

The Pacemaker

The Official Newsletter of AORN of Greater Houston

December 2025



Leadership Team 2025 – 2026

President

Ebony Mitchell-Wallace, MSN, RN, BSH

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Robyn Washington, MBA, BSN, RN, CNOR (Chair)

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

Nominating Committee

Mary Jenifer Hufstedler, BSN, RN

Adonis Taylor-Watson, MBA-HCM, RN

Past President and Nominating Committee Advisor

Cheryl Kelley, PhD, MSN, RN



December Reflections: President's Message AORN Greater Houston Chapter #4407:

Greetings AORN GH Chapter 4407! Welcoming December: A Time of Festivity, joy, and celebration

As we step into December, we enter a month defined by the Holiday Spirit. A time of chilly weather, festivities, joy, and celebration. This is a season for love, hope, community and family gatherings, and reflection.

Despite the colder months approaching—at least that is our hope—December encourages us to embrace the warmth, togetherness, and joy that the season brings.

The Significance of December

December, the twelfth month of the year, is often associated with major global celebrations like Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah, which often involve traditions, gift-giving, and festive gatherings. Other celebrations include Kwanzaa and Boxing Day.

Embracing the Spirit of the Season

Throughout December, we are encouraged to foster warmth, joy, and abundance. The month invites creativity and clear thinking, and it is intricately linked to happiness, prosperity, and success. The Paperwhite (Narcissus) December's symbolic flower, represents hope, purity, and new beginnings. Alongside it, the Holly, an evergreen with berries (a non-traditional flower), symbolizes good luck.

A Wish for peace, love, and joy

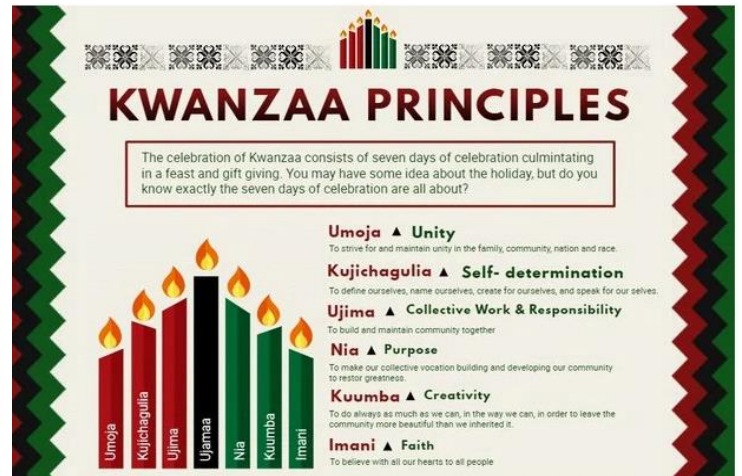
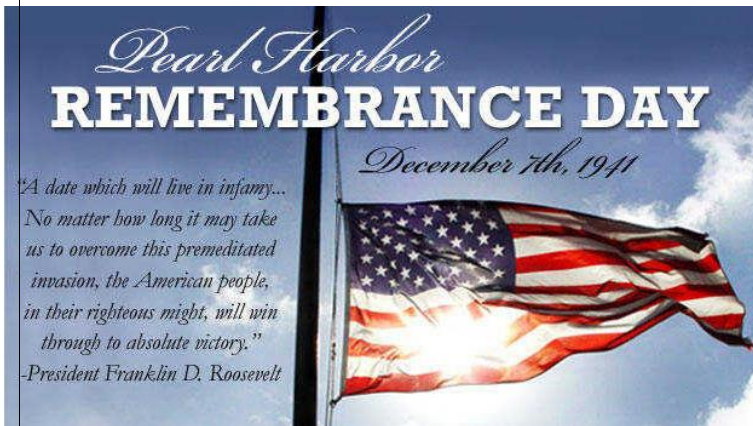
As December unfolds, may it bring peace, love, and joy. May celebrations of laughter and fun abound and may you each experience warm holiday wishes with those you cherish most.

