



GREETINGS FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

Happy Summer to all our amazing AWHONN CA Members! It was wonderful to meet and reunite with many of you at the National Convention in Phoenix, AZ in June. With the most AWHONN members in the country, California was well represented by poster presenters, session presenters, Special Interest Group Meet Ups, and attendees.

Our CA Luncheon was attended by over 100 members who were wearing our vibrant gold CA sashes. We partnered with Florida, Washington, Massachusetts, and Michigan to host the Fab 5 Party during the week of festivities. The President's Party was Motown-themed in honor of our current President, Cheryl Bellamy from Detroit.

Recorded sessions are available for viewing until August 15, 2024. Don't forget to claim your CEs by August 15 also.

Mark your calendars for next year's convention in Orlando, Florida, June 21-25, 2025.

Congratulations to Sherri Mendelson, PhD, RNC-IN, Inpt OB, EFM, CNS, IBCLC who received the designation as a Fellow of The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (FAWHONN) and was inducted during a special celebration at the convention.

Congratulations to Barbara Mauger, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, RNC-OB who received Nurse of the Year Award at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center.

Congratulations to Janice Tinsley, MN, RN who received the Perinatal Nurse of the Year award at UCSF.

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. Have a great Summer!
Warmly,
Sue Stone



Sue Stone
Section
Chair



Greetings AWHONN California,

GREETINGS FROM YOUR SECRETARY/TREASURER

What a great reunion in Phoenix! The days were jam-packed with extraordinary presentations, and the evenings were filled with networking and fun events!

Now, we look forward to our next CA Conference. Save the date - Feb 19-21, 2025! More details will be available soon.

Your section and chapter leadership teams are currently working on the planning and budgets for 2025. We are always looking for suggestions on how we can better serve you and our members. If you have a specific educational need or want to connect, please reach us at awhonn.casection@gmail.com.

If you want to join our volunteer team on the chapter or section level, please submit an interest form through the link on our home page at california.awhonn.org.

As always, look after yourselves and keep doing great things!

Your Secretary-Treasurer,
Marinda du Toit



Marinda du Toit
Secretary
Treasurer

2024 AWHONN ON CAPITOL HILL



2024 AWHONN NATIONAL CONVENTION



CA SECTION AT 2024 AWHONN CONVENTION



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LEISLATIVE UPDATE

Amy Scott, Southern CA
Tracy Weeber, Northern CA

AWHONN on Capitol Hill (AOCH), April 29-30, 2024

The bills! This is just a brief synopsis adapted from the Aoch briefs.

- **H.R. 5568 / S. 2846, The Community, Access, Resources, and Empowerment (CARE) for Moms Act**
 - The CARE Act for Moms supports the maternal health workforce, promotes prenatal and postpartum care access, and provides resources for mothers and infants.
 - Establish state-based Perinatal Collaborative grant programs.
 - Establish regional centers of excellence.
 - Support Federal efforts to grow and diversify the doula workforce.
 - Extend Medicaid coverage for postpartum mothers in all 50 states.
 - Establish grants for Rural Obstetric Mobile Units.
 - Extend Medicaid and CHIP to oral health coverage to pregnant and postpartum women.
 - Extend WIC benefits for postpartum and breastfeeding women for two years.
- **S. 1573, The PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023**
 - This bill offers continued funding of \$2 million annually through 2028 for the CDC to continue research and education outreach concerning the causes of PTL and how to improve outcomes for preterm and LBW infants.
 - Renew the CDC research programs on preterm birth, including national data tracking.
 - Fund activities focused on promoting healthy pregnancies and preventing preterm birth.
 - Research the impact of gaps in social factors on the monetary public health program to guide Health & Human Services (HHS) in making new recommendations to prevent preterm birth.
 - Create within the Department of HHS a new entity to coordinate activities and programs related to preterm birth, infant mortality, and other adverse birth outcomes.
- **S. 2415, The Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023**
 - This bill reauthorizes federal support for state based maternal mortality review committees through 2028. MMRCs review all pregnancy-related deaths to identify causes and recommendations to prevent future mortalities.
 - This bill would expand MMRCs to better protect women throughout their childbearing journey and assist in narrowing racial outcome disparities.
 - MMRCs are a multidisciplinary committee including : public health, OBGYNs, MFM, Nursing, Midwifery, forensic pathology, mental and behavioral health, patient advocacy groups, and community-based organizations.

