



AWHONN
CALIFORNIA
PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS



Summer greetings from your CA Section Chair and Secretary/Treasurer

We are grateful for each and every one of you!

Happy Nurses Week, Mother's Day, and Father's Day to you and your loved ones.

Congratulations to our graduating AWHONN members, family, and friends. Celebrate your success as you begin your nursing journey or continue your academic endeavors.

We are excited to announce the addition of another chapter in NorCal. The North Coast Chapter will include Lake, Napa, Mendocino and Sonoma counties.

Our Chapters are keeping busy with dinner events, a family beach day, virtual meetings and diaper drives.

April finished strong with more than 20 AWHONN CA members attending AWHONN on Capitol Hill and meeting with House and Senate representatives.

The annual EWEB Virtual 5K to celebrate Nurses Week in May attracted great support from our CA Section. Our participating members raised almost \$1000, gaining us first place for this challenge. Funds raised help support lifelong learning for nurses and scholarship opportunities for conference attendance.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the AWHONN National Convention in Florida in June. Don't forget to sign up for the Fab 5 Party!

As we transition to Summer from a busy time of graduations and celebrations, we hope you remember to schedule time for self-care (or maybe a vacation!).

We encourage you to share the benefits of becoming an AWHONN member with friends, colleagues, and students. Let's empower our nursing profession and double our membership.

With Appreciation,
Sue Stone and Marinda du Toit

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, MSN, RNC-OB, IBCLC,
C-EFM
marinda.awhonn@gmail.com

Education Coordinator

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

Marketing Coordinator

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

Accountability, Belonging, and Culture Coordinator

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

Section Community Liaison

Holly Gless, MSN, RNC-OB
gless.international@gmail.com

VACANCIES

Section Philanthropic Enterprise Coordinator
Section Membership Coordinator

Vendor Management Coordinator

Sherri Mendelson
tomsherri1@ca.rr.com

Membership Coordinator

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

Legislative Coordinators

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

Amy Scott – Southern California

msamy67@gmail.com

Section Student Engagement Liaison

Susan Collins - Northern California
suescollins@yahoo.com

Michelle Glover - Southern California

michelle.awhonn@gmail.com

Section Student Interns

Emily Broadwater
emilybroadwater@gmail.com

Sarah Shuster

sarahnshu@gmail.com

EDUCATION UPDATE

Robyn Garrett

Hello learners!

A lot is going on with AWHONN and education. AWHONN has partnered with the American Red Cross and created Neonatal Advanced Life Support (NALS). This program is designed for all healthcare providers, from EMTs to MDs, with a primary target audience of first responders and maternity desert areas. I have had the privilege of being one of their first Instructor trainers. This program is not limited to out-of-hospital or maternity deserts, but also includes inpatient labor and delivery (LD), postpartum (PP), and neonatal intensive care units (NICUs).

AWHONN recently released the Perinatal Nurse Leader Clinical Competency and Education Guide. [Perinatal Nurse Leader: Clinical Competencies and Education Guide - Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing](#)

There is a wealth of educational content being offered in the chapters! Please let me know if I can assist you with any specific educational needs. I can be reached at rrgarrettrnc@gmail.com



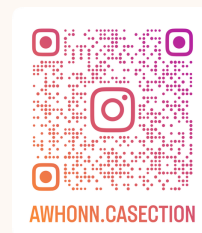
MARKETING UPDATE

Sharon Dey-Layne

AWHONN California Section - Find us on Facebook here



AWHONN California Section - Scan the QR code to find us on Instagram



CONGRATULATIONS!

Sharon Dey-Layne recently graduated with her DNP!



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Amy Scott, Southern CA
Tracy Weeber, Northern CA

At the end of April, 150 AWHONN members from across the United States converged in Washington, D. C., to advocate for issues critical to our members and the populations we serve. We advocated for:

- No cuts to Medicare
- Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act & Appropriation
- H.R. 1909 Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2025
- H.R 2531/ S.1232 The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care & Social Service Workers Act



AWHONN opposes cuts to Medicaid mandated by the budget resolution passed by Congress in April, directing at least \$880 billion in savings over 10 years. On May 14, 2025, the House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced its portion of the budget reconciliation bill to meet spending targets. The Congressional Budget Office's preliminary estimates show that the Medicaid provisions would reduce the deficit by \$625 billion over ten years and increase the number of people without health insurance by at least 7.6 million by 2034. As you are aware, the bill recently passed the House narrowly and is expected to be introduced in the Senate this week. Please reach out to your Senators and let them know how you feel about how the cuts could lead to more maternal deaths and worse infant mortality.

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act and Appropriations bolsters and sustains the nation's nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. The bill would support academic institutions, nursing faculty, and students. It also addresses nursing shortages in rural and medically underserved areas and connects patients with nursing care across various settings, including community health centers, hospitals, and nursing schools. The act supports the recruitment and retention of nurses through the Nurse Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs. We are requesting nearly double the prior funding (\$530 million) to cover the anticipated costs of nursing shortages.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Amy Scott, Southern CA
Tracy Weeber, Northern CA

The Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2025 would allocate funding for maternal mortality review committees (MMRCs) through FY 2028. MMRCs are the committees that review maternal deaths, determine preventable causes, and release evidence-based recommendations for improving outcomes. The funding enhances access to comprehensive maternal health care services. Ameliorating systemic disparities.

The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care & Social Service Workers Act is a reflection of the protection that we enjoy in California. There are already federal rules, but they lack enforcement authority. This bill holds healthcare facilities accountable and mandates enforcement. The healthcare industry is one of the most dangerous, with over 70% of all incidents reported. You may ask yourself, "What can I do?" Here is a list of actions:

- Reach out to your congressperson at <https://congress.gov>
- Learning more about the issues and raising awareness among your colleagues
- Participate in grassroots movements such as marches, peaceful picketing
- Attend the next Legislative Update on September 24th, 2025 @ 7:00 pm
- Attend AWHONN on the Hill in 2026!



