



**AWHONN**

CALIFORNIA

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF  
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2026

# NEWSLETTER

*in this issue...*

## CA Section Leadership Updates

Section Chair & Secretary/Treasurer

Education Chair

Marketing Chair

Community Liaison

Vendor Committee

Legislative Chairs

Membership Chair

Student Engagement Liaisons

Accountability, Belonging, & Culture

Philanthropic Enterprise

New Grad Intern

## Chapter Updates

Sacramento

Chico

San Francisco Bay Area/North Bay

North Coast

Central Sierra Basin

East Bay

Silicon Valley/Santa Cruz

San Diego

Inland Empire

Orange County

South Bay/Long Beach

LA Valley

Santa Barbara/Ventura County

Central Valley

Salinas/Monterey Bay

## Upcoming Events

AWHONN Journal Club

Sacramento AWHONN Presents: Stephanie Martin, DO & Suzanne McMurtry Baird, RN

Inland Empire Chapter Perinatal Symposium

2027 AWHONN CA Conference



## Greetings from your CA Section Chair and Secretary/Treasurer

Happy Summer to you all from your CA Section Chair and Secretary Treasurer!

We are 3,200 members strong here in California, including almost 450 student nurses. We appreciate each and every one of you as we strive to uphold AWHONN's mission to "empower and support nurses caring for women, newborns, and their families through research, education, and advocacy."

We hope you had a Happy Nurses Week and Mother's Day, and enjoy Father's Day with loved ones.

Congratulations and best wishes to our graduating AWHONN members, family, and friends.

Our members have been busy attending Chapter events throughout the state, with more than a dozen in-person or virtual options.

California was well represented with about 13 AWHONN CA members attending AWHONN on Capitol Hill in April and meeting with House and Senate representatives to discuss important bills.

Check out some upcoming events in this newsletter that you won't want to miss.

It was great seeing so many of you at the annual California Luncheon at the AWHONN National Convention in Florida!

Our Conference Planning Committee is diligently organizing our 2027 AWHONN CA Conference for February 25-27, 2027, in Sonoma Wine Country. Stay tuned for the early-bird registration opportunity.

Start thinking of candidates to nominate for our inaugural **2027 CA Nursing Excellence Awards**. Winners will be announced at the conference.

Please continue to share the benefits of becoming an AWHONN member with friends, colleagues, and students. Thank you for your ongoing support!

With Appreciation,

Sue Stone and Marinda du Toit



# YOUR CA 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, MSN, RNC-NIC, RNC-OB,  
IBCLC, C-EFM, FAWHONN  
[marinda.awhonn@gmail.com](mailto:marinda.awhonn@gmail.com)

**Education Coordinator**

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

**Marketing Coordinator**

Emily Broadwater, RN  
[emilybroadwater@gmail.com](mailto:emilybroadwater@gmail.com)

**Accountability, Belonging, and Culture Coordinator**

Estelle Deetlefs, MA, BSN  
[estelledetlefs@gmail.com](mailto:estelledetlefs@gmail.com)

**Philanthropic Enterprise Coordinator**

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

**Section Community Liaison**

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

**Vendor Management Coordinator**

Sherri Mendelson, PhD, RNC, CNS, IBCLC,  
FAWHONN  
[tomsherri1@ca.rr.com](mailto:tomsherri1@ca.rr.com)

**Membership Coordinator**

Lauren Barden, MSN, RNC-NIC,  
C-ONQS, NPD-BC  
[lauren.bardenrn@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.bardenrn@gmail.com)

**Legislative Coordinators**

Tracy Weeber, MN, CNS, RNC-OB, C-EFM,  
C-ONQS, C-OBE —Northern California  
[tracy.weeber@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.weeber@gmail.com)

Amy Scott, MSN, WHNP-BC, MSCP, RNC-OB —Southern California  
[msamy67@gmail.com](mailto:msamy67@gmail.com)

**Section Student Engagement Liaison**

Susan Collins, MSN, RN, C-EFM,  
NPD-BC, C-OBE —Northern California  
[suescollins@gmail.com](mailto:suescollins@gmail.com)

Michelle Glover, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM—  
Southern California  
[michelle.awhonn@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.awhonn@gmail.com)

**Section Student/New Grad Interns**

Ureka Ajawara  
[urekaajawara@gmail.com](mailto:urekaajawara@gmail.com)

Josie Diaz, MSN, RN, PHN  
[josephina.diazcalderon@gmail.com](mailto:josephina.diazcalderon@gmail.com)

Megan Godsil Connell, BSN, RN  
[megodsil@gmail.com](mailto:megodsil@gmail.com)

Tiffany Hoang, MSN, RN, PHN  
[tiffanyhoangca@gmail.com](mailto:tiffanyhoangca@gmail.com)

Mallory Mantong  
[mmallory.danielle@gmail.com](mailto:mmallory.danielle@gmail.com)

Melanie Woon, BSN, RN, PHN  
[melaniee.woon@gmail.com](mailto:melaniee.woon@gmail.com)

# EDUCATION UPDATE

## Last Chance!

### 2026-2027 AWHONN CA Educational Needs Assessment

Please consider taking the [Educational Needs Assessment survey](#) to help us explore future speakers and topics to meet your learning needs. Your survey submission will enter you into an opportunity drawing for one of two gift cards! Deadline is August 1, 2026.

---

Congratulations to all AWHONN California Chapters that have successfully hosted educational meetings and events since the beginning of the year! Your dedication to providing high-quality continuing education opportunities is greatly appreciated and continues to strengthen our professional community across the state.

As a reminder to all Chapter Education Leaders, please create a Google Drive folder for each educational event and upload the approved event flyer and all speaker CVs/documents as early as possible so the evaluation form and attendance link can be created and distributed in a timely manner. Evaluation links will typically be sent 1–2 days before the event. Please remember to share the evaluation QR code or evaluation link with attendees as close to the conclusion of the event as possible to support successful CE completion and documentation requirements.

Thank you for your continued collaboration and commitment to educational excellence!

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





## MARKETING UPDATE

I became an AWHONN member in January 2024, the same month I started nursing school. I am now three months into my first role as a registered nurse at a level IV NICU in Southern California. Now, more than ever, I am so grateful for all that AWHONN has offered me, both as a student and a fledgling nurse.

I have met so many knowledgeable, enthusiastic nurses at various stages in their careers, and it has been especially encouraging to connect with other new graduate nurses who are navigating the transition from student to professional RN. If you are a nursing student interested in maternal-child health, I would wholeheartedly encourage you to join AWHONN as a student member and to reach out to your local chapter to learn how you can get more involved locally!



**Emily Broadwater, MA, RN**

[emilybroadwater@gmail.com](mailto:emilybroadwater@gmail.com)

# COMMUNITY LIAISON UPDATE

**Laura Senn**

[LauraSennCNS@gmail.com](mailto:LauraSennCNS@gmail.com)



## How many people give birth in California?

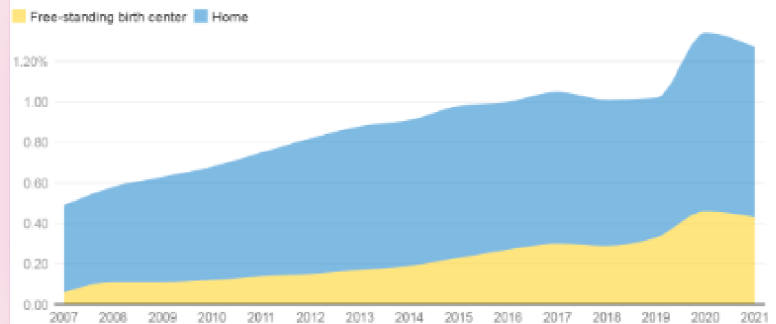
- Number of births on average: 7,732 per week

## How many people give birth outside of a hospital?

- About 5,600 people gave birth outside of a hospital in 2020
- This was up from about 4,600 in 2019 and 3,500 in 2010

### Out-of-Hospital Births on the Rise in California

About 1.3% of California births took place at home or in a free-standing birth center in 2020, more than double the proportion seen in 2007.



