very touching and inspirational address by keynote speaker and best-selling author Shola Richards.

Day Two of the Spring Symposium included presentations by Tess Slazinski on Neurological Emergencies, Antibiotic Update by Dr. Javeed Siddiqui, COVID at End of Life by Denise Baird Schwartz, The Sickle-Cell Patient Experience by Carole Mention and Lashone Mays, Share the Warmth: A Personal Experience by Farida Labaran and Translating Research into Practice by Sherri Mendelson and Trisha Saul. We ended the symposium with a very personal presentation by SFV-AACN member Olena Svetlov who shared with us

the history, culture, and current struggles of her homeland, Ukraine. It was a very moving experience, and we are grateful to her for increasing our understanding of current events.

Our 2022-2023 President, Brandon Luboff, is leading our chapter members in planning the Fall Symposium. Information will be posted on our website as soon as available.

In early spring, we coordinated with the UCLA Chapter of AACN to volunteer at the Los Angeles Food Bank, which distributes food and other essentials to children, seniors, and families. We portioned huge bins of oranges into five-pound bags and our whole group portioned more than 28,000 pounds of oranges in three hours! We're looking forward to volunteering again soon.

AACN's National Teaching Institute (NTI) was held live in Houston, Texas last May, and the sessions were later available for viewing. I attended, as did Olena and Mara. I focused on sessions about chapter management. It was helpful in providing advice on chapter guidance. I highly recommend attending NTI for the excellent learning opportunities and the pleasure of hanging out with your friends in a relaxing, nurse-focused atmosphere.

Our final meeting of the 2021-2022 year was graciously hosted in her lovely home by Mina. I wasn't able to attend, but those who did had a wonderful get-together. The new members were inducted into the Board, and the 2022-2023 year got off to a great start.

We're looking forward to the Fall Symposium, and seeing what the new chapter year has in store!

## SFV-AACN Board Members 2022-2023



*The Transition Meeting  
June 2022*

*Brandon, 2022-2023 President,  
& Olena, 2020-2021 President,  
thanking Irma Williams for  
her 50 years of work with the  
chapter.*





## SFV-AACN Activities



*Packing oranges at the Los Angeles Food Bank*

# AACN Webinar Series

Stay current on the latest evidence-based learning and clinical practices in acute and critical care with the AACN Critical Care Webinar Series.

These educational sessions offer knowledge and tools to enhance patient outcomes, and are available live or on-demand.

Ideal for viewing by groups and individuals, each webinar provides continuing nursing education (CE) contact hours.

It's easy to enroll and best of all, it's free to members!

<https://www.aacn.org/education/webinar-series?page=1&sort=newest&rows=12&category=all>

