

NewsScan

Aug 2026, Volume 53, No.1

President Message

Happy fall! I can't believe another summer has come and gone. I hope everyone had a nice summer and was able to spend some time away to regroup and reenergize. Over the summer, members met to plan this year's educational topics, service projects and some fun events as well. We hope that you can join us for one or all of the upcoming events.



Did you know that Nursing Network is the spot to get all your AORN headquarter and Baltimore Chapter news? Once a message has been created, it is loaded onto Nursing Network for all Chapter members to see. You will get an alert when a new message is posted onto Nursing Network in the email you provided when you joined AORN.

AORN has many exciting opportunities happening this fall as well! On **September 19, the AORN Guidelines Workshop is coming to Baltimore!** This interactive event is a great opportunity to get your questions answered, gain confidence, and strengthen your perioperative practice. Participants will receive **4.5 CEUs** while connecting with fellow perioperative professionals and learning how to translate evidence-based recommendations into safer, more efficient patient care. The workshop will feature **hands-on learning opportunities and peer discussions**, making it a valuable and engaging experience for all attendees. Be sure to check out the flyer in this newsletter and **scan the QR code to register!**







Fundraising

In order for us to provide scholarships, help with the cost of Expo and to have certain social events, we need to raise money. Please, if you are able, support our fundraising efforts. This year we will once again have the Ravens ticket raffle. Thank you to Kristy Wheeler who generously donated the tickets to the game again this year. See attached flyer!

We will also be having the bit beef fundraiser on 11/12. Mark your calendars and let us know if you can help that day. Thank you to Jane Flowers for once again organizing this for us.

Last year the silent auction was successful, and we would like to do it again. We are looking for a few more volunteers to help with this project. If you would like to help, please let me know. There may also be another popcorn fundraiser, and as always, if you have any ideas for fundraising that you think would work for us, please let me know. Thank you for the support!



In This Issue:

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- ♦ Nursing Network

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

Raffle!

Chargers' vs Ravens Monday Night
Football November 16, 2026 @8:15 pm
M&T Bank Stadium

2 seats section 525 Row 28 seats 11 & 12

\$10 per chance



Supporting AORN of Baltimore Nursing Student Scholarship fund



Your paragraph text

LET'S GET SOCIAL
Inverness Brewing
AORN of Baltimore Chapter 2101

Invites you to join us for an afternoon of relaxation and networking in the heart of Maryland's horse country. We have reserved the lower level of the main barn for this event.

Inverness offers a family-friendly atmosphere, serving their custom beers, as well as non-alcoholic options. They have a food truck with an extensive menu.

Outside food and beverages are not permitted



October 10, 2026
12-4pm.

Please RSVP



SCAN ME

<https://forms.gle/QcYjyyeH8vu774rA7>

Inverness Brewing
16200 Markoe Rd
Monkton, MD 21111
443-829-2142

<https://invernessbrewing.com>

AORN GUIDELINES WORKSHOPS ARE BACK



GET ANSWERS.
GAIN CONFIDENCE.
IMPROVE PRACTICE.

ATTEND A ONE-DAY WORKSHOP AND:

- Get your questions answered by the experts who help shape best practices
- Participate in interactive, hands-on learning designed for real-world application
- Network with perioperative professionals in your area
- Earn up to 4.5 CH while strengthening your practice

FALL 2026

Baltimore, MD - Sept. 19

Chicago, IL - Sept. 26

Atlanta, GA - Oct. 17

Phoenix, AZ - Oct. 24

San Francisco, CA - Nov. 7

Austin, TX - Nov. 14

SAVE YOUR SEAT



TO BEHIND-THE-SCENES
ACCESS TO THE
GUIDELINES AUTHORS

SPONSORED BY:

Johnson & Johnson
MedTech

Medtronic

Nozin.