NOTES: Data for 2021 is through July. Not shown are a relatively tiny number of births that happen in a doctor's clinic or in an "other/unknown" location.

CREDIT: Philip Reisse for KHN

SOURCE: California Department of Public Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention • Embed

KHN

Let's try to connect with our community partners in all settings - we are all in this together!

There are resources available. CMQCC recently published [The Community Birth Partnership Initiative](#). See how you can create Community Partnerships.

**COMMUNITY BIRTH TRANSFER RESOURCE KIT**

The AIM Community Birth Transfer Resource Kit is a collection of best practices to aid in supporting safe and timely transfers from community birth settings to hospitals if the need for a transfer of care arises. The development of this Resource Kit was supported by a multidisciplinary working group of subject matter experts to foster respect, safety, and communication for patients, families, providers.

## VENDOR COMMITTEE UPDATE

I am Sherri Mendelson, PhD, RNC-OB; EFM, NIC, IBCLC, AWHONN Fellow. I am the AWHONN CA Vendor Coordinator. Our wonderful team includes Katrina Johnson and Myoshi Lee. Together, we recruit vendors for our annual conference and for chapter meetings. We help conference vendors settle in comfortably and manage participant flow to maximize their impact. Our vendors are valued partners who make our conferences and meetings affordable, provide great learning opportunities, and showcase their newest and greatest products to enhance our clinical care.

I serve on the AWHONN National Fellows Committee. We review AWHONN Fellow applications. In addition, we have recently been working to strengthen the application questions for next year's AWHONN Fellow applicants.

A fun fact about me: I live part-time on a very rural farm in Wisconsin. I love being a farm wife. I have lived on farms in northern Illinois, Israel, and Wisconsin. I met my husband while he was studying for a degree in Agriculture, so no surprise in life!



Sherri Mendelson  
[Tomsherri1@ca.rr.com](mailto:Tomsherri1@ca.rr.com)



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AMY SCOTT  
Southern CA  
[msamy67@gmail.com](mailto:msamy67@gmail.com)

TRACY WEEBER  
Northern CA  
[tracy.weeber@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.weeber@gmail.com)



## AWHONN CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD @ 1900-2000



JOIN YOUR LEGISLATIVE COORDINATORS  
TRACY WEEBER & AMY SCOTT  
TO DISCUSS:

CURRENT ADVOCACY ISSUES  
AWHONN ON CAPITAL HILL 2026  
ADVOCACY DAYS IN SACRAMENTO 2027



COME AND LEARN MORE ABOUT ADVOCACY ON THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL.  
CHAPTER LEADERS AND LEGISLATIVE COORDINATORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/81349833754?PWD=I5Ajl3Iiw0bG13Gv5Bx6Uk57SoVFU.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81349833754?pwd=I5Ajl3Iiw0bG13Gv5Bx6Uk57SoVFU.1)

PLEASE JOIN THE MEETING USING THIS LINK

[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/LAUNCH/JC/81349833754](https://us06web.zoom.us/jc/81349833754)

MEETING ID: 813 4983 3754

PASSCODE: 136305

TO CALL INTO THE MEETING:

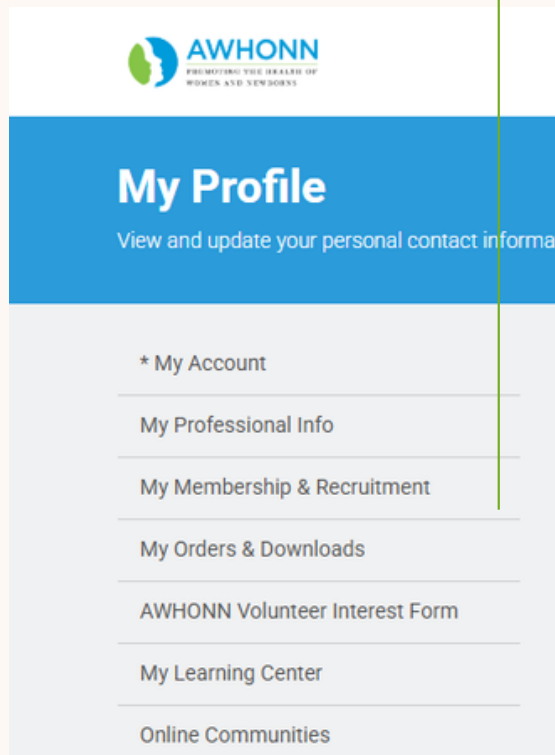
+16694449171.81349833754#....\*136305# US

+16699006833.81349833754#....\*136305# US (SAN JOSE)



# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

I am excited to share that CA membership is up! Please make sure your address is up to date in your online AWHONN profile, under the “My Account” tab, so we can keep you connected with your chapter. The membership website will be new and improved beginning in July. We hope you will post these membership flyers wherever your colleagues can see them so we can share all the good things AWHONN membership has to offer.



| <b>California Section AWHONN Membership Report: 2026</b> |                |                     |             |             |    |    |                  |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|----|----|------------------|------------|
| <b>Chapter Increases by Quarter</b>                      |                |                     |             |             |    |    |                  |            |
| <i>Quarter 2- Updated May 1, 2026</i>                    |                |                     |             |             |    |    |                  |            |
|                                                          | 2024 Births    | % members by births | Q1          | Q2          | Q3 | Q4 | Quarter Increase | % Increase |
| N1- Chico                                                | 6300           | 1.70%               | 67          | 69          |    |    |                  |            |
| N2- North Coast                                          | 6,450          | NA                  | 114         | 111         |    |    |                  |            |
| N3- Sacramento                                           | 29,360         | 1.10%               | 323         | 323         |    |    |                  |            |
| N4- San Francisco                                        | 15,500         | 1.50%               | 229         | 225         |    |    |                  |            |
| N5- East Bay                                             | 29,830         | 1.20%               | 357         | 359         |    |    |                  |            |
| N6- C. Sierra Basin                                      | 19,440         | 0.60%               | 122         | 123         |    |    |                  |            |
| N7- Silicon Valley                                       | 25,040         | 1.10%               | 303         | 310         |    |    |                  |            |
|                                                          | 131,920        |                     | 1515        | 1520        |    |    |                  |            |
| S1- Monterey/SLO                                         | 7520           | 1.10%               | 67          | 73          |    |    |                  |            |
| S2- Central Valley                                       | 35,030         | 0.50%               | 171         | 188         |    |    |                  |            |
| S3- St. Barb/Vent                                        | 13,340         | 0.90%               | 114         | 121         |    |    |                  |            |
| S4/S5- LA county                                         | 94,950         | 0.50%               | 464         | 467         |    |    |                  |            |
| S6- Orange                                               | 34,050         | 0.80%               | 256         | 265         |    |    |                  |            |
| S7- Inland Empire                                        | 45,150         | 0.90%               | 363         | 360         |    |    |                  |            |
| S8- San Diego                                            | 40,050         | 0.70%               | 242         | 239         |    |    |                  |            |
|                                                          | 270,090        |                     | 1677        | 1713        |    |    |                  |            |
| <b>Total Births- CA</b>                                  | <b>402,529</b> |                     |             |             |    |    |                  |            |
| <b>Current Total Members</b>                             |                |                     | <b>3214</b> | <b>3264</b> |    |    |                  |            |

\*\*Members missing counties and unassociated with a county: 31



**Lauren Barden, MSN, RNC-NIC, C-ONQS, NPD-BC**  
 Membership Coordinator  
[lauren.bardenrn@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.bardenrn@gmail.com)



## Your Vital Resource When You Need Us Most

By adding membership to the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) to your resume, you're letting your colleagues know that you are committed to a community of nurse professionals who have your shared experiences, you seek to succeed with continuing education created by nurses for nurses, and you can act quickly because you have access to evidence-based best practices.

