

AORN 1411

- Chapter 1411 Group webpage: aornnwchicago.nursingnetwork.com
- ICORN Group webpage: <https://hub.aorn.org/periopcorner/s/group/0F9Ux00000000zMKAQ/icorn-illinois-state-council>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AORN1411/>

Officers:

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Pres Elect: Cherry Alcedo

Sec: Brianne Jensen

Treas: Tey O'Meara

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Ellyn Mayer

Pam Nuspl

Geri Weissmann

Nominating committee

Sheila Aiello

Education:

Chic Duffy

Geri Weissmann

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President's Message

President's Message – February

Dear Colleagues,

February is a month rich with many thoughts of the heart. As American Heart Month, it reminds us of the critical role we play in protecting cardiovascular health through evidence-based practice, assessment, and patient education. But February is also the month of love, and that gives us a chance to celebrate something just as important: the heart of nursing itself.

Every day in the perioperative setting, we bring not only clinical expertise but also compassion and human connection to our patients and colleagues. Long before a monitor displays a rhythm, we are already tending to the emotional pulse of those we care for, offering reassurance, advocating for safety, and creating an environment where healing can begin.

This month, as we spotlight heart health in our communities, I hope we also honor the heart we bring to our profession. The love of service, the love of teamwork, and the love of seeing a patient safely through their most vulnerable moments, these are the rhythms that define us.

Thank you for leading with skill, with courage, and with heart. Our patients feel it. Our teams feel it. And our profession is stronger because of it!

Kathy Bradley RN

President, Chapter 1411

CNOR Review Prep Course _16 CEU

March 14-15, 2026

After you attend, you'll receive: 120 days of access to a recording of the class, an invitation to the virtual study group, and 200 practice questions to help you prepare for the exam.

Early Registration by February 14, 2026

CNOR Prep and Review Course

This two day course is designed to prepare perioperative nurses to take the CNOR exam and to demonstrate clinical competence and knowledge of practice standards.

Course Benefits:

The one thing that we are most proud to deliver as a part of this class is our personalized study plan. You'll leave this class having learned exactly how the writers of the exam go about creating the questions, where they go to source their information, and how you personally can best use that knowledge to study. In addition, you'll have taken seven tests over the two days of class that reflect the content and style of the exam to better give you a feel for what it's like to apply these skills in practice. After you attend, you'll have access to a recording of the class for 120 days and an additional 200 practice questions to help you prepare for the exam. If at any point you need any more help, do not hesitate to call or email!

The CNOR exam is a perioperative exam, covering preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative nursing. Since many nurses specialize in only one of these areas, it is vital to understand the rationale behind the entire perioperative nursing process from start to finish. We will discuss several topics over the two days of class; all aspects of sterilization the safe administration of anesthesia, the nurse's role as a patient advocate, and the professional nurse's responsibilities both ethical and legal, all from the perspective of the perioperative nurse. The discussion of each topic that we present is carefully and consistently tailored to reflect the most up to date version of the exam. This class will help you develop not only the understanding that you will need to pass the exam, but also develop confidence and clinical competence in your own nursing practice.

This nursing continuing professional development activity was approved by the North Carolina Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Scan to Register:



Zander Perioperative Education

239 Bradford Hill Rd
Mills River, NC 28759

Phone: 803-271-0744
E-mail: wendy@periop-ed.com

After you attend, you'll receive 120 days of access to a recording of the class, an invitation to our virtual study group, and 200 practice questions to help you prepare for the exam. If you need anything else along the way, don't hesitate to call or email!
Wendy Zander.



