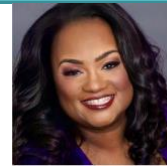


# The Pacemaker

The Official Newsletter of AORN of Greater Houston

September 2025



## September President's Message AORN Greater Houston Chapter #4407:

### Leadership Team 2025 – 2026

#### *President*

**Ebony Mitchell-Wallace, MSN, RN, BSH**

#### *President Elect*

**Rebecca Bujnoch, BSN, RN**

#### *Vice President*

**LaSandra Brown, PhD, BSN, MBA, RN, CNOR, NPD-BC**

#### *Secretary*

**Kevin Lim, BSN, RN, CNOR**

#### *Treasurer*

**Nakeisha Washington, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR**

#### *Board of Directors*

**Nancy Allen, BSN, RN, CNOR**

**Jenell Moultrie, MSN, RN, CNOR**

**Robyn Washington, MBA, BSN, RN, CNOR**

#### *Board Advisor*

**Joanne Oliver-Coleman, MBA, BSN, RN, CNOR-E**

#### *Nominating Committee*

**Mary Jennifer Hufstedler, BSN, RN (Chair)**

**Adonis Taylor-Watson, MBA-HCM, RN (Co-Chair)**

**Aleli Cabali, MSN, RN, CPAN**

**Sydney Boyd, MSN, RN, CNOR, CLSSYB**

**Teeraphan Suwannakinthorn, MSN, RN, FNP, CNOR, RNFA**

#### *Past President and Nominating Committee Advisor*

**Cheryl Kelley, DNP, MSN, RN**

Greetings AORN GH Chapter 4407! Welcome to transitional, crisp, golden, mellow September. The month of shifting from summer to autumn! The summer months offered a poignant reflection on the struggles and triumphs of diverse groups in their pursuit of freedom. The vibrant celebrations and expressions of individuality served as powerful reminders of the progress we have made on so many levels, through activism and social movements. However, July also brought significant hardship and loss to many within our Texas communities and networks. These hardships and losses should serve as reminders of the ongoing need for empathy and support.

As we move forward, it is crucial that we cultivate a culture of kindness, compassion, and accountability. We must strive for integrity in our actions, maintain faith in the face of adversity, and respect the diverse perspectives of others, even when disagreement arises. Embracing our authentic selves, celebrating our individual strengths, and sharing our knowledge and talents, are essential components of personal and collective growth.

To further this growth, let us actively seek opportunities for professional development and training. We should recognize and celebrate both individual and collective achievements, fostering a collaborative environment that encourages innovation and risk-taking in highly reliable atmospheres. Setting attainable personal and professional goals coupled with a commitment to continuous learning and a positive mindset, will empower us to navigate challenges and achieve our full potential as we reignite our passion for perioperative nursing

Blessings,

**Ebony Mitchell-Wallace, MSN, RN, BSH**

**AORN GH President 2025-2026**



**Happy National Surgical Technologists Week 2025**

**September 21-27, 2025**

*“Experts in everything sterile and  
aseptic”*



**You are Essential Contest**

**Prizes Include:**

- A chance to win 1 of 3, \$50 Amazon gift cards.
- Grand Prize: Free registration to the 2026 AST Surgical Technology Conference in Seattle!

Here's the best part: BOTH the person being recognized AND the person who submitted the nomination will win if selected! Winners will be selected at random. Grand prize winners must be AST members to qualify. See all terms and conditions [here](#) or in the September 2025 Surgical Technologist Journal.

**How to Enter:**

1. Fill out the "You Are Essential" nomination form.
2. Share your story about why your nominee is essential to you or your team.
3. Include a picture of the surgical technologist you're nominating.
4. Submit by September 30, 2025.

Let's celebrate surgical technologists who bring skill, heart, and dedication to everything they do—because surgical technologists are essential.

