

NewsScan

Aug 2025, Volume 52, No.1

Hello Baltimore Chapter 2101,

Welcome to all as we head into another year for the Chapter. I want to thank Toni Hughes (and the grill master) for reserving and hosting us at the Boat house for our summer planning meeting and thanks to everyone who joined us for the meeting. I hope the summer has given everyone the opportunity to recharge, be it at the ocean, water park, lake or mountains. As we start off the new year, I am looking forward to working with you all, sharing our knowledge, expertise and caring for our Perioperative community.

Our nominating committee will be starting to recruit candidates for the positions that will come open next year:

President Elect

Secretary

Board of Directors (1 opening)

Nominating Committee (2 openings)

Please consider stepping up and becoming more involved in the Chapter. To be eligible for

President elect one must have served at least 1 year on BOD, other positions require at least 1 year of Chapter membership

Upcoming Chapter Events: Flyers are or will be posted on NursingNetwork (see page 3 for Nursing Network information and how to access) and emailed out to Chapter members. Please print them out and publicize them in your facilities

September meeting: via Zoom, Review of Effective Tissue Perfusion Assessment Techniques in Perioperative Care of Optimal Patient Safety.

October meeting: In person dinner meeting sponsored by Stryker with former national president, Nakeisha Toliver speaking on RSI Prevention. Dinner will be at Cured in Columbia, at no cost, please RSVP as soon as possible as we are limited to 40 attendees.

November meeting: In person/hybrid being hosted by BWMC, with Diane Couchman presenting on Resilience

Chapter fundraisers: Two big initiatives this year

Ravens ticket raffle.... See flyer and reach out to Barb Nalley for tickets to sell. \$10 per ticket gives a chance to win 2 seats to the Thanksgiving night game in Baltimore. This was a great fundraiser last year, and the tickets are an easy sell. Please help fund our Scholarship accounts

Silent Auction: Linda Kempske will be coordinating a silent auction over the winter. We will be asking all members to solicit donations/gift cards or items that can be easily sold and delivered through an online auction platform. More to come at the September meeting

News from National

EXPO 2026 will be April 11-14, and will be in New Orleans. To be considered as a delegate funded by the Chapter one needs to be active in the Chapter and regularly attend Chapter meetings.

-Housing is already open for reservations

-Conference registration opens Mid October

-Foundation grant applications open Mid-October to November 30th



Co-sponsoring Virtual Bingo to support the AORN foundation

Event date: Saturday November 8th at 7pm ET

- Tickets for bingo cards will be available on the Foundation website
- If anyone has a contact/vendor who might be willing to give a matching donation, please let me know
- Individual bingo cards and directions, Zoom link will be emailed one week prior to the event

Guidelines workshops: Dates have been announced & registration is open

Topics: ERAS, SSI, RSI & Surgical smoke

Cost \$41, includes breakfast & lunch

San Diego 9/13

Detroit 9/27

Philadelphia 10/11

Milwaukee 10/25

Dallas/Fort Worth 11/8

Portland 11/15

AORN Rise to 25 Initiative

- Goal is to grow membership by 25% over the year
- Awards are being offered with monthly incentives and overall winners at the end of the campaign
- Consider encouraging individuals to sign for a trial membership for \$1 selecting our Chapter 2102 for their membership.

New to profession membership:

- First year is \$50
- Years two & three are \$99
- Regular membership: \$11.99/month or \$125 annually

AORN App: The AORN app has been updated. It is available for both Apple and Android devices. Check it out! Content is available to non-members as well.

I hope to see you online in September and live for our October and November meetings.

Best regards,

*Marie Wells MS, RN, CNOR
President, AORN Baltimore # 2101,
2025-2026*



Reminder:

Nursing Network available at: ***Nursingnetwork.com***

Log in or set up your account as an AORN member to stay up to date on the latest happenings within the chapter and beyond (this has replaced OR nurse link). Under “My Groups” access information to events, newsletters, treasurers report, education and so much more for the Baltimore Chapter!

The screenshot shows the Nursing Network website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for ASSOCIATIONS, PRECEPTORS, EVENTS, ON-DEMAND CE, RN JOBS, and RESOURCES. The main header features the Nursing Network logo and a description: "Nursing Network is the professional network connecting nurses with the groups they belong to, colleagues they support, and resources they need." Below this is a green button labeled "My account home".