Presenter: Sarah Kweeder MSN, RN-BC, CNOR

CNOR Exam Prep and Review Course

**This is an AORN Fundraiser!
AORN Chapter 1411**

Ascension Alexian Brothers
Kennedy Conference Room

March 14-15, 2026
16.0 contact hours provided



Professional Development for Perioperative Nurses

Day 1 March 14, 2026

7:30 - 8:50	Test Taking Strategies
8:50 - 9:20	Study Plan
9:20- 9:35	Break
9:35 -10:45	Sterile Processing
10:45 -11:25	Surgical Field
11:25 -12:15	Operative Suite
12:15 -12:45	Lunch on your own
12:45 - 1:35	Regulatory Compliance
1:35 - 2:35	Legal integrity
2:35 - 2:45	Break
2:45 - 4:00	Safe use of Equipment

Day 2 March 15, 2026

7:30 - 8:30	Patient Safety
8:30 - 10:10	Preparing for Anesthesia
10:10 - 10:20	Break
10:20 -11:55	Pharmacology
11:55 -12:25	Lunch on your own
12:25 -1:25	Administration of Anesthesia
1:25 - 2:35	Complications
2:35 - 2:45	Break
2:45 - 3:45	Surgical Emergencies
3:45 - 4:55	Trauma Surgery

Free parking is available in front of the hospital. Enter #8 East Tower. Go past the information desk and turn left. Half way down the long hallway you'll turn right between two entrances towards the Kennedy Conference room. At the end of the narrow hallway turn right into the classroom.

This is an interactive course. You will complete six modules and take seven practice tests over the two days. After class, you will receive 16.0 ANCC approved contact hours and access to a recording of class for two months.

All required hand outs will be provided during class. It is not required for class but I recommend access to a good text book and the AORN Recommended Standards of practice aid your study.

You will learn during class how to focus your study and improve your areas of opportunity. I recommend you schedule your exam the month following The CNOR Prep and Review Course.



Ascension Alexian Brothers
800 Biesterfield Rd, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

REGISTER:

online at: www.periop-ed.com

Or detach and mail this form with payment to:
Zander Perioperative Education
239 Bradford Hill Rd
Mills River, NC 28759

Name _____

E-mail address _____

Phone _____

FEES AND DEADLINES:

Early Registration fee received by Feb 14 is \$295

Regular Registration Feb 14-Mar 7 is \$320

Please make checks payable to:
Zander Perioperative Education

REFUND POLICY

Cancellations received in writing up to 14 days prior to class will receive a full refund. A 10% processing fee will be charged for refunds requested less than 14 days prior to class. Cancellation fee will be waived for tuitions transferred to another class. In the rare event that Zander Periop Ed must cancel, Zander Periop Ed's liability is limited to tuition.

*Wendy Zander MSN/ED, RN, CNOR
E-mail: wendy@periop-ed.com
803-271-0744*

Elk Grove Village, IL March 14-15, 2026

IL Council of peri-Operative RNs _ICORN

ICORN Special Business Zoom Meeting Minutes

Date: Jan 10, 2026, Saturday 10:15 AM

Meeting called to order by: Chairperson Chic Duffy at 10:15 pm

Attendees:

1401 Tina Montanez

*1402 Jamie Carver

1403 Marilyn Shigley

1410 Joyce Neff

1411 Chic Duffy

Meeting started @10:15.

Minutes:

- The ICORN meeting focused on reviewing past meeting minutes and approving revised chapter bylaws, which was successfully completed with quorum of four chapters (per bylaws) in attendance.
- Vendor Fair Feedback
 - They reviewed the success of a recent vendor fair, with the hosting Chapter 1411 receiving praise for organizing inspiring speakers. Marilyn expressed interest in having one of the speakers, for Mr. Duffy to present at a future chapter meeting, and Chic agreed to facilitate this connection.
 - Members were encouraged to tap into November's list of speakers or connect with vendors for their educational offers.
 - The CE's are good for 2 years from the time of application; hence, future chapter education requests do not have to pay for CE application.

• State Nursing Initiatives Communication Challenges

- The group discussed concerns about lack of communication regarding state nursing initiatives, particularly regarding House Bill 1706 which aims to make Illinois a compact state. 1410 Joyce Neff shared her experience of trying to engage Becca and their state representative Kevin Schmidt about the bill, but received limited responses. They expressed frustration about the lack of representation from nursing organizations and the minimal notifications about important dates.

• Nursing Advocacy and Political Engagement

- The group discussed upcoming events including: ANA's Nurses at the Springfield Capitol event on March 25th, 2026
- The group discussed the need to increase awareness and involvement in nursing advocacy. Joyce shared her experience discovering the Nurses Day at the Capitol Springfield event through ANA's free continuing education units and emphasized the importance of staying informed about political issues affecting the nursing profession.

