



WINTER 2026

AORN Richmond Area 4702

SHARP LINES NEWSLETTER

Tori Hylton

President's Message

I hope that everyone is doing well in the new year and staying happy and healthy. AORN Richmond started off the year with a great dinner meeting hosted by Pacira, where we learned more about ERAS. We're always happy to have vendors sponsor our educational presentations and we have more exciting things planned for the new year. We're looking forward to hosting the VCORN conference and workshop on February 21 and still have spots available for those interested in joining us. It's going to be a great day filled with education and fellowship with nursing friends.

In addition to educational offerings, our chapter will be participating in a variety of community outreach opportunities. We will be showing our love for first responders in Richmond and surrounding areas from February 1-14, and will volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in March. We also plan to cheer and support the runners in the Monument Avenue 10K in April. Make sure to stay tuned to our social media and Nursing Network website to find out how you can get involved.

AORN Richmond will be sending seven delegates from our chapter to the AORN National Conference and Expo in New Orleans, LA on April 10-14. These delegates will attend a variety of educational sessions, learn from vendors in the expo hall, and attend delegate sessions. They will provide feedback on their experience in the spring newsletter. If you're interested in attending the next national conference in Philadelphia in 2027 make sure to submit an application for first-time attendee or complete a delegate packet by June 1. AORN Richmond is growing in numbers and we hope that you'll join us at our next chapter meeting or social event.

Jessica Ooms

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Jessica Ooms, BSN, RN, CNOR

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Chante Logan, DNP, RN, CNOR

VICE PRESIDENT

Zelika Hargrove, DNP, RN, CNOR, CSSM, NPD-BD

SECRETARY

Laurie Dameron, BSN, RN, CNOR

TREASURER

Amanda Ringhoff, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Imani Bogle, BSN, RN

Tori Hylton, RN

Kaytie Loving, BSN, RN

Sheila Walker, BSN, RN, CNOR

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Sheila Flores, BSN, RN, CNOR, RNFA

Meghan Hamlin, BSN, RN, CSRN

Nicole Meredith, BSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held at St. Mary's Hospital from 6-8 pm in Education Room 163, 5801 Bremo Rd, Richmond VA 23226

February 21 VCORN

March 16 (dinner meeting)

April 20

May 23 Installation of Officers



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards
Donna Winderweedle

Education
Zelika Hargrove

Legislative
Christina Pond

Marketing
Kaytie Loving

Membership
Sheila Walker

Policy and Bylaws
Laurie Dameron

Ways and Means
Zelika Hargrove

Research
Chante Logan

Social Media
Imani Bogle

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the Reinhart Guest House, 1100 Libbie Ave, Richmond VA 23226 from 6-7:30pm

March 9

May 11

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 21

VCORN @ HCA Center for Clinical Advancement- REGISTER TODAY!

March

Habitat for Humanity - more info coming soon!

April 18

Cheering/Supporting the runners at the Monument Avenue 10k

May

Backpack Drive for Richmond City Schools

Meet our Vice President!

Q & A with Zelika Hargrove, DNP, RN, CNOR, CSSM, NPD-BD



How long have you been involved with AORN Richmond Chapter?

I attended my first chapter meeting in 2013, and ever since, I have driven an hour each month to stay connected and involved.

How long have you been an OR Nurse?

I've been an OR Nurse since 2007. However, my Surgical Services journey started in 2002 as a PACU nurse. I continued to work in OR and PACU until I transitioned to the educator role.

What is your favorite service line?

Well, I have two, Ortho Spine and General. However, if forced to pick one service line, it'll be trauma...haha

What are your hobbies?

I like doing many things, but I don't do any of them often enough to call them hobbies. I'd love to spend more time biking, sewing, and reading—especially African American fiction and suspense novels. Some authors I frequently return to are Bebe Moore Campbell, David Baldacci, James Baldwin, James Patterson, Jodi Picoult, and Terry McMillan. Recently added to that list is Kristin Hannah.

What's one of your favorite things about being involved with AORN?