[https://www.ast.org/uploadedFiles/Main\\_Site/Content/About\\_Us/Rules%20and%20Regulations.pdf](https://www.ast.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/About_Us/Rules%20and%20Regulations.pdf)



## Suicide Prevention Month



 **SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

### KNOW THE 12 SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

- FEELING LIKE A BURDEN
- BEING ISOLATED
- INCREASED ANXIETY
- FEELING TRAPPED OR IN UNBEARABLE PAIN
- INCREASED SUBSTANCE USE
- LOOKING FOR A WAY TO ACCESS LETHAL MEANS
- INCREASED ANGER OR RAGE
- EXTREME MOOD SWINGS
- EXPRESSING HOPELESSNESS
- SLEEPING TOO LITTLE OR TOO MUCH
- TALKING OR POSTING ABOUT WANTING TO DIE
- MAKING PLANS FOR SUICIDE

### 5 STEPS TO HELP SOMEONE AT RISK

1. ASK.
2. KEEP THEM SAFE.
3. BE THERE.
4. HELP THEM CONNECT.
5. FOLLOW UP.

\*\*Remember, your AFA EAP provides confidential support to you, your loved ones and flying partners. Don't hesitate to call us at 800-424-2406.

 Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO | [afacwa.org/eap](http://afacwa.org/eap)





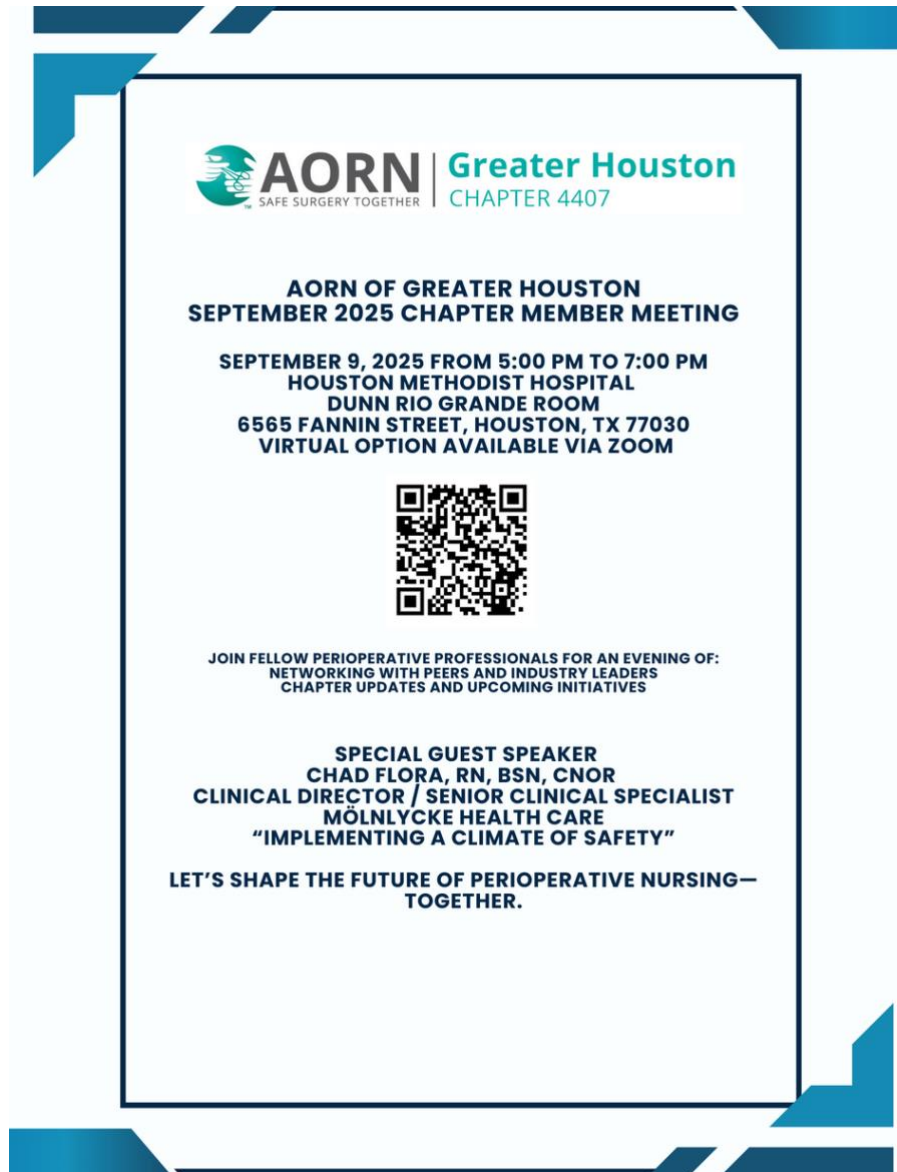
You are invited to AORN GH Chapter #4407 Zoom meeting.

