

JULY 2025 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 is off to a hot start here at AORN! Your Board of Directors has been diligently working as the new quarter begins. We remain optimistic about the future of AORN and are dedicated to advancing the mission and vision of our esteemed association. The Board has completed its orientation and begun work on its committee initiatives. Next month, we will focus on strategic planning for 2026-2027.

We are pleased to welcome four new board members: Charlie Lin, Daphny Peneza, Nikki Washington, and Leigh Anne Bartlett. David Reinhart has stepped into the role of President-elect, while Laura Gayton has taken on the position of Treasurer. Darlene Murdock has accepted the gavel as President for the 2025-2026 term. The theme for President Murdock's year is "Lighting the Pathway," which honors the remarkable legacy of Florence Nightingale.

Early in June, President Murdock met virtually with the chairs and staff liaisons of the committees and task forces to welcome and thank them for their volunteer service. Their roles as volunteer leaders, supported by AORN staff, are vital for completing our initiatives that advance perioperative nursing. With the expertise of our volunteer leaders and staff, we welcome the excitement, energy, and new perspectives that our new board members bring, lighting the pathway for the future of our association.

I hope many of you take the opportunity to enjoy summer by taking a break from work and finding time to relax and refresh. This season is a perfect time to recharge your spirit and 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 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](#)

[Guideline Update: Sterilization 2025](#)

The Guideline for Sterilization provides guidance for perioperative teams about sterilizing reusable medical devices to be used in perioperative and procedural settings.

Clinical topics: Surgery

Offers 1.0 contact hour

Available until September 10, 2026

Guideline Update: The Implementation of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery 2025

This presentation will review the new guidelines for enhanced recovery after surgery.

Clinical topics: Surgery

Offers 1.0 contact hour

Available until October 17, 2026

Surgical Attire: Guideline Update 2025

Guideline for Surgical Attire with guidance for the perioperative RN for wearing surgical attire in semi-restricted and restricted areas, laundering, cleaning items, updates on disinfection criteria.

Clinical topics: Surgery

Offers 1.0 contact hour

Available until January 31, 2026

Board Representation Activities

President Murdock:

July 17-18 American College of Surgeons Quality & Safety in San Diego

July 31 Memorial Hermann Periop 101 Graduation, Houston, TX

JD Buchert:

National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) 50th Annual Conference, Irving, TX, July 16-18

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:** rewarding creativity, risk-taking, leading-edge results
- **Communication:** respecting collaborative, open and honest dialogue
- **Quality:** ensuring reliability, timeliness, and accountability
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusiveness:** honoring the contributions of all individuals
- **Achievement:** supporting growth and excellence

Quotes for the Month:

“All things are possible until they are proved impossible - and even the impossible may only be so, of now.”

Pearl S. Buck