

IANN News



**National
Association of
Neonatal
Nurses**

Iowa Chapter

*(Official newsletter of the Iowa
Association of Neonatal Nurses)*

<https://iann.nursingnetwork.com>

January- March 2026

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Letter from the IANN President

Hello everyone, I hope this finds you well and anticipating a great SPRING! It's finally tiptoeing back in – like it knows we've been staring out the window waiting for it to make an entrance. Please **JOIN US** if you can for the next IANN chapter meeting **tomorrow**, March 31 from 5:30-7:30 pm. We're so fortunate to have the meeting sponsored by our friends at Mead Johnson Nutrition. They are treating us to dinner and drinks at [Johnny's Italian Steakhouse](#) in West Des Moines...always a good choice! The dinner invite is attached to the newsletter. If you can't make it for dinner, we hope you'll consider joining us for the meeting via ZOOM. We have a full agenda for the meeting that includes our mandatory annual review of the IANN Bylaws. The Bylaws have been attached to the email with this newsletter. If you are a voting member of IANN, please take a few minutes to review the Bylaws and provide feedback if you have suggestions for revision.

Remember to SAVE THE DATE for the annual IANN Conference on Neonatal Care, Wednesday, July 15, 2026. The conference is being sponsored by UnityPoint Health – Blank Children's Hospital and will be held in the Virginia Thompson Auditorium, at the Blank Education and Research Center. Registration will open on the [IANN website](#) SOON! Thanks to our amazing planning committee, this year's lineup is *truly* something to get excited about. We're bringing together some of the most dynamic, forward-thinking leaders in neonatal care in Iowa. These speakers won't just teach. They will spark ideas, challenge assumptions, and send you home feeling fired up to make a difference. Session topics include new clinical guidelines for therapeutic hypothermia,

breakthroughs in PDA management, insights on managing traumatic birth injuries, issues related to regionalization of neonatal care in Iowa, hot topics in newborn infectious disease, and AI-driven decision support that is shaping the next generation of neonatal practice. Finally, for nurses passionate about strengthening core clinical skills, you'll love our new favorite conference tradition! **NICU Jeopardy** is a fun and energizing way to get back-to-the-basics and refresh your knowledge of neonatal physiology. So, plan to attend the conference this year. I promise you'll leave with new knowledge, new connections, and a renewed sense of purpose.

As we step into SPRING, there's a special kind of renewal in the air – one that feels a lot like the work you do in the NICU every single day. SPRING reminds us that growth can happen quietly, steadily, and sometimes against all odds. Who understands that better than a neonatal nurse? You show up with steady hands and full hearts, offering comfort when the path is uncertain and celebrating even the smallest steps forward. You turn possibility into progress. You turn hope into something you can measure in grams, breaths, and brave little milestones. This season, I hope YOU feel the fresh energy you so often give to others. May you notice moments of brightness, big and small, that remind you why your work matters. And may you carry into SPRING the timeless truth at the core of neonatal nursing: Because of you, lives begin with strength, families begin with hope, and the world begins again – tiny, determined, and beautifully new.

Best always,

Penny Smith

IANN President

Upcoming IANN Meetings

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

Meeting sponsor: Mead Johnson Nutrition

Location: Johnny's Italian Steakhouse, 6075 Mills Civic Pkwy, West Des Moines

[ZOOM Link to Join Virtually](#)

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

Meeting sponsor: Abbott Nutrition

Location: TBD in Des Moines (after the annual conference)

[ZOOM Link to Join Virtually](#)

Tuesday October 13, 2026

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

Tentative meeting sponsor: Mead Johnson Nutrition

Location: TBD in Cedar Rapids

[ZOOM Link to Join Virtually](#)

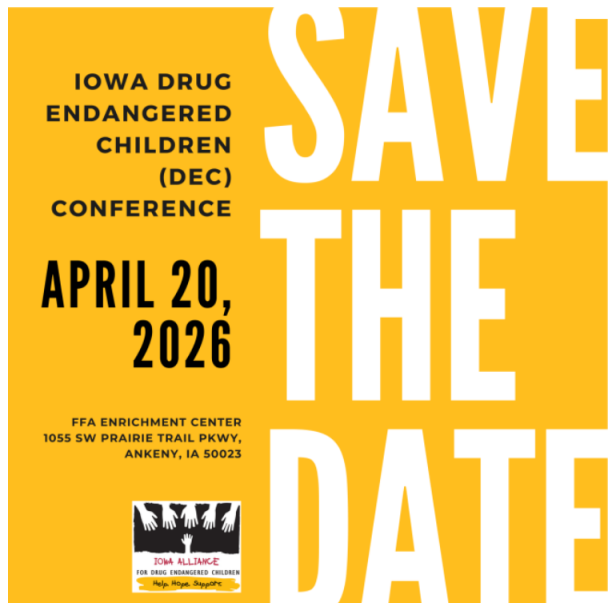


Upcoming Educational Events



SAVE THE DATE
51st Annual Iowa Conference on Perinatal Medicine
April 1-2, 2026
**** NOW Wednesday-Thursday ****

