

JULY 2025 AORN NATIONAL BOARD UPDATE



Darlene Murdock
President



David Reinhart
President-Elect



Jamie Ridout,
Vice President



Brenda Larkin
Secretary



Laura Gayton
Treasurer



Leigh Anne Bartlett



JD Buchert



Debra Callender



Hung-Fu (Charlie) Lin



Daphny Peneza



Rebecca Vortman



Nikki Washington

Greetings from your AORN Secretary!

July started with vibrant energy here at AORN! With a new quarter beginning, your Board of Directors is actively engaged in initiatives aimed at shaping the future of our respected association. We approach this journey with optimism and a strong dedication to advancing our mission and vision. The Board has successfully finished its orientation and is now pursuing various committee initiatives. Looking ahead, in August, we will focus on strategic planning for 2026-2027. We are preparing for our virtual town hall on August 13th.

We are happy to welcome four new board members this term: Charlie Lin, Daphny Peneza, Nikki Washington, and Leigh Anne Bartlett. Additionally, David Reinhart has graciously accepted the role of President-elect, while Laura Gayton will serve as our Treasurer. Darlene Murdock took on the role of President for the 2025-2026 term, embracing the theme “Lighting the Pathway” to honor Florence Nightingale's extraordinary legacy.

In early June, President Murdock held a virtual meeting with committee chairs and staff liaisons to welcome them and thank them for their valuable volunteer work. The dedication of these volunteer leaders, supported by AORN staff, is crucial for advancing our specialty. We look forward to the renewed energy, enthusiasm, and new perspectives that our new board members bring, along with the expertise of our volunteer leaders and staff, as we work together to light the way for a brighter future for our association.

As we go through this busy season, I encourage everyone to find time this summer for rest and renewal. This season is a perfect opportunity to refresh your spirit and rejuvenate your soul.

In your service,

Brenda

Brenda G. Larkin, MS, RN, ACNS-BC, CNS-CP, CSSM, CNOR, LSSGB, FAORN
AORN Secretary



Save the date for AORN Global Conference & Expo in New Orleans, LA, April 11-14, 2026.

National Legislative Forum:

NFL calls switched to Zoom in January. The next National Legislative Forum is scheduled for **Monday, July 21st, at 6:30pm MT.**

AORN Virtual Town Hall & Virtual Town Hall & Special Business Meeting

Join AORN President, Darlene Murdock on **Wednesday, August 13, 2025**, for a virtual town hall and special business meeting. During the meeting, members will be asked to approve two AORN Position Statements:

- [Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in the Perioperative Environment](#)
- [Care of the Transgender or Gender-Diverse Patient](#)

Members will also learn more about AORN Governance: Delegates and Voting.

Under the AORN bylaws, a quorum of 100 members is needed for membership action between Congresses, with a minimum of at least 10 members from each of five geographic regions. Because of this requirement—and the resolution adopted in 2023 requiring membership approval of Position Statements—the following procedures must be followed to participate:

- Members **must pre-register for the meeting** with name, member ID, email address, state of residence, and phone number
- Members **must attend via computer** in order to vote on the position statement
- Members will be asked to suspend Robert's Rules of Order for the purposes of this electronic meeting.

AORN Mobile APP!!!

AORN mobile app is now available and ready to download for Apple and Android users! It is a user-friendly version of the website with some exciting features. Head to the App Store or Google Play store to download today!

Open for Public Comments: AORN Guideline for Care & Cleaning of Surgical Instruments

The AORN Guideline for Care and Cleaning of Surgical Instruments will be available for public comment June 13, 2025 - July 13, 2025 at [Online Public Commenting](#). This document provides guidance for cleaning surgical instruments, including point-of-use treatment, transport, decontamination, inspection, and general care of reusable medical devices (eg, surgical instruments). Guidance is also provided for the selection of cleaning chemicals (eg, detergent, enzymatic cleaners, disinfectants), selection of decontamination equipment, monitoring and control of water quality, and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) that must be worn during cleaning and care of instruments. Special considerations are addressed for processing ophthalmic instruments, processing laryngoscope blades and handles, and minimizing the risk for transmitting prion diseases from contaminated reusable medical devices.

The AORN Guideline for Electrosurgical Safety will be available for public comment from July 15th through mid-August, 2025. This document provides guidance to the perioperative team for the safe use of electrosurgical units (ESUs), **electrocautery** devices, and argon-enhanced coagulators.