When: September 09, 2025, at 5:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYucuisrT8sGNSNhdu9q8y1pQKG0jY7boUc>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.




The flyer is for the AORN of Greater Houston September 2025 Chapter Member Meeting. It features the AORN logo with the tagline 'SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER' and the chapter name 'Greater Houston CHAPTER 4407'. The event details include the date 'SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 FROM 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM', the location 'HOUSTON METHODIST HOSPITAL DUNN RIO GRANDE ROOM 6565 FANNIN STREET, HOUSTON, TX 77030', and a note that a 'VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM'. A QR code is provided for registration. The flyer also mentions a special guest speaker, Chad Flora, RN, BSN, CNOR, Clinical Director / Senior Clinical Specialist at Mölnlycke Health Care, with the topic 'IMPLEMENTING A CLIMATE OF SAFETY'. The closing message is 'LET'S SHAPE THE FUTURE OF PERIOPERATIVE NURSING—TOGETHER.' The flyer is framed by blue geometric shapes in the corners.

**AORN** | **Greater Houston**  
SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER | CHAPTER 4407

**AORN OF GREATER HOUSTON  
SEPTEMBER 2025 CHAPTER MEMBER MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 FROM 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM**  
**HOUSTON METHODIST HOSPITAL**  
**DUNN RIO GRANDE ROOM**  
**6565 FANNIN STREET, HOUSTON, TX 77030**  
**VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM**



JOIN FELLOW PERIOPERATIVE PROFESSIONALS FOR AN EVENING OF:  
NETWORKING WITH PEERS AND INDUSTRY LEADERS  
CHAPTER UPDATES AND UPCOMING INITIATIVES

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER**  
**CHAD FLORA, RN, BSN, CNOR**  
**CLINICAL DIRECTOR / SENIOR CLINICAL SPECIALIST**  
**MÖLNLYCKE HEALTH CARE**  
**"IMPLEMENTING A CLIMATE OF SAFETY"**

**LET'S SHAPE THE FUTURE OF PERIOPERATIVE NURSING—  
TOGETHER.**

As a Reminder: Please complete our chapter Needs Assessment Today.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/755GBZL>

HELP US IMPROVE!



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ON THE AORN GH NEEDS ASSESSMENT BY MIDNIGHT TONIGHT 09/08/2025 TO BE ENTERED INTO THE LIVE DRAWING FOR ONE OF THREE GREAT PRIZES!!!



Visit  
[aornhouston.nursingnetwork.com](https://aornhouston.nursingnetwork.com)



## AORN GREATER HOUSTON HAS A NEW CHAPTER EMAIL ADDRESS



[aorngh@gmail.com](mailto:aorngh@gmail.com)

Missed the newsletter information, updated your email address and need to know how to update it in our National database, or just want to give us a shout for any reason? Please email us.





# AORN GH SEPTEMBER 2025 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

# September

# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Chapter Meeting 5:00 p.m. (Please wear yellow, turquoise, red,	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 FHPW Woman of Excellence
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Award Nominations: AORN Award for Excellence applications deadline. Click here for details: <a href="https://www.aorn.org/get-involved/period-community/award-programs/award-for-excellence">https://www.aorn.org/get-involved/period-community/award-programs/award-for-excellence</a>				



**AORN**  
SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER

**Greater Houston**  
CHAPTER 4407

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO AORN GH MEMBERS BORN IN  
SEPTEMBER!





# HAPPY RETIREMENT RI DIRADO

**AORN  
GH CHAPTER  
NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE**



**AORN  
GH CHAPTER  
SURGICAL SMOKE  
LEGISLATION  
ACTIVIST**

**RI DIRADO, PHD, MBA, BSN, CNOR**

**Director of Perioperative Services UTMB Galveston**

AORN Greater Houston Chapter congratulates you and wishes you well on your next chapter in life. We truly appreciate your contributions over the years to the perioperative community



# AORN West Dinner and Learn

Multimodal Pain Management Strategy

**Perry's Steakhouse & Grille**

9827 Katy Freeway

Houston, TX 77024

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 5:15pm CT - 8:00pm CT

[Add this event to your calendar](#)

[Dinner and Learn](#)

Register Here:

<https://pacirarsvp.com/index>



## Topic

Non-Opioid Exparel: A Component of a Multimodal Pain Management Strategy

## Additional Information

The participants will gain insight to burden of opioid use for post-surgical pain and how EXPAREL as a component of a multimodal approach to post-surgical pain management can reduce the use of opioids in the perioperative setting.



