

## March 2026 BOARD UPDATE



Welcome to the Pre-Conference edition of our Board Update!

I hope this update will prepare you to fully partake of the upcoming 2026 AORN Global Surgical Conference and Expo. This year's conference is filled with great presentations, poster sessions and industry representatives that will help elevate your practice and continue the journey to ensuring all operative and invasive procedures are kept safe and have the best possible outcomes in your practice setting.

President Murdock has chosen Lighting the Pathway as her theme for this year's conference. This theme helps us to remind ourselves to ground our perioperative practice in the philosophy of nursing that Florence Nightengale first put into action. We will reignite our passion for perioperative care together!

There is still time to register for both the AORN Global Surgical Conference and the Leadership Summit, so don't hesitate to register and plan to stay in and enjoy all that New Orleans has to offer.

Your Board of Directors is also gearing up for this event. We have a great Congress planned where you can learn about the direction and accomplishments of all our committees and task forces and learn what is planned for the future when President-elect, Dr. David Reinhart assumes the podium to lead us into the rest of 2026. There will be opportunities to vote on 3 position statements as well as, voting for candidates to assume vacancies on the Nominating Committee and Board of Directors.

The Board is eager to meet with as many members as possible and hear your voice before or at the conference in our 2 Forums.

This edition of the Board Update will focus on what to expect at the Conference and Leadership Summit

Looking forward to seeing you all in New Orleans soon,

Brenda Larkin

**Brenda G. Larkin, MS, APRN, ACNS-BC, CNS-CP, CSSM, LSSGB, CNOR, FAORN, AORN Secretary**

**Conference**

AORN Expo 2026 | April 11-14 | New Orleans, LA



[Click here for registration details](#)

Save \$100 with Early-Bird Pricing until March 11<sup>th</sup>!

**Periop 101 Learners have an exclusive 40% off registration to attend their first AORN Global Conference. Use the code, P101LEARNER-40off when registering!**

The full conference agenda is available now! [Click here](#) to explore the educational and governance meeting schedules

### **Global Conference Schedule:**

Please [click here](#) to check out the conference schedule and plan you activities for each day.

- **First Time Attendee Lounge will be available every day.**
- **Saturday, April 11 – Opening Ceremony, Key Note & Kick-off Party (no cost)**
  - AORN Congress 1<sup>st</sup> Forum
- **Sunday, April 12 – Education and Expo Hall Opening**
  - Specialty Assembly Meetings (check schedule)
    - AORN Congress 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum
- **Monday, April 13 – Education, General Session/Key Note, Expo Hall & Foundation Party**
  - Specialty Assembly Meetings (check schedule)
  - Expo Hall Power Hours for Leadership Summit & MGR+ attendees
  - Student & Faculty Program
    - AORN Congress 1<sup>st</sup> House of Delegates
  - AORN Foundation Party (tickets can be purchased online in advance or on-site as supplies last)
- **Tuesday, April 14 – Expo Hall & Closing Session (Announcement of Election Results)**
  - AORN Congress 2<sup>nd</sup> House of Delegates
    - Receiving line to greet and congratulate Nominating Committee and Board of Directors (*following closing session*)

## **Leadership Summit Schedule:**

- **First Time Attendee Lounge will be available every day.**
- **Saturday, April 11 – Opening Ceremony, Leadership Development & Networking**
  - AORN Congress 1<sup>st</sup> Forum
  - Kick-Off Party (no cost)
- **Sunday, April 12 – General Sessions, Leadership Development & Expo Hall Opening**
  - AORN Congress 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum
  - Expo Hall Opening
- **Monday, April 13 – AORN Foundation Day, Leadership Development & Expo Hall**
  - AORN Congress 1<sup>st</sup> House of Delegates
  - AORN Foundation Party (tickets can be purchased online in advance or on-site as supplies last)
- **Tuesday, April 14 – General Session, Expo Hall & Closing Session**
  - AORN Congress 2<sup>nd</sup> House of Delegates
    - Receiving line to greet and congratulate Nominating Committee and Board of Directors (*following closing session*)  
For a full conference/summit agenda, [click here](#).

## **Special Business Meeting:**

Join President Murdock, the Board and our Executive Director, Dr. David Wyatt for a virtual town hall and special business meeting on March 18, 2026. [Click here to register](#).

## **Chapter Officer Town Hall:**

The Next Chapter Officer Town Hall will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 6:00pm MT. [Click here](#) to register. If you missed the February Chapter Officer Town Hall Recording, it can be accessed [here](#).

## **National Legislative Forum:**

The next NLF call is scheduled for Monday, March 16 at 6:30pm MT. If you would like to register for these meetings, please contact Customer Experience at AORN: (Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, MT)  
Toll-Free: [\(800\) 755-2676](tel:8007552676)  
To listen to the February call, [click here](#).

## **Guidelines Public Commenting Opportunities:**

No Guidelines are ready for public commenting currently.

## **Membership Update:**

Should you earn more? Use AORN's Salary Calculator to see what nurses like you earn based on the 2025 survey data. This is a member exclusive calculator. [Check your salary](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Featured On-Demand Webinars:

#### Take the Master Series in OR Finances

AORN Center for Perioperative Leadership and national productivity expert Pamela Hunt, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN have teamed up for an insightful leadership course to help you fine tune your understanding of financial and operational concepts vital to your success in your role.

