



GREETINGS FROM THE OUTGOING SECTION CHAIR

Beth Stephens-Hennessy, RNC-OB, EFM, MSN, CNS

This will be my last newsletter report out. I have been so honored to represent California AWHONN and all of you wonderful nurses for the last 5 years. I have been inspired by all of your dedication and involvement. I am so proud of all of the work that the Chapters have accomplished. California has the most AWHONN members in all of the United States. Our involvement makes a difference. Keep learning and improving your practice to take care of women and children. Their outcomes depend on you!



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A WORD FROM THE INCOMING SECTION CHAIR

Hello and Happy New Year to you all!

My name is Sue Stone MSN, RN, RNC-OB, C-EFM and I am transitioning to my new role as the AWHONN California Section Chair. I have some big shoes to fill as I take the lead from Beth Stephens-Hennessy who has led us since 2018. On behalf of our entire California group, I want to thank Beth for her tireless energy and exceptional work of building and maintaining our Section!

My current role is a Labor & Delivery RN in Orange County, Southern California. I helped restart and led the Orange County Chapter since 2020, and will serve a second term on the National Membership Committee. I'm proud to be an AWHONN member. I encourage members to get involved and consider volunteering for an open position. This is an amazing opportunity and a chance to meet others and forge new friendships and connections.

I am honored and privileged to represent our current and future members. I'm looking forward to meeting many of you at our Section Conference in San Jose at the beginning of February, and at the National Convention in Louisiana in June. Please let me know how we can help and support you as a member or Chapter Leader.



GREETINGS FROM YOUR SECRETARY/TREASURER

Happy 2023!

I am excited to start my new three-year term serving as your Secretary-Treasurer. My goal is to provide you, as Chapter Leaders and AWHONN members, all the tools you need to fulfill AWHONN's mission and, simultaneously, equip yourself with all the necessary knowledge to provide the best care to every patient you serve.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the CA Section Conference in February in San Jose and the National Conference in June in New Orleans! I welcome Sue Stone as our new Section Chair and thank Beth Stephens-Hennessy for all the great work she did during her time as Chair!



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tracy Weeber, NoCal & Amy Scott, SoCal

Amy and I wanted to take a moment to share the 2023 AWHONN Federal Legislative and Policy Agenda recommendations to the Board with you. The new agenda clarifies and strengthens our commitment to advocate for women and their babies and our profession

- Advocate for strong nursing representation by a culturally, racially, and gender diverse group of nurses on state, federal, and other policy-making bodies, task forces, advisory boards, working groups, and maternal mortality review teams that address women's health, neonatal health, and obstetric issues, especially by nurses who are Black, Indigenous and people of color.
- Support federal efforts to eliminate the scope of practice barriers for advanced practice registered nurses (NPs, CNMS, CNSs, CRNAs) to practice to the full extent of their education and training to meet the increasing demand for primary care and women's health services.
- Support federal efforts to increase and enhance the nursing workforce, promote nursing as a profession, and promote and support diversity in the profession that better reflects and represents the communities they serve. These efforts should also support staff retention and eliminate financial barriers to nursing education.
- Support for training and equipment to protect nurses on the job and their patients, such as by funding for PPE, workplace violence prevention training and interventions. Support for safe staffing levels for nursing safety and patient well-being that promote optimal outcomes.

- Oppose legislation and regulations to limit compensation of nurses. Efforts to adequately staff hospitals should focus on meeting the market pay necessary to attract and retain qualified staff, including a qualified nursing workforce.
- Advocate for health equity to improve outcomes and access to high-quality, equitable, and necessary services for marginalized populations, including women and birthing people who are:
 - *Incarcerated or detained, including those who are pregnant
 - *Living in poverty or low income
 - *Experiencing a substance use disorder
 - *Black, Indigenous, LatinX, immigrants, and members of historically neglected groups
 - *Military members or veterans
 - *Currently trafficked or at risk for human trafficking
 - *Excluded for their gender identities or relationship status
 - *Disabled
- Advocate for unrestricted access to preventative health care services such as annual well-woman visits; counseling for reproductive life planning; HPV vaccination; mammograms; cervical cancer screening; pre-inter-, and post-conception care; screenings for intimate partner violence, elder abuse, substance abuse, human trafficking, and mental health; smoking cessation programs, treatment for ectopic pregnancy and spontaneous, missed, therapeutic, or elective abortion.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, CONT'D