AWHONN membership is all about exclusive access, including:

- Access to AWHONN's journals, *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing* (JOGNN) and *Nursing for Women's Health* (NWH)
- Access to free webinars and free journal CNE
- Access to evidence-based guidelines
- Access to AWHONN members-only online communities
- Access to special discounts on Convention registration, AWHONN store products, travel discounts, and continuing education
- And more!

### Professional Associations are Big Picture

According to the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), "Associations are the primary source of post-college education and skills training for America's workforce. In addition, associations define and advance standards for professional certification, performance, and ethical practices in a wide variety of fields, ensuring consumers have confidence in the experts they consult for their health, financial wellness, legal needs, and other vital concerns."

Visit [awhonn.org](http://awhonn.org) today and get the full picture of what AWHONN can do for you.



Scan to join!



# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT LIAISON UPDATE

Michelle Glover, Southern CA | Susan Collins, Northern CA



**Michelle Glover**

[Michelle.awhonn@gmail.com](mailto:Michelle.awhonn@gmail.com)



**Susan Collins**

[suescollins@gmail.com](mailto:suescollins@gmail.com)

## Calling Future Maternity Nurses

Are you a nursing student interested in working in the maternity field? We would love to connect with you as you prepare to enter the world of professional nursing. Whether you have questions about maternity nursing, want guidance as you explore career options, or would like help with a resume review, we are available to support you along the way.

We are also looking for nursing students to volunteer at the AWHONN California Section annual conference in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County Wine Country, in February 2027.

Volunteering is a great way to meet nurses in the specialty, learn more about the profession, and become involved in the perinatal nursing community.

In addition, we are excited to offer a student pre-conference afternoon on Thursday, February 25th, featuring maternity and newborn skills stations. This will be a wonderful opportunity to build hands-on confidence, strengthen foundational skills, and connect with others who share your interest in caring for mothers and babies. We hope you will join us, reach out with your questions, and consider volunteering as a student.



## ACCOUNTABILITY, BELONGING & CULTURE

### The Leadership Skills Required to Change Culture

Estelle Deetlefs, MA, BSN, RN  
[estelledetlefs@gmail.com](mailto:estelledetlefs@gmail.com)

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work in many different roles and many of them not in direct patient care. One of the most surprising realizations during my journey into leadership was that many of the skills I use every day as a leader were not skills I learned at the bedside.

Bedside nursing teaches extraordinary competencies. Nurses learn how to prioritize, respond to emergencies, think critically, communicate under pressure, and care deeply for patients and families during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. Nursing requires resilience, teamwork, and technical excellence. Yet leadership asks something different of us — and often something we were never formally prepared for.

One of the biggest transitions for nurses moving into leadership is the shift from a workload that eventually ends to one that never truly does. In bedside nursing, the shift may be intense, exhausting, and emotionally demanding, but at the end of the day, report is given, and the responsibility transfers to the next nurse. Leadership is different. There is always another email, another meeting, another project, another staffing challenge, another difficult conversation, another goal to achieve.

For many nurses, especially those balancing childcare and family responsibilities, this loss of structure and flexibility can make leadership feel unattractive or even unsustainable. It is understandable why many talented bedside nurses hesitate to step into leadership roles when it can feel like exchanging three structured shifts for five continuous days of responsibility.

Another important difference is that bedside nursing often rewards individual competence, while leadership depends on influence. As bedside nurses, we are taught to achieve outcomes ourselves. If I need to start an IV, stabilize a hemorrhage, or respond to fetal distress, my own competence directly impacts the outcome. Leadership changes that equation completely. Leaders achieve results through their ability to coach, motivate, guide, support, and sometimes challenge others.

That transition can be uncomfortable because influence is not something many nurses are formally taught.

Leadership requires skills such as change management, conflict resolution, dealing with diversity, strategic communication, negotiation, and the ability to motivate people who may not initially agree with the direction of change. Unlike clinical care, where the need for intervention is usually obvious and welcomed, leadership often involves persuading people to embrace change they did not ask for.

I have also realized that some of the most valuable leadership skills come from experiences outside of traditional nursing education. Understanding what motivates people, learning how to “sell” an idea, preparing teams for change, and building long-term engagement are not always skills developed through bedside care alone. Yet these are the exact skills leaders use every day.

In many ways, leadership is less about authority and more about understanding human behavior. It requires emotional intelligence, self-awareness, patience, and the ability to create trust. **Nurse leaders are not only responsible for outcomes — they are responsible for culture.**

If we want to grow the next generation of perinatal nurse leaders, we may need to rethink how we prepare nurses for leadership long before they step into formal management roles. Participation in unit-based councils, project leadership, quality improvement work, mentorship, presentations, strategic planning, and change initiatives can help bedside nurses develop skills that extend beyond clinical expertise.

Perhaps one of the most important things we can do is normalize the reality that leadership is not simply an extension of bedside nursing. It is its own professional discipline with its own emotional demands, competencies, and challenges. The future of nursing leadership depends not only on developing clinically excellent nurses, but on intentionally developing nurses who can influence culture, navigate complexity, and inspire others toward a shared vision.

As the perinatal healthcare environment continues to evolve, the need for strong, emotionally intelligent nurse leaders has never been greater. The question is not whether nurses are capable of leadership — they absolutely are. The question is whether we are intentionally teaching the leadership skills that nursing alone may not fully provide.

# PHILANTHROPIC ENTERPRISE UPDATE



**Barbara Mauger**  
[barbarablack10@hotmail.com](mailto:barbarablack10@hotmail.com)

## Coming Together for a Cause: AWHONN CA Section Stands Out During Nurses Week

This year's Nurses Week was memorable as AWHONN California Section members joined together for the 5K Your Way walk/run, showing connection, wellness, and purpose. The event supported the newly named AWHONN Foundation, formerly *Every Woman Every Baby*.

From May 6 to 12, nurses across California put on their shoes and got moving, either on their own or with teams, to celebrate their profession and give back. The event stood out because it was open to everyone—participants could walk, run, or move at their own pace, from any place, at any time during Nurses Week. Whether someone took a quiet walk alone or joined a lively group filled with laughter and chapter pride, every step made a difference.

**All over California, AWHONN CA chapters formed teams that showed real camaraderie and commitment.**

Some teams coordinated meetups in their local communities, while others connected virtually, sharing encouragement and motivation from afar. Dressed in chapter swag and accompanied by friends, family, and colleagues, participants showcased the strength and unity of our nursing community.

