

NEWSLETTER

PACEMAKER,
SEPTEMBER 2026

AORN | Greater Houston
CHAPTER 4407

**“ROOTED IN
HISTORY, UNITED IN
PURPOSE TO SOAR
TO NEW HEIGHTS”**

“Be the change you want
to see in the world”.-
Mahatma Gandhi



LET'S MAKE AN IMPACT TOGETHER FOR 2026-2027

President's Message:

Welcome to Fall as we approach the last official holiday of Summer. Welcome to AORN Greater Houston, 2026-2027 term. It is my honor to serve as your chapter President and to represent 580 Perioperative Nurses. What a blessing indeed.

As we approach this new term, it is with profound reverence that I come to you to share our goal for this term. In support of our national theme “Building with Purpose”, the theme for this term is “Rooted in history, united in purpose to soar to new heights”.

Our legacy is profound. In order to continue to enhance our profession our unified voice is needed to foster growth in our chapter. Invite a colleague or a new member of your team to come to our meetings. A sense of community along with a feeling of unity is what I will work to bring to this term.

Speaking of unity and community, I would like to acknowledge our colleagues during National Surgical Tech Week, September 20-26, 2026. Their contributions serve a critical role in the outcomes of our patients. Thank you for what you do.

With your help we will make a tremendous impact in our profession and community.

With a commitment to serve,
Carmel Pound, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR, CSSL

AORN Greater Houston Chapter
President 2026-2027

LEADERSHIP



President: Carmel Pound, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR, CSSL

President-Elect: Sydney Boyd, MSN, RN, CNOR, CLSSYB

Vice President: Suzy Bailin, BSN, RN, CNOR

Secretary: Kevin Lim, BSN, RN, CNOR

Treasurer: NaKeisha Washington, DNP, MSN, MBA-HCM, RN, CNOR, CSSM

Board Members:

Nancy Allen, RN CNOR

Jenell Moultrie, MSN, RN, CNOR

Robyn Washington, MBA, BSN, RN, CNOR

Nominating Committee:

Aleli Cabali, MSN, RN, CPAN, PMGT-BC

Deshon Essia-Burton, BSN, BS, RN, CNOR (Chapter Minister)

Jasmyn Campbell, BSN, RN

Linda Connelly, PhD, DNP, MSH, CNS, APRN, CNOR

Teeraphan Suwannakinthorn, MSN, FNP-BC, CNOR, RNFA

Nominating Committee

Advisor/Past-President:

Ebony Mitchell, MSN, RN, BSH

Chapter Advisors:

Karen White-Edwards, MBA, BSN, RN, CSSM, CNOR

Joanne Oliver-Coleman, MBA-HM,

BSN, RN, CNOR-E

About AORN

Safe Surgery Together

Sharing Best Practices

The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) was founded in 1949 to establish a national community for operating room nurses who sought to share best practices for patients undergoing surgery. Today, we unite and empower perioperative nurses, healthcare organizations, and industry partners to support safe surgery for every patient, every time.

This is What We Stand For

Mission Statement

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.

AORN's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan

Perioperative nursing continues to shape safe surgical care through clinical expertise, evidence-based guidelines, innovation, advocacy, and compassionate patient care.

AORN's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan reflects a bold vision for the profession and the patients it serves. It's grounded in the belief that progress happens when perioperative professionals raise expectations, support one another, collaborate, and advocate for the future of patient care.

Every perioperative nurse plays a role in shaping what comes next for the profession.

AORN's Strategic Goals

Click each icon to learn more



Celebrations and Congratulations



Happy September
Birthdays!



Congratulations to Darlene Murdock on
Woman of Excellence Legacy
Nomination of 2026



Congratulations to AORN GH Scholarship
Recipients
Samantha Arrieta and Eric Samuelson

Celebrations and Congratulations



Darlene Murdock,
AORN National President 2015-2026
Woman of Excellence Legacy Nominee for 2026



Robyn Washington,
AORN GH Board Member
Retirement, 28+ years

Dr. Nkiki Washington
AORN GH Treasurer
Presenting on 10/18/26

**THE OPERATING ROOM GLOBAL (TORO)
One-Year Research Fellowship (Mentorship Track)
MEET OUR SCIENTIFIC SESSION CHAIRS**

VIRTUAL GLOBAL RESEARCH CONGRESS 2026

Abstract Presentations, TORO Global Research Fellowship (Mentorship Track) 2025/2026 Cohort

• 4 Scientific Sessions
• 4 Sessions
• October 2026

OPEN TO THE TORO GLOBAL COMMUNITY & INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS

Our Community!
<https://toro.aorn.org/mentors>

The largest network of all specialties
Share Knowledge to Save Lives!