The main content area is titled "What's Happening on Nursing Network?" and features four cards with icons and statistics:

- Nursing Events:** 687. Locating upcoming nursing events has never been simpler. Search the largest directory of national, statewide and local nursing events online. (Search events button)
- Nursing Jobs:** 8,296. Our niche network specializes in the highest quality career opportunities. Search our national collection of nursing jobs and land the perfect position. (Search jobs button)
- Nursing Industry Updates:** 27,166. Connect to the largest source of real time nursing news. All posted by top association board members and delivered directly to your inbox. (Join now button)
- Nursing Associations:** 926. Find and follow associations that matter to you and receive the latest news and announcements, event invites, and important association communication. (Search associations button)

The screenshot shows the AORN Baltimore Chapter 2101 website. The header features the AORN logo with the tagline "SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER" and the text "Baltimore CHAPTER 2101".

Below the header, there is a "Stay Connected" section with buttons for "Following" and "Active Member".

A sidebar on the left contains a "Moderator Control Panel" and a list of links: Home, About Us, News & Announcements, Upcoming Events, Career Center, Photo Galleries, Preceptor Directory, Meeting Minutes, Contact Us, and Association of periOperative Registered Nurses.

The main content area is titled "AORN Baltimore Chapter" and includes a description: "The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) aims to unite registered nurses in maintaining the highest professional standards of perioperative nursing practice to encourage optimal care of the patient before, during and after operative and other invasive procedures."

Below this is a promotional banner for "eCount Surgical" with the text "Take the Free 2-Unit CEU SureCountSurgical.com".

At the bottom, there is a "Recent News & Announcements" section with two entries:

- Chapter Meeting March:** Please join the Baltimore Chapter of AORN, #2101, for our monthly meeting. The speaker is Heidi Nanavati, MSN, CRNP, CNOR. Heidi will be speaking... Posted by Terri Ridel
- Baltimore Chapter February Meeting:** Due to the winter weather advisory, tomorrow's meeting will be virtual ONLY, for everyone's safety. Please join us at 6pm Tuesday February 11th via... Posted by Marie Wells in Meeting Update

At the very bottom, there is a link to "View all news & announcements →" and a partially visible "Upcoming Events" section.

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- ♦ Yearly calendar
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- ♦ Monthly Meeting Flyers
- ♦ Editors Report

Monthly Meeting Update

Baltimore AORN will have meetings both virtually and in-person

Links will be available on the emailed flyers, Nursing Network and FB

CHs will be available depending on the educational offering

Thank you all again for your willingness to stay a part of AORN!

Secretary's Minutes

Completed version submitted by Shruti Thomas, et al, are reviewed & approved by an AORN committee then posted on Nursing Network under Meeting Minutes.

Please see electronic minutes for information regarding previous meetings.

Treasurers Report

Will be posted to the New Nursing Network web page,
Nursingnetwork.com.

Once you have created your log-in and have "AORN Baltimore Chapter" as one of your groups, the treasurers report will be found in a folder under

Media Library

Any questions about navigation, please reach out. Thank you



AORN of Baltimore Leaders 2025-2026

♦ **President:** Marie Wells

**President Elect: Lisa Myers*

♦ **Secretary:** Shruti Thomas

♦ **Treasurer:** Beverly Stiles

♦ **Education:** Kristy Wheeler (she would like a friend)

♦ **Board of Directors:** Linda Kempcke

Lamoan Brown

Barb Nalley

♦ **Nominating Committee:** Racheal Skbrin

Kristen Kraus

Henrietta Kelly

Terri Ridel (non-voting member)

♦ **Fundraising Committee:** Barb Nalley, Jane Flowers, Linda Kempcke

♦ **Scholarship Committee:** Terri Ridel, Tracey Penaloza, Kristy Wheeler



**Not all newly elected leaders were present.*

Greetings from your 2025-2026 AORN Board of Directors!