Blessings,
Ebony Mitchell-Wallace, MSN, RN, BSHS
AORN GH Chapter 4407 President 2025-2026



AORN
SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER

Greater Houston
CHAPTER 4407



SPECIAL DAYS DECEMBER 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	COOKIE DAY	WORLD SOIL DAY INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY	ST NICHOLAS DAY (CHRISTIAN)	DIA DE LAS VELTAS (COLUMBIA) INTNL. CIVIL AVIATION DAY
8 BODHI DAY (BUDDHIST)		INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY	INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY		ST LUCIA DAY (EUROPE)	HANUKKAH BEGINS (JEWISH)
15	LAS POSADAS BEGINS (CHRISTIAN)	WRIGHT BROTHERS DAY	INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY	UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER DAY	GAMES DAY	CROSSWORD PUZZLE DAY
22		JÓLABÓKAFLÓÐIÐ (ICELAND)	CHRISTMAS DAY	KWANZAA BEGINS (USA)	CUT OUT SNOWFLAKES DAY	
29		NEW YEARS EVE				

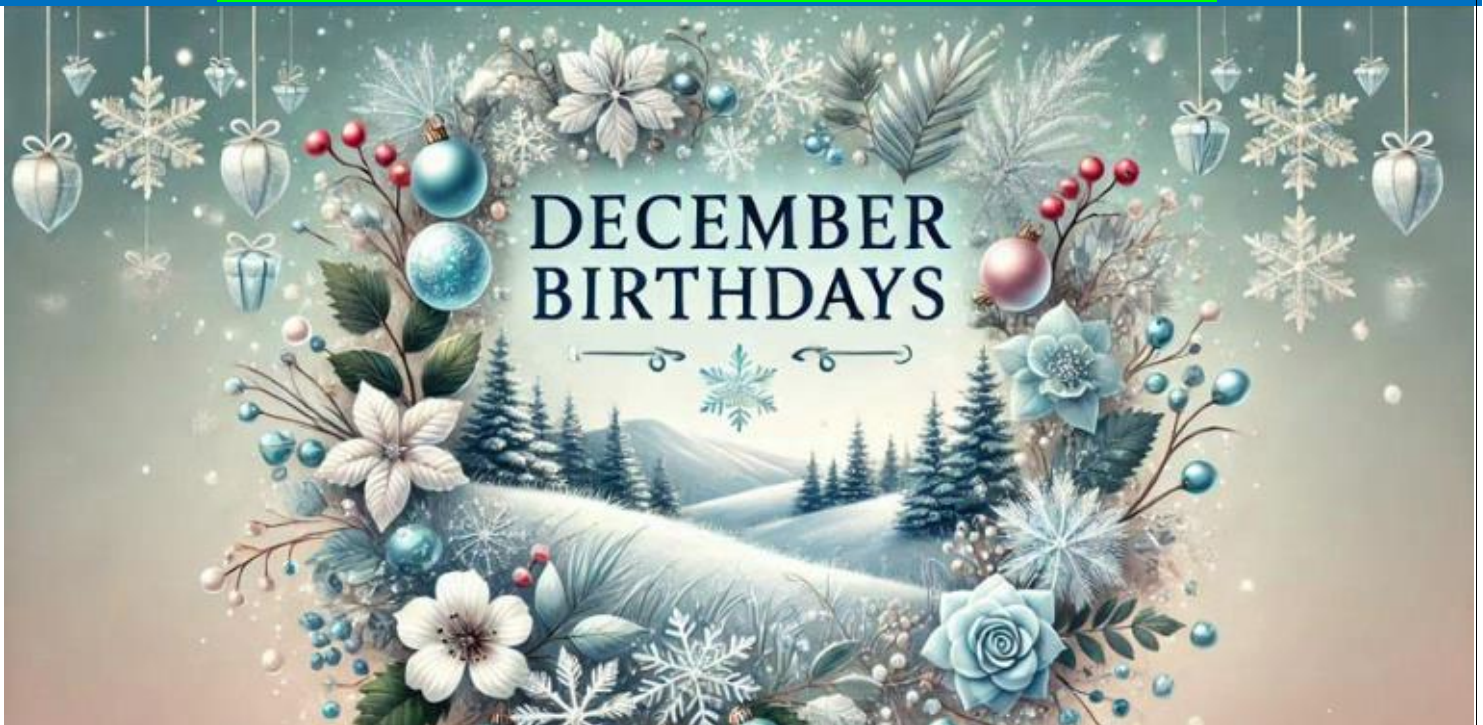




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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO AORN GH #4407 MEMBERS BORN IN
NOVEMBER! A VERY SPECIAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR
PRESIDENT ELECT, REBECCA BUJNOCH



You were born
at a wonderful time of year.
As we celebrate the season,
you're being celebrated, too,
because your birthday
is part of what makes
December so festive.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN PROMOTED



AORN Greater Houston Chapter congratulates you and wishes you Continued success in your new role. May you continuously be provided with the tools necessary to continue to succeed as a leader within perioperative nursing.