● Chic encouraged members:

1. To attend AORN's National Legislative Forum (NLF) held every 3rd Monday, explaining its relevance for nurses to engage in federal and local updates.
2. Join AORN's NLF Zoom Meeting _Monday Feb 16, 2026 @6:30pm MT

(No January meeting)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85340237621>

Meeting ID: 853 4023 7621

3. Participate in the NLF discussions led by Counselor Amy Young & Jennifer Pennock, AORN Associate Director Government Affairs.
4. Follow ANA through your chapter's Nursing Network platform:

<https://anaillinois.nursingnetwork.com/>

● The conversation ended with a discussion about current nursing challenges, including staffing shortages, burnout among bedside nurses, and the handling of ICE patients in hospitals. Though these topics were noted as being outside the scope of AORN's perioperative focus, these can be questions for AORN's NLF meeting.

Zander CNOR Review Course

- **Save the date:** March 14-15, 2026 at Ascension Alexian Brothers Kennedy
- Register online: <https://www.periop-ed.com/event/cnor-elk-grove-village-il/>
- For further information you may contact Wendy Zander at E-mail: wendy@periop-ed.com or by Phone: 803-271-0744

Meeting adjourned at 11:07am, CST.

Next Zoom Mtg: Feb 14 @10am

Join ICORN Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84564694087?pwd=EljSC8ORPg2PUV6xesPLGDiAbrevWE.1>

Meeting ID: 845 6469 4087

Passcode: 671979

Submitted by:

Chic Duffy RN BSN CNOR

ICORN Chair

Chapter Town Hall Zoom Meeting

Business Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026

■ Opening Announcements by Kerilyn Johnson, MS, Sr. Manager, Chapter & Community Engagement

- ◆ Acknowledged the nasty January weather sweeping across the country with background music playing "Crazy" by Charles Barkley from 2006.
- ◆ Welcomed new staff member: Victoria Thornton, Membership Program & Community Specialist

■ Darlene Murdock, 2025-2026 AORN President

- ◆ Concluded 2025 with an approved budget & a bold 2026 strategic plan
- ◆ Make plans for Global Conference & Surgical Expo (GCSE), April 11-14, New Orleans
- ◆ Acknowledge chapter & state council educational events involving Board of Directors.
- ◆ Ends Jan 31st - AI Position Statements. Pls send feedback.
- ◆ Feb 28 @11am CST - AORN Candidate "Meet & Greet". Jan edition of AORN Journal has candidates' bio & statements.
- ◆ January national events: (19th) Martin Luther King; (27th), International Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is also the month to bring awareness to: Poverty, Cervical Health, Glaucoma, Blood donation, Mental Health Wellness focusing on emotional well-being & emphasizing self-care by adapting coping strategies, fostering resilience & overall well-being (refer to Pres. Murdock's AORN journal January president's message).

■ AORN Live Events Update by Mary Anna McOwen

- ◆ April conference _50 CEs: ambulatory track, clinical track, educator hub, ASC hub, Leadership Summit
- ◆ Global conference schedule now available: <https://www.aorn.org/surgical-expo/conference>
- ◆ Chapter Challenge - recruit chapter members to attend global conference. 3 winners/one per chapter category. Chapter with the highest percentage of members registered will win \$500 donated to their chapter.
- ◆ Hosting a Chapter Mtg in New



bit.ly/expo2026_chaptermeetings

Leader Exchange

Developing Leaders of Tomorrow

January 27 at 1pm ET | Complimentary
Sponsored by Stryker

Check out our on-demand library!

aorn.org/periopleadership



OR Leadership Essentials: Finance & Operations On-Demand

Four-Part On-Demand Webinar Series

- Perioperative Staffing & Productivity
- Revenue & Expense Budgeting
- Making the Business Case for Safety

Save the Date! The Medical Laser Safety Officer Course is Back!

