

The Pacemaker

The Official Newsletter of AORN of Greater Houston

November 2025



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November Reflections: President's Message AORN Greater Houston Chapter #4407:

Greetings AORN GH Chapter 4407! Welcoming November: A Time of Gratitude and Transition

As we step into November, we enter a month defined by gratitude, remembrance, and transition. This is a season for reflecting on the past while simultaneously looking ahead to new beginnings. Despite the colder months approaching—at least that is our hope—November encourages us to embrace the warmth and joy that the season brings.

The Significance of November

November, the eleventh month of the year, is often associated with introspection and renewed social energy. It serves as a mirror, allowing us to reflect on truths and inspiring us to take action with mindfulness. This period is an opportunity to pause, consider our journey, and prepare for the future with intention and clarity.

Embracing the Spirit of the Season

Throughout November, we are encouraged to foster warmth, joy, and abundance. The month invites creativity and clear thinking, and it is intricately linked to happiness, prosperity, and success. The Chrysanthemum, November's symbolic flower, represents joy, longevity, and undying friendship. Alongside it, the Peony which represents love, prosperity, and riches.

A Wish for Strength and Happiness

As November unfolds, may it bring forth your natural beauty and spirit. I wish for happiness to be a constant presence in your life and for you to find increased strength and courage to advocate for yourself and for others. Let this season inspire you to embrace its blessings and move forward with confidence and purpose.

Blessings,

Ebony Mitchell-Wallace, MSN, RN, BSHS

AORN GH Chapter 4407 President 2025-2026

**AORN GH Chapter 4407 Salutes The Women And Men Who Have
Served Our Country With Bravery And Honor!**

Thank You For Your Unwavering Service and Dedication



Happy Veterans Day
November 11, 2025



AORN |
SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER

Greater Houston
CHAPTER 4407

HAPPY PERIOPERATIVE NURSES WEEK
NOVEMBER 09-15, 2025



Proclamation

Office of THE MAYOR CITY OF PEARLAND

Whereas, *perioperative nurses specialize in the care of patients immediately before, during, and after surgical and other invasive procedures; and*

Whereas, *serving in settings ranging from traditional hospital-based operating rooms to ambulatory surgery centers and physicians' offices, perioperative nurses work to provide the safest care possible for patients undergoing surgical and other invasive procedures; and*

Whereas, *perioperative nurses assess individual patient needs prior to and throughout the surgical or invasive experience, develop, implement, and continuously evaluate a plan for the care of the patient, and prepare the operating room and patient for their procedure; and*

Whereas, *perioperative nurses are responsible for monitoring all aspects of the patient's condition for the duration of each procedure and, through professional and patient-centered expertise, are responsible for care coordination after the procedure; and*

Whereas, *patients undergoing surgery and other invasive procedures and their loved ones rely on the skills, knowledge, and expertise of perioperative registered nurses, who uphold a long tradition of improving surgical safety and the quality of patient care; and*

Whereas, *Perioperative Nurse Week recognizes the contributions perioperative registered nurses make to patient safety and the opportunities and challenges facing the profession; now, therefore, be it*

Now, Therefore, *I, Kevin Cole, by the power vested in me as the Mayor of the City of Pearland, Texas, do hereby proclaim November 9 - 11, 2025, as*

PERIOPERATIVE NURSES WEEK

In Pearland, I encourage all citizens to join in recognizing and expressing gratitude to our perioperative nurses for their outstanding service, professionalism, and commitment to excellence in surgical patient care.