**Top Row Left -Right: Rebecca Vortman, Hung-Fu Lin, J.D. Buchert, Debra Callender, Leigh Anne Bartlett, Nikki Washington, Daphny Peneza*

**Bottom Row Left -Right: Brenda Larkin, Jaimie Ridout, Darlene Murdock, David Reinhardt, Laura Gayton*

BALTIMORE RAVENS FOOTBALL TICKET RAFFLE (2 tickets)

NOVEMBER 27Th Thanksgiving at 8:20pm

**Proceeds Benefit AORN OF BALTIMORE
Nursing Scholarships For Perioperative Nurses**

TICKETS \$10.00 EACH

DRAWING TO BE HELD ON 11/11/25

—Contact Barb Nalley for tickets!!—

BLNnurse1451@msn.com



AORN Yearly Calendar of Events

September 2025

Business and Education	Community and Social
9/9 (see flyer on page 15)	9/20
Zoom meeting	Ironman Maryland Volunteering
Topic: Review of Effective Tissue Perfusion Assessment Techniques in Perioperative Care of Optimal Patient Safety Speaker: Ann Kuebler CEs provided	Cambridge Maryland

October 2025

Business and Education	Community and Social
10/14 (see flyer on page 16)	
Terri Ridel: Stryker Dinner meeting @ Cured in Columbia, RSVP required	
Topic: RSI Prevention: Elevating Safety in the OR Nakeisha Tolliver speaker CEs provided	

November 2025

Business and Education	Community and Social
11/11	Kennedy Krieger Festival of Trees
BWMC in person & zoom 4 West Conference Room	
Topic: Resilience - Diane Couchman CEs needed	

December 2025

Business and Education	Community and Social
N/A	
N/A	

January 2026

Business and Education	Community and Social
1/13	
Erin German: Carroll (tentative)	
Topic: Infinite Legacy CEs needed	

February 2026

Business and Education	Community and Social
2/10	
Brenda Nack JH	
Topic:	

March 2026

Business and Education	Community and Social
Stephanie Reed: UMMC	
Topic	

April 2026

Business and Education	Community and Social
EXPO April 11-14 New Orleans	

May 2026

Business and Education	Community and Social
5/12	
Nurses Week/Induction	
Lighthouse Bistro Baxter sponsoring	

June 2026

Business and Education	Community and Social

Welcome back Baltimore members for Part II to the 2025 Global Surgical Conference reports.

Below you will find snapshots of various educational topics, lectures and overall growth your fellow members experienced while in Boston.

Thank you all for your submissions and happy reading!



Jane Flowers

There were many highlights of EXPO 2025 for me. A breakout session that I enjoyed was “Are you a Perioperative or Operating Room Nurse.” Ruth Shumaker presented this topic. She explained that each of us are more than an OR Nurse as we assess our patients in pre-op and then discharge to PACU, ICU, or a Secondary Recovery Area. The point that she left each of us with was as we introduce ourselves, for clarity we should state, “I am a Perioperative Nurse who works in the Operating Room.”

A second highlight was celebrating Barbara Nalley receiving the AORN Outstanding Achievement in Volunteer Leadership Award on Friday evening. About 15 of our chapter members went to dinner and surprised Barb by recognizing her accomplishment as a group. It was a wonderful evening for all, followed by the Awards Ceremony on Sunday afternoon. Joan Spear received two surprise awards: the Jerry Peers Award for her dedication to Perioperative Nursing and then on Monday morning she was recognized with the AORN Foundation Philanthropy Award. Well deserved to both of them.

My final highlight was that my assigned AORN mentee for this year was in attendance for her first EXPO. Madelaine Catchco has worked at NYU in the OR, for about 15 months. We have been talking about EXPO for the past several weeks. She was nervous about attending alone, so I spent some time with her. The trade show will be memorable for her as we walked up to many booths and I asked the vendors to show her, teach her and let her experience their products. She drove the Davinci, picking up and moving rings. She rode the hovermat from one table to the next. She was positioned on a spinal table. Russ Scanlon showed her various vascular instruments and described the specifics of why each was important. It was fun for me to watch her joy as she experienced the wonder of EXPO.



Linda Kempske

Enhancing Patient Safety: A Comprehensive Intervention to Prevent Foley Trauma

The extremely informative presenters were from Texas Children's Hospital. The hospital is one of the largest hospitals in the USA. It houses 973 beds, 43,00 surgical cases and 275, 000 patient's days. The presentation began with stating that multiple male foley catheters and not been fully inserted into the bladder, but rather, "the balloon was inflated into the bladder neck with no urine return. Consequently, they had iatrogenic urethral trauma secondary to urethral catheterization." Their AIM statement was "To reduce urethral catheter related trauma in the inpatient pediatric population at Texas Children's Hospital by 50% within 6 months." This was 100% achieved. The updated policy reflected their education. It was a simple graft with the acronym; HUB. **H**: Advance Foley to HUB, **U**: Obtain return of URINE and **B**: always in BOYS. The staff was educated, HUB stickers and a graft of proper foley catheter graft/size/age were placed in all supply rooms and ORs that read:

- Never inflate the balloon without urine return unless irrigation step is completed with no resistance.
- Remove catheter if irrigation is met with resistance. A second attempt at catheter placement may be performed.
- Irrigation of the urinary catheter for placement confirmation will not be performed in the NICU unit.
- Call Urology physicians if irrigation continues to be met with resistance.
- Call Urology physician if any bleeding is noted during insertion of catheter or if bleeding is noted after a failed attempted insertion.