**Federation of Houston Professional Women  
2025 Woman of Excellence**

**Congratulations  
Cheryl Kelley, DNP, MSN, RN**

**Federation of Houston  
Professional Women**



*Woman Of Excellence 2025*



**CHERYL D. KELLEY**

**AORN OF GREATER HOUSTON**

**RSVP AT [FHPW.ORG](https://www.fhpw.org)**

**THE BALLROOM AT TANGLEWOOD  
5430 Westheimer Way, Houston, TX 77056**

Nominations are being accepted for the 2025-2026  
Perioperative Nurses Week and Surgical Technologists of the  
Year Awards-

**Deadline for Nominations is October 01, 2025**



<https://form.jotform.com/251604353903048>



Susan G. Komen Walk  
October 04, 2025, 06:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



**AORN**  
SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER

**Greater Houston**  
CHAPTER 4407

Seeking  
Volunteers  
**Susan G**  
**Komen Walk**  
Oct 04, 2025

Contact DeShon  
Burton 832-785-1108  
If Interested

## 2025 Houston Heart Walk

**9 out of 10 people who suffer cardiac arrest outside the hospital die. In most of those cases, bystander CPR was not performed. But we can change this.**

**It's time to unite, act, and save lives. The American Heart Association invites YOU to join the Heart Walk and help turn a nation of bystanders into a nation of lifesavers. Every walker who joins, every dollar donated, means more people trained in CPR, more research, and more lifesaving moments for everyone. I walk to save lives. You can too. Register for the 2025 Houston Heart Walk today at [HoustonHeartWalk.org](https://HoustonHeartWalk.org)**



## 2025 Houston Heart Walk

### Date & Time

**Sat, Oct 25, 2025**

**7:00 AM - 9:00 AM CT**

### Location

**TMC Helix Park**

**1885 Old Spanish Trail**

**Houston, TX 77030**

**[Register Now](https://HoustonHeartWalk.org)**





# **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

## **AORN GREATER HOUSTON AND COMPASSRN**

October 25, 2025

Noon till 2:00pm

**2450 HOLCOMBE BLVD, HOUSTON, TX 77021**

Focus on exposure of under resourced students to the Perioperative Profession. Volunteers will share their story of becoming a healthcare professional and help with hands on PPE/instrument station. A Certificate of Participation will be provided for volunteers. Contact Carmel Pound at 832-350-5532 for more information.

Save the Date, It's Perioperative Nurses Week

November 09-25, 2025



## AORN Houston Collaborative Food Bank Volunteer Day



AORN HOUSTON CHAPTER COLLABORATIVE





## Co-Sponsored by:

- 0701 AORN Connecticut Chapter I
- 0310 Grand Canyon Chapter of AORN
- 0510 Orange County
- 0511 AORN of San Diego County
- 0512 AORN of San Francisco Bay Area
- 0513 AORN Silicon Valley CA
- 0520 AORN of Central Valley
- 0601 AORN of Denver
- 1116 Peach State AORN
- 1401 AORN of Chicago
- 2001 The State Of Maine
- 2101 Baltimore
- 2201 Massachusetts Chapter I
- 3402 Cape Fear North Carolina #2
- 3403 North Carolina Dogwood Chapter
- 4301 East Tennessee
- 4304 AORN of Middle Tennessee
- 4407 Greater Houston
- 4432 AORN Of North Texas
- 9991 Echapter
- Texas Collaboration of Perioperative Registered Nurses (TCORN)

**Invite members,  
friends, and family!**



# virtual BINGO

## FUNDRAISER FOR THE AORN FOUNDATION

**Saturday, November 8, 2025**

**7:00pm ET / 4:00pm PT**

**Zoom link provided with registration**

Join us for an unforgettable evening of excitement, camaraderie, and supporting the AORN Foundation in their efforts to promote career development for perioperative nurses.