Given Under My Hand and Seal of Office
This 14th day of November 2025



Mayor, The City of Pearland





Proclamation



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

Perioperative Nurses Week 2025 November 09-15, 2025

Whereas, perioperative nurses specialize in the care of patients immediately before, during, and after surgical and other invasive procedures; and

Whereas, serving in settings ranging from traditional hospital-based operating rooms to ambulatory surgery centers and physicians' offices, perioperative nurses work to provide the safest care possible for patients undergoing surgical and other invasive procedures; and

Whereas, perioperative nurses assess individual patient needs prior to and throughout the surgical or invasive experience, develop, implement, and continuously evaluate a plan for the care of the patient, and prepare the operating room and patient for their procedure; and

Whereas, perioperative nurses are responsible for monitoring all aspects of the patient's condition for the duration of each procedure and, through professional and patient-centered expertise, are responsible for care coordination after the procedure; and

Whereas, patients undergoing surgery and other invasive procedures and their loved ones rely on the skills, knowledge, and expertise of perioperative registered nurses, who uphold a long tradition of improving surgical safety and the quality of patient care; and

Whereas, Perioperative Nurse Week recognizes the contributions perioperative registered nurses make to patient safety and the opportunities and challenges facing the profession;

Now, Therefore, I, Carol K. McCutcheon, on behalf of the members of City Council, and by the virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Sugar Land, Texas, proudly proclaim November 09-15, 2025 Perioperative Nurses Week.



*In witness whereof I have hereunto
set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed.*

Carol K. McCutcheon
Carol K. McCutcheon, Mayor

Date: November 09, 2025



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

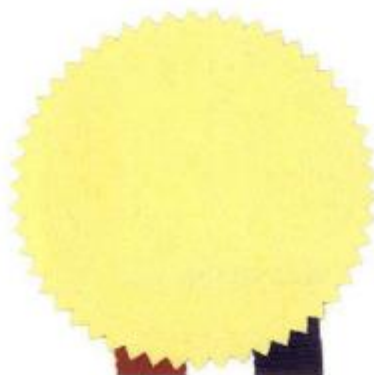
Throughout the Lone Star State, perioperative nurses provide necessary, specialized care to patients in hospital-based operating rooms, ambulatory surgery centers, and physicians' offices. From minor procedures to major surgeries, perioperative nurses use their expertise to develop, implement, and evaluate plans of care for patients, ensuring the best possible outcomes for Texans and their loved ones during times of illness or injury.

These essential nurses play an imperative role in patient care as they leverage best practices and innovative techniques to care for patients before, during, and after procedures. Comprising of diverse specialties such as sterile processing and post-anesthesia care, this field plays a crucial role in ensuring patients' health and safety. Perioperative nurses are also responsible for maintaining the highest standards of infection prevention and quality control.

Each year, a week in November is set aside in order to recognize the numerous contributions of perioperative nurses and to raise awareness about their important work in the healthcare industry. At this time, I encourage all Texans to join me in showing appreciation for perioperative nurses, for their commitment to their neighbors, and in applauding their efforts to protect the people of the Lone Star State.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim November 9-15, 2025 to be

Perioperative Nurses Week



in Texas and urge all Texans to observe the occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature this the 23rd day of October, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Greg Abbott".





AORN
SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER

Greater Houston
CHAPTER 4407

NOVEMBER CELEBRATION DAYS



1-2 Dia de los Muertos
10 - Odd Socks Day - Anti-Bullying Week
11 - Veterans Day
3 - World Kindness Day
14 - Pickle Day
19 - National Education Support Professionals Day
20 - National Parent Involvement Day
20 - World Children's Day
21 - Substitute Teacher Appreciation Day
22 - National Family Volunteer Day
27 - Thanksgiving Day

Week

3 - 7 School Psychologist Week
10 - 14 Anti-Bullying Week
10 - 14 National Young Readers Week
17 - 21 American Education Week

Month

Native American Heritage Month



30
DAYS IN THE MONTH

National French Toast Day

National Fun with Fondue Month

National Play Monopoly Day

Day of the Dead

Turtle Adoption Day

Chrysanthemum Flowers

Topaz Birthstone

National Mason Jar Day

Thanksgiving

Fall Season

National Pickle Day

World Kindness Day

Veterans Day

11th Month of The Year

Astrology Signs
Scorpio Sagittarius

**NOVEMBER
Fun Facts**

MADEWITHHAPPY.COM

AORN GREATER HOUSTON HAS A NEW CHAPTER EMAIL ADDRESS



aorngh@gmail.com

Missed the newsletter information, updated your email address and need to know how to update it in our National database, or just want to give us a shout for any reason? Please email us.