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE Laura Senn

California Section AWHONN Membership Report: 2025

Chapter Increases by Quarter

Quarter 2- Updated May 1, 2025

	Annual Births	% members by births	Q1/2025	Q2/2025	Quarter Increase	% increase
N1- Chico	2800	3.5%	107	99	-8	
N2- Sacramento	28,000	1.1%	326	354	28	8.5%
N3- SF & N. Bay	22,000	1.0%	342	351	9	2.6%
N4- C. Sierra Basin	20,000	0.6%	126	124	-2	
N5- East Bay	42,000	0.8%	372	370	-2	
N6- Silicon Valley	34,000	1.2%	287	291	4	1.4%
	148.8K	1%	1575	1589	39	
S1- San Diego	40,000	0.6%	274	280	6	2%
S2- Inland Empire	46,000	0.8%	409	404	-5	
S3- Orange	33,000	0.8%	267	266	-1	
S4/S5- LA county	98,000	0.5%	509	490	-19	
S6- St. Barb/Vent	12,000	0.9%	119	117	-2	
S7- Central Valley	35,000	0.5%	174	177	3	1.7%
S8- Monterey/SLO	7500	1.1%	86	83	-3	
	271.5K	0.6%	1838	1817	-21	
Current Total Members			3422	3408		

Thank you, Laura!

We would like to thank Laura Senn for her years of service to AWHONN CA as the membership coordinator, as she prepares to hand over the reins to our newest member of the Leadership Team, Lauren Barden.

Welcome Lauren!

Please join us in welcoming Lauren Barden as our Section Membership Coordinator. Lauren has been part of perinatal nursing for the past 18 years. She began her career in the NICU and eventually transitioned into mother-baby care. For the last 8 years, she has been working as a clinical educator, sharing best practices with perinatal nurses. She lives in Northern California with her husband and children.



COMMUNITY LIAISON UPDATE Holly Gless-Green

We are continuously updating our community contacts to ensure all AWHONN opportunities are shared with members, as well as non-members in hospitals, clinics, and other areas where perinatal and neonatal health are relevant. If you have had a recent change in leadership, please contact Holly to update their contact information [here](#).



VENDOR COMMITTEE UPDATE **Sherri Mendelson**

CALL FOR VENDORS/EXHIBITORS

Our committee is currently contacting potential vendors for the 2025 Leadership Development Conference in September and for our 2026 AWHONN CA Conference in February. A robust group of vendors helps provide important industry information for our attendees and offers financial sponsorship to support a strong conference experience, thereby reducing costs for attendees. If you have any contacts for potential vendors, please feel free to reach out to Sherri.

Sherri Mendelson: tomsherri1@ca.rr.com

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
CURRENT AND PAST
SPONSORS/EXHIBITORS FOR
YOUR AMAZING SUPPORT!

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT LIAISON UPDATE

Michelle Glover, Southern CA | Susan Collins, Northern CA

Welcome, Michelle Glover!

Michelle has been an RN for 25 years and has worked in Labor and Delivery and Perinatal services for 20 years. She transitioned into the role of education in 2021 and began getting more involved with AWHONN, starting to read articles and attend conferences. She states that she missed out on so many years of education and fun by not taking the initiative to be more involved. She now looks forward to fostering early enthusiasm among students in her new role as Student Engagement Liaison for Southern California. Her educational background includes an MSN in Leadership and Administration, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), and various certifications in obstetric nursing and fetal monitoring.

Michelle looks forward to working with everyone!



ACCOUNTABILITY, BELONGING & CULTURE Brandy Frye

On April 11th, I was honored to speak at the Black Maternal Health Symposium in Bakersfield. During my presentation, I shared my personal story and the strategies I have employed to become a better ally. I presented patient scenarios using Kahoot to demonstrate how clinician bias shows up in clinical decision making. As social justice advocates, nurses must continue to reflect on their personal belief systems and challenge themselves to understand new and differing perspectives. I am willing to present this presentation no charge for any of the chapter or audience.

Please see the mnemonic handout below to guide you on how to be a better ally, and access the Kahoot game with one of the following actions:

- [Click this link](#)
- [Visit the Kahoot website](#) and enter the game PIN: 005476238
- Scan the QR code to the right



Bias Mitigation Strategies

I	Introspection, identify your own biases and challenge yourself every day.
M	Mindful-be mindful of your words, actions, and behaviors. Model and encourage allyship.
P	Perspective taking – think of how others may be experiencing this situation. Pause, slow down are you thinking of everything
L	listen actively. learn more about groups to which you do not belong.
I	Implement bias reduction strategies and be a positive influence within the communities and the facilities where you practice.
C	Checks and balances. Check your messaging. Curiosity about others cultural norms. Credit where credit is due. Conversations have them! Call in
I	Institutional fairness by using standardized checklists and order sets, Influence others, Include
T	T-take two it takes time this is life long-work. Thank you - appreciate and express others willingness to

Adapted from: "Eight tactics to identify and reduce your implicit [biases](#)"

ACCOUNTABILITY, BELONGING & CULTURE

Brandy Frye



*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.

NATIONAL NEWS

#AWHONN2025: Find Your Strength in Joy

True strength comes from within—it's the powerful force that helps you conquer challenges, grow through adversity, and keep moving forward with unwavering purpose and resilience.

Join us in Orlando, June 21-25, at [#AWHONN2025](#), and experience a deeper, more connected event that will propel you toward your goals with clarity, confidence, and ease. **Find your strength. Find your joy. Register now.**



2025 AWHONN CONVENTION
June 21-25 • Orlando, FL

SPECIAL EVENTS

REGISTER NOW!

