



## GREETINGS FROM THE SECTION CHAIR



Sue Stone  
Section  
Chair

Happy Spring everyone!

Welcome to all our current and new California members. A special thanks to our phenomenal Conference Planning Committee for a successful hybrid Section Conference held in February in San Jose. We enjoyed fabulous speakers, delicious meals, and a variety of information from our vendors. Please share your suggestions for speakers and topics for our 2024 California Conference.

Several Section and Chapter leaders attended the National Leadership Development Conference in January and came home with lots of information and ideas for our Section to utilize.

Our CA Section had representation at AWHONN on Capitol Hill where we visited Washington DC and discussed current bills with members of Congress.

Chapter events are up and running. Be sure to stay up to date by visiting the AWHONN CA website or Facebook page.

Remember to sign up for the virtual EWEB 5K, take photos and share them on social media!

Looking forward to seeing many of you in New Orleans in June at our National Conference. **There will be a CA Luncheon event on Monday, June 19 from 12 noon to 2 pm in room R04-R05.** Thank you for spreading the word and encouraging friends, colleagues, and students to become AWHONN members and make a difference in the lives of our birthing communities and newborns.

Warmly,  
Sue Stone

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR SECRETARY/TREASURER

It is with great excitement that I greet you this quarter! Your CA Section Leaders have been busy completing our strategic plan for the coming year. It includes a great line-up of fun, engaging and educational activities in the next few months on the National, Section, and Chapter levels. Please visit our website or contact your chapter coordinator for more information.

We still have a few vacancies in our leadership team at the chapter and section levels. If you are interested in joining our team, please complete this interest form. <https://forms.gle/hubrJHfuBLEKPUTD9>

We recently launched one of our 2023 chapter challenges for the one with the most membership increase by percentage. Did you know you can get your full membership free if you recruit three new members?

We are planning a fun networking event with Washington, Florida and Massachusetts on June 20th at the National Convention. An email with further information will be sent out to registered convention attendees.

Please let us know how we can better support you as AWHONN members. I look forward to seeing you all in New Orleans in June.

Thank you for all you do daily to improve outcomes for all people within the maternal child health field!



Marinda du Toit  
Secretary  
Treasurer

# FROM THE EDUCATION COORDINATOR



**Robyn Garrett MSN, RNC-OB C-EFM**

I would like to introduce myself as the new Section Education Coordinator for California. I have a love and passion for education and would love to support you in any capacity I can. Please reach out to me for assistance with the educational needs for your chapter, ideas for topics, and any way I can support your chapter with education. I would also love to hear from you with what your chapter is doing, regarding education, and if you have had any speaker or topics you would like to recommend to other chapters. I look forward with working with you all!

<h1>SAVE</h1>	<b>SECTION CONFERENCE</b> <small>Stay tuned for registration information for attendees and sponsors!!</small>
23-24 FEBRUARY <h1>2024</h1> <small>Preconference February 22</small>	<h1>THE</h1>
<h1>DATE</h1>	  Hotel Fera 100 City Drive South   Orange, CA

# THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COORDINATOR

**Brandy Frye, MSN, RNC-OB, CCRN-K, TNCC**

As a professional nurse with egalitarian values, I was shocked and offended when I first heard that clinician bias is a HUGE contributing factor to the morbidity and mortality rates of Black women across our country. I am concerned that many of my colleagues are having the initial response that I did FIVE years ago. "I am NOT biased, I treat all my patients the same," and are mindlessly clicking through the state required bias training. BEFORE you click through the training take a test and reflect on your results. I have also created a fun short "Kahoots" to demonstrate how clinician bias shows up in the clinical setting (go to "kahoot it" on your web browser and enter the code 002320919 to join the game). I will be reaching out to all the chapter leaders to discuss how we can come together as professionals and courageously approach this together. Its uncomfortable and it feels awkward at first, but I know we can make a difference. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime and I will see if I can find some resources.