- Support initiatives to allow access to a wide range of evidence-based contraceptive options for women who seek them, including:
 - *Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) for women of all reproductive ages, including adolescents
 - *Unrestricted over-the-counter access to hormonal contraceptives (to include oral contraceptives, vaginal rings, the contraceptive patch, and depot medroxyprogesterone acetate injections) that are low cost and available to people of all ages without restrictions
 - *Full contraceptive coverage by all insurance payers with no out-of-pocket expense
- Support initiatives to reduce infant mortality and improve the health of newborns, critically ill infants, and preterm newborns, as well as policies designed to increase funding to address racial health disparities, structural and social determinants of health, and resolve health inequities contributing to these issues. Support for legislations and funding to address the effects of systemic racism and environmental factors on newborn health and outcomes, including supporting innovative programs and interventions.
- Support legislation aimed at establishing mandatory federal parental family leave in recognition of the positive impact of family leave on breastfeeding outcomes, parent-child bonding, gender equity, and retaining parents in the workforce.
- Support legislation aimed at protecting, promoting, and supporting breastfeeding including access to no-cost prenatal breastfeeding education and no-cost postpartum lactation support. This includes support for pumping protections for lactating families who return to the workplace.

- Support of expanding Medicaid coverage to a full year postpartum for all birthing people.
- Support federal efforts to reduce instances of gun violence and improve gun safety. Intimate partner violence is a leading cause of death amongst birthing persons and often gets worse during pregnancy. Limiting access to guns to abusive partners would improve women's safety.
- Support for access to adoption counseling services for parents who are considering adoption and post-adoption counseling services for birth parent who place their children for adoption.
- Support legislation that would prohibit workplace and employment discrimination against, while also requiring reasonable accommodations for, pregnant individuals in the workplace.

If you go to <https://www.awhonn.org/advocate/> there is a Townhall discussion from October 2022 available.

Our role as nurse leaders is to advocate and educate, not lobby. If you have interest in this process, we would love to have you in our ranks. Each chapter has a Legislative Coordinator position. Amy and I would be honored to mentor you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracy Weeber & Amy Scott

YOUR SECTION LEADERSHIP TEAM

Section Chair

Sue Stone, MSN RN PHN RNC-OB, C-EFM
srstone.rn@gmail.com

Section Secretary/Treasurer

Marinda du Toit, RNC-OB, C-EFM, IBCLC, BCur
marinda.awhonn@gmail.com

Education Coordinator

Kristi Gabel, DNP, CNS, RNC-OB, C-EFM, CPLC, C-ONQS
tktgabel@comcast.net

OPENINGS

Hospital Liaison

Vendor Management Coordinator

Fundraising Coordinator

1 NoCal School Liason

3 SoCal School Liason

Legislative Coordinators

Tracy Weeber - Northern California
tracy.weeber@gmail.com

Amy Scott - Southern California
msamy67@gmail.com

Membership Coordinators

Laura Senn, RN, PhD, CNS
LauraSennCNS@gmail.com

Uwanda Purnell, MSM, RNC-OB, C-EFM, IBCLC
uwandafree@gmail.com

Social Media, Website & Newsletter Editor

Sharon Dey-Layne, RNC-HROB, MSN, CNS, C-OB, C-ONQS
shardey99@gmail.com

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator

Brandy Frye, MSN, RNC-OB, CCRN-K, TNCC
brachelmsn@gmail.com

NoCal School Liasons

Susan Collins
suescollins@yahoo.com

Nicole McCaughin
nmccaughin@gmail.com



CHAPTER UPDATES

Some chapters are looking for dedicated volunteers to fill vacancies.
Please see below and contact the Chapter Coordinator, listed, if you are interested

INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER

The Inland Empire Chapter has had a busy year! We have been reflecting on all we were able to do this year with the power of technology. We hosted seven talks with 644 participants on zoom from all over the country and even Canada. The topics included: Maternal Sepsis Toolkit, Physiologic Coping, How Physiologic Birth decreases Lawsuits, Birth Trauma Prevention, Burnout and Resilience, Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Maternal Care, Hemorrhage Toolkit version 3.0.

A few of our members were able to go to Denver for AWHONN National and we really enjoyed the leadership retreat this January supporting the contributed growth in our chapter.

We are looking forward to our first in person event since 2020. We are having a Symposium on March 25th, 2022 at Riverside Community Hospital. We hope to see you there! Click the image to register.