Networking! My circle of professional friends has expanded beyond what I've ever imagined. I love knowing that I can call a peer in Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, or Texas to gain ideas on how to improve processes, engage team members, or implement change. Attending the AORN conference is hands-down my favorite activity. I always leave with useful nuggets to share with my perioperative and perianesthesia colleagues. Being of service to others is at the heart of what we do. AORN is an organization that provides opportunities to fill that cup, and I am grateful to be a part of it.



Prep for your CNOR certification with Wendy Zander's course!

April 25 & 26, 2026 | St. Mary's Hospital

\$295 early bird registration or regular for \$320

Check with your organization about reimbursement and get certified next year!

Visit www.periop-ed.com or e-mail
AornRichmond4702@yahoo.com



Awards Committee Update

Mary C. Evans Scholarship Award & First-Time Attendee Scholarship 2026-27

It's time to submit the delegate selection form if you're interested in being a delegate at the National AORN Conference and Expo in Philadelphia, PA in April 2027. If you're not exactly sure if you can go, submit the form anyway! You can always decide later, but forms need to be submitted by June 1. The National AORN Conference and Expo is always such a fun time full of interesting education classes, seminars, vendor exhibits, and fellowship with your nursing friends. Our chapter has spots for seven delegates and we hope that you will consider being one of them!

It's also time to submit applications for the First-Time Attendee Scholarship. This is a \$1,000 scholarship offered from our chapter to send a chapter member to the National Conference and Expo for the first time. The application is quick and simple: write a 300-word essay answering a few questions for why you should be selected for this scholarship. Questions are included on the application form.

Do you know a nurse who has gone above and beyond for our chapter and deserves recognition? If so, please fill out a Mary C. Evans Nomination Form so this wonderful person can be recognized and rewarded with \$1,000 to attend the National AORN Conference & Expo or use the money to advance their nursing career.

All forms are due June 1st and should be submitted to AornRichmond4702@yahoo.com. If you have any questions or need help with completing the forms, please reach out to Jessica Ooms.

The forms can be found on Nursing Network under Resources ----> Bylaws section on aornrichmond.nursingnetwork.com

Membership Update

263 Members

Renew or change your Membership type!

<https://www.aorn.org/membership/types-of-membership>

If you have an issue with joining or renewal contact AORN customer service @ 1-800-755-2676, choose option #7 or email custsvc@aorn.org

New members are always welcome, bring a friend to the meetings!



MARKETING REPORT

Kaytie Loving

Our chapter has been BUSY doing lots of wonderful things for our community! In December, we worked with Safe Harbor to provide clothing, gifts and toys for 8 individuals. Beautifully wrapped new gifts definitely brought smiles to those 2 families in need of some extra holiday help.

In January, our chapter collected diapers galore to donate to Little Hands Virginia, a central Virginia diaper bank providing essentials to economically disadvantaged children in their first years.



Help cheer on our local runners at the Monument Avenue 10k!

AORN Richmond will be supporting the participants from the sidelines on April 18! Join in with your homemade sign or just show up and give out some high fives. Contact Kaytie Loving at AornRichmond4702@yahoo.com for details.



Legislative Committee Update

Lobby Day was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. VNA's Lobby Day is a day to advocate for nurses and the nursing profession at the General Assembly. This year, our chapter met with Delegate Mike Cherry, who covers the tri-city area. He was very receptive to our meeting and we discussed nurse staffing and nurses having the ability to utilize the full scope of their practice. We also discussed the need for Virginia to offer ways for nurses to obtain assistance with school loan debt, as it is very difficult for many nurses to be able to work off that debt. Many nurses had a contract opportunity to work at a hospital that served low income families in exchange for 80% of student loans to be discharged. Nurses started nursing school with this endeavor, only to find out a month before graduation that this opportunity was no longer available. The feedback we received is that this may be difficult to tackle in Virginia because this is usually a federal issue.

We attempted to meet with Delegate Kimberly Pope Adams and Delegate Rae Cousins, however, they were not available. We also met with Senator Louise Lucas and left a copy of the healthcare packet with her secretary for her to review. We were able to watch the Lt. Governor lead the Senate General Assembly for a few moments and had the opportunity to witness a vote. If you are interested in getting involved with nursing legislation in our chapter, please reach out to Christina Pond at AornRichmond4702@yahoo.com.