 Two Moments That Changed My Life June 23, 2025 @ 7-8 pm	 Solutions Lab with Jen Hamilton June 24, 2025 @ 7:45-8:45 am	 President's Party June 24, 2025 @ 8-10:30 pm
--	---	---

Update your AWHONN Member Record Today!

Be sure to keep in touch! Your AWHONN record not only allows us to communicate with you about new and exciting programs but also helps us to design a member experience based on your preferences. Please take a few minutes to [log in to your profile and confirm the information](#) we have for you on file is current and make any updates you'd like to add.



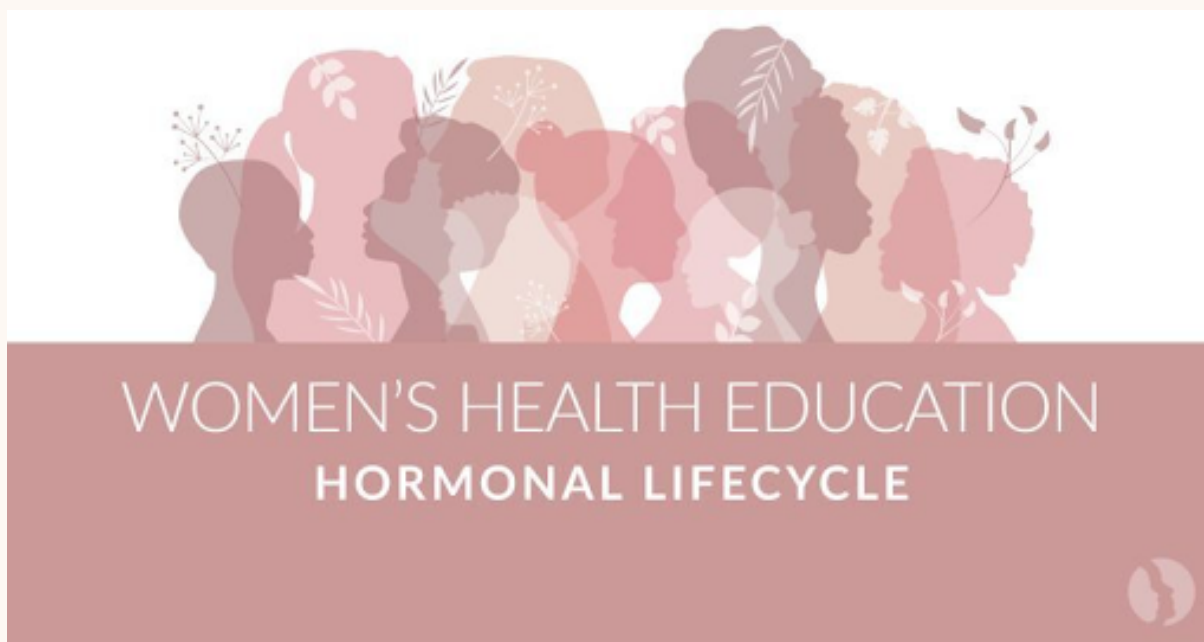
Update Your Member Record Today!

Don't Miss Out on the Latest from AWHONN

NATIONAL NEWS

Women's Health Education Series Now Available!

AWHONN's Women's Health Education Series delivers evidence-based learning tailored for clinicians. The first in the series, the Hormonal Lifecycle course is here. Learn more and make a difference in your patients' lives! [Learn more here!](#)





**AWHONN DISTRICT 4
RURAL HEALTH
Summit**

FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS CARING
FOR RURAL BIRTHING FAMILIES



October 6 & 7, 2025

Hybrid—Virtual AND In-Person

Unity Point
Iowa Methodist Medical Center
1200 Pleasant Street
Des Moines, IA, 50309

HOT TOPICS:

- Orientation & onboarding
- Navigation in OB deserts
- Strengthening rural communities & combatting health inequities
- OB simulations, doulas, charting & more!

SAVE THE DATE!

COST	IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL
AWHONN MEMBER	ONE DAY- \$75 BOTH DAYS- \$150
NON-AWHONN MEMBER	ONE DAY- \$100 BOTH DAYS- \$200

THIS ACTIVITY HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE NORTHEAST MULTISTATE DIVISION EDUCATION UNIT FOR APPROVAL. TO AVOID CONFLICT OF INTEREST, THE NORTHEAST MULTISTATE DIVISION EDUCATION UNIT IS AN ACCREDITED APPROVER OF NURSING CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BY THE AMERICAN NURSES' CREDENTIALING CENTER'S COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION.

NATIONAL DIAPER NEWS

A special thanks to all who participated in the California Section and Sacramento Chapter Diaper Drives!

Thank you to those who have donated diapers in support of The Healthy Mom & Baby Diaper Drives. A very special shout-out to the Sacramento chapter for donating nearly 30,000 diapers with the help of Huggies matching! [Click here](#) to learn more about how AWHONN nurses support local families in need!

2025 Healthy Mom&Baby Diaper Drive						
Month	No.	Section/Chapter	Organization Name	#Diapers Collected by AWHONN	#Diapers Matched by Huggies	Total
January	1	Leadership Development Conference	WestSide Baby Diaper Bank	6,064	6,064	12,128
February	2	California Section	LA Regional Food Bank	19,632	19,632	39,264
	3	South Carolina Section	Bundles of Joy	11,061	11,061	22,122
March	4	Florida Section/USF Student Nurses	Junior League of Tampa	7,772	7,772	15,544
	5	St. Louis Chapter	St. Louis Area Diaper Bank	1,008	1,008	2,016
	6	Florida Section	Central Florida Diaper Bank	2,716	2,716	5,432
	7	Sacramento Chapter	Sacramento Food Bank	7,872	7,872	15,744
	8	Sacramento Chapter	Lighthouse Counseling and Family Resource Center	7,012	7,012	14,024
	9	Illinois Section	First Things First through The Outreach House in Lombard	5,942	5,942	11,884
April	10	Michigan Section	The Diaper Alliance	2,796	2,796	5,592
	11	Synova Associates NLF	Arizona Diaper Bank	2,175	2,175	4,350
	12	Nebraska Section	Nebraska Diaper Bank	1,956	1,956	3,912
	13	AWHONN on Capitol Hill	Greater DC Diaper Bank	5,151	5,151	10,302
	14	Maryland Section	Share Baby	16,972	16,972	33,944
Total				98,129	98,129	196,258

