

eChapter Leadership



2025 -2026	Leadership Group
<p>Officers</p> <p>Karen Knapp - President</p> <p>Mary Samost - President elect</p> <p>Kendra Hardy-Dunnigan - Treasurer</p> <p>Jaimeson Hatch - Secretary</p> <p>Board of Directors</p> <p>Wendy Perera</p> <p>Patti Owens</p> <p>Alecia Torrence</p> <p>Carole 'Gert' Mayes</p> <p>Cassie Scott</p> <p>Gilda Gilbert</p>	
2025-2026	eChapter Committee Chairs/Co-chairs
<p>Education EBP & Research Co-Chairs - Ling Chen & Johnson Ogundare, RN</p> <p>Webmaster Co-Chairs - Paula Teixeira & Paulo Brois</p> <p>Social Media and Communications - Stella Yau</p> <p>Historical Committee - Susan Guerra</p> <p>Delegate Selection - Wendy Perera</p> <p>Ways and Means - Mary Samost & Wendy Perera</p> <p>Nominating - Lindsay Joyce</p> <p>Member Engagement - Geraldine Hall</p>	



Announcing eChapter Officers for the 2026-27 term!

congratulations!!
2026 - 2027
eChapter Leadership

President & President Elect
Karen Knapp & Mary Samost

Secretary
Carole "Gert" Mayes

Board of Directors
Ashlee Bull Jaimeson Hatch

Nominating Committee
Renee Jewell Peris Speek

Bio's

Learn more about our incoming 2026-2027 eChapter leaders.



'Gert' Carole Mayes – Secretary

Carole 'Gert' Mayes, PhD, RN, NPD-BC, CNOR is a perioperative nurse educator with over 30 years of clinical and leadership experience. Dr. Mayes currently works as the clinical educator for perioperative services, sterile processing, and endoscopy at Rutland Regional Medical Center in Vermont. She is dedicated to advancing safe surgical care through professional engagement, scholarship, and collaboration. With experience in clinical practice, research, and education, Dr. Mayes brings strong organizational, communication, and documentation skills to support the work of eChapter.

Actively involved in perioperative nursing initiatives, Dr. Mayes has contributed to quality improvement, research dissemination, and professional development efforts within various nursing organizations. Her background in academic writing, project coordination, and presentation supports accurate record-keeping, effective communication, and continuity of eChapter activities.

Dr. Mayes has been a dedicated member of eChapter previously serving as the Education Chair and currently on the Board of Directors. She is committed to supporting eChapter's mission and values and looks forward to serving as eChapter Secretary by fostering transparency, member engagement, and operational excellence.



Jaimeson Hatch – Board Member

Jaimeson Hatch, MSN, RN, CNOR is an RN first assistant living in Anchorage, AL. She earned an associate degree in nursing from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, a BSN from Liberty University, and an MSN from Chamberlain university. Hatch has been a perioperative nurse for 16 years though she has been in healthcare for the past 20 years.

She has been a member of the eChapter since 2016, a member of the Clinical Nurse Educator Specialty Assembly since 2019, and a member of the RNFA Specialty Assembly since 2020 (currently serving on their Social Media team). Previously she was a part of the Alaska State Chapter until it closed in 2019, serving as President and co-educator. She currently serves the eChapter as Secretary and advisor for the Nominating Committee.

She has been a delegate for the eChapter multiple times and has served on the Nominating Committee in various roles since 2022. She is a member of the AORN Global Relations committee and is looking forward to speaking during a few sessions at the AORN Expo and Congress in New Orleans. She is also an AORN National Ballot Candidate for the Nominating Committee.

In her spare time, she makes and sells bagels on the weekends and chases as much sunshine as she can. She has been volunteering with Adventures in Life since 2014, serving as a medical volunteer and Medical Director (since 2023) for the clinics held three times yearly across Mexico. She also volunteers in her community at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts as well as with various health fairs and community projects.