CONNECT WITH OUR CHAPTER !



[Richmond Chapter Aorn](#)



[@aornrichmond4702](#)

NEWSLETTER UPDATES

If you have any updates or information that you would like to include in the newsletter, please email [Tori Hylton @ aornrichmond4702@yahoo.com](mailto:Tori.Hylton@aornrichmond4702@yahoo.com)



Be an advocate. Together we can make the profession stronger and our patients safer.

2026 VCORN CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP

LEADING WITHIN AND BEYOND THE RED LINE

4.0 CONTACT HOURS PENDING



Saturday, February 21, 2026
0730-1500



HCA Center for Clinical Advancement
7300 Beaufont Springs Drive, Richmond, VA 23225

CONFERENCE SESSIONS:



Perioperative-Perianesthesia Relationships
Cameron Covington, CRNA



Conflict Management
Leigh Anne Bartlett, AORN National Board of Directors



Transformational Leadership
Patty Carey, VP Surgical Services, Bon Secours, Richmond Market



Entrepreneurship
DeeDee Karanian, CRNA

Target Audience: All RNs, Surgical Assistants, Surgical Technologists



**Click or Scan QR Code
to Register!**

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the key characteristics of transformational leaders.
- Identify common sources of perioperative team conflict.
- Discuss strategies to strengthen collaboration.
- Explore opportunities for nurse-led business ventures.

Learning Outcome:

After attending the session, 90% of attendees will be able to identify two pieces of knowledge to implement in practice.

Successful Completion:

Participation and post-evaluation submission, questions and answers during activity.

This continuing nursing education activity was approved by the Association of perioperative Registered Nurses, INC., an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission in Accreditation. AORN recognized this activity as continuing education for registered nurses. This recognition does not imply that AORN approves or endorses a product included in the presentation.



aornrichmond.nursingnetwork.com Aornrichmond4702@yahoo.com

Random Acts Of Kindness

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR FIRST RESPONDERS!

THIS INCLUDES FIREFIGHTERS, PARAMEDICS/EMTS, POLICE, NURSES, AND/OR DOCTORS

AN AORN SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE
OCCURRING FROM FEBRUARY 1 - 15 ! JUST IN TIME FOR VALENTINE'S DAY!

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY AND SHOW SOME LOVE!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! GO OUT AND GIVE BACK TO FIRST RESPONDER WITH A BOX OF DOUGHNUTS!

WHOEVER SENDS THE MOST PICTURES OF DIFFERENT ACTS OF KINDNESS DONE FOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS WILL WIN A PRIZE!

We ask that you send all pictures to our Instagram account: @aornrichmond4702

or

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/richmondchapter.aorn

or

Email us: aornrichmond4702@yahoo.com

AORN Richmond Calendar

FEBRUARY	<p>1 - 14: Show Some Love to First Responders</p> <p>21: VCORN Conference & Workshop at HCA Center for Clinical Advancement, 8am - 3 pm</p>
MARCH	<p>9: Board Meeting at the Reinhart Guest House, 6 - 7:30 pm 16: Chapter Meeting with Dinner and Educational Presentation by Inspire, Location TBD</p> <p>*Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity (date to be determined)</p>
APRIL	<p>11 - 14: National AORN Conference & Expo in New Orleans, LA</p> <p>18: Volunteer at the Monument 10K</p> <p>20: Chapter Meeting at St. Mary's Hospital with Educational Presentation by Dr. Hale</p>
MAY	<p>11: Board Meeting at the Reinhart Guest House, 6 - 7:30 pm</p> <p>18: Chapter Meeting and Installation of Officers, Location TBD</p> <p>*School backpack donation drive</p>
JUNE	<p>1: Delegate Packet, Mary C. Evans Award Nominations, and First-Time Attendee Applications Due</p>

Stay tuned for updates and additional information on Nursing Network & Instagram

aornrichmond.nursingnetwork.com

www.instagram.com/aornrichmond4702