

December 2025 BOARD UPDATE



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December is a month filled with celebration, warmth, and activity despite the chilly weather. Holidays like [Christmas](#), [Kwanzaa](#), and [Chanukah](#) bring families and communities together, while whimsical national days—such as [Ugly Sweater Day](#), [Answer the Phone Like Buddy the Elf Day](#), and [National Ding-A-Ling Day](#)—add a playful touch to the season. It's also a big baking month, with cookies exchanged among families, churches, schools, and organizations as part of gift-giving traditions and festive parties.

Meanwhile, winter sports hit their stride, keeping fans entertained indoors with hockey, football, and basketball, and drawing adventurers outdoors for skiing and snowmobiling. December truly blends cozy traditions with exhilarating activities, making it a season of joy and connection.

Beyond sports, the December holidays also offer lots of ways to celebrate our free time. [National Crossword Puzzle Day](#) is just one way to spend some quiet time. Plenty of baking and food days bring celebrations to the kitchen, too. In fact, there are 29 food-related days in December in addition to the popular beverage holidays. We can even celebrate our laundry with [National Sock Day](#).

The Board will be gathering in Denver to continue the business of the association, but it will not be all work and no play! Board members will participate in the annual Secret Santa gift exchange over an intimate meal and will play Reindeer Games/Trivia and Sing Carols! We will all be able to devote more time to family, friends and colleagues as our representation activities slow down this month.

We wish you and yours all the best this holiday season and pray for your health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year!

With gratitude,
Brenda Larkin
In your service,

Brenda G. Larkin, MS, APRN. ACNS-BC, CNS-CP, CSSM, LSSGB, CNOR, FAORN, AORN Secretary



Save the date for AORN Global Conference & Expo in New Orleans, LA, April 11-14, 2026

[Click here for registrations details](#)

AORN Expo 2026 Holiday Travel Package Giveaway

Register for AORN Expo between December 1–31, 2025, and you'll be automatically entered to win one of three travel prize packages. Secure your spot today and you could win a four-night hotel stay, a \$500 travel expense gift card, and a \$100 restaurant gift card.

[Register Now!](#)

AORN Foundation Grants!

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 nursing education.

Explore Open Grants [click here](#).

Double the Impact. Double the Care.

Give to the profession you love by Dec. 31, and your donation will be matched by Owens & Minor.

[Click here](#) to support the nurses who make surgery safe!

AORN Announces the 2026 Class of Fellows of AORN (FAORN)

Denver, Co., Nov. 25, 2025 – The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) is proud to announce the newest class of Fellows of AORN (FAORN), recognizing distinguished perioperative nurses whose professional achievements and sustained contributions have advanced surgical safety and strengthened perioperative practice nationwide.

The FAORN designation is one of the highest honors bestowed by AORN. Fellows are exemplary nurse leaders who have demonstrated excellence in clinical practice, education, research and evidence-based practice, or perioperative leadership. Each Fellow undergoes a rigorous peer-reviewed assessment of their qualifications, contributions, and alignment with AORN's mission, vision, and values.

Congratulations to the 2026 Class of Fellows of AORN:

Barbara DiTullio
Lillian Nicolette
Johnson Ogundare
Patricia Owens
Deborah Spratt
Imelda Wright

Chapter Officer Town Hall:

If you missed the November Chapter Officer Town Hall Recording, it can be accessed [here](#).

Announcement: Chapter Excellence Awards - Deadline December 31

The Chapter Excellence Award applications are now open. Winners receive a FREE Expo registration, beautiful trophy, and bragging rights for a year. [Click here](#).

National Legislative Forum:

Missed the November NLF call? Catch up with the latest legislative news with the recording [click here](#).

The next National Legislative Forum is scheduled on **Monday, December 15, at 6:30pm MT**.

AORN is preparing for the 2026 legislative sessions, with 8–12 states expected to consider surgical smoke evacuation bills.