April 25 & 26, 2026

Registration opening soon

Orleans:

For more information: log in to aorn.org 6

■ AORN Foundation Updates by Anne Kochevar, Foundation development Specialist

- ◆ Over \$80,000 raised during year-end matching campaign in 2025 with Owens & Minor
- ◆ More than 250 nurses received professional development & certification grants
- ◆ Hit a record-breaking milestone for scholarships with 169 students supported.
- ◆ Encouraged corporate partnerships that supported education & leadership events.
- ◆ Introduced 2 new grant programs: Leadership & Professional Certification

■ AORN Foundation “Impact in Action” Annual Challenge - chapters supporting the mission of the AORN Foundation to empower preoperative nurses in advancing patient & workplace safety through education & research.

- ◆ Recognition includes: Social media & Nursing Network Badge; Leaderboard; Quarterly spotlight during chapter town halls
- ◆ Year-end drawing prizes: Expo registration; \$100 AORN swag; Hotel stay @Philadelphia Marriott during Expo; \$250 for chapter event use; Tribute vase for member honor or giveaway.
- ◆ How to Earn Entries:
 - Make unrestricted donation (<https://aorn.org/donate>)
 - Participate in a Foundation-related community event
 - Submit a fundraising story or photo
 - Become a Sustaining Donor Chapter (akochevar@aorn.org)

■ AORN Foundation Reminders:

- ◆ April 13 Foundation Party
 - \$40 Admission
 - Pre-order your commemorative T-shirt & periop baseball cap
- ◆ Grants for CNOR, CSSM, CNAMB - apply by Feb 14
- ◆ Academic Scholarships - apply by June 15

■ AORN Center for Excellence:

- ◆ ERAS Program (aorn.org/eras-coe)
 - 3 yr program then Recertify
 - Coordinated approach within multi-disciplines & collaboration with ConMed, Pacira, Solventum

■ Innovative Sterilization Technologies by Barbara Ann Harmer, VP Clinical Services IST

- ◆ “One Tray” vs IUSS tray
- ◆ “One Tray” has a 48 hr storage life. Dry time not required because of its “Hydrophobic” filter.
- ◆ IUSS must be used immediately.
- ◆ Contact info: bharmer@iststerilization.com or call 407-709-7209
- ◆ Booth #429 at Expo

■ Nursing Network - How To & Online Security by Kyle Drumm

- ◆ AORN’s Information Security Mgr kdrumm@aorn.org
- ◆ Shared safety tips on posting virtual meeting links; tips on contact emails; tips for spotting a phishing email; tips on how to handle suspicious emails

■ Chapter Relations Updates by Kerilyn Johnson

- ◆ Update your chapter's officers
- ◆ Update your chapter's Nursing Network 'News & Announcements', 'Events' sections.

■ Delegates & Voting

- ◆ Refer to Dr Wyatt's November webinar presentation located on NN
- ◆ One member-One vote
- ◆ No more "Delegate Portal"
- ◆ No limit to the number of members a chapter can send.
- ◆ Roll Call will be held at the First Forum on Saturday.
- ◆ All members can sit with their state.
- ◆ Register for the "Candidate Town Hall" - Saturday, Feb 28th, 10a-12nn MT
- ◆ Voting opens March 15th, 8am ET- April 13th, 11:59pm ET



■ Chapter Officer Summit

- ◆ April 10, 4-6pm @New Orleans Convention Center R06 - R09
- ◆ Members that volunteered for the Chap Summit Advisory Group

CHAPTER OFFICER SUMMIT

Thank you to the Chapter Officer Summit Advisory Group:

- Connie Yeager – Chapter 3907 Tri-County Pennsylvania
- Nathalie Walker – Chapter 1902 AORN of New Orleans
- Leah Goldberg – Chapter 0701 Connecticut Chapter I
- Jaime Weber – Chapter 0513 AORN of Silicon Valley
- Ebony Mitchell-Wallace – Chapter 4407 Greater Houston
- Matthew Reemelin – Chapter 0310 Grand Canyon Chapter of AORN
- Lisa Crissman – Chapter 4106 AORN of Coastal South Carolina
- Deb Spratt – Chapter 3305 AORN of Upstate New York
- Zelika Hargrove – Chapter 4702 AORN Richmond Area

■ Scan QR code to Update Chapter Officer

- ◆ Update yearly



■ Next Chapter Officer Town Hall Meeting: Thursday, February 19, 2026, 6 pm CST

■ Final Thoughts by Kerilyn Johnson

- ◆ Questions on education, events, & membership:
 - Contact Experience Services 800-755-2676 or
 - Email cs@aorn.org
- ◆ Check the Chapter Officer Group for ALL chapter-related resources
- ◆ Questions on Nursing Network, contact www.nursingnetwork.com/contact
- ◆ BE KIND. BE INTELLIGENT. BE COURAGEOUS.