[DEC Conference, Click HERE to Register:](#)



IOWA DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN (DEC) CONFERENCE
APRIL 20, 2026
SAVE THE DATE
 FFA ENRICHMENT CENTER
 1055 SW PRAIRIE TRAIL PKWY,
 ANKENY, IA 50023



36th Annual Iowa Breastfeeding Conference

National Speakers

- Katrina B. Mitchell**, MD, IBCLC, PMH-C
- Joy MacTavish**, MA, IBCLC, RLC

Local Speakers

- Termitope Awelewa**, MBChB, MPH, FAAP, IBCLC
- Kirby Nelson**, DNP, PMHNP-BC, APRN, PMH-C

Day 1 Agenda
 8:30 - 11:30 | Iowa Breastfeeding Coalition Meeting
 10:30 - 11:30 | Breast Cancer and Breastfeeding
 Katrina Mitchell, MD, IBCLC, PMH-C
 11:30 - 12:30 | Lunch (Included with IBC meeting)
 12:30 - 1:30 | Lactation During Pregnancy and Tandem Feeding
 Joy MacTavish, MA, IBCLC, RLC
 1:30 - 2:30 | PMADs and Breastfeeding Considerations 101
 Kirby Nelson, DNP, PMHNP-BC, APRN, PMH-C
 2:30 - 2:45 | Break
 2:45 - 3:45 | Breast Surgery and Lactation
 Katrina Mitchell, MD, IBCLC, PMH-C
 3:45 - 4:45 | Supporting Parents as They Learn to Manage Pumping and Their Work/Life Balance
 Joy MacTavish, MA, IBCLC, RLC
 4:45 | Evaluations/Adjourn

Day 2 Agenda
 8:00 - 8:15 | Welcome & Announcements
 Robert Kruse, MD, State Medical Director - Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
 8:15 - 9:30 | Mastitis Spectrum: Mastitis, Abscess, Galactocele and Related Conditions
 Katrina Mitchell, MD, IBCLC, PMH-C
 9:30 - 10:00 | Break | Exhibitors
 10:00 - 11:15 | Solving Common Lactation Challenges
 Joy MacTavish, MA, IBCLC, RLC
 11:15 - 12:30 | Lactation Myth Busters
 Katrina Mitchell, MD, IBCLC, PMH-C
 12:30 - 1:30 | Lunch
 1:30 - 2:45 | Addressing the Pediatric Dental Health Concerns of Nursing Families
 Joy MacTavish, MA, IBCLC, RLC
 2:45 - 3:15 | Break | Exhibitors
 3:15 - 4:30 | Why Breastfeeding Duration Matters: The Changing Composition of Human Milk from Birth and Beyond Infancy
 Termitope Awelewa, MBChB, MPH, FAAP, IBCLC
 4:30 | Evaluations | Adjourn

Date
 Wednesday, May 13 & Thursday May 14, 2026

Location
 FFA Enrichment Center
 DMACC Ankeny Campus
 1055 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy
 Ankeny, IA 50023

Please contact Talia Greve with any questions.
Talia.greve@unitypoint.org

Register Now



National Association of Neonatal Nurses
SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2026
NANN 42ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

[Future and Past NANN Conference Dates](#)

2026 IANN Board



Penny Smith, President
Iowa Health Care: Stead Family Children's
Hospital
Penny-smith@uiowa.edu



Becky Davila, Treasurer
Iowa Health Care: Stead Family Children's
Hospital
Rebecca-chuffodavila@uiowa.edu



Denise Holida, Vice President
Iowa Health Care: Stead Family Children's
Hospital
Denise-Holida@uiowa.edu



Emily Spellman, Secretary
Iowa Health Care: Stead Family Children's
Hospital
Emily-wilson@uiowa.edu