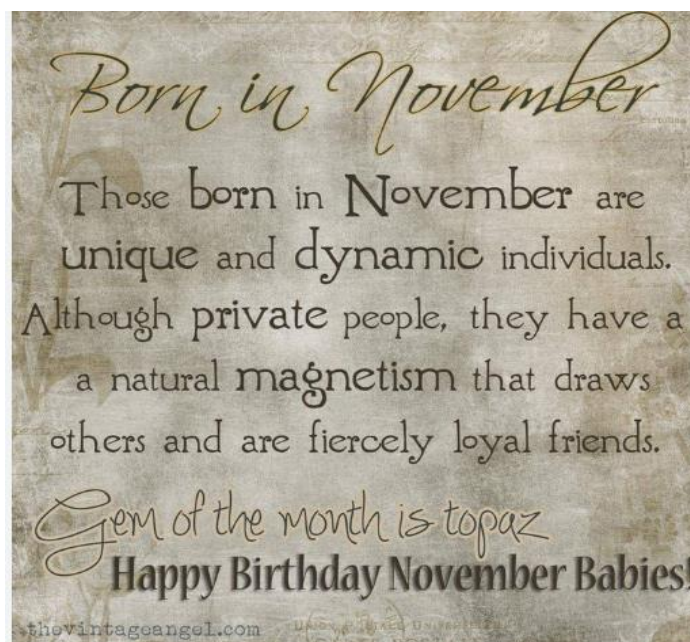




AORN
SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER

Greater Houston
CHAPTER 4407

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO AORN GH #4407 MEMBERS BORN IN NOVEMBER! A VERY SPECIAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR PRESIDENT, EBONY MITCHELL-WALLACE!!!



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN PROMOTED



AORN Greater Houston Chapter congratulates you and wishes you Continued success in your new role. May you continuously be provided with the tools necessary to continue to succeed as a leader within perioperative nursing.



NORA'S HOME
for transplant patients and
their families

Houston's Haven for Solid Organ Failure and Transplant Patients



Pantry Essentials

Nora's Home

8300 El Rio Street, Houston TX 77054

(832) 831-3720 | info@norashome.org

Basics

- Coffee (cream, sweet-n-low, K-cups)
- Condiments: ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard
- Cooking spray oil (PAM)
- Flour
- Jarred sauces: marinara, alfredo
- Sugar
- Vegetable Oil, Coconut Oil, Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Canned

- Beans
- Fruit
- Meats
- Soup
- Veggies

Kitchen Essentials

- Dish cloths & towels
- Foil, plastic wrap
- Plastic storage bowls
- Pot holders
- Silverware
- Ziploc bags (1 gallon, quart, sandwich-size)

Staples

- Breakfast foods (individuals): granola bars, cereal, Pop-Tarts, grits, oatmeal, breakfast bars
- Boxed desserts: cookies, cakes, brownies
- Boxed pasta
- Cornbread mix
- Protein shakes
- Rice
- Snacks (individuals): Clif Mix, chips, cookies, crackers, goldfish, nuts, popcorn, pretzels, pudding

Paper Goods

- Bowls
- Cups (12oz & 16oz)
- 16-cup filters
- Kleenex
- Napkins
- Paper towels
- Plates
- Toilet paper

Personal Items

- AA, AAA, & C batteries
- Bed Pads
- Travel size items
 - Body wash, shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes

Cleaning Products

- All-purpose cleaner
- Bathroom cleaner
- Dishwashing liquid
- Dishwashing tabs
- Disinfectant spray
- Disinfectant wipes
- Furniture polish
- Garbage bags (all kitchen)
- Laundry dryer sheets
- Laundry detergent (pods)
- Toilet bowl cleaner



THANK YOU AORN GH CHAPTER 4407!!!

**AORN GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER 4407 PROUDLY DONATED
\$250.00
TOWARD THE FIGHT TO END HUNGER
IN NOVEMBER 2025**



Your donation benefits **houstonfoodbank** 
Filling pantries. Filling lives.