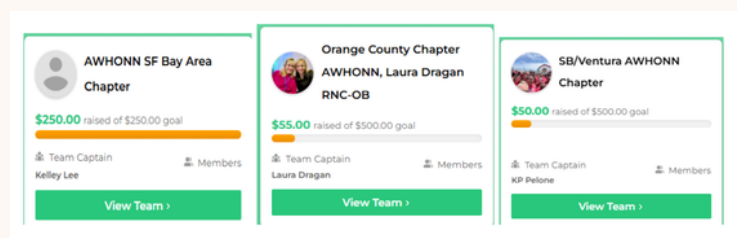


This event was about more than just the miles we walked. Its true purpose was to raise awareness and support for the **AWHONN Foundation**, which works to improve the health of women and newborns through education, advocacy, and charitable programs. Every step and every dollar raised helps make a real difference for the communities we serve. Thank you to everyone who took part and donated. Your generosity and dedication truly make a difference. Every gift, big or small, shows our shared commitment to improving maternal and newborn health.

Participants made the event even more special by sharing joyful moments and achievements on social media. Photos of scenic walks and finish-line selfies posted with #AWHONNFoundation5K showed the fun, pride, and passion of our profession. We look forward to sharing many of these great memories in future CA AWHONN updates.

Looking back on this successful week, it's clear that the AWHONN California Section leads with heart, creativity, and teamwork.

Thank you to every chapter, team, and individual who helped make this event a success. Together, we showed that when nurses come together, even online, we can make a big difference.





# AWHONN NEW GRAD INTERN SPOTLIGHT

## Josephina (Josie) Diaz Calderon New Grad Intern



Being a California AWHONN intern as a new graduate nurse has been one of the most meaningful experiences at the beginning of my nursing career. As someone passionate about women's health and labor & delivery, AWHONN gave me more than just a membership. It gave me a community, confidence, and connections that shaped my journey. AWHONN's mission is centered on supporting nurses through education, leadership, advocacy, and professional growth.

One of the biggest ways this internship helped me was during my job search. Through AWHONN, I had the opportunity to connect with inspiring nurse leaders and nurses across California who encouraged me, shared advice, and reminded me that I belong in this specialty.

I also gained experiences I never imagined I would have as a new grad. From helping create agendas, designing flyers, contributing to the Newsflash, volunteering alongside other nurses, and attending meetings, I learned a great deal about leadership, teamwork, and professional involvement behind the scenes. Every task, even the small ones, made me feel like I was contributing to something bigger than myself.



# 2027 AWHONN CA NURSING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

## Announcing the Inaugural AWHONN California Nursing Excellence Awards !

The California Section of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses is proud to launch the Inaugural AWHONN California Nursing Excellence Awards, recognizing outstanding individuals who exemplify excellence in women's health, obstetric, and neonatal nursing across our state.

These awards celebrate nurses, students, and advocates whose dedication, innovation, leadership, and service have made a meaningful impact on patients, families, communities, and the nursing profession.

We invite nominations in the following categories:

### **Volunteer Excellence Award**

Recognizing an individual whose selfless service and commitment to volunteerism have strengthened AWHONN, supported colleagues, and advanced the mission of improving care for women and newborns.

### **Leadership Excellence Award**

Honoring a nurse leader who inspires others, drives positive change, fosters professional growth, and demonstrates exceptional leadership in advancing nursing practice and patient outcomes.

### **Education Excellence Award**

Celebrating an educator who has made significant contributions to nursing education through teaching, mentorship, professional development, or innovative educational initiatives.

### **Research Excellence Award**

Recognizing a nurse whose research, evidence-based practice, or quality improvement work has contributed to advancing maternal, fetal, neonatal, or women's health outcomes.

### **Advocacy Excellence Award**

Honoring an individual who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to influencing policy, promoting health equity, and advocating for women, newborns, families, and the nursing profession.

### **Philanthropy Excellence Award**

Celebrating a nurse whose generosity, fundraising efforts, community engagement, or charitable service has made a lasting difference in the lives of others and strengthened healthcare communities.

### **Clinical Practice Excellence Award**

Recognizing a clinician who consistently demonstrates excellence in patient care, clinical expertise, compassion, innovation, and commitment to evidence-based practice.

### **Student Excellence Award**

Honoring a nursing student who demonstrates exceptional academic achievement, leadership potential, professional involvement, and dedication to women's health, obstetric, or neonatal nursing.

### **Nominate an Outstanding Colleague**

Every day, nurses across California make extraordinary contributions that deserve recognition. We encourage you to nominate individuals whose work exemplifies excellence, innovation, and service within our profession. Together, let us celebrate those who are advancing the future of women's health, obstetric, and neonatal nursing, and inspiring the next generation of nurse leaders.

Nomination details, eligibility criteria, and submission deadlines will be announced soon. Winners will receive their awards at the 2027 California Conference.

# NATIONAL NEWS

## Announcing the Slate of Candidates for the 2026 AWHONN Board of Directors

The AWHONN Board of Directors has approved the slate of candidates, presented by the Nominating Committee, for the 2027 Board of Directors. AWHONN members will elect a President-Elect, a Secretary/Treasurer, and three Directors.

Elections opened on **June 8, 2026**, at the [2026 AWHONN Convention](#) and will close on **June 22, 2026**. Newly elected Board members officially take office on **January 1, 2027**.

### Cast YOUR vote now!

## 2026 BOARD CANDIDATE SLATE

### PRESIDENT-ELECT (ELECT ONE)



Elizabeth Kester,  
DNP, RN  
(Massachusetts)



Dixie K. Weber,  
MSN, RN  
(Washington)

### SECRETARY/TREASURER (ELECT ONE)



Patricia DuRant,  
MSN, RN  
(Florida)



Shellie Nelson,  
RN, PhD,  
RNC-OB  
(Texas)



Stephanie J. Webb,  
MSN, RNC  
(Minnesota)

### DIRECTORS (ELECT THREE)



Amy Dempsey,  
DNP, RNC-OB,  
C-EFM (Colorado)



Rachel Evers, MSN,  
RN, CNOR-E, CENP,  
CPXP, LSSWB (Florida)



Lori Folken, DNP,  
RNC-OB, C-EFM  
(Illinois)



Tiffany A. Moore,  
PhD, RN, SANE-A,  
FAWHONN  
(Nebraska)



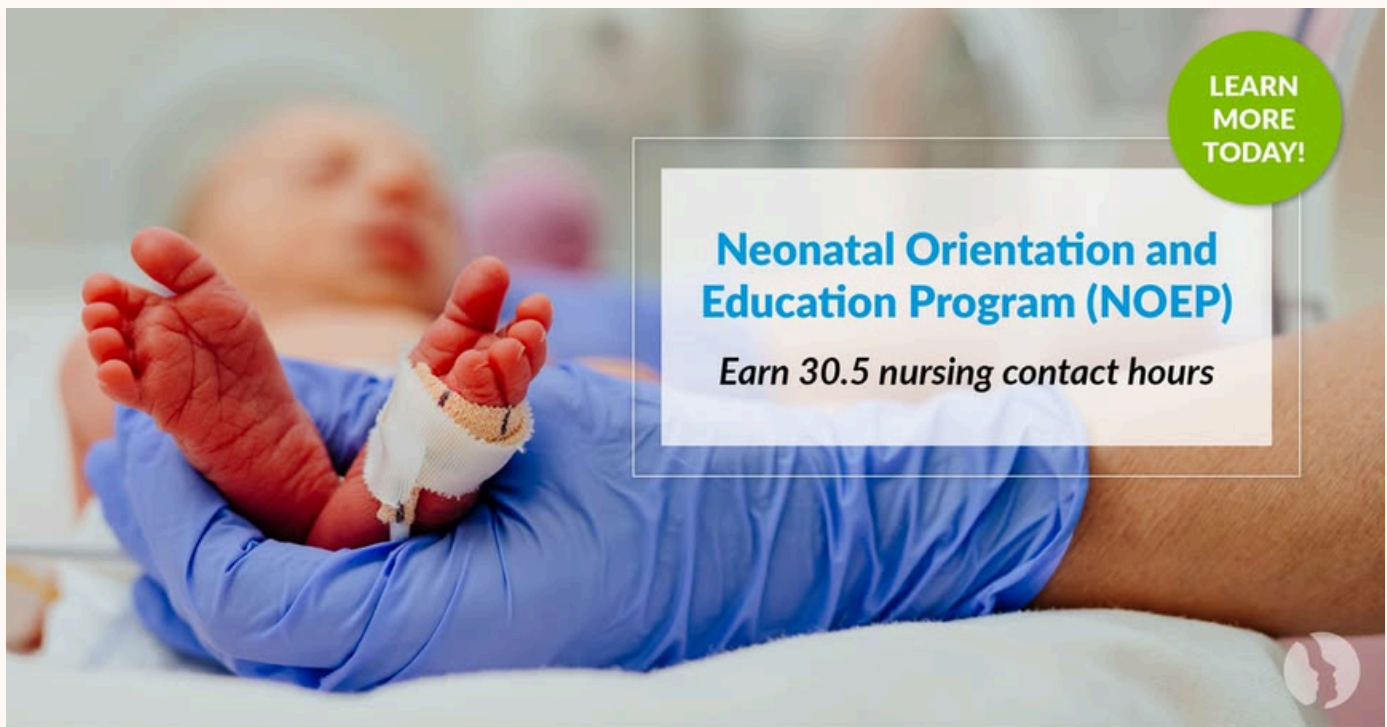
Mary Dawn Koenig,  
PhD, RN, CNM,  
FACNM, FAWHONN,  
FAAN (Illinois)