NORA'S HOME
for transplant patients and
their families

Houston's Haven for Solid Organ Failure and Transplant Patients



Pantry Essentials

Nora's Home

8300 El Rio Street, Houston TX 77054

(832) 831-3720 | info@norashome.org

Basics

- Coffee (cream, sweet-n-low, K-cups)
- Condiments: ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard
- Cooking spray oil (PAM)
- Flour
- Jarred sauces: marinara, alfredo
- Sugar
- Vegetable Oil, Coconut Oil, Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Canned

- Beans
- Fruit
- Meats
- Soup
- Veggies

Kitchen Essentials

- Dish cloths & towels
- Foil, plastic wrap
- Plastic storage bowls
- Pot holders
- Silverware
- Ziploc bags (1 gallon, quart, sandwich-size)

Staples

- Breakfast foods (individuals): granola bars, cereal, Pop-tarts, grits, oatmeal, breakfast bars
- Boxed desserts: cookies, cakes, brownies
- Boxed pasta
- Cornbread mix
- Protein shakes
- Rice
- Snacks (individuals): Clif Mix, chips, cookies, crackers, goldfish, nuts, popcorn, pretzels, pudding

Paper Goods

- Bowls
- Cups (12oz & 16oz)
- 16-cup filters
- Kleenex
- Napkins
- Paper towels
- Plates
- Toilet paper

Personal Items

- AA, AAA, & C batteries
- Bed Pads
- Travel size items
 - Body wash, shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes

Cleaning Products

- All-purpose cleaner
- Bathroom cleaner
- Dishwashing liquid
- Dishwashing tabs
- Disinfectant spray
- Disinfectant wipes
- Furniture polish
- Garbage bags (all kitchen)
- Laundry dryer sheets
- Laundry detergent (pods)
- Toilet bowl cleaner



WE NEED YOUR HELP! CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



JOIN US AS A SYMPOSIUM
VOLUNTEER AND HELP US CREATE
A POSITIVE IMPACT!
INVOLVEMENT IS AN EXCELLENT
WAY TO SHOWCASE LEADERSHIP
ABILITY



AORN
SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER

**YEAR OF THE
NURSE**

CONTACT: REBECCA BUJNOCH
PRESIDENT ELECT IF INTERESTED:
EMAIL: BECCA.BUJNOCH@GMAIL.COM
OR LET'S DISCUSS AFTER THE MEETING

Call for
VOLUNTEERS

**AORN GH, We Have A Lot To Be Thankful For!
Come Out and Celebrate All The Wonderful Accomplishments We Have Made
Together In 2025**

**December 09 2025 att 5:00 p.m.-6:30 pm.
at Houston Methodist Dunn Rio Grande
Remember To Bring A Toy Or Two For
Abused, Neglected, And At Risk Children**



Join BEAR in bringing holiday joy to more than **29,000** **abused, neglected, and at-risk children** through our **BEARing Gifts** program!



Gift Suggestions

Infants: Nursery Toys, Teething Toys, Ride-On Toys, Sit-To-Stand Walkers, Activity Mats, Soft Building Blocks	Toddlers: Toy Trucks/Cars, Action Figures/Dolls, Costume/Dress Up Items, Building Blocks, Stuffed Animals, Play Food/Dishes, Interactive Learning Toys (VTech)
Children (up to 12 years old): Action Figures/Dolls, Tween Make-Up Sets, Arts and Crafts Kits, Science/Discovery Kits, Puzzles, Legos, Remote Control Cars/Helicopters	Children (13+): Tablets, Bluetooth Headphones, Digital/Instant Camera (with refills), Make-Up Sets, Nail Polish, Bath & Body Sets, Jewelry Items (both genders), Cologne/Perfume Sets, Purses/Wallets
General Toys: Bikes*, Scooters, Sports Equipment (all types), Board Games, Handheld Gaming Device, Tablets *Bikes = please ensure they are not assembled and are still in the box.	 Scan to learn more about BEARing Gifts!