Nickcole “Nikki” Price

Reflections on the AORN 2025 Expo

Attending the AORN 2025 Expo was an unforgettable experience that left me feeling inspired, empowered, and deeply proud to be a part of the perioperative nursing community. The energy throughout the event was electric, filled with professionals from all over the country who share a common goal: to elevate the standard of care in the operating room and beyond.

The sheer number and diversity of educational sessions were impressive. From clinical updates and simulation strategies to leadership development and DEI initiatives, each session offered something unique. I gained valuable insights into emerging trends, evidence-based practices, and innovative technologies that are shaping the future of perioperative care. I'm excited to bring these ideas back to my organization and explore how we can implement some of them to enhance our practice.

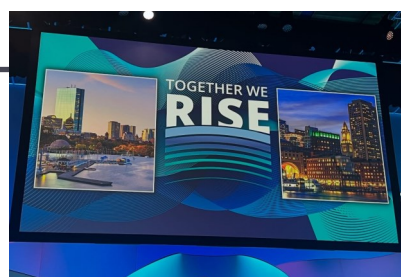
Networking was a huge highlight of the expo. I had the pleasure of connecting with fellow Perioperative Educators, sharing experiences and discussing the challenges and successes we've encountered in our roles. These conversations were both validating and inspiring, and they reminded me that we are not alone in our efforts to support and develop the next generation of perioperative nurses. I also had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with a number of industry representatives, who were eager to share advancements in products and solutions designed to improve safety, efficiency, and patient outcomes in the OR.

A particularly powerful moment for me was attending the AORN Congress Forum. Watching nurses take the microphone to advocate for the issues they care deeply about was moving and motivating. Their voices were strong, informed, and filled with passion—and it was a vivid reminder of the importance of policy engagement and collective advocacy in driving meaningful change within our profession.

I also thoroughly enjoyed the poster sessions, which showcased an impressive range of projects—from clinical improvement initiatives and patient safety protocols to educational strategies and operational efficiencies. It was exciting to see how creative and dedicated perioperative teams are in advancing care through research and innovation.

Beyond the sessions and networking, what stood out the most was the sense of community. Being surrounded by thousands of nurses who are equally committed to excellence, education, and professional growth was uplifting. It reinforced why we do what we do, and it reminded me of the incredible impact perioperative nurses have on surgical outcomes and patient lives.

The AORN 2025 Expo wasn't just a professional development opportunity—it was a powerful reminder of our collective strength, our voice, and our future. I returned home reenergized, filled with new ideas, and deeply grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a dynamic and compassionate profession. I'm already counting down the days until the next AORN Expo!



Tanika Johnson

This year's conference was a great opportunity to learn, engage, and network. It made me proud to be part of a group that includes champions of both nursing excellence and DEI. *To the point of me being 11 years into nursing before I even realized our state is a diversified anomaly.* And yes...I've been a nurse more than 11 years.

One of my favorite sessions this Expo year was titled "Operating Room Odyssey: A Surgical Escape ", and it showed attendees how to create a virtual escape room. Learners were told to bring their laptops to the session so that they could follow along with the steps to create escape rooms for their own facilities. Each registered attendees (I wasn't registered, I just crashed the party) was emailed a document with instructions for every step of the creators' process.

Unfortunately, as it often happens when relying on technology, our presenters experienced difficulties while attempting to play the videos embedded in their slideshow. Plus, in order to get through the material the presenters maintained a fast pace making it difficult for learners to keep up with the instructions. In hindsight, the laptops weren't needed, and while the videos would have been a nice addition, their lack of presence really didn't detract from the overall presentation.

After the virtual escape room presentation was over, I asked the creators how long it took them to make one and they admitted that their first attempt took three months to complete. It was only after finding their footing, taking chances, and making mistakes that they were able to cement a format that allows them to now create a virtual escape room in about four hours time. So I asked them where I could purchase it! Those instructions were Too Much!