Chapter Coordinator
Justine Arechiga
Justinelynn08@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer
Josie Lopez, RN
Jslopez525@gmail.com

Education
Cindy Garcia

Legislative
Jennifer Ayala

OPENINGS: Membership,
Hospital Liaison

LA VALLEY CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator
Andrea Korsak, MSN/ed, RN
andrea.korsak@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer
Wendy Kim, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
wendy.kim.323@gmail.com

Membership
Shawna Ford
shawna4d@gmail.com

OPENINGS: Education, Legislative,
Hospital Liaison

CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator
Robyn Garrett, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
rrgarrettrnc@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer
Sarah Putman, MHA, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
Sarahputmanwns@gmail.com

Legislative
Lorena Garcia, BSN, RN, PHN
loawhonn@gmail.com

Membership
Erin Kavanagh-Vite, BSN, RN, PHN, ILC
Erinkavanagh89@gmail.com

Hospital Liaison
Brenda McMurtrey, RN, BSN, MBA-HCM, C-EFM
Brenda.mcmurtrey@dignityhealth.org

SANTA BARBARA CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator
Rebecca Licha, RNC-OB
becca@beccalicha.com

Secretary/Treasurer
Ma Theresa Quisao, MSN, RNC-OB,
C-EFM
mahaltheresa@yahoo.com

OPENINGS: Education,
Membership, Legislative, Hospital
Liaison

EAST BAY CHAPTER

OPENINGS: Chapter Coordinator,
Secretary/Treasurer, Education,
Membership, Legislative, Hospital
Liaison

SANTA CLARA/SANTA CRUZ CHAPTER

OPENINGS: Chapter Coordinator,
Secretary/Treasurer, Education,
Membership, Legislative, Hospital
Liaison

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator

Barbara Mauger, DNP, RN, NPD-BC,
RNC-OB
barbarablack10@hotmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Kathy Ayala, MSN, RN-BC
kathyayala1218@gmail.com

Membership

Toni Lopez, BSN, RN, RNC-OB
Toni.sardone@yahoo.com

OPENINGS: Education, Legislative,
Hospital Liaison

SALINAS/MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator

Julie Vasher, DNP, RNC-OB, CNS,
C-EFM
julievcs@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Janeen Whitmore, PhD, DNP, RN,
CNE, CHSE
Janeen.awhonn@gmail.com

Legislative

Lee Mangone, BSN, RN
leeincali38@gmail.com

OPENINGS: Education,
Membership, Hospital Liaison

CHICO CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator

Lori Silva
Lori.rn64@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Linda Rowe/Karen M
rowe7@juno.com

Education

Ann Brennan
Chicoanna@yahoo.com

Membership

Luz Alva
Luzalva@sbcglobal.net

OPENINGS: Legislative, Hospital Liaison

SACRAMENTO CHAPTER

Secretary/Treasurer

Melaney Stricklin, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
melaneyst@gmail.com

Membership

Leslie Thielen
nickjoedrew@gmail.com

Education

Morgan Melville, MSN, CNS
morgankmelville@gmail.com

Legislative

Beth Hennessy
bethhennessyrn@gmail.com

OPENINGS: Chapter Coordinator,
Hospital Liaison

SOUTH BAY/LONG BEACH CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator

Rosemarie Cervantes
rxcervantes@gmail.com

Treasurer

Connie von Kohler
cvonkohler@hotmail.com

OPENINGS: Education,
Membership, Legislative,
Hospital Liaison

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator

Juli Weaver, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
Jweaver.rn@sbcglobal.net

Secretary/Treasurer

Erica Marchand, BSN, RNC-OB
ericabmarchand@yahoo.com

Education

Angela Almanza, MSN, RNC-OB
Angelaalmanza24@icloud.com

Legislative

Melissa Mora
melissa@peakrn.com

OPENING: Hospital Liaison

SF BAY AREA/NORTH BAY CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator

Sheri Buda
sabuda3@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Amy Bradley, MSN, RNC-OB
asilverstar.bradley@gmail.com

Education

Kelley Lee-Brennan
kelley.l.brennan@gmail.com

Membership

Samantha Buda
samibuda@gmail.com

Legislative

Meghan Duck
meghan.m.duck@gmail.com

Hospital Liaison

Judy Olive
judyol4awhonn@gmail.com

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator

Allyson Sapp, MSN, RNC-OB
ahsapp@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Carroll-Ann Daley
carrollann.daly@sharp.org

Membership

Kim Paiva, BSN, RNC-OB
kimmypaiva@gmail.com

Education

Amy Murray, CNS, MSN, RNC-OB
amydmurray@yahoo.com

Legislative

Sharon Aduna, MSN, RN
Sharon.aduna@sharp.com

OPENING: Hospital Liaison