Michele Woods, MSN, RNC-OB,  
NE-BC, C-EFM, C-ONQS, C-OBE,  
FAWHONN (North Carolina)



# NATIONAL NEWS



Advance your neonatal education with the updated Neonatal Orientation and Education Program (NOEP). Designed to support today's NICU teams, NOEP features refreshed evidence-based content, enhanced learning tools, and improved navigation to help strengthen clinical decision-making and staff readiness.

Participants can earn 30.5 nursing contact hours through April 17, 2029. Explore the updated program today: <https://www.awhonn.org/education/noep/>



# CHAPTER UPDATES

## SACRAMENTO CHAPTER



### Chapter Leadership

**Chapter Coordinator**

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

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Rachel Fanelli, MS, BA, BSN, RNC-OB  
[rfanelli89@gmail.com](mailto:rfanelli89@gmail.com)

**Education**

Stacey Stark, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM  
[sstark425@gmail.com](mailto:ssstark425@gmail.com)

**Membership**

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

**Legislative**  
 Pending

**Community Liaison**

Angelique Silva, MS, RNC-OB,  
 C-EFM, C-ONQS  
[angelique.i.silva@gmail.com](mailto:angelique.i.silva@gmail.com)





# CHAPTER UPDATES

## CHICO CHAPTER

This quarter, our Chico Chapter held its meeting at Unwined, graciously hosted by OBIX. Anna came from Denver, Deann came from Chicago, and Trevor came from Salt Lake City. We all enjoyed the networking amongst OBIX, RNs, IT, and students while eating great food. This meeting was our most diverse group of professionals.

We all learned about common concerns in OB, which include increased BMI and twins. RNs want real-time documentation and fear that AI will devalue our clinical judgment.

OBIX has a wireless system, called BeCA, with a wide beam that can be used for all body types.

Our next meeting will be popcorn and a movie about amniotic embolism. Hoping for a good turnout.



## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Chapter Coordinator

**Lori Silva**

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

Membership

**Luz Alva**

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

Secretary/Treasurer

**Karen Murphy**

[karbearmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:karbearmurphy@gmail.com)

Community Liaison

**Linda Rowe**

[lrowe7@juno.com](mailto:lrowe7@juno.com)

Education

**Ann Brennan**

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

**VACANCY:** Legislative



# CHAPTER UPDATES

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA/NORTH BAY CHAPTER

AWHONN San Francisco Bay Area has had a busy spring quarter! Bay Area nurses attended AWHONN's Civics webinar, followed by Legislative leader Meghan Duck. Meghan attended AWHONN on the Hill in April, joining friends from the Silicon Valley, Chico, and Central Valley chapters to represent AWHONN in Washington, D.C., advocating on behalf of our patients and colleagues through important proposed legislation.

May brought National Nurses Week and a Bay Area nurses chapter event, with nurses joining and putting in the miles to walk/run the AWHONN Nurses' Week 5K benefiting the AWHONN Foundation, formerly Every Woman, Every Baby!



## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

### Chapter Coordinator

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

### Secretary/Treasurer

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

### Education

Cristina Zuniga  
[night.nurse.zuniga@gmail.com](mailto:night.nurse.zuniga@gmail.com)

### Membership

Sarah Larsen, BSN, RN  
[sarahiplarsen@gmail.com](mailto:sarahiplarsen@gmail.com)

### Legislative

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

### Community Liaison

Karen Poon, MSN, RNC-OB, RNC-IAP, CNL, C-EFM, C-ONQS  
[karenpoon.np@gmail.com](mailto:karenpoon.np@gmail.com)

# CHAPTER UPDATES

## NORTH COAST CHAPTER

We have new members joining our team!

Anita MacInnis MSN-Ed, RNC-MNN, C-EFM, CHSE, who was our Community Liaison, is now stepping into the role of Education Leader. Lynn Lohner, BSN, RNC-OB, is joining our leadership team as a community liaison! This is a super exciting opportunity because she is the first member of our leadership team to represent Lake County. We hope this will increase our outreach to nurses in our chapter!



**Chapter Coordinator**  
Sheri Buda, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM  
[sabuda3@gmail.com](mailto:sabuda3@gmail.com)



**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Samantha Markovich, BSN, RN  
[samibuda@gmail.com](mailto:samibuda@gmail.com)



**Education**  
Anita McGinnis  
MSN-Ed, RNC-MNN, C-EFM, CHSE  
[anitamacinnis@gmail.com](mailto:anitamacinnis@gmail.com)



**Community Liaison**  
Lynn Lohner, BSN, RNC-OB  
[gsdeuropa@gmail.com](mailto:gsdeuropa@gmail.com)



**Legislative**  
Kristin Aharonian, BA, RN  
[Kristinaharonian@gmail.com](mailto:Kristinaharonian@gmail.com)

**Membership**  
Laura Ceja, BSN, RN  
[lauraceja0@gmail.com](mailto:lauraceja0@gmail.com)



# CHAPTER UPDATES

## CENTRAL SIERRA BASIN CHAPTER

### We Did It!

### Over 4,704 Diapers Donated!

A huge congratulations and thank you to everyone who contributed to our diaper drive supporting **Directions Medical Clinic** in Lodi, CA.

Our own **Valerie Claxton** helped coordinate this community effort supporting women experiencing unexpected or unplanned pregnancies. As a nonprofit organization, Directions Medical Clinic provides valuable resources and services for new mothers and families in need.

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped make a real difference in our community!



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Q3 Event – October 5

Join us for an in-person event featuring a **Maternal Mortality Data Review with Kim Robinson**.

Additional details and registration information will be shared soon. If you are interested in helping coordinate this in-person event, please contact Melissa at [melissa@peakrn.com](mailto:melissa@peakrn.com).

#### Q4 Journal Event – November 3 at 7pm

Mark your calendars for our upcoming **Journal Event**. Together, we will critically evaluate and discuss current research related to **Amniotic Fluid Embolism** while connecting with fellow perinatal nurses across our chapter.