3572 E TC Jester Blvd. Houston, TX 77018 | www.bearesourcehouston.org | 713.274.9850

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE STUDY TO SUPPORT ONE OF OUR OWN FUTURE PHD PREPARED PERIOPERATIVE NURSES



Help us examine how Non-Technical Skills influence surgical counting and decision-making. Join our study and contribute to improving surgical outcomes.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Intraoperative RN or CST working full-time, part-time, or per diem.
- Minimum of 1 year of experience within intraoperative setting of an acute care hospital.
- Currently participating in General Surgery cases.
- Active member of AORN or AST.
- Have access to a computer, electronic device, or cellphone with internet.

Interested in participating?

If you meet the criteria listed above, scan the QR code
or visit <https://utmb.us/emq> for next steps.



Have additional questions?
Email **Melanie** at Meauber@utmb.edu.



All information will be kept confidential and used solely for research purposes.
Learn more about research at The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB Health) at www.utmb.edu.

25 Outstanding Texas Nurses



This annual Texas Nurses Association Award focuses on recognizing the contributions of 25 Texas registered nurses who have made a difference in the lives of others.

Nurses must be nominated by a Texas Nurses Association member. We are looking for nurses who create a culture of care, support healing, health, and wellness, innovate improvements, and contribute to their communities.

Award Parameters

We welcome nominations of exceptional nurses from all practice settings including those who serve through volunteer work.

Cited contributions must have been demonstrated between January 1st and December 31st of the previous year.

Nominees do not need to be members of the Texas Nurses Association; however, the nurse making the nomination must be a member of the Texas Nurses Association. Self-nominations will not be considered.

In addition, the nominee must:

- Be employed in Texas
- Hold a Texas RN license

Nominations

Nominations must be received on the official nomination form. Please provide the nominee's name, position, and other identifying information in the top portion of the form. The information will be kept confidential and will not be shared with the committee until after the review process is completed. This will allow our committee to assess the nomination based purely on the merit of the submitted materials, without knowing the identity of the nominee.

Nomination Narrative

The official nomination form allows for a maximum of 500-word narrative. Please provide a detailed narrative that describes the nominee's qualifications, achievements and impact.

Important: *Do not include the nominee's name, job title, or any identifying information within the narrative.*

This is essential to ensure that the nomination remains blinded and that all nominees are evaluated solely based on their professional accomplishments.

Award Selection

The Texas Nurses Association Awards Committee will review all nominations and make a recommendation to the TNA Board of Directors who will make the final decision on the top 25 recipients.

Award Announcement

The Texas Nurses Association 25 Outstanding Nurses will be honored at TNA's annual Gala held in conjunction with our annual conference each year.

The announcement will also be made through an official press release, via TNA's social media channels including, but not limited to Facebook, Twitter and Linked In and published on TNA's website and in our quarterly magazine, Texas Nursing.

[25 Outstanding Texas Nurses of 2025](#)

[Official Nomination Form](#)

Submission Deadline: February 15 of each year

Thank you for your nominations!



[**https://www.texasnurses.org/page/25OutstandingNurses**](https://www.texasnurses.org/page/25OutstandingNurses)



Supporting Your Professional Goals

The AORN Foundation supports your professional goals and helps you maintain evidence-based knowledge and competencies. We have awarded scholarships to more than 3,000 nurses working to earn a degree, achieve advanced certification, and complete continuing nurse education.

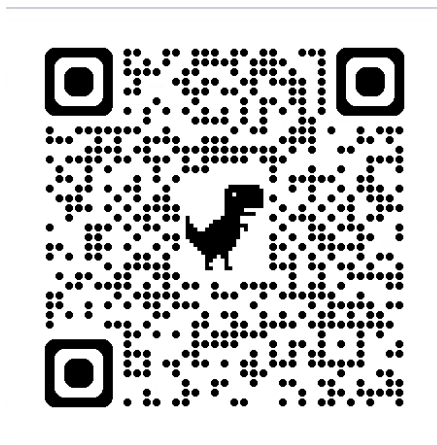
EXPO GRANT APPLICATIONS CLOSE NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Professional Development Grants

The Foundation offers professional development grants to help nurses maintain competency and to ensure safe and high-quality care.

➤ AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo Grant

➤ CNOR®, CSSM®, and CNAMB® Certification Grants



<https://www.aorn.org/foundation/scholarships-grants#grants>

TCORN SAVE THE DATE



TCORN ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM & VENDOR FAIR

Save the Date

Striving for Excellence
in Perioperative Practice

JANUARY 17, 2026



UTSW Clements Hospital
DALLAS, TX



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 GREATER HOUSTON HAS A NEW CHAPTER EMAIL ADDRESS



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.



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