**Purchase 1 card for the  
night or increase your  
chances with multiple  
cards per game**

**\$10**  
Donation  
Per Card

**\$50 Amazon Gift Card  
Prize for Each  
BINGO Game Winner**



**Toys, bears, bandaids, and gauze will be collected at a Special  
Holiday Celebration Meeting  
December 09, 2025. The Collected Toys will be delivered on  
Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.**



TCORN SAVE THE DATE



The poster features a large circular inset at the top showing four surgeons in an operating room, illuminated by surgical lights. To the right of this is a smaller circular inset showing a city skyline at sunset. The background is a light blue gradient with dark blue geometric shapes and dotted patterns. The text is in a mix of bold sans-serif and script fonts.

**TCORN ANNUAL  
SYMPOSIUM &  
VENDOR FAIR**  
*Save the Date*

Striving for Excellence  
in Perioperative Practice

**JANUARY 17, 2026**

UTSW Clements Hospital  
**DALLAS, TX**

 **TCORN**  
TRANSFORMING CARE

# AORN of Greater Houston Committees 2025- 2026

COMMITTEE	CHAIRMAN	CO-CHAIRMAN	Board Liaison
AMBASSADOR AORN GH APP			Kevin Lim
Awards/Recognition/Scholarship			Jenell Moultrie
Bylaws			LaSandra Brown
Community Service	DeShon Burton		Ebony Mitchell-Wallace
Communication	Kevin Lim		Kevin Lim
Education/FHPW Delegates	Candace Scheresky	Joanne Muyco	Nancy Allen
Special Events			Rebecca Bujnoch
Budget/Finance/Fundraising	Nakeisha Washington	Patricia Rodriguez	Nakeisha Washington
Advocacy/Government Affairs	Joanne Oliver		
Membership	Tammy Campbell		Joanne Oliver
Courtesy/Hospitality Committee			Nakeisha Washington
Innovation			Robyn Washington
DEI/Wellness			Robyn Washington
Mentor Committee	Carmel Pound		Ebony Mitchell-Wallace
Nominating Committee	Mary Jennifer Hufstедler	Adonis Taylor	Cheryl Kelly (Past President)



**Committees**  
that make a difference



**Congratulations**  
**AORN Greater Houston Members Who Also Represent**  
**Us Nationally on**  
**AORN National Board and Nominating Committee**  
**2025-2026**

National President  
Darlene Murdock, MSN, BBA, RN, CNOR, CSSM





## **Board of Directors**

**Daphny Peneza, DNP, RN, CNOR, CSSM, FAORN**



## **Board of Directors**

**Nikki Washington, MSN, MBA-HCM, RN, CNOR, CSSM**



**AORN National Nominating Committee**  
**Joanne D. Muyco, DNP, RN, NE-BC, CNOR**



## AORN National Board Members 2025-2026



## AORN National Nominating Committee Members 2025-2026





THE FUTURE OF AORN LEADERSHIP  
2026-2027

Office	Candidates	State
President-elect (1 to be elected)	Brenda G. Larkin, MS, RN, ACNS-BC, CNS-CP, CSSM, CNOR, FAORN	ID
	Jamie Ridout, MSN, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, CNOR, CASC	NC
Vice President (1 to be elected)	Lisa Bailey, BSN, RN, CNOR	TX
	J.D. Buchert, MSN, MEd, MS, RN, CNOR, CPHQ	TX
Secretary (1 to be elected)	Cassandra A. Munro, PhD, BS, RN, CNOR, FAORN, FAAN	CA
	Rebecca Vortman, DNP, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC	IL
Board of Directors (3 to be elected)	Stephanie Battiste, BSN, RN, CNOR	CA
	Richard Dorritie, PhD, RN, CNE, CNOR	NY
	Bryanne Harrington, MSM, BSN, RN, CNOR	MA
	Amanda Heitman, BSN, RN, CNOR	NC
	Natalie Jones, DHA, MBA, BSN, RN, CNOR	FL
	Jaimie Weber, MSN-ED, MBA-HM, RN, NEA-BC, CCRN-K, CNOR, PHN	CA
	Imelda Wright, PhD, RN, CNOR	KY
Nominating Committee (3 to be elected)	Stephanie Ayala, MSN, RN, CNOR	FL
	Kristy Gottschalk, MSN, RN, CNOR, PHN	MN
	Michelle L. Griffin, BSN, RN, CNOR	TN
	Jaimeson Hatch, MSN, RN, CNOR	AK
	Lindsey Joyce, MSN, RN, CNOR	MO
	Adam Mckew, MSOL, BSN, RN, CNOR	CO
	Ray-an Talatala, DNP, RN, CNOR, NPJ-BC, FAORN	NY