CE credit will be available. More details coming soon!

### Leadership Opportunity – We Need You!

Are you ready to get more involved and help shape the future of our chapter? We're seeking passionate nurse leaders who want to inspire, collaborate, and make an impact within our perinatal nursing community.

Interested in learning more? Email [melissa@peakrn.com](mailto:melissa@peakrn.com) for additional information about current leadership opportunities.



**Chapter Coordinator**  
Melissa Mora, MSN, RNC-OB, NI-BC  
[melissa@peakrn.com](mailto:melissa@peakrn.com)  
(210) 369-8770

# CHAPTER UPDATES

## EAST BAY CHAPTER

### Chapter Coordinator

Autumn Argent

[aargentrn@gmail.com](mailto:aargentrn@gmail.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Tracy Moran

[tlcmoran@gmail.com](mailto:tlcmoran@gmail.com)



### Community Liaison

Georgelene Louis-Jean, BSN, RN

[GeorgeleneLJean@gmail.com](mailto:GeorgeleneLJean@gmail.com)



### Education

Claire van Rooyen, RN, BSN, IBCLC

[clairevanrooyen@gmail.com](mailto:clairevanrooyen@gmail.com)



### Membership

Jeanette Ferrer-Valladares, MSN,

RNC-OB, C-EFM, IBCLC

[jeanette.ferrer.valladares@gmail.com](mailto:jeanette.ferrer.valladares@gmail.com)



### Legislative

Brenda Jones, DHSc, RN,

MSN, CPPS

[brenda.l.jones@kp.org](mailto:brenda.l.jones@kp.org)



# CHAPTER UPDATES

## SILICON VALLEY/SANTA CRUZ CHAPTER

Chapter leaders Stephanie Reggiardo and Diana Cromer visited the Bill Wilson Center in Santa Clara! The Bill Wilson Center is the recipient of all of Silicon Valley/Santa Cruz's diaper drives, with a mission to end youth and family homelessness. They provide services to more than 5,000 children, youth, young adults, and families in Santa Clara County. Year to date diapers raised: 5,180 diapers and wipes. If you would like to donate diapers, please [use this Amazon link](#) or scan the QR code below.

We had a successful webinar on May 7 on AFE Awareness, hosted by the founder of the AFE Foundation, Miranda Klassen.



## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

### Chapter Coordinator

Stephanie Reggiardo, MSN, RNC-OB,  
C-EFM, C-ONQS, CPHQ  
[sapalomar@gmail.com](mailto:sapalomar@gmail.com)

### Secretary Treasurer

Pomaikai Neil  
[pomaikai.neil@gmail.com](mailto:pomaikai.neil@gmail.com)

### Legislative

Kathryn Kramer, PhD, MPH, RNC-OB, C-EFM  
[Kcolver@yahoo.com](mailto:Kcolver@yahoo.com)

### Community Liaison

Jacqueline Nguyen, MSN, PHN, RNC-OB,  
C-EFM, C-OBE  
[Jtnguyen.rn@gmail.com](mailto:Jtnguyen.rn@gmail.com)

### Membership

Diana Cromer, BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM  
[awhonnsvscmembership@gmail.com](mailto:awhonnsvscmembership@gmail.com)

### Education

Julia Kim, MSN, RNC-OB, C-OBE  
[Jkimjulia@gmail.com](mailto:Jkimjulia@gmail.com)



# CHAPTER UPDATES

## SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

### Chapter Coordinator

Meghan Andrews, MSN, CPHQ,  
C-ONQS, C-EFM  
[maggiemae76@gmail.com](mailto:maggiemae76@gmail.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Amy Murray, MSN, RNC-OB  
[nurseamy2008@gmail.com](mailto:nurseamy2008@gmail.com)



### Membership

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

### Education

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

### Community Liaison

Rose Haselhuhn, MSN, RNC-EFM  
[Rosebudhrn@yahoo.com](mailto:Rosebudhrn@yahoo.com)



### Legislative

Allyson Sapp  
[ahsapp@gmail.com](mailto:ahsapp@gmail.com)

# CHAPTER UPDATES

## INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER



### Save the Date !!

### Perinatal Symposium

Presented by the:  
Inland Empire Chapter

**Friday September 11, 2026**  
**0745 – 1530**  
**At RUHS in Moreno Valley**



## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

### Chapter Coordinator

Pat Spier, RNC, BSN, FM-C  
[patspierawhonn.ie@gmail.com](mailto:patspierawhonn.ie@gmail.com)

### Education

Maggie Suarez, DNP, RNC-OB, C-EFM  
[dbelbes2016@gmail.com](mailto:dbelbes2016@gmail.com)

### Community Liaison

Treece Ames, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM,  
C-ONQS  
[tames.awhonn@gmail.com](mailto:tames.awhonn@gmail.com)

### Membership

Terri Thompson, DNP, RN  
[territhompson.awhonn.ie@gmail.com](mailto:territhompson.awhonn.ie@gmail.com)

VACANCY: Secretary/Treasurer and  
Legislative

# CHAPTER UPDATES

## ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

We're excited to share upcoming events and opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate our incredible community of women's health nurses!

### Nurses Week 5K Walk Recap

In celebration of Nurses Week, our Orange County chapter came together for a **5K walk**—a meaningful way to honor the dedication, strength, and resilience of nurses in our community. It was inspiring to see so many members show up, support one another, and take time to prioritize wellness together. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this event such a success!

### Upcoming Dinner & CE Event

We are currently planning a **Dinner & Continuing Education (CE)** event scheduled for early July.

**What to expect:**

- Dinner with fellow AWHONN members
- Engaging, evidence-based CE content
- Networking and collaboration opportunities

More details coming soon! We are in the final stages of securing our vendor sponsor and event location, and will share full details shortly—stay tuned!

## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

#### Chapter Coordinator

Alana McGolrick, DNP,  
RNC-OB, C-EFM

[alana.mcgolrick@gmail.com](mailto:alana.mcgolrick@gmail.com)

#### Legislative

Sherri Hatch, BSN, RN,  
RNC-MNN

[nurseslhatch@gmail.com](mailto:nurseslhatch@gmail.com)

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Kathy Ayala, MSN, RN,  
RNC-OB, CLEC

[kathyayala1218@gmail.com](mailto:kathyayala1218@gmail.com)

#### Membership

Brittany Silva

[brittany\\_grant1024@yahoo.com](mailto:brittany_grant1024@yahoo.com)

#### Education

Lauren Bendon, MSN, RN,  
RNC-OB

[lauren.bendon@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.bendon@gmail.com)

#### Community Liaison

Laura Dragan, BSN, RN,  
RNC-OB

[ldraganrnc@hotmail.com](mailto:ldraganrnc@hotmail.com)

### AWHONN Intermediate Fetal Monitoring

Mark your calendars for this highly anticipated educational offering:

- **Date:** November 10, 2026
- **Location:** St. Jude Medical Center

This course is designed to enhance competency in fetal heart rate interpretation and clinical decision-making, aligned with AWHONN standards. Whether you're refreshing your skills or advancing your practice, this is a valuable opportunity for professional growth. More registration details will be shared in the coming months.

### Stay Connected

We encourage you to stay engaged with the Orange County AWHONN Chapter by attending events, inviting colleagues, and continuing to support one another in delivering exceptional care to women and newborns. Thank you for all that you do!



### A Message From Laura Dragan

For the past fifteen years or so, I've had the opportunity to be part of the AWHONN community, which has increased my knowledge by attending local conferences to share and learn from others.