CHAPTER UPDATES

CHICO CHAPTER



The Chico Chapter just attended a wonderful dinner on April 23rd about Early Warning Signs and Artificial Intelligence sponsored by PeriGen. Debbie Ketchum was the speaker. Members came as far away as Yuba City with a total attendance of 17!

Next quarter, our chapter plans on having a diaper drive as well as another meeting. Our goal is for increased attendance and participation in our events from members outside our immediate community.



Chapter Coordinator

Lori Silva

Lori.rn64@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Karen Murphy

karbearmurphy@gmail.com

Education

Ann Brennan

Chicoanna@yahoo.com

Membership

Luz Alva

Luzalva@sbcglobal.net

Community Liaison

Linda Rowe

lrowe7@juno.com

VACANCY: Legislative



CHAPTER UPDATES

SACRAMENTO CHAPTER



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

Secretary/Treasurer
Rachel Fanelli
rfanelli89@gmail.com

Education
Stacey Stark, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
sstark425@gmail.com

Membership
Leslie Thielen
nickjoedrew@gmail.com

Legislative
Beth Hennessy
bethhennessyrn@gmail.com

Community Liaison
Angelique Silva
angelique.i.silva@gmail.com

SACRAMENTO AWHONN PRESENTS:



REVOLUTIONIZING PRENATAL CARE: INTRODUCING UNITY COMPLETE

**JULY 31
 2025**
 5:30-7:30PM

Prelude Kitchen & Bar
 1117 11th Street
 Sacramento, Ca 95814

\$15 MEMBERS
\$20 NON MEMBERS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Introduction to UNITY COMPLETE Fetal Risk Screen
- Identify comprehensive fetal assessments standards recommended by ACOG for prenatal screening
- Recognize that this testing method does NOT require partner testing for disease identification

**NO CE offered for dinner presentation



HERMAN HEDRIANA, MD

Professor & Chief, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine
 Medical Director Prenatal Diagnosis of Northern California
 Chief of Obstetrics
 Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
 University of California Davis Health

**DINNER & DRINKS
 HOSTED BY:**



https://www.unitycomplete.com/Event/2025/07/31/unity-complete-fetal-risk-screen

FOR MORE INFO :
SACRAMENTOAWHONN@GMAIL.COM

CHAPTER UPDATES

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA/NORTH BAY CHAPTER

on March 12, the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter had a successful dining event learning about new technology in prenatal screening. Guest speaker, Alyssa Stringfellow and her team from Billion to One presented information on Unity screen which reduces need for paternal testing and provides increased fetal risk assessment from a single maternal blood draw.

We also had wonderful results from our diaper drive collecting 512 diapers matched with 512 from Huggies for a total of 1024 diapers donated to Help A Mother Out Oakland Diaper Bank! Huge shout out to our former student/now new graduate RN, Sarah Larsen, for coordinating!

Participating in the AWHONN 5K for EWEB over Nurses Week: Kelley Lee-Brennan, Meghan Duck, Amy Bradley, and Sarah Larsen. Photos of the Embarcadero in San Francisco with Kelley Brennan-Lee, Meghan Duck and Jill Risser.

Chapter Coordinator

Kelley Lee-Brennan

kelley.l.brennan@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Amy Bradley, MSN, RNC-OB

asilverstar.bradley@gmail.com

Membership

Sarah Larsen

sarahiplarsen@gmail.com

Legislative

Meghan Duck

meghan.m.duck@gmail.com

VACANCY: Education,
Community Liaison



CHAPTER UPDATES

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA/NORTH BAY CHAPTER

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: MEGHAN DUCK

Every year in April, AWHONN nurses ascend the steps at the Capitol in Washington, DC to advocate on behalf of perinatal nurses, OB patients, neonates, and their families requesting support from representatives and senators to back legislation that impact our patients and ourselves. This year, I had the pleasure of representing the Bay Area as one of 144 AWHONN nurses at AWHONN on the Hill in our nation's capital. This experience is one that is formative for me and many other peers as, for many nurses, we go outside our comfort zone to attend briefings and meetings with congressional leaders that may very well impact our patients and colleagues with the successful outcome of a Bill becoming Law.

My mighty group of nurses from California attended six meetings with Congressional aides, chiefs of staff, and met two congresswomen ourselves! We had meaningful conversations, shared important talking points, and took photos to memorialize this incredible opportunity. We asked for our representatives to advocate for Medicaid funding, to support legislation that would result in reducing morbidity and mortality in our country and funding for workplace safety for healthcare workers and social service workers.

Our nursing shortage is not going away and we need to support the education of the largest component of the healthcare workforce: nurses! It was my honor to be at AWHONN on the Hill and I look forward to continuing to advocate for our patients and colleagues as the legislative chair for the San Francisco Bay Area. Hope to see many of you next year in DC!



CHAPTER UPDATES

NORTH COAST CHAPTER

In response to substantial feedback and requests from local nurses over the past two years, we decided earlier this year to request the formation of a chapter in Northern California to serve the counties of Sonoma, Napa, Lake, and Mendocino. Although we are not far from San Francisco "as the crow flies," the lovely Northern California traffic results in a two-hour drive to attend events, which makes it out of reach for many. With the assistance of our California Chapter leaders, Sue and Marinda, we have now established the North Coast chapter.