This live, virtual series includes eight, one-and-a-half hour sessions with the instructor. Each live course includes a dynamic workbook to help you learn, apply key concepts, and engage in discussion. Tailored for busy leaders in ambulatory and inpatient perioperative services, this course will be available online until September 1, 2026 after the live events to allow flexibility and re-engagement.

*After completion of the course and course evaluation, the learner will receive 12.0 contact hours and a Certificate of Mastery.*

Topics include:

OR Finance & Operations

Understanding and Improving Perioperative and Procedural Productivity

Making the Business Case For Workforce and Patient Safety

[Purchase Course](#)

*This program is approved for up to 12.00 hours of AEU's and up to 0.00 hours of IPCHs by BASC Provider #0102. [Find out more about Accreditation Credentials.](#)*

### Quote for the Month:

“It is often thought that medicine is the curative process. It is no such thing; medicine is the surgery of functions, as surgery proper is that of limbs and organs. Neither can do anything but remove obstructions; neither can cure; nature alone cures. Surgery removes the bullet out of the limb, which is an obstruction to cure, but nature heals the wound. So it is with medicine; the function of an organ becomes obstructed; medicine, so far as we know, assists nature to remove the obstruction, but does nothing more. And what nursing has to do in either case, is to put the patient in the best condition for nature to act upon him.”

Florence Nightengale

### Board Representation Activities:

The Board will have an in-person meeting March 19-21 in Denver.

## Conference

AORN Expo 2026 | April 11-14 | New Orleans, LA

**President Murdock:**

Mar 18: AORN Town Hall & Special Business Meeting

Mar 29 -30: AONL Conference, Chicago

April 8: National Student Nursing Association Conference, Houston

**President-Elect Reinhart:**

Mar 14: Georgia Chapter Spring Seminar

Mar 18: AORN Town Hall & Special Business Meeting

Mar 29-30: AONL Conference, Chicago

**Laura Gayton:**

Mar 10: AORN St. Louis #2602

Mar 12: AORN Pittsburgh Chapter

Mar 14: Atlanta Chapters Conference

Mar 18: AORN Town Hall & Special Business Meeting

**Brenda Larkin:**

Mar 1: AORN LA Conference

Mar 3: AORN of Treasure Valley #1302

Mar 4: Braindate attendee

Mar 18: AORN Town Hall & Special Business Meeting

April 4: AORN South Florida #1004 Meet the Candidates

Expo Poster: 248 – Mastering Counting Basics in Surgery: A SMART Card Approach

**Leigh Anne Bartlett:**

Mar 28: AORN of Capital NC Chapter Conference

**JD Buchert:**

Mar 5: AORN NY Chapter Mtg

Mar 10: TCORN Leadership Mtg

Mar 10: eChapter Education Committee Mtg

Mar 11: Peach State/AORN Georgia Chapter Mtg

Mar 16: NLF Call

Mar17: AORN Dallas Chapter Mtg

Mar 18: AORN/TCORN State Legislation Planning Mtg

Mar 28: AORN of Capital North Carolina Conference

Expo Presentation: Workplace Violence Prevention in the Perioperative Setting – ASC Specialty Assembly

**Charlie Lin:**

Mar 7: AORN of North Texas

Mar 14: AORN of Grand Canyon Chapter

Mar 28: AORN Silicon Valley

Expo Presentation: Flintstones to the Jetsons – Transitions in Perioperative Nursing

**Rebecca Vortman:**

Mar 4: Ohio, Policy Influencer Bootcamp, Columbus, Ohio Statehouse

Mar 5: AORN of New York City

Mar 11: Georgia Council Spring Seminar  
Mar 24: Nurse Scientist Specialty Assembly  
Mar 28: Capital Chapter 3413 SPD/OR Conference  
Apr 1: AORN of Rockford, IL  
Expo Presentation: Tables Turned: Our Bariatric Journey from OR Nurse to Patient

**Nikki Washington:**

Mar 4: AORN Braintree Host  
Mar 7: AORN North Dallas Chapter  
Mar 10 AORN of Greater Houston Chapter  
Mar 10 AORN Central Valley Chapter  
Mar 18: AORN Town Hall & Business Meeting  
Mar 28: AORN Silicon Valley Spring Seminar

**AORN’s Mission, Vision, & Values**

**Mission:** AORN defines, supports, and advocates for patient and staff safety through exemplary practice in all phases of perioperative nursing care using evidence-based guidelines, continuing education and clinical practice resources.

**Vision:** AORN will provide indispensable evidence-based resources to establish the standards of excellence for each phase of perioperative nursing care to achieve optimal outcomes for every patient, every time.

**Values:**

- **Innovation:** Taking courageous and bold actions for growth and sustainability.
- **Communication:** Exemplifying respect, collaboration, transparency and honesty.
- **Quality:** Ensuring accountability and excellence.
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusiveness:** Promoting fairness, valuing differences, considering all perspectives.
- **Achievement:** Achieving our mission, realizing the vision.



**Conference**

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