

August 2025 BOARD UPDATE



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Greetings from your Secretary!

Welcome to August! I hope your summer is going well. If you haven't taken time for yourself yet, I encourage you to do so! There are so many fabulous places to visit both in the U.S. and beyond, so there's no reason not to take time to refresh your spirit.

As we wrap up the summer months, our board is preparing to meet in Denver from August 15th to 16th for our strategic planning session. During this time, our President-Elect, David Reinhart, will lead discussions on how AORN will navigate the future landscape of our profession. We will consider trends in the perioperative services industry and the economic impact on our association. We plan to meet with AORN staff and department leaders to ensure that all areas of our association are included in our planning. Typically, we create both a short-term (1-year) plan and a long-term (3-year) projection that we believe is in the best interest of our members and the sustainability of our association.

Past plans have included innovations such as the AORN Mobile App, the implementation of an association management system, and updates to our information technology to enhance security. Strategic planning may also influence the development of new AORN Guidelines, including the upcoming guideline on artificial intelligence. Additionally, we may find new committees or task forces based on our strategic forecast.

In the fall, there will be opportunities for you to connect with your Board at various AORN meetings and conferences, including the Guidelines Workshops. We hope to gather feedback from our members during these events on potential programs or services that could be added to better serve you.

In your service,

Brenda G. Larkin, Secretary

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

[AORN Virtual Town Hall on August 13](#)

Join AORN President Darlene Murdock for a Virtual Town Hall and Special Business Meeting of the Members. Help shape the future of perioperative nursing by voting on two position statements and learning about important governance updates.

[Register Here](#)

[Regional Events:](#)

[Guidelines Workshops](#)

Earn CE credits, build real-world skills, and network face-to-face. All in a day's work in one of the most efficient nursing workshops in perioperative care.

Guidelines aren't meant to be stuffy words in a textbook. They're your lifeline in the OR. This interactive 1-day workshop cuts through the noise and brings you face-to-face with the experts who wrote the AORN Guidelines. Walk away with confident knowledge to bring these directives to your facility.

If you're looking for high-impact continuing education for nurses, this workshop is for you.

Space is limited, and this event will sell out; reserve your spot now!

[Click Here to register and obtain hotel information.](#)

[National Legislative Forum:](#)

NFL calls switched to Zoom in January.

Missed the July NLF call? Catch up with the latest legislative news with the [recording](#)

The next National Legislative Forum is scheduled on **Monday, August 18th, at 6:30pm MT.**

[Surgical Smoke Evacuation Legislation in Process](#)

This year was a "year of firsts" for smoke evacuation legislation, with bills introduced for the very first time in Arkansas, Hawaii, Oklahoma, and South Carolina.

[Other AORN Legislative News:](#)

In a letter dated July 14, 2025, to the Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr. AORN Legislative Affairs has taken action to advocate for:

- ☞ Medicare Reimbursement for First Assistant at Surgery Services Provided by RNFA's.
- ☞ Including the requirement for CMS to include the 2024 editions of the Life Safety Code and the Health Care Facilities Code requiring Health Care Facilities to evacuate surgical smoke at its source which will contribute to the health and well-being of AORN's surgical nurse members.

[Open for Public Comments: AORN Guideline for Care & Cleaning of Surgical Instruments](#)

The **AORN Guideline for Safe Use of Surgical Energy Devices** (formerly known as, Electrosurgical Safety) will be available for public comment July 30, 2025 – August 30, 2025, at [Online Public Commenting](#). This guideline addresses the critical need for standardized practices in the safe use of surgical energy devices. It defines the scope of devices covered (e.g., electrosurgical units, ultrasonic energy devices, radiofrequency scalpels) and outlines safety considerations for patients with implanted electronic devices (IEDs). The guideline aims to reduce the risk of adverse events such as burns, electrical shocks, and fires by providing evidence-informed recommendations for perioperative teams.

The **AORN Guideline for Local-Only Anesthesia** will be available for public comment from August 20, 2025, through September 20, 2025, at [Online Public Commenting](#)

This document provides guidance to the perioperative team for the safe administration and monitoring during local-only anesthesia procedures.

