

NewsScan

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President Message

We finally made it to summer! Although, as I sit to write this address, the weather is not cooperating for a very nice Memorial Day weekend. Here's to brighter skies in the coming week.

On May 12th we had our annual dinner meeting at Lighthouse Bistro in Annapolis and as always, the dinner was delicious. I would like to thank Baxter, Conmed and Solventum for helping to sponsor part of the dinner. At this meeting the newly elected officers were announced. They are:

President- Lisa Myers

President Elect- Kristy Wheeler

Secretary- Naa Anin

Treasure Beverly Stiles

Board- Barbara Nalley, Linda Kempke, Shruti Thomas

Nominating Committee- Kristin Kraus, Teri Ridel, Mary Grace Rivera



A big thank you to the outgoing Board member Lamoan Brown, outgoing Nominating Committee members Rachel Skirbin and Henriette Kelley, and especially to Marie Wells our outgoing President for all their hard work and dedication to the Baltimore Chapter. It takes a village to keep our chapter thriving.

Also at the meeting, Jordan Iweala, a student from Bowie State's Nursing program received the AORN Baltimore Chapter Scholarship. We wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.



In April some of us attended Expo in New Orleans. It was my first time attending and I had a great time taking it all in. I learned so much and also had time to have some fun. Our chapter was well represented, as we had five members who presented talks at the conference, and at least four posters on display, with one being an award winner.





Mark your calendars for next year's Expo to be held in Philadelphia, PA from April 10-13. Link to reserve your hotel is now open. The incoming President, David Reinhart's theme for the coming year will be "Building with Purpose". Newly elected National Officers were also announced at Expo. They are:

President- Elect Jamie Wrenshall-Ridout, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC, CASC

Vice-President: J.D. Buchert, MSN, Med, MS, RN, CNOR

Secretary: Rebecca Vortman, DNP, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC

Board of Directors:

Stephanie Battiste, BSN, RN, CNOR

Richard Dorritie, PhD, RN, CNE, CNOR

Natalie B. Jones, DHA, MBA, BHSA, BSN, RN, CNOR

• **Nominating Committee**

Stephanie Ayala, MSN, RN, CNOR

Kristy Gottschalk, MSN, RN, CNOR, PHN

Ray-an Talatala, DNP, RN, CNOR, NPD-BC, FAORN



Fundraising & Financial Status of the Chapter

The addition of the virtual auction this year was a welcome success, and we raised a little over \$2000 from this alone. This endeavor was a big undertaking. A big thank you to Linda Kempse for arranging the auction and to Marie Wells who built and posted everything online to the bidding site. The popcorn fundraiser made a little over \$400, and the Ravens ticket raffle brought in over \$1000. Thanks to everyone who donated items or participated by selling or purchasing raffle tickets, helping with Pit Beef sales, auction items and popcorn. All told, between fundraising and monthly dues pay outs from National AORN, we ended up with a positive balance at the end of the year, which was a turnaround from the past two years. We are always looking for fundraising help and ideas. If you would like to help or have any suggestions for fundraising, please reach out. All ideas welcome-
lisavmyers@gmail.com

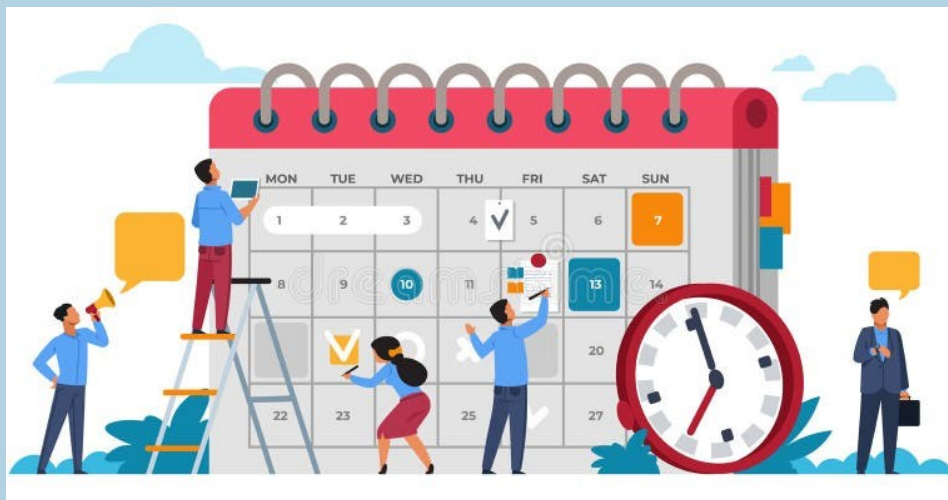
Next Baltimore Chapter meeting

Our next meeting will be on June 9th and will be held virtually. The speaker will be our very own Stephaine Reed, DNP, RN, CNOR, FNE A/P and her topic will be on Human Trafficking: “Hidden in Plain Sight: Human Trafficking in Healthcare.” The flyer for this meeting will be attached to the newsletter.