- In October, AORN members testified in Michigan and Wisconsin, where both bills advanced out of committee. Members also joined the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association for more than 20 legislative visits, urging passage of HB 27 to move the bill to the governor's desk.
- Additional activity is anticipated as PA, MI, MA, SC, and WI bills carry into 2026, while new legislation has been introduced in Florida, with efforts expected in Iowa and Oklahoma.
- Through the Nursing Community Coalition, AORN continues to monitor the FY 2026 Budget and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs Reauthorization.

Guidelines Public Commenting Opportunities:

AORN **Guideline for Environmental Hygiene** will be available for review and public comment December 5 through January 5. This guideline is a collection of evidence-informed practice recommendations that underscore the importance of a bundled or multimodal approach to environmental hygiene for reduction of pathogen transmission in the perioperative setting. Guidance is provided on key elements to be implemented concurrently, including

- the selection of effective cleaning and disinfection products,
- standardized cleaning protocols,
- health care personnel training and education,
- performance monitoring/feedback, and
- communication strategies to elevate the importance of environmental hygiene.

[Comment Here](#)

This guideline was formerly titled Guideline for Environmental Cleaning.

The next Guideline for public comment will be **Artificial Intelligence** available January 6th. You can use the same link above to access that page.

[Membership Update:](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

[Upcoming Live Webinars/Virtual Events:](#)

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 over two, 4-hour sessions, from 10:00am-2:00pm MT, January 21 & 22, 2026.

Participants will:

- Learn how to fill gaps in evidence and advance perioperative practice.
- Interact with colleagues who will present their research.
- Discover the steps to disseminate evidence-based practice or research project findings.
- Get ideas and mentoring from leading periop nurse researchers.
- Receive up to 8 ANCC CH

[Register Now](#)

Leader Exchange: Developing Leaders of Tomorrow

January 27, 2026 | 1:00pm ET

Sponsored by Stryker

This panel explores how structured career pathways, mentorship, and cross-training can help perioperative and sterile processing teams build future leaders, strengthen engagement, and improve retention and patient outcomes.

[Register for the Leader Exchange](#)

[Prepare for Emergencies and Critical Incidents](#)

As more complex cases shift to Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs), it becomes increasingly crucial for their outpatient surgery teams to be prepared for emergency situations. Outpatient surgery leaders can enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of perioperative teams in ASCs and hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs) with ASC Academy: A Guide to Emergency Drills.

How to Develop and Implement Effective Emergency Drills

This course is designed to equip ASC and HOPD leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and implement comprehensive emergency response plans, execute emergency drills, evaluate the effectiveness of the drills, and implement improvements to enhance communication and collaboration among the healthcare team. Emergency drills include:

- Fire
- Malignant hyperthermia
- Local anesthetic systemic toxicity
- Cardiac arrest
- Hospital transfer
- Active shooter

[Purchase Guide to Emergency Drills](#)

The course provides **educational content for each topic, along with protocols and scenarios for each drill—including four fire scenarios—with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.** It also includes step-by-step instructions for planning, conducting, and evaluating each drill, plus printable emergency quick reference cards to support implementation. Upon completion of the course and course evaluation, students will earn 1.5 contact hours.

Board Representation Activities:

President Murdock:

David Reinhart:

Jamie Ridout:

Dec 6: AORN LA Chapter 0507 CE Event and Holiday Celebration

Dec 17: Coordinated ASC Speaker's Series

Brenda Larkin:

Leigh Anne Bartlett:

JD Buchert:

Dec 2: Texas Collaboration of perioperative Registered Nurses (TCORN) Leadership meeting

Dec 6: Dallas Holiday Parade

December 9: eChapter Meeting

December 15: NLA Meeting

Debra Callendar:

Charlie Lin:

Dec 6: AORN of North Texas

Daphny Peneza:

AORN of Middle Tennessee Chapter Meeting

Rebecca Vortman:

Dec 16: AORN Chapter 1404 Holiday Meeting

Nikki Washington:

Dec 6: AORN LA Virtual & In-person Year Celebration

Dec: 17: Unblinded Podcast (Cost & Financial Implications of Waste Mitigation in Healthcare)

Quote for the Month:



AORN's Mission, Vision, & Values

Mission: 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.