We are already reaching out to nurses in our area to assess their educational and support needs and hope to have an active chapter up and running very soon. We look forward to sharing events with all of you and seeing you at AWHONN events soon!



Sheri Buda, Chapter Coordinator, has spent the majority of her 29-year nursing career in obstetrics, working with patients across various risk levels, including eight years in management. She is currently studying to become a Certified Nurse Midwife. She was the former Chapter Coordinator for the SF/Bay Area Chapter and is now excited to serve in the community where she lives and works. Sheri is a strong advocate for equity, shared decision-making in care, and ensuring that all birthing persons have access to safe care.

Sheri has three adult children (one of whom you might recognize on our board) and an English Cream Golden Retriever named Betty.



Samantha Buda, Secretary/Treasurer, has a passion for delivering excellent patient care that is also evidence-based. She previously served as the membership coordinator for the SF/Bay Area Chapter, but now, with a new chapter formed in her local community, she is excited to be part of this group, bringing education and support to the North Coast community.

Samantha has two cats, loves spending free time at the lake, and is getting married this June.



Anna Van Loon is an educator with over 24 years of experience in Labor and Delivery. She is a Perinatal Loss Specialist who has worked as a consultant for hospitals in her region and as a national lecturer on issues in Obstetrical Care. Her passions include perinatal mental health, substance use disorders, trauma-informed care, reproductive justice, and LGBTQIA inclusivity within the birthing community.

Anna is also the mother of two amazing adult children and a self-described Peloton freak.

CHAPTER UPDATES

NORTH COAST CHAPTER



Anita McGinnis, Community Liaison, has over 35 years of experience in maternal-child nursing. She has worked in Labor & Delivery, NICU, high-risk prenatal clinics, as well as serving as a hospital educator. She now holds the position of Maternal Child Coordinator at Santa Rosa Junior College. She has a passion for improving outcomes for childbearing families through education.

In her spare time, Anita enjoys entertaining and spending time with her husband, their grown sons, and their families.

Chapter Coordinator

Sheri Buda, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
sabuda3@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Samantha Buda, BSN, RN
samibuda@gmail.com

Education

Anna Van Loon, MSN-Ed, RNC-OB, PMH-C, C-EFM
yonirn73@gmail.com

Community Liaison

Anita McGinnis
MSN-Ed, RNC-MNN, C-EFM, CHSE
anitamacinnis@gmail.com

VACANCIES: Membership, Legislative

CHAPTER UPDATES

CENTRAL SIERRA BASIN CHAPTER (FORMERLY SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY)

We Did It! Over 1,200 Diapers Donated!

Congratulations to all who contributed to our donation drive for **Community Connections for Children** in Mono County, CA. This is our first donation to the organization, and your generosity made it happen. Thank you for making a real difference in our local community!



Save the Date: Chapter Meeting - Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Click the date link above to mark your calendar now! Join Via this [Zoom Link](#).

Leadership Opportunity – We Need You!

Are you ready to get more involved and help shape the future of our chapter? We're seeking a passionate nurse leader for a chapter leadership role. This is your chance to inspire, collaborate, and make an impact. Interested? Email melissa@peakrn.com to discuss opportunities.

Celebrating your participation in AWHONN EWEB virtual 5k! 



Chapter Coordinator
Melissa Mora
melissa@peakrn.com

VACANCIES:
Secretary/Treasurer,
Education, Legislative,
Community Liaison,
Membership

CHAPTER UPDATES

EAST BAY CHAPTER

Interim Chapter Coordinator

Brenda Jones

brenda.l.jones@kp.org

Community Liaison

Georgelene Louis-Jean

GeorgeleneLJean@gmail.com

Education

Claire van Rooyen, RN, BSN, IBCLC

clairevanrooyen@gmail.com

VACANCIES: Secretary/Treasurer, Membership,
Legislative



CHAPTER UPDATES

SILICON VALLEY/SANTA CRUZ CHAPTER

**Chapter Coordinator**

Stephanie Reggiardo, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS, CPHQ
sapalomar@gmail.com

Secretary Treasurer

Pomaikai Neil
pomaikai.neil@gmail.com

Legislative

Kathryn Kramer
Kcolver@yahoo.com

Community Liaison

Jacqueline Nguyen
Jtnguyen.rn@gmail.com

Membership

Diana Cromer
awhonnsvs cmembership@gmail.com

VACANCY: Education

Help us welcome our new Chapter Membership Leader, Diana Cromer! Diana graduated with her BSN from Belmont University in Nashville in 2012, starting her OB career in a small LDRP unit in Lebanon, Tennessee. She later moved to a higher volume labor and delivery unit in Murfreesboro, caring for patients in a unit averaging 300 births per month. In 2021, she began travel nursing, gaining experience across Middle Tennessee and at hospitals in Hollister and Walnut Creek, California.

Originally from San Jose and raised in Santa Cruz and Hollister, Diana moved back to California from Tennessee in 2022, returning to her roots. She now works in labor and delivery at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View. Diana holds NCC certifications in Inpatient Obstetrics (RNC-OB) and Electronic Fetal Monitoring (C-EFM), as well as a Perinatal Bereavement certification through AWHONN. An active AWHONN member since 2021, she attends the national convention annually. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband, Mike, along with their dog, Chloe, and cat, Griswold.

In other chapter news, we held successful chapter meeting and presentation on Perinatal Mood Disorders to end Nurses Week and Perinatal Mental Health Awareness Month!