Summer planning meeting

This year the summer planning meeting will be on **July 12** at 11 am at my house. We will be planning the upcoming year and would to see as many of you there as possible. We are always looking for new ideas and people to get more involved with our chapter. We will provide the hamburgers and hotdogs, and if you could bring a side dish, dessert or drinks, that would be great. A flyer with information and RSVP will be attached to this newsletter.



AORN Headquarter updates

A guideline workshop is coming to Baltimore! The dates will be released soon. There is a group rate that is offered. Once the date is released, we can see who wants to go so we can get the group rate. They are looking for Chapter Ambassadors for this event. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Kerilyn Johnson.

AORN Guidelines Workshops: Your Local Fast-Track to Smarter, Safer Perioperative Nursing

CE Credits, New Skills, and Networking Are Coming Your Way

Sign up on AORN to be notified once the dates are announced.

AORN gatherings: June 27 from 10-1 there is a virtual small group discussion for officers on chapter management. Link to enroll will be out soon. Keep an eye in Nursing network if you are interested.

AORN Periop Corner is an online clinical discussion board. They are looking for moderators to monitor the site and answer any questions that are posted. You would sign up for a 1 month commitment and for your time will receive a \$100 gift card. If you are interested, please email community@aorn.org to inquire.



BINGO! The virtual bingo will be held again this year on 11/7 at p.m. All proceeds go to the AORN Foundation. Cards will be \$10. Once again, the Baltimore Chapter will be helping to co-sponsor this event. More details forthcoming.

Chapter Accountability Standards are changing in 2027. They will be going to a gold star rating. Meaning, if the chapter completes a minimum of 4 standards from their list, you get a gold star rating. If you fail to complete 4 standards, no star. This is different from their rating system where we currently have 3/5 stars.

Lastly, the Baltimore Chapter has updated both their Bylaws and the Policy manual. They are both posted on Nursing Network. Please take a look and familiarize yourself with the changes. Hope everyone has a great summer and gets to spend time with those you love. Hope to see as many of you as possible at the summer planning meeting!

Warm regards,

Lisa Myers, BSN, RN, CNOR

In This Issue:

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Monthly Meeting Update

Baltimore AORN will have meetings both virtually and in-person

Links will be available on the emailed flyers, Nursing Network and FB

[CHs will be available depending on the educational offering](#)

Thank you all again for your willingness to stay a part of AORN!

Secretary's Minutes

Completed version submitted by Shruti Thomas, et al, are reviewed & approved by an AORN committee then posted on Nursing Network under Meeting Minutes.

Please see electronic minutes for information regarding previous meetings.

Treasurers Report

Will be posted to the New Nursing Network web page,
Nursingnetwork.com.

Once you have created your log-in and have "AORN Baltimore Chapter" as one of your groups, the treasurers report will be found in a folder under

Media Library

Any questions about navigation, please reach out. Thank you



AORN
Baltimore Chapter

SUMMER
Planning Meeting

WHEN: July 11, 2026
at 11 am

WHERE: Lisa's house
717 Royal Mile Dr.
Abingdon, MD 21009

RSVP: lisavmyers@gmail.com
by July 8

PLEASE INCLUDE WHAT
SIDE DISH, DESSERT OR DRINK
YOU CAN BRING!

GOOD
FOOD
GREAT
PEOPLE!

AORN of Baltimore Leaders 2025-2026

♦ **President:** Lisa Myers

♦ *President Elect:* Kristi Wheeler

♦ **Secretary:** Naa Anin

♦ **Treasurer:** Beverly Stiles

♦ **Education:**

♦ **Board of Directors:** Linda Kempske

Shruti Thomas

Barb Nalley



♦ **Nominating Committee:** Teri Ridel

Kristen Kraus

Mary Grace Rivera

♦ **Fundraising Committee:** Barb Nalley, Jane Flowers, Linda Kempske

♦ **Scholarship Committee:** Terri Ridel, Tracey Penaloza, Kristy Wheeler

Greetings from your 2025-2026 AORN Board of Directors!



*Top Row Left -Right: Rebecca Vortman, Hung-Fu Lin, J.D. Buchert, Debra Callender, Leigh Anne Bartlett, Nikki Washington, Daphny Peneza

*Bottom Row Left -Right: Brenda Larkin, Jaimie Ridout, Darlene Murdock, David Reinhardt, Laura Gayton

Celebrating a **VICTORY**

FOR SAFER SURGICAL CARE

THE SURGICAL SMOKE BILL **HB 1087 HAS BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW!**



Thanks to the
AORN
and our
dedicated
advocates,

Maryland has taken a
powerful step toward
protecting the health
of patients and
perioperative
professionals.