Most recently, I've taken on more of a leadership role as a community liaison. In this position, I've traveled to out of state AWHONN conferences and conventions to increase my knowledge of evidence-based clinical practices, the latest maternal and neonatal research, and strategies to improve patient safety. I've shared this knowledge with my team members at Saddleback Labor and Delivery, new mothers and family alike. The additional shared education has been impactful and has assisted our unit in providing an increased level of care to our patients for better outcomes.





# CHAPTER UPDATES

## SOUTH BAY/LONG BEACH CHAPTER

### Chapter Coordinator

Claudia Reed, DNP, MSN, ARNP,  
WHNP-BC, RNC-OB, SANE  
[claudiamelanireed@gmail.com](mailto:claudiamelanireed@gmail.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Annette Benavides, MSN, RNC-OB  
[abenavides@westernu.edu](mailto:abenavides@westernu.edu)

### VACANCIES:

Education, Membership, Legislative, Community Liaison



# CHAPTER UPDATES

## LA VALLEY CHAPTER

### Chapter Coordinator

Katrina Johnson, MSN/Ed, RNC-OB, C-EFM  
[johnsonkatrina44@yahoo.com](mailto:johnsonkatrina44@yahoo.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Norah Mucheke, MSN, RNC-OB, CNML  
[Nmucheke@ualberta.ca](mailto:Nmucheke@ualberta.ca)

### Education

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

### Legislative

Taylor De La Houssaye, BSN, RN  
[delahoussayetaylor@gmail.com](mailto:delahoussayetaylor@gmail.com)

### VACANCIES:

Membership, Community Liaison



# CHAPTER UPDATES

## SANTA BARBARA / VENTURA COUNTY CHAPTER



### Wine & Webinar Recap

We had a small event with a nice group of people attending. The speaker, who is available online from the AWHONN site, provided a passionate course on taking care of our vulnerable fetal loss patients. It is definitely not always easy to discuss, but it needs to be brought up so they can be taken care of, and the caregiver can also have support. We all would recommend this course, Caring for the Patient with Early Pregnancy Loss. We had a nice discussion, and many shared important personal stories. Special thanks to Megan, Marietta, Mikayla, Mallory, Jackie, Crystal, and Vanessa for attending and engaging in good conversation.

Food, wine, and company were excellent!

### Happy Nurses Week!

We were unable to pull together a massive group event, but I was able to represent our chapter and walk at Disneyland & CA Adventure with another nurse. We put in 22,000+ steps, which was about 4.2 miles.

We definitely had a fun time and rode a lot of rides!

Next year, we are planning another event and would love for some of our members to get involved and help us organize better.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2026 – Topic TBD

Hosted by Brandi Stanley, CMH Manager  
& Elizabeth Russell, CNS, Perinatal Educator

### CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

**Chapter Coordinator**

Karen Pelone

[kpelone@aol.com](mailto:kpelone@aol.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Megan Burton

[megan.burton.awhonn@gmail.com](mailto:megan.burton.awhonn@gmail.com)

**Education**

Jocelyn Garibay Espinosa

[jossgrb@gmail.com](mailto:jossgrb@gmail.com)

**Membership**

Marietta Sperry

**Legislative**

Ashante Jackson Pusey

[AshanteJP@gmail.com](mailto:AshanteJP@gmail.com)

**VACANCIES:**

Community Liaison



# CHAPTER UPDATES

## CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER

### Chapter Coordinator

Myoshi Lee, MSA-HCMC-EFM, RNC-OB,  
[avocante03@aol.com](mailto:avocante03@aol.com)

### Education

Christine Leach  
[christineleach86@gmail.com](mailto:christineleach86@gmail.com)

### Community Liason

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

**VACANCIES:** Secretary-Treasurer, Membership,  
Legislative



# CHAPTER UPDATES

## SALINAS/MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

### Chapter Coordinator

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

### Secretary Treasurer

Alyssa Alexander, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM  
[alyssagiven@gmail.com](mailto:alyssagiven@gmail.com)

**VACANCIES:** Education, Membership,  
Community Liaison, Legislative



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## AWHONN CA Journal Club

We are excited to announce the launch of the AWHONN CA Journal Club. This is a continuing education opportunity hosted by various chapters via Zoom. Each scheduled session will focus on a specific topic related to women's and infants' health to discuss two research studies. The anticipated outcome is for participants to learn more about research, specifically research related to the topic. Three Journal Club events are scheduled. Register [here](#)

- Cannabis Use in Pregnancy; June 25, 2026; 7:00 pm-8:00 pm PT; LA/Valley Chapter
- Induction of Labor; September 8, 2026, 11:00 am-12:00 pm PT; Silicon Valley/Santa Cruz Chapter
- Amniotic Fluid Embolism; November 3, 2026, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm PT; Central Sierra Basin Chapter





# 2026 AWHONN CONVENTION CALIFORNIA LUNCHEON





# 2026 AWHONN CONVENTION

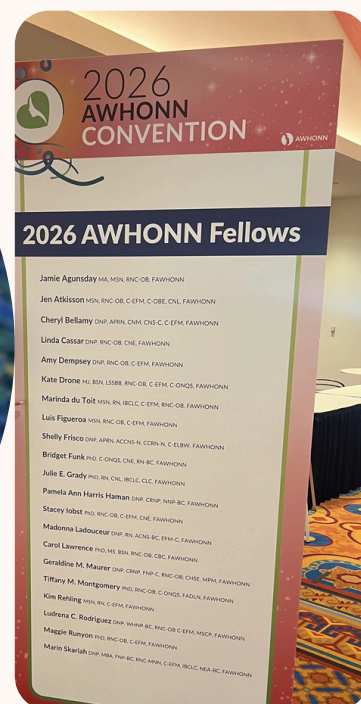
## NEW CALIFORNIA AWHONN FELLOWS!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO**  
MARINDA DU TOIT, MSN, RN, IBCLC,  
C-EFM, RNC-OB, FAWHONN  
SHELLY FRISCO, DNP, APRN, ACCNS-N,  
CCRN-N, C-ELBW, FAWHONN

AWHONN California proudly recognizes our 2026 Fellows, Shelly Frisco, DNP, APRN, ACCNS-N, CCRN-N, C-ELBW, REC-C, and Marinda du Toit, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, IBCLC.

Shelly is a Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist and health equity advocate. Marinda is a Magnet Program Coordinator for the Central California Network at Adventist Health and the current Secretary/Treasurer for the AWHONN CA Section. They both exemplify a profound commitment to the nursing profession.

Congratulations Shelly and Marinda!



**SHELLY FRISCO, DNP,  
APRN, ACCNS-N, CCRN-N,  
C-ELBW, FAWHONN**

*Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist  
Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center*

Shelly Frisco is a doctorally prepared neonatal clinical nurse specialist and lives in Los Angeles, California. She has two beautiful daughters, aged 18 and 22 years old.



**MARINDA DU TOIT, MSN,  
RN, IBCLC, C-EFM,  
RNC-OB, FAWHONN**

*Magnet Program Coordinator - Central California  
Network  
Adventist Health*

Marinda du Toit has over 25 years of experience in perinatal and neonatal nursing and nursing administration. She is a proud immigrant from South Africa and a longtime AWHONN member.



# 2026 AWHONN CONVENTION RECAP





# 2026 AWHONN CONVENTION RECAP

## CONGRATULATIONS TO IFEYINWA ASIODU FOR RECEIVING THE 2026 AWHONN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH!



