

AORN 1411

- Chapter 1411 Group webpage: aornnwchicago.nursingnetwork.com
- ICORN Group webpage: <https://illinoisCouncil.nursingnetwork.com/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AORN1411/>

Officers:

President: Cherry Alcedo
 Pres Elect: Sherry Goldstein
 Sec: Brianne Jensen
 Treas: Tey O'Meara
 Board Members:
 Chic Duffy
 Stephanie Ledyard
 Ellyn Mayer
 Pam Nuspl
 Geri Weissmann
 Nominating Committee
 Sheila Aiello
 Grace Valencia
 Advisor to NC:
 Kathy Bradley

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## President's Message

Dear AORN Chapter 1411 Members,

As we welcome September, I want to thank each of you for your continued commitment to our chapter and to the perioperative profession. Every opportunity to learn, connect, and support one another strengthens our AORN community.

This month, I'm excited to highlight our chapter's participation in the 3rd Annual Lutheran General Hospital Nursing Research Symposium, "Curiouser and Curiouser" on September 24th.

Chapter 1411 will be exhibiting and supporting this event, which brings nurses together to explore evidence-based practice, research, process improvement, and professional growth. I encourage you to stop by, connect with fellow nurses, and learn more about how AORN supports our continued professional development.

As we move into the fall season, let's continue to stay curious, embrace opportunities to grow, and inspire one another to advance perioperative nursing.

Thank you for being part of AORN Chapter 1411. I look forward to seeing you at the symposium and at our upcoming chapter events.

Wishing you a meaningful and inspiring September!

With gratitude,  
 Cherry Alcedo, MSN, RN, CNOR-CARD, CNOR-VASC  
 President, AORN Chapter 1411

**Dinner Education September 8, 2026****IL: 1411-NORTHWEST SUBURBAN CHICAGO****Dinner Education by Innovative Sterilization Technologies, LLC**

Presents

**STEAM STERILIZATION**

Speakers

**Barbara Ann Harmer****On 2026-09-08 / 1800****At: Glenbrook Hospital****At: 2100 Pfingsten Rd, Glenview IL 60026, Glenview - IL US 60026****Conference Rms E & F  
5PM Check-in  
6PM Presentation****Target Audience:****All RNs****All Perioperative RNs****Peri-operative Personnel****Learning Outcome(s):**

**Ninety percent (90%) of learners will report that this session increased their knowledge of the importance of steam sterilization without drying time in the post-activity evaluation tool.**

**Successful Completion:****Questions and answers during activity****Engaging learners in dialogue****Disclosure Information****State disclosures for anyone in a position to control content for this activity.**

- ☒ **No Conflict (If no financial relationships to disclose)**  
☐ **Other: Explain Disclosure (If yes)**

*This nursing continuing professional development activity was approved by Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.*

**RSVP by Sept 1st, Tuesday**  
**<https://forms.gle/Xn2dbmmXu3BFQPVMA>**

## Community Outreach Experience

### By Stephanie Ledyard

Dear *Friends and Family*,

I have returned from Costa Rica and although I cannot put into words all the amazing things we experienced, I wanted to share some details from the trip.

Our team of 8 people from Willow Creek Community church worked alongside our long-time partner organization, Red Viva International to serve a local church in Purral, Costa Rica. This province is located about 6-7 kilometers from San Jose, Costa Rica.

Our service included painting the entire first floor of the church which included: the sanctuary, the bathrooms, the hallways, the stairwell leading to the second floor and the main entryway. On two separate afternoons, we served the mothers of the church with two different sewing projects: making handbags and hair ties (scrunchies). Throughout our time there, we had the privilege of getting to know the church's women—the mothers and worship leaders—and witnessing their immense love for one another and their community.



On another afternoon, we also worked with the children (ages 5-12), sharing the story of Jonah through devotional time, crafts, and playing games in a series of stations. The children patiently practiced their English with us while we did our best to communicate in return. I loved getting to practice my Spanish and step in to help translate. They welcomed us with so much gratitude and excitement expressing the love of God through their smiles and kind words.