WHAT THIS MEANS:



This new law sets standards
for the safe management
of surgical smoke in
healthcare facilities
across Maryland.



EFFECTIVE DATE:
JANUARY 1, 2028

★ *Together, we advocated. Together, we achieved.*
TOGETHER, WE ARE CHANGING CARE! ★



Stronger voices. Safer care. Healthier futures.
THANK YOU FOR MAKING HISTORY WITH US!



AORN
SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER

AORN Expo: Delegate Reports part 1

Jane Flowers

I started on Saturday moderating Barbara's program on Retained Surgical Items. This was the first educational session on Saturday morning, and the room was packed with many first-time attendees as well as seasoned participants. There was not an empty chair, and people were standing around the periphery of the room. No one got up to leave. The group asked many questions at the end and shared examples of RSIs that had occurred at their own facilities. Throughout the week, people approached both Barbara and me to say how much her presentation benefited them. She did a tremendous job.

Next, I moderated a program on Active Shooters. This was another outstanding presentation. The speakers stressed that "it is okay to be scared" during one of these events, but emphasized the importance of recognizing gunfire, identifying where it is coming from, and taking immediate action to move away from the danger. Many other valuable tips were shared. Similar to Barbara's presentation, the only complaint we heard was that there was not enough time because the speakers held everyone's attention throughout the entire session.

For me, the true highlight of the conference was witnessing the joy during the awards ceremony. I may have a slightly skewed perspective since I had nominated 13 of the national award winners, but the excitement and gratitude from the recipients were unmistakable. Many came over to thank me personally and expressed how meaningful the recognition was to them. It was truly wonderful to see them honored for their contributions.

Stephanie Reed

The Educator Hub offered numerous sessions for educators highlighting creative ways to provide engaging education for staff. Gamification was repeatedly suggested as an effective methodology for transforming routine or mundane educational topics into interactive learning experiences. Presenters shared ideas ranging from simple, no-cost activities to more elaborate game-based learning strategies that could be adapted to different institutional needs and encouraging competition among teams to produce engagement.

One recurring theme throughout the sessions was malignant hyperthermia (MH), a high-risk surgical complication that many perioperative team members may rarely encounter in practice.

Literature was also presented to support gamification as an effective strategy for increasing staff engagement, promoting active participation, and enhancing knowledge acquisition.

Barb Nalley

It was my honor to represent the Baltimore Chapter at the AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo 2026 in New Orleans. The week flew by with countless opportunities for education, collaboration, and networking. There were many outstanding presentations, including several by our own chapter members, which I hope will be shared with you over the coming months.

Greg Offner opened Expo as the keynote speaker and shared his inspiring story through music. As a singer who lost his voice, he spoke about facing challenges and learning how to adapt and do things differently. During his presentation, audience members submitted songs through a voting platform that they wanted to hear performed. I selected "Sweet Caroline," along with many others, and ended up leading my section in singing along. It was an energizing and memorable performance that set the tone for an incredible Expo experience.

Both the House of Delegates and the forums provided valuable opportunities to participate in the business of the organization, and we also had the chance to meet many outstanding national candidates. Expo is truly a time to recharge, refocus your goals, and renew your passion for the profession. It offers wonderful opportunities to meet new people, network with colleagues, explore the latest technology, and remember why we love what we do.

Thank you to all of our members for allowing me the privilege of representing you.

Kristy Wheeler

Thank you to the AORN Baltimore Chapter for allowing me to serve as a delegate again this year. It was a wonderful experience attending Expo and Congress.

The session I enjoyed most was presented by the new Specialty Assembly: Perioperative Infection Prevention & Control from the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses. Their topic, *Next-Generation Infection Prevention*, highlighted key guidelines for reducing surgical site infections (SSIs) through the implementation of standardized preoperative care practices.

Examples included preoperative chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) bathing, appropriate hair removal practices, and the use of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocols. The presenters also shared data comparing outcomes before and after implementing strict preoperative preparation guidelines, demonstrating significant improvements in patient outcomes. Both speakers were very knowledgeable in the field of infection prevention and were able to speak about both in and out patient standards and the needs of The Joint Commission expectations.

Editor's Report

Greetings members,

As we conclude another successful year with our AORN chapter, I would like to take a moment to thank all of our members, who contributed their time, knowledge, and dedication throughout the year. Your continued support and engagement have helped make our chapter meetings, educational opportunities, and networking events both meaningful and impactful.

This year brought many opportunities for professional growth, collaboration, and connection within the perioperative community. From educational meetings, chapter events and fundraisers, it has been encouraging to see members continue to support one another while advancing in surgical patient care.