**Unconscious BIAS FLAW**

**WHAT IS IT?**  
instinctively CATEGORIZING PEOPLE and THINGS WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF IT. in thinking guided by past experiences and mental preconditioning

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
there are more than 150 types of biases. AND THEY IMPACT US, OUR WORK AND OUR RELATIONSHIPS

**HOW TO DEAL WITH OUR BIASES?**

- 1. KNOW THEM WELL** → READ ABOUT THEM → RECOGNIZE THAT THEY EXIST
- 2. THINK CRITICALLY** → ATTEND TO DATA and EVIDENCES → LOOK AT PROBLEMS AS A DIAMOND WITH MULTIPLE FACETS → TAKE A CONTRARY VIEW → **PRACTICE EMPATHY**
- 3. CHALLENGE ASSUMPTIONS AND TRADITIONS** → ask WHY AND WHY NOT? OFTEN → EMBRACE DIVERSITY

Additional notes: *be mindful IN YOUR WORDS and ACTIONS*, *and not as a coin WITH ONLY TWO SIDES*

INSPIRES FROM A WORKSHOP WITH SPITIA THAROOD - TAMMAY VORA - QAIPIRE.COM



**Happy Nurses Week from your AWHONN CA Executive Team!**

Thanks for your dedication and passion to every patient, every day.

Join us for the Every Woman, Every Baby Virtual 5k taking place during #NationalNursesWeek, May 6-12. Funds raised from the race help improve health care for women and babies.



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tracy Weeber, NoCal & Amy Scott, SoCal

At the end of 2022, we shared AWHONN's 2023 Federal Legislative and Policy Agenda, which informs advocacy during AWHONN on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., April 24-25, 2023, during this 118th Congress (2023-2024). Many from our California Executive Leadership Team and our Chapters attended. We were very excited for the opportunity to attend in person as we see the pandemic in our rear-view mirrors!

We advocated for the following three federal bills:

- Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act
- Perinatal Workforce Act
- Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness (MOMMA's) Act

Monday, April 24, was a full day of briefings on the 3 bills which prepared AWHONN members to meet with members of Congress or their staff. This included training on how to advocate, talking points and a thorough briefing on meeting logistics for the next day.

Tuesday, April 25, participants had appointments with Congresspersons or their staff to advocate for these bills.

## Maternal and Child Health Provisions Enacted in FY 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Package

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, signed into law in December 2022, contained several important maternal and child health provisions supported by the AHA. These include:

**Continuous Eligibility for Children.** Effective January 1, 2024 requires states to ensure that children determined eligible for Medicaid receive continuous eligibility for 12 months.

**Postpartum Coverage.** The legislation would permanently give states the option to provide 12 months of post-partum coverage to women. Previously states were able to exercise this coverage option, but only through 2027. Currently, 29 states and the District of Columbia have implemented this coverage extension.

**CHIP Extension.** The legislation extends funding for the CHIP program for an additional two years to 2029.

Also, legislation funded many maternal and child health programs.

[LEARN MORE »](#)

California legislation effective January 1, 2023, [Senate Bill 1375](#), authored by Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, supports reproductive healthcare and builds on two existing laws:

- Assembly Bill 890, which passed in 2020, and allows nurse practitioners to practice independently.
- Atkins' own AB 154, which passed in 2013 and permitted nurse practitioners to conduct first-trimester abortions under a doctor's supervision.

National AWHONN's [Abortion Advocacy Resources](#).

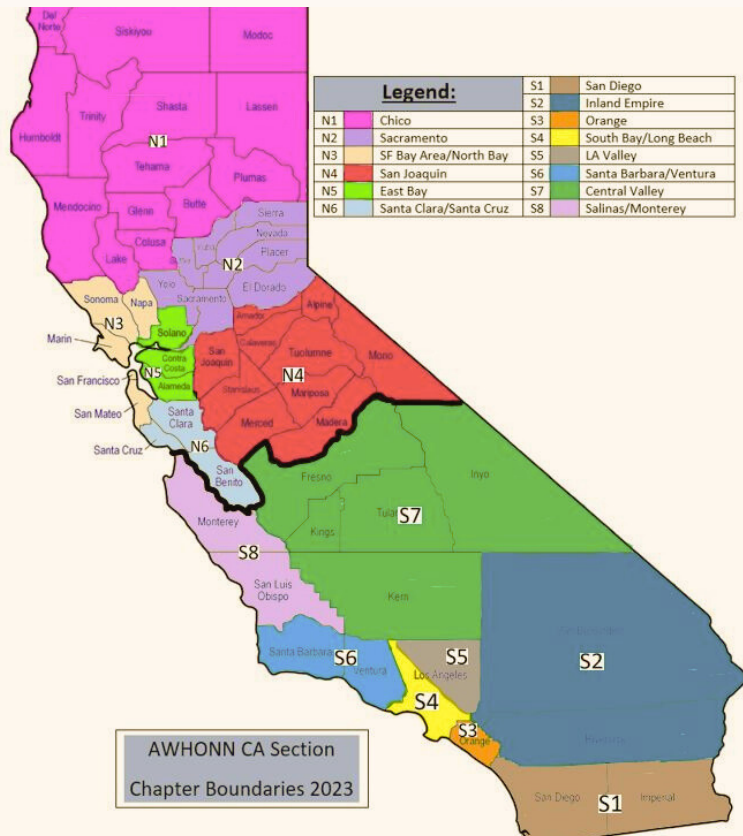
We continue to strive to expand members' knowledge of the advocacy process and the legislation that impacts our patients both federally and statewide. Our role as nurse leaders is to advocate and educate, not lobby. If you have interest in this process, we would love to have you in our ranks. Each chapter has a Legislative Coordinator position. We plan to hold office hours in 2023 to support this opportunity. We would be honored to mentor you.