### 2026 Award Honorees



#### Award of Excellence in Leadership

**Angela Still,**  
MSN, RN



#### Award of Excellence in Practice

**Autumn Mels,**  
DNP, MSN-Ed, RNC-OB, C-EFM, CNE



#### Award of Excellence in Clinical Education

**Cheniqua Morales,**  
BSN, RNC-MNN, C-EFM, C-ONQS



#### Award of Excellence in Research

**Ifeyinwa Asiodu,**  
PhD, RN, IBCLC, FAAN



#### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Leadership Award

**Kandis McLean,**  
FAWHONN, DNP, FNP-C, RNC-OB, C-OBE,  
RNC-MNN, C-EFM, CHSE, NEA-BC  
Sponsored by  **kenvue**



#### Lifetime Achievement Award

**Debra Bingham,**  
DrPH, RN, FAAN  
Sponsored by  **kenvue**

2026 AWHONN CONVENTION RECAP  
CONGRATULATIONS TO  
TAYLOR DELAHOUSSEYE  
FOR GRADUATING AS  
AN AWHONN EMERGING LEADER  
2025-2026!





# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Sacramento AWHONN Presents:

**Stephanie Martin, DO &  
Suzanne McMurtry Baird, RN:  
The Hosts of The Critical  
Care Obstetrics Podcast**

**Friday, October 9, 2026  
0800-1700**

**Sutter Health University  
2700 Gateway Oaks Dr.  
Sacramento CA 95833**



## TOPICS

- **APE**
- **Respiratory Failure**
- **Maternal Cardiac Arrest**
- **DIC**
- **Sepsis/Septic Shock**
- **Hypertension**

## Objectives

- Apply evidence-based strategies to recognize and manage life-threatening obstetric emergencies.
- Demonstrate effective interprofessional communication and team coordination during maternal crises.
- Integrate early warning signs into rapid clinical decision-making to prevent maternal morbidity and mortality.
- Evaluate clinical cases to identify opportunities for quality improvement and risk mitigation.

### COST:

**Members \$249**

**Non-members \$299**

Full refund will be issued if the event is cancelled  
Full refund will be issued if requested prior 7/1/26  
50% refund will be issued for cancellations 7/2/26-7/14/26  
No refund available after 7/15/2026



### Discount Hotel:

Rooms available at Residence Inn  
by Marriott Sacramento Airport  
Natomas for \$173.00 per night  
Discount available til 9/8/26  
Scan QR Code for link



6.5 CE will be earned for full event attendance. This provider has been approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, BRN Provider Number 18030. This certificate must be retained by the licensee for a period of four (4) years after the course concludes.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



**Save the Date !!**

## Perinatal Symposium

Presented by the:  
Inland Empire Chapter

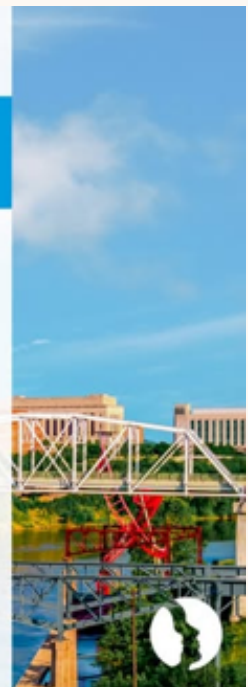
**Friday September 11, 2026**  
**0745 – 1530**  
**At RUHS in Moreno Valley**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

 2027  
**AWHONN**  
**CONVENTION**

June 19-23 • Nashville, TN



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## AWHONN CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD @ 1900-2000



JOIN YOUR LEGISLATIVE COORDINATORS  
TRACY WEEBER & AMY SCOTT  
TO DISCUSS:

CURRENT ADVOCACY ISSUES  
AWHONN ON CAPITAL HILL 2026  
ADVOCACY DAYS IN SACRAMENTO 2027



COME AND LEARN MORE ABOUT ADVOCACY ON THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL.  
CHAPTER LEADERS AND LEGISLATIVE COORDINATORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81349833754?pwd=I5Ajl3Iiw0bG13Gv5BX6uGK57SoVFU.1>

PLEASE JOIN THE MEETING USING THIS LINK

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/jc/81349833754>

MEETING ID: 813 4983 3754

PASSCODE: 136305

TO CALL INTO THE MEETING:

+16694449171.81349833754#....\*136305# US

+16699006833.81349833754#....\*136305# US (SAN JOSE)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## AWHONN CA Journal Club



Hosted By **AWHONN CA LA/Valley Chapter**

Join us for an opportunity to understand the evidence that guides our practice.  
All knowledge levels welcome!

**Date:**, June 25, 2026

**Time:** Chapter Meeting 6:30-7:00 pm

**Journal Club Presentation**  
7:00-8:00 pm

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom



### Topic: Cannabis Use in Pregnancy

#### Objectives:

- ❖ Describe the CMP Levels of Evidence and which one pertains to the research/EBP study in this presentation
- ❖ Discuss three aspects of methodology used in the studies in this presentation
- ❖ Describe limitations in the studies
- ❖ Discuss the difference between statistical and clinical significance in a research study

**Moderator: Wendy Kim, MSN, RNC-EFM, CLC**

#### Cost:

- **AWHONN Member: \$10**
- **Non-Member: \$15**
- **Student: \$10**

no refunds for this event.

1 CE will be earned for full event attendance. This provider has been approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, BRN Provider CEP# 18030. This certificate must be retained by the licensee for a period of four (4) years after the course concludes.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Journal Club



Hosted By: AWHONN CA Silicon Valley/Santa Cruz Chapter

Join us for an opportunity to understand the evidence that guides our nursing practice. All knowledge levels welcome!

**Date: September 8, 2026**

**Time: 11:00am**

**Location: Virtual via Zoom**



## Topic: Induction of Labor

### Objectives:

- ❖ Describe the CMP Levels of Evidence and which one pertains to the research/EBP study in this presentation
- ❖ Discuss three aspects of methodology used in the studies in this presentation
- ❖ Describe limitations in the studies
- ❖ Discuss the difference between statistical and clinical significance in a research study

**Moderator:** JULIA KIM, MSN, RN, PHN, RNC-OB, C-OBE

### Cost:

- AWHONN Member: \$10
- Non-Member: \$15
- Student: \$10

1 CE will be earned for full event attendance. This provider has been approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, BRN Provider CEP# 18030. This certificate must be retained by the licensee for a period of four (4) years after the course concludes.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Journal Club



Hosted By: AWHONN CA Central Sierra Basin

Join us for an opportunity to understand the evidence that guides our nursing practice. All knowledge levels welcome!

**Date: November 3, 2026**

**Time: 7:00 pm**

**Location: Virtual via Zoom**



## Topic: Amniotic Fluid Embolism

### Objectives:

At the conclusion of this educational presentation, the participants will be able to:

- ❖ Describe the CMP Levels of Evidence and which ones pertain to the research/EBP study in this presentation
- ❖ Discuss three aspects of methodology used in the studies in this presentation
- ❖ Describe limitations in the studies
- ❖ Discuss the difference between statistical and clinical significance in a research study

**Moderator:** Melissa Mora, MSN, RNC-OB, NI-BC

### Cost:

- **AWHONN Member: \$10**
- **Non-Member: \$15**

1 CE will be earned for full event attendance. This provider has been approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, BRN Provider CEP# 18030. This certificate must be retained by the licensee for a period of four (4) years after the course concludes.

# SAVE THE DATE

## 2027 AWHONN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE



# AWHONN

CALIFORNIA

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF  
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS



**PRE CONFERENCE:**  
**February 25, 2027**

**MAIN CONFERENCE:**  
**February 26-27, 2027**

**DoubleTree By Hilton  
Sonoma Wine Country**