CHAPTER UPDATES

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator

Meghan Andrews

maggiemae76@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Amy Murray

nurseamy2008@gmail.com



Membership

Kim Paiva, BSN, RNC-OB

kimmypaiva@gmail.com



Education

Sharon Aduna, MSN, RN

Sharon.aduna@sharp.com

Community Liaison

Rose Haselhuhn, MSN, RNC-EFM

Rosebudhrn@yahoo.com



VACANCY: Legislative

CHAPTER UPDATES

INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER



Chapter Coordinator

Pat Spier, RNC, BSN, FM-C
patspierawhonn.ie@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Ursula Gainer
UGainer@eisenhowerhealth.org

Education

Maggie Suarez
dbelbes2016@gmail.com

Legislative

Jennifer Ayala, MSN, RNC-OB, EFM-C, PMH-C
jm202610@gmail.com

Community Liaison

Treece Ames
tames.awhonn@gmail.com

Membership

Erica Leon, RNC-OB, BSN, PHN
ericaleon812@gmail.com

We would like to introduce our three new board members. We met in March to get to know each other better and orient ourselves to the new roles. We then enjoyed dinner at the Mission Inn.

We are fortunate to have three accomplished and wonderful nurses join our chapter!

Ursula Gainer has 38 years of experience in Perinatal Nursing between the West and East Coasts. She moved to California 30 years ago after graduating from Columbia with an MA in Nursing Leadership with honors. She is certified in Inpatient OB and Fetal Monitoring, an Intermediate Instructor, and a Clinical Instructor. Ursula works at Eisenhower Medical Center as the OB Clinical Educator. She is interested in the link between Mental Health and Morbidity and Mortality. Ursula is the new secretary-treasurer of our chapter.

Treece Ames is a Clinical Nurse Specialist at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and is certified in Inpatient OB, EFM, and Obstetric and Neonatal Quality and Safety. She has four children and a busy lifestyle with plenty of animals to care for. Treece is pursuing her DNP/CNS at Point Loma Nazarene University. When not at work or school, she enjoys knitting and reading. Treece is already becoming active as our community and hospital liaison.

Maggie Suarez is the Clinical Professional Development Educator at the Women & Children's at Riverside Community Hospital. She has a DNP degree and is certified in OB and Electronic Fetal Monitoring. Maggie is an AWHONN Fetal Monitoring and Obstetric Patient Safety (OPS) Program instructor. She is also an active L&D bedside RN and Clinical Instructor at Loma Linda University. She has been in perinatal nursing since 1992 and has two children following in her footsteps as nurses! Maggie will be our new Education Coordinator and is now transitioning to that role.

CHAPTER UPDATES

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

The Orange County chapter participated in the event, **Every Woman Every Baby 5K Your Way**, during National Nurses Week, May 6–12, 2025, in an effort to support AWHONN's efforts.

We utilized social media to create a team of nurses that signed up for the 5K Walk, Run, Ride event your way during National Nurses week. Some of us walked, rode a bike, or did some running to complete the 5K requirement. Participants posted photos or shared stories about their experience, which was meaningful to all.

Chapter Coordinator

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



Secretary/Treasurer

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



Education

Lauren Bendon
lauren.bendon@gmail.com

Legislative

Sherri Hatch
nurseslhatch@gmail.com



Membership

Brittany Silva
brittany_grant1024@yahoo.com



Community Liaison

Laura Dragan
ldraganrnc@hotmail.com



CHAPTER UPDATES

SOUTH BAY/LONG BEACH CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator
Rosemarie Cervantes
rxcervantes@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer
Annette Benavides
abenavides@westernu.edu

VACANCIES:
Education, Membership, Legislative, Community Liaison



CHAPTER UPDATES

LA VALLEY CHAPTER

LA-Valley Chapter: Meet Our New Leadership!

More information on our first event on June 2nd 2025, coming soon!

Katrina Johnson MSN/Ed, RNC-OB, C-EFM

Chapter Coordinator

Katrina Johnson is a nationally recognized voice for Birth Equity and Perinatal Safety. As a passionate, committed patient advocate for women and newborns, she supports them through safe, equitable, culturally sensitive care. She actively promotes healthcare equity and best practices to improve the outcomes of underrepresented mothers and their newborns through education and advocacy. Katrina's professional experience includes Nurse Manager of labor and delivery, Educator and Simulation Coordinator in women's and perinatal health, and Perinatal Quality and Safety Nurse. She is currently an AWHONN Intermediate and Advanced Fetal Monitoring Instructor/Mentor, as well as a Neonatal Resuscitation Instructor, Obstetric Patient Safety Instructor (OPS) and a TeamSTEPPS Master Trainer in simulation. Katrina has been an active member of AWHONN for more than 16 years and is the LA Valley chapter leader. Katrina was elected to the AWHONN Board of Directors in 2021-2024. She is also on the board of directors for PAC/LAC and Mighty Little Giants.



Norah Mucheke, MSN, RNC-OB, CNML

Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

My name is Norah Mucheke and I am honored to be serving as the Secretary-Treasurer of the LA-Valley AWHONN Chapter! I have been a Labor and Delivery nurse for more than 20 years and currently am the Labor and Delivery Manager at Providence Cedars Sinai Tarzana. I am also the Founder and President of Mama Care Africa, a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing maternal mortality rates in Africa. I am dedicated to fostering innovation and collaboration to create initiatives that promote safe and joyful childbirth experiences for all women. Looking forward to working with you all!



Taylor Delahoussaye, BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM

Chapter Legislative Chair

Hello! My name is Taylor Delahoussaye and I currently serve as your Legislative Chair for the LA-Valley AWHONN Chapter. I have worked in Labor and Delivery for 3 years. I work at Huntington Health in Pasadena, California and Kaiser Permanente in Ontario, California. I always had the desire to go into Women's Health since graduating nursing school. I am passionate about Black Maternal Care and Reproductive Rights and access to care. In my spare time, I enjoy film photography, traveling, spending quality time with loved ones, and finding new recipes.