With Appreciation,

Amy Scott & Tracy Weeber

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Laura Senn, NoCal & Uwanda Purnell, SoCal



AWHONN CA Section Chapter Boundaries 2023

Chapter Boundaries & Statistics					
2023					
#	Chapter Name	# of Hospitals	Births/Year (2021)	Active Members	Counties Served
N1	Chico	14	7834	100	Shasta, Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, Mendocino, Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, Lake, Butte, Plumas
N2	Sacramento	16	28394	283	Sacramento, Yolo, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Sierra, Yuba, Sutter
N3	SF Bay Area/North Bay	15	22086	299	San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin, Sonoma, Napa
N4	San Joaquin	15	20909	130	San Joaquin, Amador, Calaveras, Alpine, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Mariposa, Mono
N5	East Bay	18	42537	319	Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano
N6	Santa Clara/Santa Cruz	14	34179	249	Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito
S1	San Diego	15	40651	266	San Diego, Imperial
S2	Inland Empire	27	46442	328	Riverside, San Bernardino
S3	Orange	16	32998	240	Orange
S4	South Bay-Long Beach	26	52018	470	Los Angeles – Westside Cities, Central Los Angeles, South Bay, Gateway Cities
S5	LA Valley	27	46322	470	Los Angeles – San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley
S6	Santa Barbara/Ventura	9	12916	126	Santa Barbara, Ventura
S7	Central Valley	15	35419	170	Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Inyo
S8	Salinas/Monterey	7	7625	85	San Luis Obispo, Monterey

# YOUR SECTION LEADERSHIP TEAM

## Section Chair

Sue Stone, MSN RN PHN RNC-OB, C-EFM  
[srstone.rn@gmail.com](mailto:srstone.rn@gmail.com)

## Section Secretary/Treasurer

Marinda du Toit, RNC-OB, C-EFM, IBCLC, BCur  
[marinda.awhonn@gmail.com](mailto:marinda.awhonn@gmail.com)

## Education Coordinator

Robyn Garrett, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM  
[rrgarrettrnc@gmail.com](mailto:rrgarrettrnc@gmail.com)

## OPENINGS

Vendor Management Coordinator

Fundraising Coordinator

1 NoCal School Liason

3 SoCal School Liason

## Legislative Coordinators

Tracy Weeber - Northern California  
[tracy.weeber@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.weeber@gmail.com)

Amy Scott - Southern California  
[msamy67@gmail.com](mailto:msamy67@gmail.com)

## Membership Coordinators

Laura Senn, RN, PhD, CNS  
[LauraSennCNS@gmail.com](mailto:LauraSennCNS@gmail.com)

Uwanda Purnell, MSM, RNC-OB, C-EFM, IBCLC  
[uwandafree@gmail.com](mailto:uwandafree@gmail.com)

## Hospital Liaison

Holly Gless  
[gless.international@gmail.com](mailto:gless.international@gmail.com)

## Marketing Coordinator

Sharon Dey-Layne, RNC-HROB, MSN, CNS, C-OB, C-ONQS  
[shardey99@gmail.com](mailto:shardey99@gmail.com)

## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator

Brandy Frye, MSN, RNC-OB, CCRN-K, TNCC  
[brachelmsn@gmail.com](mailto:brachelmsn@gmail.com)

## NoCal School Liasons

Susan Collins  
[suescollins@yahoo.com](mailto:suescollins@yahoo.com)

Nicole McCaughin  
[nmccaughin@gmail.com](mailto: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 started the first part of the year off with a Symposium! 100 nurses gathered in Riverside, CA and leveled up their care. They were able to donate over 3,000 diapers to The Junior League of Riverside due to the generous donations of nurses that came. They plan to take the summer off and pick back up with dinner meetings in the fall!