## AORN Membership: Membership Tailored for Your Needs

Whether you're new to the profession or an allied health partner, we have membership packages designed for you – with payment options as affordable as \$11.99 per month.

### Key Benefits

Name of Benefit	Early-Career Students, Periop 101 Learners, and New to Profession Memberships	Mid-Career Standard Membership	Leadership Leader Membership	Organization Healthcare Facility ASC and Industry Memberships
Guideline <i>Essentials</i> Implementation Tools	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clinical Tool Kits, FAQs, Pocket Cards	✓	✓	✓	✓
Expert guidance via the Nurse Consult Line	✓	✓	✓	✓
200 CNE: On-demand educational webinar library, articles, and posters	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prep for CNOR Online Course	✓	✓	✓	✓
AORN Journal, Outpatient Surgery Magazine, and The Stitch	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional chapters, Special Assemblies, Mentor Program, and online member community	✓	✓	✓	✓
Expanded resources and education with an ANA Affiliate Membership	✓	✓	✓	✓
Up to 25% off AORN courses, products and events (AORN's <i>Guidelines for Perioperative Practice</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓
Library of leader articles and on-demand webinars	✗	✗	✓	✓
Exclusive leader networking	✗	✗	✓	✓
Discounts on leader courses and events	✗	✗	✓	✓
eGuidelines Plus online subscription	✗	✗	✗	✓
Bonus professional development courses	✗	✗	✗	✓
50% off ASC Academy: Infection Prevention Online and The Sterilization Process Course	✗	✗	✗	✓



## SEPTEMBER 2025 AORN JOURNAL



The September 2025 issue features articles on patient blood management, instrument sterility, autologous tissue Management and more. Don't forget to check these and other things TO STAY IN THE KNOW when you receive Your journal by your preferred method.

## Contribute to the *AORN Journal*

### Speaking Up Column

Do you have a successful experience related to speaking up and demonstrating courage in the OR?

[Share Your Story](#)

### Solutions at Work Series

Have you implemented an innovative quality improvement project or a unique solution at your facility? Tell us about it, and if selected, you will be interviewed by a Journal staff member and featured in Periop Briefing, the news section of AORN Journal.

[Share Your Experience](#)

# Contribute to the *AORN Journal*

## Peer Review for the AORN Journal

Help improve the quality of content in the AORN Journal by serving as a peer reviewer. Access the resources you need to get started today, including tutorials, guidelines, and more.

[Start Peer Review Now](#)

## Speaking Up Column

Do you have a successful experience related to speaking up and demonstrating courage in the OR?

[Share Your Story](#)



# Contribute to the *AORN Journal*

## Solutions at Work Series

Have you implemented an innovative quality improvement project or a unique solution at your facility? Tell us about it, and if selected, you will be interviewed by a Journal staff member and featured in Periop Briefing, the news section of AORN Journal.

**Share Your Experience**

## Write for the AORN Journal

Help patients through authorship — start writing for the *AORN Journal*. Get the resources you need to get started today including a list of suggested topics, author guidelines, a submission checklist, and more.

[Access Author Guidelines >](#)

**Learn More About Writing**

## Greater Houston Chapter of AORN Mission

The Greater Houston Chapter of AORN mission is to promote safety and optimal outcomes for Patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures by providing practice support and professional development opportunities to perioperative nurses. AORN will collaborate with professional and regulatory organizations, industry leaders, and other health care partners who support the mission.

*thank you!*

***Ebony N. Mitchell-Wallace***

Ebony Mitchell-Wallace, MSN, RN, BSH  
President 2025-2026  
AORN Greater Houston Chapter #4407