As summer begins, we hope everyone has an opportunity to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends. We wish all of our members a safe and enjoyable summer season.

We look forward to reconvening with the chapter in September as we begin another exciting year together. Thank you again for your commitment to AORN and to the perioperative profession. We are excited for what lies ahead and look forward to seeing everyone in the fall.

Fondly,

Erin German, RN, BSN, CNOR



June 9, 2026 @6pm



Hidden In Plain Sight: Human Trafficking in Health Care

Stephanie Reed, DNP, RN, CNOR, FNE A/P

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8253651972?pwd=OVZ3SkVmdUcrZ1NEczBrMVNYOEhuUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 365 1972

Passcode: 0mbpVY

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,8253651972#,,,,*676091# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,8253651972#,,,,*676091# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 825 365 1972

Passcode: 676091

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8253651972?pwd=OVZ3SkVmdUcrZ1NEczBrMVNYOEhuUT09>

Reminder:

Nursing Network available at: ***Nursingnetwork.com***

Log in or set up your account as an AORN member to stay up to date on the latest happenings within the chapter and beyond (this has replaced OR nurse link). Under "My Groups" access information to events, newsletters, treasurers report, education and so much more for the Baltimore Chapter!

The screenshot shows the Nursing Network website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: My Groups, My Home, Log Out. Below this is a header with the Nursing Network logo and a description: "Nursing Network is the professional network connecting nurses with the groups they belong to, colleagues they support, and resources they need." A green button labeled "My account home" is visible. The main content area is titled "What's Happening on Nursing Network?" and features four cards with icons and statistics:

- Nursing Events:** 687. Locating upcoming nursing events has never been simpler. Search the largest directory of national, statewide and local nursing events online. [Search events button]
- Nursing Jobs:** 8,296. Our niche network specializes in the highest quality career opportunities. Search our national collection of nursing jobs and land the perfect position. [Search jobs button]
- Nursing Industry Updates:** 27,166. Connect to the largest source of real time nursing news. All posted by top association board members and delivered directly to your inbox. [Join now button]
- Nursing Associations:** 926. Find and follow associations that matter to you and receive the latest news and announcements, event invites, and important association communication. [Search associations button]

The screenshot shows the AORN Baltimore Chapter 2101 website. The header includes the AORN logo with the tagline "SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER" and the text "Baltimore CHAPTER 2101". Below the header, there is a "Stay Connected" section with buttons for "Following" and "Active Member". A sidebar on the left contains a "Moderator Control Panel" and a list of links: Home, About Us, News & Announcements, Upcoming Events, Career Center, Photo Galleries, Preceptor Directory, Meeting Minutes, Contact Us, and Association of periOperative Registered Nurses. The main content area is titled "AORN Baltimore Chapter" and includes a description of the organization's mission. Below this is a promotional banner for "eCount Surgical" with the text "Take the Free 2-Unit CEU SureCountSurgical.com". At the bottom, there is a section for "Recent News & Announcements" with two entries: "Chapter Meeting March" and "Baltimore Chapter February Meeting".

AORN of Baltimore Friends and Colleagues

In the Fall of 2023, I dropped out of communication with no notice. Doing so was not my intention.

AORN of Baltimore has always been an elite group for me. I continue to value your support and friendship as we work to keep Perioperative Nursing strong. I will share highlights of my journey starting in the Fall of 2023.

I was in the BWI International Terminal on my way to Brussels for the World Federation of Hospital Sterilization Sciences and other meetings when I decided to rest on my suitcase. Following a check of vitals, I decided to go through security with a colleague from Chicago and quickly decided I needed medical attention.

BWI had no ER bays open, St. Agnes had no ER bays open, so to MedStar Harbor Hospital I went. When X-Rays revealed I needed a trauma bed, MIEMS had no beds, so off to MedStar Washington Hospital Center.

On arrival, I was shown my spine X-Ray and seeing a vertebra in three pieces was easy. Two pieces were threatening my spine; surgery was the only option. From then until I was on the regular unit, I remember little. Sedation was heavy, atelectasis, A-fib, and slow to recover from anesthesia kept me in ICU for two weeks.

Due to my condition, the goal of surgery was to stabilize with the hope the plate and screws would hold. Screws and plates held for six weeks, then more extensive surgery, with multiple levels of fusion, was scheduled.

During rehabilitation following the second surgery, I spiked a fever, there was fluid accumulation, the decision made a washout w. Evidence of busy ORs became real for me. I was placed on the “add on” schedule Thursday evening for Friday surgery. There was no OR, with the resources I needed, available until Sunday afternoon.

Those were a few of the highlights during my journey with the spinal injury.

A heartfelt thank you to my colleagues for your years of support and friendship.

Joan Spear