TIDI

SUPPORTED BY:

AORN
FOUNDATION

PFIEDLER
education
A Division of AORN

LEARN MORE AT: AORN.ORG/GUIDELINESWORKSHOPS

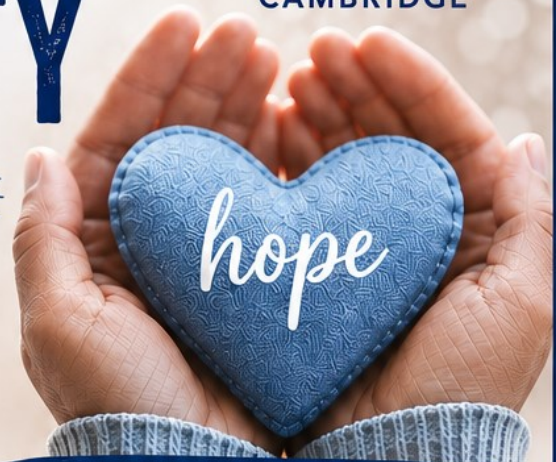
Volunteer OPPORTUNITY



MAKE A DIFFERENCE. CHANGE A LIFE.

Salvation Army Cambridge is a local shelter serving our neighbors experiencing homelessness in Cambridge.

Your generosity provides comfort, dignity and hope. 



Let's come together as a community to support those in need this season.

ITEMS NEEDED



DISINFECTANT
WIPES



BATH
TOWELS



PAPER
PLATES & BOWLS



TOOTH
BRUSHES



TOOTH
PASTE



WINTER
HATS



GLOVES



SOCKS



DEODORANT



COMBS &
BRUSHES



BAND
AIDS



FEMININE
HYGIENE
PRODUCTS

Two easy ways to give:

1 CLICK THE LINK BELOW:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/125ZCV86S3QT5>

OR —

2 COPY & PASTE THIS LINK INTO YOUR BROWSER OR AMAZON APP:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/125ZCV86S3QT5>



Items will be shipped directly to:
Jane Flowers, Wishlist Coordinator
Salvation Army Cambridge



Thank you for caring. Together, we can bring hope and help to our neighbors.

EVERY DONATION. EVERY ITEM. EVERY PERSON MATTERS.



AORN BALTIMORE CHAPTER

K e n n e d y K r i e g e r F e s t i v a l o f T r e e s S p o n s o r s h i p

2 0 2 6

Theme of tree is “Snow time for Christmas like now”. Amazon wish list link:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/31CV6RF5H2FOG?ref_=wl_share

Amazon wish list purchases will automatically be sent to Stephanie Reed, AORN Baltimore Chapter Festival of Tree Coordinator. Please have all items sent by November 14th to ensure placement on tree.

3 Volunteers to assist with decorating tree on November 21, 2026 at 10:00 am in Cow Palace, Timonium Fair Grounds.



Join us for a Virtual Bingo Night to help raise money for the AORN Foundation!

- ☐ **November 7**
- ☐ **7:00 PM**
- ☐ **Virtual Event**
- ☐ **Bingo Cards: \$10 each**
- ☐ **10 Rounds of Bingo!**

Details on how to purchase your bingo cards will be **forthcoming**. Be sure to check your nursing network for the link and additional event details.

Come have some fun, win some bingo, and support a great cause!

AORN of Baltimore Leaders 2025-2026

♦ **President:** Lisa Myers

♦ *President Elect:* Kristi Wheeler

♦ **Secretary:** Naa Anin

♦ **Treasurer:** Beverly Stiles

♦ **Education:** Kristi Wheeler

♦ **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

2026-2027 Calendar of Events

September 2026

Business and Education	Community and Social
9/8	Salvation Army DEI project -Jane lead
Dr. Walton- GYN Women's Health -zoom	*Fundraising Ravens tickets- Kristy*

October 2026

Business and Education	Community and Social
10/13	Inverness Brewery 10/10 12-4p
Barbara Ann Harmer- Innovative Sterilization Technologies, LLC	Shelter Drive– Streets of Hope –Details to follow
Steam Sterilization: What Do You Know?	Possible popcorn fundraiser
UMMC- dinner provided	