TORO CENTRE FOR EDUCATION, RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Mr. Huseinur Temiz
Chairman
2025-2026
SAB 1 - SUNDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2026 - 10:00 AM
Anesthesiology, Pain, Recovery & Patient Experience

Prof. Omokhoe Adeleye
Chairman
2025-2026
SAB 2 - SUNDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2026 - 10:00 AM
Surgical Outcomes, Safety & Clinical Practice

Dr. Nkiki Washington
Chairman
2025-2026
SAB 3 - SUNDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2026 - 10:00 AM
Perioperative Nursing, Quality Improvement & Research

Prof. Elhadi Miskoon
Chairman
2025-2026
SAB 4 - SUNDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2026 - 10:00 AM
Infection, Evidence Synthesis & Population Science

The AORN National Nominating Committee Has Released the 2027-2028 National Ballot

2027 AORN National Ballot

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	STATE
President-elect (1 to be elected)	Laura Gayton, MHCA, BSN, RN, CNOR, CSSL	MO
	Karen Y. White-Edwards, MBA, BSN, RN, CSSM, CNOR	TX
Treasurer (1 to be elected)	Leigh Anne Bartlett, MSN, RN, CNOR	NC
	Nkiki Washington, DNP, MBA-HCM, RN, CNOR, CSSL	CA
Board of Directors (4 to be elected)	Gerry Y. Asuncion MS, BSN, RN, NEA-BC, NPD-BC, CSSM, CNOR, CNAMB, CPHQ	CA
	Corey Cowart, MSN, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC	TX
	Heather Koolker, DNP, RN, CNL, CNOR, CRNFA, CNMAP	MI
	Hung-Fu "Charlie" Lin, MSN, APRN-CNP, FNP-C, CRNFA, CNOR-PEDS, CNAMB, CORL, FAORN	CA
	Roderick McArdle, MSN, RN, CNOR	MA
	Rachel Meyer, MSN, RN, CNOR-CARD, NE-BC	GA
	Daphny Peneza, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, CSSL, CNOR, FSIEN, FAORN	TN
	Jacob Wiager, MHA, BSN, RN, NE-BC, CNOR	MN
	Jaimie Weber, MSN-Ed, MBA-HM, RN, PHN, NEA-BC, CCRN-K, CNOR	CA
	Brittany Folse MSN, RN CNOR	LA
Nominating Committee (2 to be elected)	Jessica Hovland, DNP, RN, CPAN, NE-BC, PMGT-BC	TX
	Adam Mckew, MSOL, BSN, CNOR - PEDS	CO
	Shaunaya Robinson, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR	GA
	Ivelisse Vicente, MS, RN, NEA-BC, CNOR, RNFA	NY



UPCOMING EVENTS

TUE
09/08

**5:00PM
-6:30PM**

**AORN Greater Houston
September 2026 Chapter
Meeting**
*Houston Methodist Hospital-
Dunn Rio Grande Conf. Rm.*

TUE
10/13

**5:00PM
-6:30PM**

**AORN Greater Houston October
2026 Chapter Meeting**
More to come on location

SAT
10/17

**NOON-
3:00PM**

**Community Service
Event: Compass RN**

*See Niesan Emara for more
information via email below*

SAT
10/24

**8:00AM
-NOON**

**Community Service Event:
Houston Food Bank**

*See Darlene Murdock for more
information via email below*

TUE
11/10

**5:00PM
-6:30PM**

**AORN Greater Houston
November 2026 Chapter
Meeting and Toy Drive**
*Houston Methodist Hospital-Dunn
Rio Grande Conf. Rm.*

SEE LINK FOR MORE INFO:

[HTTPS://AORNHOUSTON.NURSINGNETWORK.COM/](https://aornhouston.nursingnetwork.com/)



Opportunities for Service:

- Opportunity to support women in our community through hospice volunteering, see Darlene Murdock for more information.
- Committees within AORN Greater Houston:
 - Ambassador Program-Corey Cowart, Chair
 - Bylaws Policies Committee-Suzy Bailin, Chair
 - Community Service Committee: Darlene Murdock, Chair
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion-Niesan Emara, Chair
 - Education Committee-Candace Scheresky, Chair
 - Finance Committee-Nikki Washington, Chair
 - Innovation Hub-Robyn Washington, Chair
 - Legislative Committee-Joanne Oliver, Chair
 - Membership Committee-Tammy Campbell, Chair
 - Nominating Committee-Aleli Cabali, Chair
 - Scholarship Committee-Jenell Moultrie, Chair

Now accepting Willingness to Serve Forms to sign up for a committee or to serve as an officer next term.



AORN National Board of Directors

2026-2027

2026-2027 AORN Board of Directors



David Reinhart
President



Jamie Ridout
President-Elect



J.D. Buchert
Vice-President



Becca Vortman
Secretary



Laura Gayton
Treasurer



Stephanie Battiste
Board Member



Leigh Anne
Bartlett
Board Member



Richard Dorritie
Board Member



Natalie Jones
Board Member



Hung-Fu (Charlie)
Lin
Board Member



Daphny Peneza
Board Member



Nikki Washington
Board Member

Grants and Awards

AORN Foundation Emerging Leader Grants

The AORN Foundation Emerging Leaders Grant is designed for perioperative nurses who aspire to leadership roles or who are newly navigating leadership responsibilities.

Grant recipients receive:

- AORN Leader Membership
- Registration for the 2026 AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo Leadership Summit
- Access to leadership-focused education, resources, and support

This opportunity provides valuable professional development, networking, and mentorship resources to help build the confidence and competencies needed to lead effectively in the perioperative setting.

For more information and to apply, please click [here](https://www.aorn.org/foundation/scholarships-grants):
<https://www.aorn.org/foundation/scholarships-grants>