 **1 in 5** Southeast Texans is at **risk of hunger**

\$1 =  **\$1 will provide 3 meals** for our neighbors in need

OUR DONATION PROVIDED 750 MEALS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

WE NEED YOUR HELP! CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



JOIN US AS A SYMPOSIUM
VOLUNTEER AND HELP US CREATE
A POSITIVE IMPACT!
INVOLVEMENT IS AN EXCELLENT
WAY TO SHOWCASE LEADERSHIP
ABILITY



AORN
SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER

**YEAR OF THE
NURSE**

CONTACT: REBECCA BUJNOCH
PRESIDENT ELECT IF INTERESTED:
EMAIL: BECCA.BUJNOCH@GMAIL.COM
OR LET'S DISCUSS AFTER THE MEETING

Call for
VOLUNTEERS

2025 Bay Area Heart Walk

9 out of 10 people who suffer cardiac arrest outside the hospital die. In most of those cases, bystander CPR was not performed. But we can change this. It's time to unite, act, and save lives. The American Heart Association invites YOU to join the Heart Walk and help turn a nation of bystanders into a nation of lifesavers. Every walker who joins, every dollar donated, means more people trained in CPR, more research, and more lifesaving moments for everyone. I volunteer to help save lives. You can too. Register as a volunteer for the 2025 Bay Area Heart Walk today at heart.jotform.com/team/southwest-region/volunteer-registration-bay-area



2025 Bay Area Texas Heart Walk
Saturday, November 15, 2025

Date & Time
Sat, November 15, 2025
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM CT

Location
Kemah Boardwalk
215 Kipp Avenue
Kemah, TX 77565

[Volunteer Registration: Bay Area Heart Walk](https://heart.jotform.com/team/southwest-region/volunteer-registration-bay-area)

HOUSTON METHODIST WEST FALL SYMPOSIUM

PERIOPERATIVE SYMPOSIUM & VENDOR FAIR

*Hosted by AORN West Houston
Chapter 4436*

Nurses and nursing students,
please join us for perioperative
education, hands on practice,
and professional networking.

4 Topics presented:

- ERAS in Perioperative Nursing: Strategies for Success
- Utilizing an Evidenced-based 7S Bundled Approach to Reduce the Risk for Surgical Site Infections
- Role of Circulating RN in Anesthesia Emergencies
- Preventing Surgical Fires



Come and learn
from our very own
2025-2026 AORN
National President
Darlene Murdock,
MSN, BBA, RN,
CNOR, CSSM!

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday
November 15, 2025
0730 - 1330

18500 Katy Fwy,
Houston, TX 77094

**Houston Methodist
West Hospital - MOB 3**

Spruce Room (5th Floor)

REGISTER NOW FOR EARLY BIRD PRICING



4 CE Credit Hours
Breakfast provided
Exclusive Vendor Fair
Free covered parking

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

**AORN GH WE HAVE A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR!
COME OUT AND CELEBRATE ALL THE WONDERFUL
ACCOMPLISHMENTS WE HAVE MADE TOGETHER IN 2025
REMEMBER TO BRING A TOY OR TWO FOR
ABUSED, NEGLECTED, AND AT RISK CHILDREN**



Join BEAR in bringing holiday joy to more than **29,000** **abused, neglected, and at-risk children** through our **BEARing Gifts** program!



Gift Suggestions

Infants:

Nursery Toys, Teething Toys, Ride-On Toys, Sit-To-Stand Walkers, Activity Mats, Soft Building Blocks

Toddlers:

Toy Trucks/Cars, Action Figures/Dolls, Costume/Dress Up Items, Building Blocks, Stuffed Animals, Play Food/Dishes, Interactive Learning Toys (VTech)

Children (up to 12 years old):

Action Figures/Dolls, Tween Make-Up Sets, Arts and Crafts Kits, Science/Discovery Kits, Puzzles, Legos, Remote Control Cars/Helicopters

Children (13+):

Tablets, Bluetooth Headphones, Digital/Instant Camera (with refills), Make-Up Sets, Nail Polish, Bath & Body Sets, Jewelry Items (both genders), Cologne/Perfume Sets, Purses/Wallets

General Toys:

Bikes*, Scooters, Sports Equipment (all types), Board Games, Handheld Gaming Device, Tablets

*Bikes = please ensure they are **not** assembled and are still in the box.