Ashlee Bull – Board Member

Ashlee Bull is originally from Pennsylvania but has moved frequently due to military obligations. She lives with her blended family in southeastern North Carolina and works as an RNFA at a local hospital. She is also an Air Force Reserve Perioperative Nurse.

Currently, she is finishing up coursework for her NP and plans to continue in surgical assisting after graduation. Her experiences in military and civilian hospitals, in addition to work and experiences abroad, have cultivated a passion for teaching surgical foundation skills in low resourced and conflict affected areas. She looks forward to exploring this more through her education and career.

Outside of nursing, she loves travel and learning about cultural histories. She loves to make things and enjoys teaching her children the skills she has learned.



Renee Jewell – Nominating Committee

Renee Jewell, MSN, RN, CNOR, CSSN[E] is an accomplished nursing professional and healthcare leader with more than a decade of experience in perioperative nursing, nurse residency program management, and professional development. She currently serves as a Registered Nurse Professional Development Practitioner at Parkland Health in Dallas, Texas, where she leads and supports nurse residency initiatives that prepare novice nurses for safe, competent practice in complex clinical environments.

Renee holds a Master of Science in Nursing Administration from The University of Texas at Tyler, with a capstone focus on transformational leadership and its impact on nurse retention. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas Woman's University, where she also completed a minor in Kinesiology. Her educational background is complemented by multiple professional certifications, including Certified Perioperative Nurse (CNOR), Emeritus Certified Surgical Services Manager (CSSM-E), and instructor credentials in Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support.

Throughout her tenure at Parkland Health, Renee has held progressive leadership roles, including Associate Manager of the Nurse Residency Program, Interim General Nursing Orientation Coordinator, Orthopedic and Thoracic Surgical Specialty Coordinator, Charge Nurse, Preceptor and Mentor. She has been instrumental in implementing AORN PeriOp 101 curricula and guiding the organization toward ANCC Transition to Practice Accreditation. Her leadership has supported the onboarding, education, and professional growth of hundreds of new graduate nurses.

Renee is a lifetime member of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN), a member of the American Nurses Association, and A Fellowship Participant with the Association for Nursing Professional Development. She has served in numerous leadership and advisory roles, including Magnet Champion, Chair and Co-Chair of the Clinical Education Reward and Recognition Committee, and Communication Chair for Parkland's Opening Minds to Neuro-Inclusion (OMNI) Employee Resource Group.

A recognized leader in nurse transition and well-being, Renee has been selected as a podium and poster presenter at national conferences, including the Magnet Conference and the Vizient National Nurse Resident Conference. Her work focuses on reducing new nurse anxiety, promoting well-being, and strengthening nurse retention through innovative education and support strategies.

Renee Jewell is widely respected for her collaborative leadership style, commitment to nursing excellence, and passion for developing the next generation of nurses. Her career reflects a sustained dedication to professional development, organizational improvement, and advancing the nursing profession.



Peris Speek – Nominating Committee

My name is Peris Speek, MHA, RN, CNOR and I'm enthusiastic on the opportunity to serve on the Nominating Committee of the AORN eChapter. With 10+ years of operating room nursing experience and a strong commitment to perioperative excellence, I am eager to contribute to identifying and supporting leaders who will advance our profession.

Throughout my career, I have been dedicated to fostering growth and collaboration in perioperative nursing. My service on the AORN DEI committee (2022–2024) and AORN Awards Committee 2025–2026 has given me the privilege of helping shape a more inclusive and equitable future for our profession. I've been honored with the Spotlight Award in 2022 at Truman VA Hospital, Columbia, Missouri and am a proud Daisy Award recipient at University Medical Center, New Orleans, Louisiana reflecting my dedication to quality and compassionate care.

I have been an active participant in AORN's mission, attending the AORN Global Surgical Conference and Expo five times and serving as a delegate for three of those conferences. These experiences have deepened my understanding of the needs and priorities of our members and have reinforced my belief in the importance of strong, visionary leadership within AORN.

Beyond my professional work, I stay engaged in service through volunteering with Food Bank, Pride Fest, and Habitat for Humanity, underscoring my belief in giving back to the communities we serve.