Forgot your High School Civics class, you are not alone. Here are some videos to review 😊

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=men-vp5jvzl>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-government-and-civics/us-gov-interactions-among-branches/us-gov-structures-powers-and-functions-of-congress/v/how-a-bill-becomes-a-law>

To read the entire bill please visit www.congress.gov.

Download the 2024 [Legislative Priorities](#). For more information on AWHONN's advocacy efforts, email advocacy@awhonn.org.

The fun stuff!

- Did you know? There are (not so secret) passageways under the U.S. Capitol! The subway system of the United States Capitol Complex in Washington, D.C. consists of three underground electric people mover systems that connect the U.S. Capitol to several congressional office buildings – all the Senate buildings and one of the House buildings. To use this subway system, you must be escorted by a Senate or House staffer with proper identification. This can be during a tour of the Capitol complex...
- Ask and you (likely) shall receive! Staffers can get you into a Capitol complex tour.
- You may run into politicians you're excited to meet, such as Nancy Pelosi (Wendy Allen), or Adam Schiff (Amy Scott).
- Stay an extra day if you can! There are so many places to explore, many of them free. Timed entry tickets may be required. Two of my favorites – not free, though worth it, in my opinion – are the Monuments by Moonlight tour <https://www.trolleytours.com/washington-dc/night-tours> and the National Museum of African American History & Culture <https://nmaahc.si.edu>
- Next time in DC for Aoch, head to Causa <https://www.causadc.com> a Michelin One Star restaurant with Peruvian cuisine. Come join us!
- Aoch is growing! As of 2024, this event has outgrown the Phoenix Park Hotel.
- AWHONN's Government Affairs Director, Seth Chase, and his team, are seeking a larger venue for Aoch 2025 to ensure all of us interested in advocating for Federal bills impacting women and babies have an opportunity to attend.
- January is usually when event and hotel block room registration opens, with the event occurring in April. Check here <https://www.awhonn.org/advocate/> for info and to sign up for updates.

ACCOUNTABILITY, BELONGING & CULTURE Brandy Frye

The Code of Ethics for Nurses with interpretive statements is a cornerstone of professional nursing practice and outlines how the professional nurse should approach patient care. One of the core fundamentals of nursing practice is that "The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person." (ANA, 2015). Different health factors contribute to health outcomes, such as length or quality of life. Typically, when people think about what makes a population healthy or unhealthy, we first consider health behaviors and the social determinants of health, not the clinical care people receive at the bedside. An accurate and comprehensive approach to health equity requires addressing the social and delivery system factors driving inequity. We must actively work towards dismantling belief systems and structures that perpetuate systemic racism in Nursing. In the spirit of inquiry and to better understand ourselves as well as the communities we serve, the CA AWHONN section leadership team is launching a pilot program in the late spring of 2024. If you are interested in participating or if you are interested in hearing more about this 6 - week program please access the hyperlink here, complete the form, and a member of the research team will reach out to you. Our Stories [Interest form](#)



*A safe place to
learn, grow, understand.*

My skin color is different from yours.
My life experiences are different from yours.
Let's listen to each other's stories.
Together let's build some peace.

*We can bring
peace to
America.*

Five white people and
five people of color meet via zoom
with trained facilitators for six weeks.



You can learn more at
www.OurStoriesOnRace.org.



In the spirit of inquiry and to better understand ourselves as well as those we serve, the CA AWHONN section leadership team is launching a pilot program in the Spring of 2024

The terrifying rate of morbidity and mortality experienced by people who do not identify as white is stunning! Nurses must come together as social justice advocates and be part of the solution. To fully address health disparities and to better serve the marginalized populations within our communities we must be willing to have brave conversations on our lived experiences. This program is a six-week program entitled Our Stories. If you are interested in hearing more about this program and possibly participating in the pilot, please access using the QR code above and complete the form.