Scan to learn more about BEARing Gifts!

3572 E TC Jester Blvd. Houston, TX 77018 | www.bearesourcehouston.org | 713.274.9850

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE STUDY TO
SUPPORT ONE OF OUR OWN FUTURE PHD
PREPARED PERIOPERATIVE NURSES**



Help us examine how Non-Technical Skills influence surgical counting and decision-making. Join our study and contribute to improving surgical outcomes.

Eligibility Criteria:

- o Intraoperative RN or CST working full-time, part-time, or per diem.
- o Minimum of 1 year of experience within intraoperative setting of an acute care hospital.
- o Currently participating in General Surgery cases.
- o Active member of AORN or AST.
- o Have access to a computer, electronic device, or cellphone with internet.

Interested in participating?

If you meet the criteria listed above, scan the QR code
or visit <https://utmb.us/emq> for next steps.



Have additional questions?
Email **Melanie** at Meauber@utmb.edu.



All information will be kept confidential and used solely for research purposes.
Learn more about research at The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB Health) at www.utmb.edu.

CHARTER BUS CONSIDERATION WILL OCCUR AT OUR NOVEMBER 11, 2025 MEETING

TCORN SAVE THE DATE



TCORN ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM & VENDOR FAIR

Save the Date

Striving for Excellence
in Perioperative Practice

JANUARY 17, 2026



UTSW Clements Hospital
DALLAS, TX



AORN National Board Members 2025-2026



AORN National Nominating Committee Members 2025-2026





THE FUTURE OF AORN LEADERSHIP
2026-2027

Office	Candidates	State
President-elect (1 to be elected)	Brenda G. Larkin, MS, RN, ACNS-BC, CNS-CP, CSSM, CNOR, FAORN	ID
	Jamie Ridout, MSN, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, CNOR, CASC	NC
Vice President (1 to be elected)	Lisa Bailey, BSN, RN, CNOR	TX
	J.D. Buchert, MSN, MEd, MS, RN, CNOR, CPHQ	TX
Secretary (1 to be elected)	Cassandra A. Munro, PhD, BS, RN, CNOR, FAORN, FAAN	CA
	Rebecca Vortman, DNP, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC	IL
Board of Directors (3 to be elected)	Stephanie Battiste, BSN, RN, CNOR	CA
	Richard Dorritie, PhD, RN, CNE, CNOR	NY
	Bryanne Harrington, MSM, BSN, RN, CNOR	MA
	Amanda Heitman, BSN, RN, CNOR	NC
	Natalie Jones, DHA, MBA, BSN, RN, CNOR	FL
	Jaimie Weber, MSN-ED, MBA-HM, RN, NEA-BC, CCRN-K, CNOR, PHN	CA
	Imelda Wright, PhD, RN, CNOR	KY
Nominating Committee (3 to be elected)	Stephanie Ayala, MSN, RN, CNOR	FL
	Kristy Gottschalk, MSN, RN, CNOR, PHN	MN
	Michelle L. Griffin, BSN, RN, CNOR	TN
	Jaimeson Hatch, MSN, RN, CNOR	AK
	Lindsey Joyce, MSN, RN, CNOR	MO
	Adam Mckew, MSOL, BSN, RN, CNOR	CO
	Ray-an Talatala, DNP, RN, CNOR, NP-BC, FAORN	NY

Greater Houston Chapter of AORN Mission

The Greater Houston Chapter of AORN mission is to promote safety and optimal outcomes for Patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures by providing practice support and professional development opportunities to perioperative nurses. AORN will collaborate with professional and regulatory organizations, industry leaders, and other health care partners who support the mission.

thank you!

Ebony N. Mitchell-Wallace

Ebony Mitchell-Wallace, MSN, RN, BSH
President 2025-2026
AORN Greater Houston Chapter #4407