2026 IANN Members

Lori Andrews-Morris- SFCH, IC
Susan Berends- SFCH, IC
Sarah Betts- SFCH, IC
Stephanie Boes- SFCH, IC
Katelyn Buehrer - Blank Children's, DSM
Erin Burns - Mercy, CR
Kelley Chess - Mercy Children's, DSM
Laura Corbett- SFCH, IC
Becky Davila - SFCH, IC
Allyssa Dolphin- Blank Children's, DSM
Denise Easley - St. Luke's, CR
Chris Eckardt- Blank Children's, DSM
Rachel Eskeldson- SFCH, IC
Kayla Fobian- SFCH, IC
Jessica Freese- SFCH, IC
Sarah Gates- Cedar Rapids
Lisa Glantz- Marshalltown
Danielle Glanz- St. Luke's, CR
Amber Gonsoski- SFCH, IC
Laura Grigsby- St. Luke's, Sioux City
Abbey Haas- Mercy, CR
Ali Hand- Indianola
Stacey Happel- Vinton
Kristi Haughey- SFCH, IC
Joan Hengst- UPH, Dubuque
Lauren Hodgson- UPH, DSM
Kelsey Hoepfner- SFCH, IC
Denise Holida - SFCH, IC
Pamela Kalkhoff - SFCH, IC
Julie Kennedy- Mercy, CR
Amy Kenyon- Mercy, DSM
Bree Kray- Monticello
Jennifer Melloy- SFCH, IC
Tracey Michalec- St. Luke's, CR
Tami Miller- SFCH, IC
Brittany Miller- SFCH, IC
Kristin Mirocha - St. Luke's, CR
LouAnn Montgomery - UIHC, IC
Jennifer Montgomery- St. Luke's, CR
Laura Neumann- Bettendorf
Barbara O'Rourke- Blank Children's, DSM
Laura Pabich- Grimes
Cassandra Palasiewicz- SFCH, IC
Barb Pappas - Blank Children's, DSM
Cara Paris - SFCH, IC
Alyssa Phillips- Marion
Austin Richards- SFCH, IC
Lindsey Ricklefs- SFCH, IC
Laura Rizer- MercyOne, DSM
Codi Robison- SFCH, IC
Shelley Rocca- St. Luke's, CR
Melissa Schnackenberg- MercyOne, Waterloo
Morgan Schuh- Mercy, DM

Dawn Schwartz- ChildServe, DSM
Brenda Shafer- SFCH, IC
Emily Sheely- SFCH, IC
Penny Smith- SFCH, IC
Haylee Sonius- SFCH, IC
Emily Spellman- SFCH, IC
Kathryn Steffen- SFCH, IC
Andrea Terrones
Elizabeth Thompson- Fulton
Amanda Wagner- IPQCC
Jessica Wallace-Blank Children's- DSM
Teresa Washington
Erin Weber- SFCH, IC
Jean Weber- St. Luke's, CR
Courtney Woeber- SFCH, IC
Nancy Woestman- Blank Children's, DSM

*Membership list updated on 3/19/26.

~Pam Kalkhoff, Membership Chair
Skalkhoff@southslope.net

Interested in Membership?

Visit our website at:

<https://nann.org>



The 'IANN News' is the official publication of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses - Iowa Chapter. The chapter welcomes the participation of its members in contributing to this newsletter but reserves the right to reasonably edit all items submitted. The opinions herein do not necessarily reflect or express those of the IANN membership or its officers. The 'IANN News' is the responsibility of the Communications Committee. Please forward any contributions to:

~Erin Weber, Communications Chair
319-929-0102
Erin-weber@uiowa.edu

January Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2026, | 5:40 PM – 7:20 PM

Location: St. Burch Tavern, Iowa City

Sponsor: Abbott Nutrition. Sydney Olson & Lauren Ismert.

Present: Kelli Africh, Erin Burns (online), Becky Chuffo Davila, Denise Easley, Jessica Freese, Lisa Glantz (online), Kristi Haughey, Denise Holida, Pam Kalkhoff, Barb Pappas, Penny Smith, Emily Spellman, Jessica Wallace, Erin Weber, Jean Weber.

IANN Business Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:27 PM by Penny Smith.

Good news/recognition

Erin Weber has a recent publication:
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jpen.70028>.
(November 2025)

Meeting donation site

Iowa City Ronald McDonald House (RMHC of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois). Becky will send \$100 from IANN. Donations can be directly given on their website:
[Home | RMHC-EIWI](#).

October 2025 meeting minutes

Were sent out with the newsletter and copies are available at this meeting. Motion to approve the October 2025 IANN business meeting minutes: Denise Easley. Second: Erin Weber. Motion approved.

Board Reports

President, Penny Smith

- The 2026 conference venue has been secured (thank you, Jess Wallace). It will be held at the Virginia Thompson auditorium at Blank Children's in Des Moines.
- The first conference planning

committee meeting will be on January 30.

- If you have ideas for topics, please send them to Penny or Jess Wallace by Jan 30.
- The Iowa Perinatal Conference is April 1-2 at the West Des Moines Marriott. March 31 is a STABLE pre-conference. Penny will have an IANN booth, please reach out to her if you are attending and can help with the booth. Denise Easley said that she is planning to attend and will help. The conference agenda will be sent out in early February.

Vice President, Denise Holida: no report.

Secretary, Emily Spellman: no report.