CHAPTER UPDATES

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

SANTA BARBARA/VENTURA CHAPTER

The Santa Barbara/ Ventura County (SBVC) AWHONN Chapter held a chapter meeting on May 21, 2024. There were over 20 people in attendance at the event at Ventura County Medical Center. SBVC AWHONN welcomed speaker Katrina Johnson, MSN/ Ed, RNC-OB, C-EFM. Her presentation titled, "Spilling the Tea on Obstetrical Hemorrhage: Tone, Trauma Tissue and Thrombin, was engaging and informative. The lecture title inspired a tea party theme to the night. Attendees were encouraged to wear big hats, like the ones worn at a Tea party or Kentucky Derby party. The hats really added a fun component to the gathering. Dinner was sponsored by Jada System.

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WELCOME NEW LEADERS!!!

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PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS SANTA CLARA/SANTA CRUZ CHAPTER



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On May 2nd, The Sacramento AWHONN chapter hosted the very special Lisa Miller at UC Davis MIND Institute. We had a great turnout! 125 attendees got to spend 8 hours listening to Lisa Miller and visit over 10 vendors! We had great raffle prizes, learned new information, enjoyed breakfast (courtesy of JADA), a catered lunch and shared some good laughs! It was a good time for all!

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INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER

The Inland Empire Chapter had a nice dinner on May 16, at Mario's Place in Riverside, across from the Mission Inn. It was sponsored by Pacira and Dr Stephen Garber spoke on ERAS and the use of Exparel after a C Section. It was a very interesting presentation with 26 nurses and doctors in attendance. Combined with the presentation was a successful diaper drive that benefited our community.

Two of our members are pregnant and expecting within days of each other! Justine is having her second baby and Josie is having her first in October (See photo).

Our member, Erica, recently passed the exam to become certified in Obstetrics. Congratulations, Erica Leon RNC!

Ursula just did a presentation to 150-200 attendees at the PacLac conference in L.A. on Substance Exposure: An Integrated Approach which was very well received.



*JUSTINE AND JOSIE
BABIES DUE DAYS APART*

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ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

Our first Chapter activity for the year was an AWHONN Advanced Fetal Monitoring Class presentation by OC Chapter Coordinator – Barbara Mauger on March 30th. Attending advanced fetal monitoring classes equips nurses with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to provide safe and effective care to mothers and babies during labor and delivery.

- In-depth knowledge: Advanced classes provide nurses with a deeper understanding of fetal monitoring techniques, data interpretation, the significance of various patterns, and complex cases. This knowledge enables them to identify signs of distress and make timely interventions during labor and delivery.
- Evidence-Based Practice: Fetal monitoring practices evolve based on research and evidence. Attending advanced classes ensures nurses stay updated with the latest guidelines and best practices, enhancing critical thinking skills.
- Communication: Effective communication with the healthcare team is essential during labor. Nurses attending advanced classes learn how to collaborate with physicians, midwives, and other professionals to optimize patient care.
- Legal and Ethical Considerations: Fetal monitoring involves legal and ethical aspects. Nurses need to understand their responsibilities, documentation requirements, and potential liabilities.

Feedback from the class included the following comments:

Barbara was a great instructor; she kept the entire day interactive and gave very good information.

The instructors were fabulous

All great!

Great class! I learned so much and had so many takeaways from this course. Thank you!

The presentation was great

Loved it!

Thank you

Overall, very good class.

Many requested another class later in the year for their colleagues, so let's look at putting that on our calendars!

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AWHONN

CALIFORNIA

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

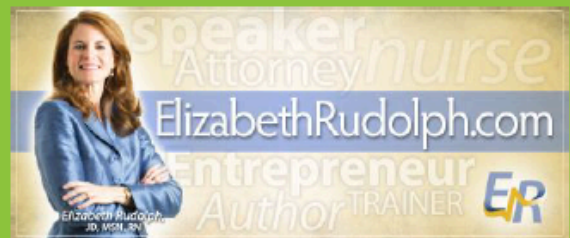
California AWHONN Presents: Elizabeth Rudolph JD, MSN, RN
RaDonda Vaught: Lessons Learned From The Criminal Case
Against A Nurse

On demand webinar
Register by July 31st with
full 30 day access to watch
at your convenience.

Scan to register for link



Member- \$20
Non-member regular- \$25
Student - \$15
No refund offered



Objectives:

- Describe the nursing liability associated with medication administration.
- Identify the most common nursing lawsuits against nurses.
- List the four elements of a nursing malpractice lawsuit.