Pastor Jacqueline also shared her testimony of how she became a pastor and raised money to build her church with the support of Willow Creek Community Church. We were overwhelmed by the church's warm hospitality and compassion, which beautifully showed how God unites us all. Even more profound was seeing their deep love for Christ and their unwavering hope in Him to provide for their needs and the needs of others.



We were able to stay at a missionary home with multiple rooms and bathrooms. Another group of 3 college students from America were also there serving another community. Our accommodations were wonderful, featuring delicious, home-cooked meals prepared by one of the home's managers. We enjoyed an abundance of fresh fruit alongside authentic Costa Rican cuisine and familiar American favorites.

We had the pleasure of exploring the city and also visiting the La Paz Waterfall Gardens, giving us a small glimpse into the beautiful, rich culture and lush habitat of the Costa Rican rainforest.

Overall, this journey showed us God's amazing work across the world. It reminded us that through mutual support, a mission built on love and devotion to Christ can overcome any obstacle and make anything possible.

Thank you for your support and allowing me the opportunity to go and serve the global church and interact with these wonderful people and share the love of Christ. May you experience the joy in knowing your financial support helped this community and furthered the kingdom of God.

If you are interested in participating in a serving trip in the future, please let me know and I can help you get connected. Also, if you would like to hear more about this trip in greater detail, please also reach out to me personally.

Blessings to you all,

*Stephanie Ledyard*

## AORN Guidelines Workshop

Westin O'Hare 60018

Sept 25, Leadership Workshop \$100

Sept 26, Guidelines Workshop \$50

**(50% off \_Registration with group of 5 or more)**

4.5 CE, Hands-on tech, and Peer Networking

# AORN GUIDELINES WORKSHOPS ARE BACK



## 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

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

SAVE YOUR SEAT



TO BEHIND-THE-SCENES  
ACCESS TO THE  
GUIDELINES AUTHORS

SPONSORED BY:







SUPPORTED BY:




**LEARN MORE AT: [AORN.ORG/GUIDELINESWORKSHOPS](https://aorn.org/guidelinesworkshops)**

## AORN News

### [Share Your Research - Submit Your Abstract Now!](#)

Perioperative Nurses Leading Research Whether you're already a devoted researcher, or curious about how you might make your mark on perioperative practice through a research project, join your colleagues at AORN's annual Perioperative Nursing Research Symposium taking place live online from 10am-2pm MST, January 27 & 28, 2027.

**Abstract submission is open and we want to see what you've been working on.** Outstanding presenters will be invited to share their research and projects at the AORN Expo 2027 in Philadelphia (includes **complimentary registration**)!

### [Submit now through Sept. 25.](#)

[https://www.aorn.org/events/perioperative-nursing-research-symposium?utm\\_campaign=research\\_symposium&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_source=nursing\\_network&utm\\_content=call\\_for\\_abstracts](https://www.aorn.org/events/perioperative-nursing-research-symposium?utm_campaign=research_symposium&utm_medium=organic&utm_source=nursing_network&utm_content=call_for_abstracts)

### [Open for Public Comments | Guideline for Surgical Smoke Safety](#)

Guideline for Surgical Smoke Safety Public Comment Period: August 12, 2026 – September 12, 2026 The revised AORN Guideline for Surgical Smoke...

Posted by **Association of periOperative Registered Nurses** in **Public Commenting**

[https://aornchapterofficers.nursingnetwork.com/nursing-news?announcement\\_search%5Bcategories%5D%5B%5D=2820](https://aornchapterofficers.nursingnetwork.com/nursing-news?announcement_search%5Bcategories%5D%5B%5D=2820)

### [Reminder: Participate in the AORN Foundation's Impact in Action Chapter Challenge!](#)

Reminder: Participate in the AORN Foundation's Impact in Action Chapter Challenge! There's still time for your chapter to join the Impact in Action Chapter Fundraising Challenge and help support scholarships, grants, and educational resources for perioperative nurses.