[New Specialty Assemblies](#)

AORN announces that two new Specialty Assemblies have been formed! Both Healthcare Value Analysis and Perioperative Infection Prevention have been added to AORN SA groups. You are now able to join these groups in addition to the other SA's that are currently active. Log in to aorn.org and add or change SA Groups in your profile under Professional Info.

[New & Updated Guideline Essentials](#)

Download in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store to start accessing the updated Guideline Essentials listed below today!

- ERAS
- Patient Temperature Management
- Pneumatic Tourniquet

[New Surgical Smoke Evacuation Legislation](#)

North Carolina is the 19th state to pass legislation eliminating the hazards of surgical smoke! The new law goes into effect January, 2026.

[Individual Achievement Awards and Award for Excellence](#)

Nominations are now being accepted for all AORN Awards now through September 30, 2025. Go to Periop Community > Awards Programs to check out all the categories.

[Virtual Bingo for the AORN Foundation](#)

You and your chapter are invited to join **AORN CT 0701** as a co-sponsor of the Virtual Bingo event for the AORN Foundation. Thank you to all the chapters who supported a tremendously successful 2024 fundraiser for the AORN Foundation. Together, we brought perioperative nurses and their family and friends together to learn about the AORN Foundation while having some fun. We raised \$7500 for the AORN Foundation to support perioperative nurses' professional development. Last year Virtual Bingo was sponsored by 11 AORN chapters. We had tremendous support from the AORN Foundation and AORN Chapter Relations. Let's do it again this year! [Here are the details for 2025](#)

[The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chapter Project is Back!](#)

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chapter Project is back again this year!

To be eligible, the organization you choose should support a diverse and/or underrepresented community group.

Please note that general "underserved" populations alone do not meet this criterion.

Submissions will be evaluated in the order they are received:

- Name and brief description of the organization your chapter will support, including how it serves a diverse and/or underrepresented community group
- Date of your planned service event
- An estimate of how many individuals will be impacted
- The number of chapter members expected to participate and estimated volunteer hours per person
- All events need to take place by Dec. 31, 2025.

As with last year – we are limiting the number of chapters to participate. Apply by July 31! [APPLY NOW](#)

Mentoring has arrived for Chapter Officers

Seeking guidance on running your chapter or eager to share your wisdom with future officers? Our **Mentor Program** connects you with fellow chapter officers who can provide invaluable support. Share your challenges and successes to help each other thrive. Fostering community is the best way to grow. Set up your profile, and under the section "Areas of Expertise" select Chapter Management.

Rise to 25 is Underway

Rise to 25 is in full swing and chapters across the country are already stepping up to grow membership and compete for prizes. Keep recruiting—your chapter could win cash, swag, or even a free conference registration! **Congrats to chapters IL: 1413-GRAUE VALLEY and IL: 1424 AORN OF MAYWOOD** for growing their chapters and taking spots 1 and 2 on the [leaderboard](#). Find full details, recruitment scripts, and templated outreach emails in the [Chapter Officer Group on Nursing Network](#)

UPCOMING EVENT

Transforming the Relationship Between the OR and Central Sterile Processing Webinar/Online

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 1:00pm ET

You can find registration for this webinar under the Events – Live Webinars on the AORN.org website.

ON-DEMAND CE ACTIVITIES

AORN's Mission, Vision, & Values

Mission

AORN defines, supports, and advocates for patient and staff safety through exemplary practice in all phases of perioperative nursing care using evidence-based guidelines, continuing education, and clinical practice.

Vision

AORN will provide indispensable evidence-based resources to establish the standards of excellence for each phase of perioperative nursing care to achieve optimal outcomes for every patient, every time.

Values

- Innovation: Taking courageous and bold actions for growth and sustainability.
- Communication: Exemplifying respect, collaboration, transparency and honesty.
- Quality: Ensuring accountability and excellence.
- [Diversity, Equity & Inclusiveness](#): Promoting fairness, valuing differences, considering all perspectives.
- Achievement: Achieving our mission, realizing the vision.

Quotes for the Month:

"What you have done is nothing compared to what you can do." ~Grant Cardone

"Go for it Now. The future is promised to no-one." ~Wayne Dyer