"We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always right to do right."
Martin Luther King Jr

Submitted by:

Chic Duffy RN BSN CNOR

Editor

ANA

<https://rnaction.org>

Join RN Action and advocate for the nursing profession!

RN Action
American Nurses Association

Get Involved Learn More PAC



Nurses: Your Voice Matters.

February Dinner/Education



AORN/Northwest Suburban Chicago Chapter 1411

Please join us for a Dinner Presentation sponsored by Mölnlycke Health Care

Topic: Implementing a Climate of Safety – Consensus Recommendations on Surgical Gloving

1 CE Accreditation

When: February 10, 2026

5:30 PM Registration - 6:00 PM Presentation

**Where: Seasons 52
1770 East Higgins Road
Schaumburg, IL 60173**

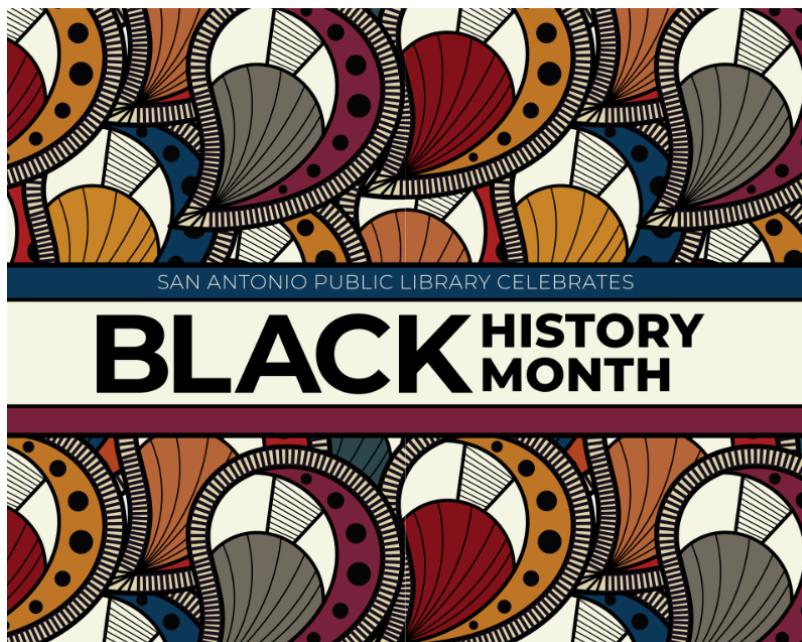
Please RSVP to Tey O'Meara @ mynameistey@gmail.com by February 6, 2026

Number of attendees limited to 35. Please let Tey know by February 6th if cancelling your reservation to provide time to notify attendees on the waitlist.

February Observances

Feb 2nd Candlemas
Feb 2nd Ground Hog Day
Feb 4th World Cancer Day
Feb 4th Safer Internet Day
Feb 4th International Day of Human Fraternity
Feb 7-14th Valentine's Week
Feb 11th International Day of Women & Girls in Science
Feb 11th Super Bowl Sunday
Feb 13th Mardi Gras

Feb 14th Ash Wednesday
Feb 17th Start of Ramadan
Feb 17th Lunar New Year
Feb 17th Ring of Fire Annular Solar Eclipse
Feb 17th Random Acts of Kindness Day
Feb 20th World Day of Social Justice
Feb 21st International Mother Language Day
Feb 28th Florence Nightingale Day*
Feb 28th National Pancake Day



* **Florence Nightingale Day**, University of Waterloo, Canada (Statistics & Actuarial Science), is an international celebration named for the founder of modern nursing, who was also a pioneer in data visualization.