Every donation, fundraising activity, and member engagement helps your chapter earn recognition while making a meaningful impact.

[https://info.aorn.org/aorn-foundation-chapter-impact-in-action.html?utm\\_campaign=foundation&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=marketo&utm\\_content=foundation\\_impact\\_in\\_action\\_260328](https://info.aorn.org/aorn-foundation-chapter-impact-in-action.html?utm_campaign=foundation&utm_medium=email&utm_source=marketo&utm_content=foundation_impact_in_action_260328)

### **Call for Hosts: Lead a Small Group Discussion at an AORN Gathering**

We're looking for Hosts to facilitate small-group discussions during an upcoming AORN Gathering! If you enjoy sharing experiences, connecting with peers, and helping others learn through conversation, we'd love to have you involved.

Posted in **Community**

Hosts receive a \$50 gift card and are asked to:

- Set the stage with a brief introduction to the topic
- Share 2-3 practical strategies, tools, or lessons learned
- Encourage participation through open-ended questions
- Respond to participant questions and guide the conversation
- Focus on peer dialogue and shared learning rather than a formal presentation

Help create meaningful connections and valuable learning experiences for your fellow perioperative professionals.

**Interested in hosting? Email [community@aorn.org](mailto:community@aorn.org) to sign up!**

## ICORN Special Business Meeting Minutes \_Zoom

### ICORN Special Meeting Minutes Virtual Meeting August 1, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Attendees: Carlo Butacan (1401), Jamie Calver (1402), Marilyn Shigley (1403), Becca Vortman (1404), Amanda Warwick (1410), Chic Duffy and Tey O'Meara (1411), Crystal Bricker (1416).

Total of 7 chapters represented.

Topics for discussion: Logistics for the upcoming ICORN Fall Vendor at Carle BroMenn Normal, IL on October 10, 2026 hosted by Chapter 1416.

#### Summary:

1. Crystal Bricker will send out the flyer to different media platforms and local sites to advertise the event. We need to generate as much interest as possible to have as many attendees as possible. Nursing Students can register for free.
2. Crystal has 3 speakers: Penny Smalley (Safety in Periop Arena), Rebecca Vortman (Use of AI in the Periop Setting), Crystal Bricker (Nursing Burnout). There will be a total of 3CE. Crystal will take care of the applications.
3. Crystal sent invites to 11 Vendors so far. Among them are Medtronic, Aquablation, Baxter, Angiodynamics, Arthrex, Versajet. She will also follow up with 3M on their tracking system. Please let her know of any vendor/s who would like to participate. We also welcome vendors who are unable to attend but can donate prizes and/or give monetary contributions to offset the cost of food. Chic will check how the Vendors can sign up electronically.
4. There will be no fee for ICORN to use the conference room at Carle BroMenn. All the AV aids will be provided.
5. Share list of attendees and form of payment (Zelle or check) with Tey to create a complete list of attendees in alphabetical order and form/amount of payment received for easy check-in on the day of the event.
6. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. The fee is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members.
7. We need volunteers for the set-up and takedown. Please let Crystal or Chic know if you are available to help.
8. Split the Pot- Tey is donating a roll of raffle tickets.
9. Need chapters to donate baskets for the Silent Auction. The following chapters have committed to donating gift card(s)/baskets for the silent auction: 1401-2 baskets, 1402-2 baskets, 1403-1 basket, 1404-1 basket, 1410 2 \$25 gift cards, 1411-2 baskets, 1416-1 basket and gift cards
10. Door prizes- Attendees who submit their completed forms from the vendor visits will have a chance for the prize drawings.

11. Crystal suggested adding a virtual session. It was agreed to charge \$15 per attendee. It is less than attending the actual event because there is no meal included. The participants will earn 3 CE. Crystal will facilitate arranging what is needed to make this possible. She will create a link to join, and QR code to register. Jamie Carver's and Crystal Bricker's spouses will be onsite to assist with IT set up and trouble shootings.