### Chapter Coordinator

Justine Arechiga  
[Justinelynn08@gmail.com](mailto:Justinelynn08@gmail.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Josie Lopez, RN  
[Jslopez525@gmail.com](mailto:Jslopez525@gmail.com)

### Education

Cindy Garcia

### Legislative

Jennifer Ayala

**OPENINGS:** Membership,  
Hospital Liaison





## SOUTH BAY/LONG BEACH CHAPTER

**Chapter Coordinator**  
Rosemarie Cervantes  
[rxcervantes@gmail.com](mailto:rxcervantes@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**  
Connie von Kohler  
[cvonkohler@hotmail.com](mailto:cvonkohler@hotmail.com)

**OPENINGS:** Education,  
Membership, Legislative,  
Hospital Liaison

Hello Everyone,  
My name is Rosemarie Cervantes. I have been a chapter leader in Los Angeles since 2013. I will be leading the South Bay & the Long Beach chapter.  
I am excited to be back after three long years of the pandemic. I am currently planning our chapter events for this year. Please be on the lookout for future events email to you or posting on the CA section website.



## LA VALLEY CHAPTER

**Chapter Coordinator**  
Andrea Korsak, MSN/ed, RN  
[andrea.korsak@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.korsak@gmail.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Wendy Kim, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM  
[wendy.kim.323@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.kim.323@gmail.com)

**OPENINGS:** Education, Membership,  
Legislative,  
Hospital Liaison

## EAST BAY CHAPTER

**Chapter Coordinator**  
Nicole Reavis  
[reavniki@yahoo.com](mailto:reavniki@yahoo.com)

**OPENINGS:** Secretary/Treasurer,  
Education, Membership, Legislative,  
Hospital Liaison

## SANTA CLARA/SANTA CRUZ CHAPTER

**Chapter Coordinator**  
Deanna Starr Williams  
[dwilliamsak@gmail.com](mailto:dwilliamsak@gmail.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Rebecca Sherwood  
[rebeccanurse727@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccanurse727@gmail.com)

**OPENINGS:** Education, Membership,  
Legislative, Hospital Liaison

## CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER

**Chapter Coordinator**  
Tiffany Capote  
[Tdcapote@gmail.com](mailto:Tdcapote@gmail.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Sarah Putman, MHA, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM  
[Sarahputmanwns@gmail.com](mailto:Sarahputmanwns@gmail.com)

**Hospital Liaison**  
Brenda McMurtrey, RN, BSN, MBA-HCM, C-EFM  
[Brenda.mcmurtrey@dignityhealth.org](mailto:Brenda.mcmurtrey@dignityhealth.org)

**OPENINGS:** Membership; Legislative

## ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

**Chapter Coordinator**  
Barbara Mauger, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, RNC-OB  
[barbarablack10@hotmail.com](mailto:barbarablack10@hotmail.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Kathy Ayala, MSN, RN-BC  
[kathyayala1218@gmail.com](mailto:kathyayala1218@gmail.com)

**Education**  
Lauren Bendon  
[lauren.bendon@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.bendon@gmail.com)

**Legislative**  
Wendy Burrell  
[nanawendyb@gmail.com](mailto:nanawendyb@gmail.com)

**Membership**  
Toni Lopez, BSN, RN, RNC-OB  
[Toni.sardone@yahoo.com](mailto:Toni.sardone@yahoo.com)

**Hospital Liaison**  
Laura Dragan  
[ldraganrnc@hotmail.com](mailto:ldraganrnc@hotmail.com)

## SANTA BARBARA/VENTURA CHAPTER

**Chapter Coordinator**  
Rebecca Licha, RNC-OB  
[becca@beccalicha.com](mailto:becca@beccalicha.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Ma Theresa Quisao, MSN, RNC-OB,  
C-EFM  
[mahalteresa@yahoo.com](mailto:mahalteresa@yahoo.com)

**OPENINGS:** Education,  
Membership, Legislative, Hospital  
Liaison

## SACRAMENTO CHAPTER

**Chapter Coordinator**  
Melaney Stricklin, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM  
[melaneyst@gmail.com](mailto:melaneyst@gmail.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Rachel Fanelli  
[rfanelli89@gmail.com](mailto:rfanelli89@gmail.com)

**Membership**  
Leslie Thielen  
[nickjoedrew@gmail.com](mailto:nickjoedrew@gmail.com)

**Education**  
Morgan Melville, MSN, CNS  
[morgankmelville@gmail.com](mailto:morgankmelville@gmail.com)

**Legislative**  
Beth Hennessy  
[bethhennessyrn@gmail.com](mailto:bethhennessyrn@gmail.com)

**OPENINGS:** Hospital Liaison

## SF BAY AREA/NORTH BAY CHAPTER

We have an upcoming educational dinner on Optimizing Care of the Infant with NAS/NOWS. This is expected to take place in late May, more to come soon.