Wendy Kim, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM

Chapter Education Leader

My name is Wendy Kim, RN, and I am a Labor and Delivery nurse with 17 years of hands-on experience supporting women and families through one of the most important moments of their lives. I currently serve as a Nursing Instructor, where I have the privilege of mentoring and educating future nurses with a strong focus on clinical excellence, patient advocacy, and compassionate care. As an active member of AWHONN, I am committed to advancing women's health and hope to contribute to the growth of our profession by promoting evidence-based practice, professional development, and collaborative learning.



CHAPTER UPDATES

SANTA BARBARA / VENTURA COUNTY CHAPTER

The Santa Barbara/Ventura County Chapter had their first meeting April 24 virtually and in person at the same time. We had two hosted locations and then watched the continuing education on Post-Roe Healthcare and Understanding the Provider Role. Participants enjoyed the company of each other prior to the viewing. We had great conversations with wine and delicious snacks that accompanied the time. Thanks so much to our host in SB, the lovely Becca Licha and to the Simi Valley host, KP Pelone. Thanks also to all of those who attended. We appreciate you and look forward to having more meet ups with you all in the future. We are a fun group so come and get involved and share your stories!

We are also excited to welcome Ashante Jackson Pusey as our new legislative chair.

Thanks to all who have recently become members and we welcome you to our chapter. Look forward to our next meeting on July 26, 1-4 PM @ Golden Beach Park, Picnic Area C. Lunch provided. Family Beach Day & Diaper Drive Fundraiser! Hope to have you join use for this fun occasion!

Please look for the information on our Instagram page @awhonn.ca.sbvc.

Chapter Coordinator

Karen Pelone

kpelone@aol.com

Secretary Treasurer

Rebecca Licha, RNC-OB

becca@beccalicha.com

Membership

Megan Burton

megan.burton.awhonn@gmail.com

Education

Jocelyn Garibay Espinosa

jossgrb@gmail.com

Legislative

Ashante Jackson Pusey

AshanteJP@gmail.com

VACANCY: Community Liaison



CHAPTER UPDATES

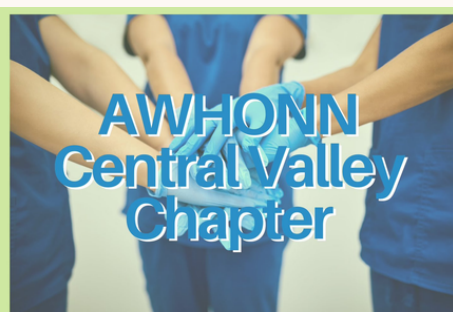
CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER



The first AWHONN Central Valley Chapter Mixer happened as planned. Nurses and Doulas were at this session. Lots of brainstorming regarding upcoming events for the Central Valley. It was great seeing everyone there to eat and chat.

Congratulations Kim Fox on winning the raffle prize—enjoy!

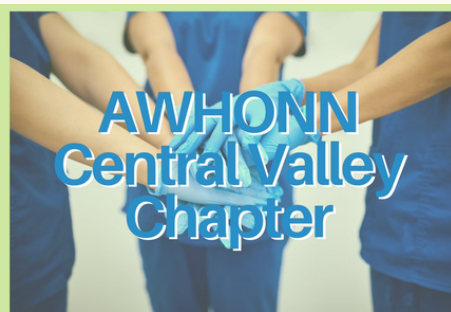
Good Job Erin Kavanagh on coordinating and arranging, it was fun.



2025 MEETING CALENDAR

May 29th: In-Person Mixer
 June 12th: Zoom
 July 10th: Zoom
 August 14th: Zoom
 September 11th: Zoom
 October 9th: In-Person Mixer
 November 13th: Zoom
 December 11th: Zoom

FIND US ON
FACEBOOK:



JOIN OUR TEAM



A professional organization comprised of nurses and other disciplines dedicated to the care and safety of perinatal and neonatal patients. Join us today using the QR Code.

FIND US ON
FACEBOOK:



Chapter Coordinator

Myoshi Lee, MSA-HCMC-EFM, RNC-OB,
avocante03@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Erin Kavanagh
erin.kavanagh89@gmail.com

Education

Christine Leach
christineleach86@gmail.com

Community Liason

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

VACANCIES: Membership, Legislative

CHAPTER UPDATES

SALINAS/MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator

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

Secretary Treasurer

Alyssa Alexander, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
alyssagiven@gmail.com

VACANCIES: Education, Membership,
Community Liaison, Legislative



MEET OUR NEW GRADS

Taryn Johnson

Before entering the world of nursing, I spent ten years as a professional dancer, a career that instilled in me discipline, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. My dream began as a child aspiring to be a ballerina, despite being told I'd never "make it" or that I was "too tall." That moment sparked a determination that's guided me ever since. I left home as a teenager, on scholarship, to attend The Rock School of Pennsylvania Ballet, later dancing with ballet companies, performing on cruise ships, and ultimately landing my dream job in the iconic Las Vegas show Jubilee! where being tall turned out to be a great asset. There, I rose through the ranks to become an assistant line captain, mastering all 65 female dancer roles and serving as a principal understudy.



Though I loved the stage, I felt a growing pull toward a more personal and impactful career, nursing. The same commitment and work ethic I honed as a dancer has helped shape my path in becoming an RN. I'm a recent graduate of Saddleback College and a soon-to-be graduate of Grand Canyon University, on a mission to become a Labor and Delivery nurse. I'm passionate about guiding patients through some of the most meaningful and transformative moments of their lives, while also caring for the tiniest population, our neonates.