**AORN Board Update:** Dr Rebecca Vortman gave a short August Board Update. The full report is available on the AORN ICORN Nursing Network webpage.

<https://illinoiscouncil.nursingnetwork.com/nursing-news/211185-august-2026-aorn-board-update>

### Upcoming Dates:

- **Next Special Business Meetings:** September 5 & October 3, 2026

Join Zoom Special Meeting (40 minutes)

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/85479321383?pwd=whLD3pRGH3AApf0KzTib5k5jc01krG.1>

Meeting Chat Link <https://us05web.zoom.us/jc/85479321383>

Meeting ID: 854 7932 1383

Passcode: geJM58

- **ICORN Symposium & Vendor Fair** \_Oct 10, 2026

Register online: Use QR code from the ICORN flyer to register  
<https://illinoiscouncil.nursingnetwork.com/>

- **Agenda for Oct 10:**

- Nomination/Election: The following positions are open for nominations: Chair, Chair-elect, and Secretary.
- Discussion on funding of ICORN chair (\$500) for attending the Surgical Expo
- Discuss logistics for the Zander CNOR prep course to be held at Good Shepherd Hospital, March 13-14, 2027.
- Pls submit topics for discussion to Chic Duffy thru Nursing Network message center:  
<https://www.nursingnetwork.com/user/message-center/inbox>

**ICORN chapter members:** ICORN is down to 11-chapters. Chapter 1427 from Rush and 1425 from Champaign have disbanded. (Source: <https://www.aorn.org/membership/aorn-chapters/find-a-chapter>)

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am

Submitted by: Tey O'Meara, ICORN Secretary

## 1411 Business (Teams) Meeting Minutes

### August 25, 2026 Tuesday

**Meeting called to order: Cherry Alcedo at 1830 (CST)**

**Officers present:**

Sherry Goldstein (PE); Nick Balistreri (VP); Tey O'Meara (Treasurer)

Board members: Chic Duffy, Pam Nuspl, Geri Weissmann

Nom Committee: Sheila Aiello, Kathy Bradley

**Approval of Minutes:** No minutes to be approved. The last board meeting was December 2025.

**Treasurer's Report: March-August 2026**

**Income:**

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| AORN Rebate (March-August)      | \$ 880.00        |
| Interest (Savings:March-August) | \$ .20           |
| Zander Review Course            | \$ 900.00        |
| Split the Pot (May-June)        | \$ 80.00         |
| Top Golf Rollback               | \$ 77.50         |
| <b>Total Income:</b>            | <b>\$1937.50</b> |

**Expenses:**

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Delegate Stipend                | \$ 500.00        |
| CNOR Review Expenses            | \$ 85.33         |
| AORN Foundation Annual Donation | \$ 200.00        |
| <b>Total Expenses:</b>          | <b>\$ 785.33</b> |

**Business Checking balance:** **\$8,645.59**

**Savings account balance** **\$5,002.34**

**Membership:** 151 active members, 11 members expiring next 30 days. Renewal letters sent out via Nursing Network messaging.

- Ideas discussed to increase our membership; contact current leadership at Lutheran, Alexian to have a Board Officers come to staff meeting to encourage RNs to participate in AORN and join our Chapter. Some hospitals require RN's to be a member of a professional organization or certification (CNOR) for Leveling-Up in Clinical Matrix/ Ladder Tiers for Professional activities.
- Succession Planning: Request for board member to take on a committee assignment as per Chapter 1411 Bylaws, Art IX
- Bylaws will be re-posted at NN homepage. [aornnwchicago.nursingnetwork.com](http://aornnwchicago.nursingnetwork.com)

**Education:**

**Sept 8:** Dinner/Education\_Steam Sterilization, Glenbrook Hospital Conference Rms E/F, Check-in at 1700. See flyer pg 2.