Stephanie Reed

The discussion Shola Richards had at the General session was inspiring. Ubuntu is inspiring! Today more than ever, incivility is all around us. He provided great insights how we need to move together in all that we do. Each one of us needs to make a commitment: “true to what you said you were going to do long after the mood has left you” (Shola) in our environments and no longer stay silent in hopes that things will change. We need to be the one to walk alongside our team members and assist in the journey. We also need to actively practice self-kindness which he also terms as tough love self-care. Most importantly, we need to acknowledge what role we play in these dynamics and keep in mind the 3 principles: is it kind, is it true and is it necessary.



Terri Ridel

Once again AORN Expo did not disappoint! One of my favorite sessions this year was the General session on Monday, “The Courage to Go Together” by Shola Richards.

Shola spoke on team cohesiveness, civility and togetherness to maintain a healthy workplace culture. Shola once worked in a very toxic work environment. His colleagues were abusive and unkind, even stepping on his sandwich that he left in the refrigerator for his lunch. He fell into a deep depression and tried to commit suicide. Luckily, his dad reached out to him and told him to be “like the Buffalo, not the Cow.” The cow lays down when a storm comes, the buffalo will face the storm and is stronger because of it.

Many people feel they do not have the power or influence to make changes in their work environment. That is not true. We can all impact change by doing it together. Shola shared his mantra with the audience, “Ubuntu” meaning “I am because we are.” This is an African philosophy that we are universally connected to each other through a shared humanity, rooted in kindness and compassion. Shola Richards suggests it could transform the way we treat others, making us kinder and more respectful to others, on and off the job.

Shola says because we are interconnected, we should ask three questions: Is it kind? Is it true? Is it necessary? These three questions will increase the likelihood of civil, engaged and productive work culture. We also need self-awareness to become mindful of how our words, actions, and behaviors affect others. We must actively practice kindness and self-kindness. Self-kindness includes things like setting healthy boundaries & prioritizing rest. It’s okay to say no sometimes.

Shola says to be an “upstander.” An upstander is someone who doesn’t gossip or make fun of others. If we live by the word Ubuntu, we can change the way we live, work, and lead. He said that the latest poll shows that 75% of Americans believe that incivility has reached crisis levels in the US. Also, that 94% of Americans believe that they are always or usually polite and respectful to others. He shared this quote “No single drop of rain believes that it is responsible for the flood.”

Live by Ubuntu!





September 9, 2025 @6pm



Speaker: Ann Kuebler

See Nursing Network for flyer and direct link to meeting

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8253651972?pwd=OVZ3SkVmdUcrZ1NEczBrMVNYOEhuUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 365 1972

Passcode: 0mbpVY

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,8253651972#,,,,*676091# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,8253651972#,,,,*676091# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 825 365 1972

Passcode: 676091

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8253651972?pwd=OVZ3SkVmdUcrZ1NEczBrMVNYOEhuUT09>

AORN Baltimore Chapter Dinner Meeting

Join us for an inspiring evening of learning, networking, and leadership.



Featured Speaker: Nakeisha Tolliver, MSN, RN, CNOR

Topic: RSI Prevention – Elevating Safety in the OR



With over 25 years of healthcare experience and 20 years of evidence-based nursing leadership, Nakeisha Tolliver brings unmatched insight into perioperative excellence.



Date & Time: Tuesday, October 14th 6:00 PM



Location: Cured 18th & 21st
10980 Grantchester Way #110
Columbia, MD 21044

🍴 Enjoy a delicious dinner, connect with fellow perioperative professionals, and gain valuable insights into RSI prevention strategies that can transform your practice.



RSVP by October 7th

Please RSVP to Terri Ridel or Marie Wells

Space is limited—secure your spot early!

Editor's Report

Greetings members,

As we step into a fresh year together, I want to thank each of you for the incredible work you do every day in the OR and beyond. Our chapter is strong because of your dedication, teamwork, and commitment to patient care. This year, let's keep building on that energy with new opportunities to learn, connect, and support one another.

I'd also love to highlight *you* in our upcoming newsletters! Please remember to send in photos, stories, or accomplishments from your OR setting—whether it's a team celebration, a milestone, or simply a moment you're proud of. Sharing these wins not only recognizes your hard work, but also inspires and encourages others.

Here's to a year of growth, connection, and celebrating all the amazing things happening in our chapter!

Fondly,

Erin German, RN, BSN, CNOR

egerman@lifebridgehealth.org