My desire to work with laboring women is rooted in my personal journey through years of in vitro fertilization, numerous injections, and multiple miscarriages. These experiences not only fueled my commitment to nursing but also inspired me to specialize in Labor and Delivery. I'm driven by a deep sense of empathy and a heartfelt desire to support and care for women during one of the most vulnerable and powerful moments of their lives. I had the privilege of completing my preceptorship at Providence Mission Hospital's Labor and Delivery unit, where I quickly developed a strong appreciation for the team's skill, compassion, and cohesion. My passion for working with neonates stems from the same place, wanting to be part of a team that not only meets complex medical needs, but also supports families through an emotionally intense and often uncertain journey. I find this responsibility both humbling and deeply motivating.

AWHONN has been a guiding light on this path, connecting me to evidence-based resources and a supportive professional community. As I step into the next chapter, I'm excited to begin my career as a new graduate with a reputable hospital where I can apply my skills, learn new ones, and continue to grow. My long-term goal is to transition into the NICU, earn my specialty certification, expand my leadership abilities, and support other passionate students on their own journeys into nursing.

RESEARCH STUDY



**Do you work in L&D, MotherBaby, or the NICU?
We want to hear from you!**

We want to improve care for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander mothers and newborns. One of the best ways to do this is to listen people in the field, like you.



Who can participate?

- Obstetric providers
- Neonatal providers
- L&D, MotherBaby, or NICU staff

What is involved?

- One hour telephone interview
- Participants will be given a \$40 gift card

Want more information?

Please contact our study team
aanhpi-birthstudy@cpqcc.org
 650-498-1573

These interviews will be private and will take place with a trained member of our research team in English, Chinese or Vietnamese. We will protect participants' confidentiality throughout the study.



This research protocol has been approved by the Advarra Institutional Review Board.

**For general information about participant rights,
please contact: Advarra IRB (877) 992-4724**

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAB FIVE PARTY!

AT AWHONN NATIONAL CONVENTION
6/23/2025 8PM

JOIN US FOR SINGO AND SNACKS
NO-HOST BAR

NO COST TO ATTEND

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO SECURE
YOUR SPOT - FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE

LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE

REGISTER NOW [HERE](#)

CA



FL



MA



MI



WA



UPCOMING EVENTS



Family Beach Day & Diaper Drive Fundraiser

July 26, 2025

Time: 1:00-4PM

Goleta Beach Park - Picnic Area C

Address: 5986 Sandspit Road, Goleta, CA 93117-3903

Come join us for a fun-filled Family Beach Day with lunch provided, while helping provide diapers for families in need.

Members: \$8 event registration + required diaper donation via Amazon Wishlist

Non-Members: \$10 event registration + required diaper donation via Amazon Wishlist

****Registration Includes entry for you and one guest.
All Children attend free!****

Objectives:

1. Facilitate professional connections among nursing professionals within the healthcare community.
2. Drive the collection of diapers to support the community, addressing the essential needs of underserved families.
3. Encourage teamwork and partnerships to drive positive change and support local families.

Event Registration:



https://my.awhonn.org/NC_Event?id=a01VO000005cbDNYAY

Amazon Wishlist:



https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3IZ5DKWRXAUO9?ref=wl_share

Lunch Sponsored by:



UPCOMING EVENTS

SACRAMENTO AWHONN PRESENTS:



REVOLUTIONIZING PRENATAL CARE: INTRODUCING UNITY COMPLETE

**JULY 31
2025**
5:30-7:30PM

Prelude Kitchen & Bar
1117 11th Street
Sacramento, Ca 95814

\$15 MEMBERS
\$20 NON MEMBERS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Introduction to UNITY COMPLETE Fetal Risk Screen
- Identify comprehensive fetal assessments standards recommended by ACOG for prenatal screening
- Recognize that this testing method does NOT require partner testing for disease identification

**NO CE offered for dinner presentation



HERMAN HEDRIANA, MD

Professor & Chief, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Medical Director Prenatal Diagnosis of Northern California
Chief of Obstetrics
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
University of California Davis Health

**DINNER & DRINKS
HOSTED BY:**



https://my.awhonn.org/NC_Event?id=a0IVO000005RP4HYAW

FOR MORE INFO :
SACRAMENTOAWHONN@GMAIL.COM

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sacramento AWHONN Chapter Events October 21, 2025



https://my.awhonn.org/NC_Event?id=a0IV0000006LOa9YAG

UC Davis MIND Institute
2825 50th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817



**Becky Cypher,
MSN. PNNP**

Antepartum Perspectives: Electronic Fetal Monitoring and High-Risk Patients 0800-1200

Antepartum care is a rapidly changing specialty due to the increasing complexity of pregnancy-related complications and improved technology that makes the fetus more accessible. This session is designed to update clinical knowledge and electronic fetal monitoring in the outpatient and inpatient high-risk clinical environment. Timely and comprehensive information will be presented so clinicians are better prepared to provide adequate care to this special patient population.

Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing,
Provider # 18030
4 contact hours will be earned for attending the entire event.

Perinatal Care and Liability: Persistent Issues, Practical Answers 1300-1700

Malpractice refers to professional negligence that may lead to substandard treatment, resulting in harm or injury to a patient. The consequences can be devastating for both the patients and the healthcare team involved. This session will focus on understanding basic legal concepts, common allegations in the obstetric and neonatal setting, and the fundamentals of documentation that promote patient safety, continuity of care, and effective clinical decision-making.

Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing,
Provider # 18030
4 contact hours will be earned for attending the entire event.

COST PER SESSION:
Members \$125
Non-members \$150

Full refund will be issued if the event is cancelled. Full refund will be issued if requested prior 8/30/2025.

No refund available after 8/30/2025.

Sign up for BOTH & SAVE!!
Members \$200 for both
Non-members \$250 for both

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026
AWHONN
CA SECTION
CONFERENCE



AWHONN
CALIFORNIA
PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

SAVE THE DATE

PRECONFERENCES
FEBRUARY 19, 2026

MAIN CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 20 & 21, 2026

LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