November 2026

Business and Education	Community and Social
11/10	Tree decorating –Kennedy Kreiger- Stephanie
Stryker dinner- Sophia Christy – dinner provided. Location TBD– Lisa	Pit beef fundraising 11/12- Jane to lead
	11/7 AORN Foundation BINGO 7pm-ZOOM

January 2027

Business and Education	Community and Social
1/12	
Possible Alph-gal- Layla Bailey – Barb to ask-	

February 2027

Business and Education	Community and Social
2/9	? bowling -Mustang Sally's
AORN Board Presentation zoom– Stephanie	

March 2027

Business and Education	Community and Social
3/9	? Sip and paint- Kristy to look into
Smoke Law- Kristy-zoom	Fundraising- Auction-Marie, Linda &?

April 2027

Business and Education	Community and Social
4/13- no meeting	
AORN EXPO 4/9-4/13 Philadelphia	

May 2027

Business and Education	Community and Social
5/18	
Nurses week/Induction	Liberatores- Whitemarsh- Linda lead

June 2027

Business and Education	Community and Social
6/8	Emma's Tea Spot-???
Irrisept/ SSI dinner location TBD	

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 2

Lisa Myers

Thank you, AORN Baltimore Chapter for allowing me to represent our Chapter for my very first AORN Expo. What an experience and I really enjoyed meeting new people from all over the US. There is so much to experience at Expo. From the dynamic keynote speakers, the education sessions, poster displays, forums and the House of Delegates, there was never a dull moment. I learned so much from all the sessions I attended. The session on AI in the Perioperative setting, I learned that there was a task force created to guide our practice when it comes to using AI in the operating room. AI can be used to help efficiency and as nurses we need to embrace all the new innovations in the OR but proper training and education needs to occur with the understanding that AI cannot replace the OR nurse. I also attended a session on GLP-1 use in the peri-op patient. The use of these drugs are on the rise and we are currently on our third generation of these drugs and a fourth generation is coming soon. The new guidelines say that patients taking GLP-1 medications should stop taking their medication two weeks prior to surgery. With the use of the third generation of these drugs, Zepbound and Mounjaro, we need to be aware as nurses that there is a potential for residual gastric contents even if the patient has fasted for the appropriate time. The new recommendation is that these patients have a gastric ultrasound in preop to check the presence of gastric contents. Also, these patients are at an increased risk for dehydration which can increase the risk for blood clots and impair wound healing.

All in all I enjoyed all the sessions I attended and I look forward to being able to attend Expo again next year.



Marie Wells

Another AORN Conference is in the books. I had to go back and tally over the years, and I realized I have had the opportunity to attend 9 times, between my years in CT and here in Baltimore. It is always special to introduce a first time attendee to the experience, and we had the opportunity to do that with Lisa this year. It is always reinvigorating to meet with members from across the globe, old acquaintances, and to attend the many activities and educational sessions. The one session that was totally new to me was the presentation by Lisa Bailey on Alpha Gal allergies. This is an increasingly common syndrome, especially in the central and mid-southern east coast. The reaction is triggered by the bite of a lone star tick, whose saliva contains a carbohydrate, Galactose- α -1,3-galactose. This compound is present in all mammals except humans and higher primates and triggers the IgE reaction. Interestingly this occurs more commonly in persons with A or O blood types. Initial symptoms may be delayed and seem GI related, but it can result in full blown anaphylaxis. Like latex allergy, which became increasingly prevalent, Perioperative staff need to be aware of this increasingly common syndrome. In addition to eating meat, hence the misnomer "Meat allergy", many items used in our setting are derived from mammalian sources, resulting in a potential for exposure during surgical procedures. Common sources are anticoagulants such as heparin and enoxaparin, colloids such as plasma, albumin and dextran, other medications that come in a gelatin coated capsule, items containing glycerin, many hemostatic agents, plain/chromic gut sutures and implants such as porcine heart valves, bovine pericardium and biologic meshes. Her recommendation was to be proactive, assemble a multidisciplinary team and develop a list of all items currently in your supply chain. There are currently no required labeling guidelines so there needs to be local awareness, which means education for all team member and a call to action to proactively protect our patients. Thanks to the chapter for supporting my attendance once again at this conference.