**Sept 24:** ALGH Nursing Symposium 2026: "Curioser and Curioser" \_4.5 CEs

- Event time: 0700-1500; Exhibit Hrs 0700-0800 & 1200-1250
- Location: Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Olson Auditorium
- President Alcedo was invited as an exhibitor for AORN Chapter 1411. Cherry needs professional headshots of officers by Sept. 10 and any chapter activities, community services, educational offerings, & any other accomplishments.
- Set-up time for the table/two chairs provided, 6:30-7:00 AM.
- Symposium is free but registration is required.
- Registration link: [https://urldefense.com/v3/https://ce.advocatehealth.org/content/algh-nursing-symposium-2026-curiouser-and-curiouser\\_!!PrVBqITvcBbYrqSF!BWl3s8yyvaS3gDPjsUW\\_Uqc6qBAIvyzhiFHI5YzK\\_h18qWdLyEMk\\_kgwo8E-h47p36wk4ijXh9Yal0qfG94ndRijV\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://ce.advocatehealth.org/content/algh-nursing-symposium-2026-curiouser-and-curiouser_!!PrVBqITvcBbYrqSF!BWl3s8yyvaS3gDPjsUW_Uqc6qBAIvyzhiFHI5YzK_h18qWdLyEMk_kgwo8E-h47p36wk4ijXh9Yal0qfG94ndRijV$)

### **Sept 25 Perioperative Leadership Workshop (See flyer pg 5)**

- Friday, September 25, 2026, 7:00am -4:30pm CT
- Launching this fall, these workshops help perioperative nurse leaders sharpen operational, financial, and leadership skills through hands-on learning.

### **Sept 26 Guidelines Workshop (See flyer pg 5)**

- Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 7:00am-4:00pm CT, Rosemont, IL
- One day. Four topics. Practical learning for safer, stronger OR teams. Earn 4.5 CEs at the AORN Guidelines Workshop coming this fall.

**September 25 & 26 Workshops: Registration of 5 or more will receive 50% discount for each attendee.**

**Election/Installation:** On June 2, 2026, Chapter 1411 held its election/installation dinner at Season's 52. Special thanks to Johnson & Johnson for the sponsorship. Congratulations Board members! Congratulations to Sherry Goldstein for winning the evening's "split-the-pot" chapter fundraising initiative.

- |                                            |                             |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • President: Cherry Alcedo                 | ○ Ellyn Mayer               |
| • Vice President: Nick Balisteri (Pending) | ○ Pam Nuspl                 |
| • President Elect: Sherry Goldstein        | ○ Geri Weissmann            |
| • Secretary: Brianne Jensen                | • Nominating Committee:     |
| • Treasurer: Tey O'Meara                   | ○ Sheila Aiello             |
| • Board of Directors:                      | ○ Grace Valencia            |
| ○ Chic Duffy                               | • NC Advisor: Kathy Bradley |
| ○ Stephanie Ledyard                        |                             |

**Next Business Meeting \_Virtual Teams Meeting: October 13 @6:30pm**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.**

**Minutes recorded by:**

Sherry Goldstein

Pres-Elect 1411 NWSCC

# September to Remember

## Major Holidays & Month-Long Observances

- **Hispanic Heritage Month** (Sept 15 – Oct 16)
- **Labor Day** (September 7, 2026)
- **Patriot Day / National Day of Service** (September 11)
- **National Grandparents Day** (September 13)
- **International Day of Peace** (September 21)

## Nursing Recognition Weeks in September 2026

- **National Clinical Nurse Specialist Recognition Week:** September 1–7
- **National Neonatal Nurses Week:** September 12–18
- **Nursing Professional Development Week:** September 13–19
- **Nephrology Nurses Week:** September 13–19
- **Vascular Nurses Week:** September 7–13

## Specific Nursing Recognition Days in September 2026

- **National Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses Day:** September 8
- **National Neonatal Nurses Day:** September 15
- **National Hispanic Nurses Day:** September 22