Award Nominations Open:

AORN Award for Excellence applications are now being accepted. [Click here for details.](#)

AORN Individual Achievement Awards nominations are being accepted through September 30, 2025. [Click here for resources.](#) Information about other AORN Awards can be accessed [here.](#)

Find Your Perioperative Community

AORN has updated its resources to find a Chapter. You can also start the application process to start a new chapter on this webpage.

[Click here to find a Chapter near you.](#)

Specialty Assemblies

AORN Specialty Assemblies are member-run, online groups offering members the opportunity to virtually interact with other nurses from across the nation who share an interest in the same specialty. The purposes of specialty assemblies include providing and promoting a dynamic network, serving as a forum for communication, identifying and exploring patient care issues, addressing current trends and issues, and promoting specialized educational programming.

Log in to aorn.org and check out the list of specialty assemblies. Add or change SA Groups in your profile under Professional Info.

Membership Update:

Leaders Asked. We Listened

Feedback from our members in leadership roles has indicated a need for additional resources to support their ongoing development. As a result, we have enhanced our [Leader Membership \[aorn.org\]](#), to provide expanded networking opportunities through our mentor program and a continually growing library of on-demand content, including newly released articles and webinars each month. Members may also choose to upgrade at the time of early renewal or by reaching out to our Experience Services Team.

New Organizational Membership

[Introducing a new Organizational Membership \[aorn.org\]](#) designed specifically for healthcare facilities aiming to support their teams. This updated package includes individual memberships for six or more team members, a leader membership, a professional development course of their choice, and a single site subscription to eGuidelines Plus. This is a fantastic opportunity for healthcare teams to enhance their professional growth and access valuable resources.

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!

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](#)

Chapter Officer Town Halls

August Chapter Officer Town Hall

Thursday August 21, 2025, at 6:00 PM MT [Register Here](#)

UPCOMING EVENT

Where Innovation Meets Precision in Total Joint Arthroplasty (JAM ATL)

Join top orthopedic surgeons and allied health professionals from across the Southeast and beyond at JAM ATL: Joint Arthroplasty Meeting — Atlanta. This one-day intensive orthopedic conference dives into the realities of modern total joint reconstruction — from patient selection and ASC workflows to enabling technologies and complex revision cases.

About the Event

- Learn from nationally recognized orthopedic surgeons presenting the latest techniques and best practices in TKA, THA, and revision surgery.
- See **two live surgeries** – primary total knee and anterior total hip – with real-time commentary.
- Join **interactive panel discussions** where leading surgeons walk through complex cases, evidence-based insights and challenges from real world scenarios.
- Gain hands-on access to orthopedic surgical innovation in our vendor showcase.
- Earn continuing medical education - CME, CBRN, and NCCT accredited

[Event Details & Pricing](#)

Upcoming Live Webinars

Safer Surgeries Start with Change: Managing Change in Healthcare

This webinar will explore the psychology of change and offer practical strategies for effective implementation—focusing on support from staff, leadership, and policy levels. [Learn more about the Webinar.](#)

On-Demand Webinars

Borescope use in Sterile Processing: Enhancing Contamination Detection 0.5 CH

Learn how borescopes enhance instrument reprocessing and reduce infection risk. Covers reprocessing steps, the limits of visual inspection, and how borescopes detect hidden contamination.

Patient Temperature Management 1.0 CH

The guideline for patient temperature management provides guidance for perioperative teams about prevention of inadvertent perioperative hypothermia and management of patients with malignant hyperthermia susceptibility. This webinar reviews relevant key takeaways and changes to this guideline.

Leader Exchange: Utilizing Innovative Technology to Manage Workload

Exclusive Leader Member Content

Are you strategizing how to effectively meet staffing and workload demands, while future-proofing your efficiency initiatives? Hear key insights into how new technology can be utilized to transform care in the OR.

Board Representation Activities

President Murdock:

August 21 - Virtual Chapter Leader Town Hall

August 21 - Memorial Hermann – AORN Membership Presentation

August 29 - 29th Chinese Nursing Association Annual Congress of Perio-Operative Nurses, Virtual Presentation

Daphny Peneza:

August 9 – American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

Quote for the Month:

“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.”

[Zig Ziglar](#)

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