Editor's Report

Greetings members,

As we look toward another year with AORN, there is a lot to be excited about. Our calendar reflects a great mix of **education, collaboration, professional development, and social connection**—all of which are important to keeping our chapter strong and our members engaged.

Throughout the coming year, we have opportunities to learn from one another, collaborate with colleagues and other healthcare professionals, and continue bringing relevant perioperative education to our members. Just as importantly, our social events give us the opportunity to step away from the clinical environment, connect with one another, welcome new members, and strengthen the relationships that make our AORN community special.

This year also gives me an opportunity to reflect on something that has been a part of our chapter for quite some time—our newsletter.

I have had the privilege of creating and editing the newsletter since **2016**, and after all these years, I think it is worth asking ourselves: **Is the newsletter still serving our members in the way it once did?**

Communication has changed dramatically over the years. We have more immediate ways to share information, promote events, celebrate accomplishments, and communicate with one another. With that in mind, I would genuinely like to hear from you.

Do you still find the newsletter beneficial? What would you like to see included? Is there something missing? Would you prefer a different format, shorter updates, more educational content, member spotlights, chapter news, photographs, or something completely different?

And perhaps most importantly, if you have ideas for changing the newsletter—or if you would like to take on the newsletter and give it a fresh perspective—I am completely open to that as well. After nearly a decade of creating and editing it, I would welcome new ideas, new voices, and even a new direction.

This is your chapter, your feedback matters.

Fondly,

Erin German, RN, BSN, CNOR

September 8, 2026 @6pm

The Answer is MENOPAUSE...What was the question?



Presented by :

Briana Walton, MD MPS BAD FACOG

Zoom

<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/u/kbIEfjZcnO>

1.0 Contact Hours



October 13, 2026 @6pm



Barbara Ann Harmer, MHA, BSN, RN

Vice President of Clinical Services, Innovative Sterilization Technologies, LLC

Steam Sterilization: What Do You Know?

In Person Meeting (Hybrid option) at University of Maryland Medical Center

22 South Greene St., Baltimore MD 21201

3rd Floor Round Room, W3L201

Dinner provided

Zoom Meeting Option:

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

Meeting ID: 825 365 1972

Passcode: 0mbpVY

One tap mobile

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

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 825 365 1972 Passcode: 676091

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

1.0 Contact Hours pending

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 for My Groups, My Home, and Log Out. Below this is a header section 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". A social media bar at the bottom of the banner includes links for Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and a "Join AORN!" button. The "Recent News & Announcements" section features two posts: "Chapter Meeting March" and "Baltimore Chapter February Meeting".

AORN Baltimore Chapter

The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) aims to unite registered nurses in maintaining the highest professional standards of perioperative nursing practice to encourage optimal care of the patient before, during and after operative and other invasive procedures.

eCount Surgical
Take the Free 2-Unit CEU
SureCountSurgical.com

Facebook Instagram LinkedIn YouTube Join AORN!

Recent News & Announcements

Chapter Meeting March
Please join the Baltimore Chapter of AORN, #2101, for our monthly meeting. The speaker is Heidi Nanavati, MSN, CRNP, CNOR. Heidi will be speaking...
Posted by [Terri Ridel](#)

Baltimore Chapter February Meeting
Due to the winter weather advisory, tomorrow's meeting will be virtual ONLY, for everyone's safety. Please join us at 6pm Tuesday February 11th via...
Posted by [Marie Wells](#) in [Meeting Update](#)

[View all news & announcements →](#)

Upcoming Events