Our education leader Kelley Lee is participating in the 140/90 fundraiser, running 140 miles in 90 days to raise money for preeclampsia research.

Our team is also participating in the March of Dimes walk June 10 in San Francisco.

### Chapter Coordinator

Sheri Buda  
[sabuda3@gmail.com](mailto:sabuda3@gmail.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Amy Bradley, MSN, RNC-OB  
[asilverstar.bradley@gmail.com](mailto:asilverstar.bradley@gmail.com)

### Education

Kelley Lee-Brennan  
[kelley.l.brennan@gmail.com](mailto:kelley.l.brennan@gmail.com)

### Membership

Samantha Buda  
[samibuda@gmail.com](mailto:samibuda@gmail.com)

### Legislative

Meghan Duck  
[meghan.m.duck@gmail.com](mailto:meghan.m.duck@gmail.com)

### Hospital Liaison

Judy Olive  
[judyol4awhonn@gmail.com](mailto:judyol4awhonn@gmail.com)

## SALINAS/MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

### Chapter Coordinator

Julie Vasher, DNP, RNC-OB, CNS, C-EFM  
[julievcns@gmail.com](mailto:julievcns@gmail.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Janeen Whitmore, PhD, DNP, RN, CNE, CHSE  
[Janeen.awhonn@gmail.com](mailto:Janeen.awhonn@gmail.com)

**OPENINGS:** Education, Membership, Hospital Liaison, Legislative

## SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

### Chapter Coordinator

Allyson Sapp, MSN, RNC-OB  
[ahsapp@gmail.com](mailto:ahsapp@gmail.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Carroll-Ann Daley  
[carrollann.daley@sharp.org](mailto:carrollann.daley@sharp.org)

### Membership

Kim Paiva, BSN, RNC-OB  
[kimmypaiva@gmail.com](mailto:kimmypaiva@gmail.com)

### Education

Amy Murray, CNS, MSN, RNC-OB  
[amydmurray@yahoo.com](mailto:amydmurray@yahoo.com)

### Legislative

Sharon Aduna, MSN, RN  
[Sharon.aduna@sharp.com](mailto:Sharon.aduna@sharp.com)

**OPENING:** Hospital Liaison

## CHICO CHAPTER

### Chapter Coordinator

Lori Silva  
[Lori.rn64@gmail.com](mailto:Lori.rn64@gmail.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Linda Rowe/Karen M  
[lrowe7@juno.com](mailto:lrowe7@juno.com)

### Education

Ann Brennan  
[Chicoanna@yahoo.com](mailto:Chicoanna@yahoo.com)

### Membership

Luz Alva  
[Luzalva@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Luzalva@sbcglobal.net)

**OPENINGS:** Legislative, Hospital Liaison

## SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY CHAPTER

### Chapter Coordinator

Juli Weaver, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM  
[jweaver.rn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jweaver.rn@sbcglobal.net)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Erica Marchand, BSN, RNC-OB  
[ericabmarchand@yahoo.com](mailto:ericabmarchand@yahoo.com)

### Education

Angela Almanza, MSN, RNC-OB  
[Angelaalmanza24@icloud.com](mailto:Angelaalmanza24@icloud.com)

### Legislative

Melissa Mora  
[melissa@peakrn.com](mailto:melissa@peakrn.com)

**OPENING:** Hospital Liaison, Membership



### San Diego Chapter event

Data like you have never seen before: Mural Solution for Labor & Delivery

Tue, May 23, 2023, 5:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/data-like-you-have-never-seen-before-mural-solution-for-labor-delivery-tickets-630170907147>

### SF Bay Area Chapter Event

NAS event registration: Caring for Infants with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Wed, May 24, 2023, 6:30 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/caring-for-infants-with-neonatal-abstinence-syndrome-tickets-620271868857>

Join us:  
Earn CEUs & Enjoy Dinner!



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER



**PRESENTATION TOPIC:**  
Caring for Infants with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)/ Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS)



Regional Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Coordinator, Becca Licha and National Director, Katrina Johnson participated in the panel discussion after the screening of the movie Toxic: A Black Woman's Story. The event was held during Black Maternal Health Week.