

Northwest Chicago Area Chapter of AACN

In 1972, seventeen local nurses gathered to form the NWCAC. For over 50 years, the chapter has been providing educational programs that inspire excellence and professional development in critical-care nursing. In 2025, the Northwest Chicago Area Chapter received the Circle of Excellence President's Award. For more information about chapter, membership and chapter meetings, please visit: [Northwest Chicago Area Chapter of AACN | Nursing Network](#)

Conference Activities

Hospitality

Plan on participating in our Annual Silent Auction to support a charitable organization. Handmade baskets will be displayed for participants to bid on. Payment will be accepted via Zelle, cash or check only.

Exhibitors

Health care vendors will be exhibiting the latest technologically advanced equipment that will enhance patient care and outcomes. Take the opportunity to talk to the vendors and conference participants. A complimentary day to the 2027 Midwest Conference will be raffled on the day of the conference upon visiting vendors.

Registration Information

Early Bird Registration

\$165.00

After February 14, 2026: \$185.00

Fee Includes: Continental Breakfast, Buffet Lunch and Snacks

Free Wi-Fi will be available at Conference

NWCAC will ONLY accept cash and credit card payment.

Register at: [Northwest Chicago Area Chapter of AACN | Nursing Network](#)

No mail-in registrations will be accepted

NWCAC-AACN
PO Box 1163
Arlington Heights, IL 60006-1163



Northwest Chicago Area Chapter
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses

2026 Midwest Conference



Thursday, March 19, 2026

**2025 AACN Circle of
Excellence President's Award**

**Meridian Banquet and Conference
Center**

**1701 W. Algonquin Road
Rolling Meadows, IL**

Thursday, March 19, 2026					
7:00 – 7:45 Registration and Continental Breakfast					
7:45 – 8:00	Welcome: Judy Giovannelli MSN CCRN FACCN PCCN and Phyllis Cerone MS APRN CCRN				
8:00 – 9:00 Room A	Keynote: On Purpose: Finding Joy on the Path to Improvement. Rebekah Marsh, BSN RN CCRN, AACN National President				
9:00 – 9:15	Break/Vendors				
Room	A	B *	C	D	E
9:15 – 10:30	Human Trafficking: What We All Need To Know	Escape Room-Group 1	Diaphragm Pacing in Lung Transplant	Rhythm Rescue: Gamification to Reinforce EKG Strip Knowledge	The Bleeding Edge: Updates to Trauma Pharmacotherapy
	Dr. John Kenney, DDS, MS Holly Kremin BA JD	Escape Room-Group 2	Mary Jo Elmo, APRN	Katie Hughes, MSN, CCRN Tammy Lis, MSN, CCRN	Marc Mcdowell, Pharm D
10:30 -11:00	Break/Vendors				
11:00 -12:15	Trauma Resuscitation & Hemorrhagic Shock: What Every ICU & Progressive Care Nurse Should Know	Escape Room-Group 1	Congestive Heart Failure: The 3 M's	Lung Transplant: Highly Complicated Cases	Updates in management of Traumatic Brain Injury
	Jennifer Adamski DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, CCRN, FCCM	Escape Room-Group 2	Christina Sauld, APRN	Pablo Sanchez, MD, PhD	Purvi Patel, MD
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch				
1:15 – 2:30	Beyond ACLS: Modern EBM Approaches to Cardiac Arrest	Escape Room-Group 1	Early Decisions, Lasting Impact: First 24 Hours of Burn Care	Cardio-Oncology Challenges in Critical Care: Implications for Nursing Practice	Fundamentals of Adult ECMO
	Tarlan Hedayati, MD, FACEP	Escape Room-Group 2	Bridget Enright, APRN	Anecita Fadol PhD, APRN, FNP, FAANP, FHKAN, FAAN	Jennifer Sinclair, MSN
2:30 – 2:45	Break/Vendors				
2:45 – 4:00	Sepsis Care Today: Evidence-Based Guidelines and Best Practices	Escape Room-Group 1	Grief Without Goodbye: Processing Loss in Critical Care	Focus on POCUS! Point of Care Ultrasound in Critical Care	Advanced Cardiogenic Shock Management: Coordinated Networks and Collaboration Teams
	Bhakti Patel, MD	Escape Room-Group 2	Jill Kottmeier MS-Thanatology, BSN,RN	Hannah Pop DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC Melissa Hagle, MSN, ACNP	Jennifer Sinclair, MSN

*** ESCAPE ROOMS: The Escape Room is available by Pre-registration and Availability is limited. There are 2 groups for each time slot (total 8 groups) and 6 participants for each group.**

To register for an Escape Room session, sign up at the front desk when you check in at the conference.

The NWCAC reserves the right to substitute speakers or make program changes as necessary

Program Description

The 2026 Midwest Conference offers adult critical care and progressive care nurses a day of incredible educational offerings and invaluable networking opportunities. The program features a wide range of topics related to clinical practice, education, research, professional issues, and trends in healthcare. Speakers include National AACN President Rebekah Marsh, AACN Past President Jennifer Adamski, as well as other national, and local speakers.

Educational Hours

This activity will be submitted to the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses for approval to award contact hours. The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses is accredited as an approver of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

The session handouts will be available to registered participants only. You will receive a link prior to the conference to give you access to the presentations.

Program Location	Cancellation Policy
Meridian Banquet and Conference Center 1701 W. Algonquin Road Rolling Meadows, IL	Refunds excluding a \$25.00/day non-refundable processing fee will only be made for cancellation requests received in writing.
Hotel Information	Deadline for requesting refund
DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago-Arlington Heights 75 W. Algonquin Rd Arlington Heights IL 60005	<u>March 25, 2026</u>
<u>Phone:</u> 847.364.7600	Please email request to: Kathy Voss at Kathy336@yahoo.com
<u>Room Rates:</u> \$116 plus taxes	

For hotel reservations:

Call Hilton Reservations @ 800-774-1500 and ask for AACN Midwest Conference Block. Rates available until 2/25/2026
Booking Link: <https://group.doubletree.com/33cy4i>

For questions regarding the **2026 Midwest Conference**, please contact Judy Giovannelli at judygiovannelli@yahoo.com.