Treasurer, Becky Chuffo-Davila:

- Budget report submitted and copies are available at this meeting.
- Becky sent the 4 RMHC donations. We did not send to Sioux City this year.
- Small groups of 8 can make dinner at the RMHC houses again.
- Reminder that IANN scholarships are available for members. \$250 to attend NANN, \$100 for other conferences.

Committee Reports

Membership, Pam Kalkhoff:

- Currently have 72 IANN members.
- There are 9 people who are members of NANN but not IANN. How can we recruit them?

Communications, Erin Weber:

- We have one more follower in Instagram since our last meeting.
- Send Erin Weber photos or anything to post to Facebook or Instagram. Make sure to follow IANN on social media.
- Discussion about resharing posts from other accounts related to neonatal nursing and a great account

NICU Educator Lisa provides lots of posts and education.

Retention & Recruitment, Erin Burns:

- If anyone would like to help with this committee, please reach out.

Old Business

- IANN website: [The Iowa Association of Neonatal Nurses | Nursing Network](#)
- NANN website [Home Page - NANN](#)
- Ronald McDonald House Sioux City.
 - Discussion that there are no members from Sioux City on IANN currently. The group agrees about not donating to the SC RMHC.

New Business

- Perinatal Conference- save the date April 1-2, 2026 in Des Moines.
- 2026 IANN Conference- July 15 in Des Moines.
- NANN is in West Palm Beach Florida in 2026, September 15-18.
 - Second call for poster abstracts will be April 15-May 6, 2026.
 - Case of the Year presentation abstracts are open March 10-April 1, 2026.
 - [Submit Abstract - NANN](#)
- NANN resources
 - Check out the *NANNcast* podcast from wherever you get your podcasts or the NANN website. Many episodes are available. [NANNcast - NANN](#)
 - NANN also has an iLearn platform. [National Association of Neonatal Nurses: Home](#)
- Penny shared a flyer about oxygen tank safety.
- Research update: MIDAS study at UI-milrinone after PDA repair.

Upcoming IANN meetings, save the date

- March 31, 2026, in West Des Moines

(Blank is host).

- July 15, 2026, in Des Moines, after the IANN conference (Mercy DM is host)
- October 13, 2026, in Cedar Rapids (Mercy CR & St. Luke's host)

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Spellman

IANN

Meeting Sponsor Presentation: Abbott Nutrition

5:40 PM – 6:27 PM

● Product Highlights

- The team shared the product line.
- Discussion about organic options.

Discharge & Follow-Up

- Abbott has a program to provide home formula to NICU families. They need to fill out a form and have a provider sign it.
- Copies were provided at the meeting.

Support & Resources

[Abbott | Nutrition Guides and Tools For Patient Care](#)

Conference Scholarships

Would you like assistance with travel to the NANN National Conference? Apply for a \$250 scholarship from IANN.

Need CEUs? Want to go to a different conference or get CEUS online? Apply for a maximum of \$100 scholarship from IANN.

Successful grant recipients will:

1. Be a current member of IANN.
2. Each individual will be required to share new knowledge with fellow IANN members through a short presentation at an IANN meeting and/or write an article for the IANN Newsletter about something of interest from the conference (a new product, an interesting talk, a person of interest, etc.)

*If you are delinquent in reporting your information, you will forfeit your right to request money for the next year.

Please submit completed Scholarship Application Forms to Becky Chuffo-Davila using the attached form.

Becky Chuffo Davila, 1991 Ollinger Drive, Coralville, IA 52241

Name:

Address:

E-mail address:

_____ Phone

Number:

Conference Attending:

\$ Amount Requested

If I receive this education grant I agree to share learned information with the IANN membership within six (6) months.

Signature



IANN

Chapter Meeting & dinner

Sponsored by Mead Johnson

TUESDAY MARCH 31ST

5:30- 7:30 PM

Johnny's Italian Steakhouse

6075 Mills Civic Parkway
West Des Moines, IA 50266

Please RSVP to Stacey Casey
Stacy.casey@reckitt.com
by March 24th



RUN, WALK, ROLL

BUILD AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR HIE

100% OF THE FUNDS RAISED BY THE HUSTLE FOR HOPE 5K GO TO HOPE FOR HIE

HUSTLE FOR HOPE JESUP, IOWA



**SATURDAY,
APRIL 4**



**LAND OF CORN
PARK PAVILION**

Corner of Young Street
and Main Street,
Jesup, IA 50648



2:00PM CT

REGISTRATION OPENS

FEBRUARY 15, 2026!

REGISTER!



DONATE!



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REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE: [TINYURL.COM/HUSTLEFORHOPE](https://tinyurl.com/hustleforhope)
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**National
Association of
Neonatal
Nurses**
Iowa Chapter

Save the Date!

13th Annual Neonatal Care Conference

July 15th, 2026

Virginia Thompson Auditorium

Blank Children's Hospital

Des Moines, IA



Iowa Association of Neonatal Nurses

