



Fall greetings from your CA Section Chair and Secretary/Treasurer

Hello AWHONN California Members,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the recent National Convention in Orlando, Florida in June. The convention was amazing, and we are looking forward to returning to Orlando for next year's event at the Disney Coronado Resort.

As we head into fall, our local chapters have been busy planning or recently hosting a variety of fun events such as a family beach day, diaper drives, Spinning Babies class, walks, a movie night, and dinner or lunch events.

Our California Leadership team is preparing to travel to beautiful Avilla Beach to gather for a weekend of leadership activities to share knowledge and insight to help support our local chapters.

Please consider supporting our California Section Diaper Drive in honor of National Clinical Nurse Specialist Week, Neonatal Nurses Week, National Diaper Need Awareness Week, and Perinatal Nurses Week. Our virtual drive continues until October 31, 2025. A special thank you to all our nurses for all you do everyday to support our birthing families.

Marinda and I thank you for all the encouragement, support and votes during the recent Section elections. We are grateful and excited to announce our re-election in our current roles though the end of 2028.

Please enjoy our quarterly newsletter and be sure to check out upcoming Chapter events. Don't forget to take advantage of our early bird rates for the upcoming CA Conference in February 2026 in Long Beach.

With warm wishes,
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**

Estelle Deetlefs, MA, BSN
estelledetlefs@gmail.com

VACANCIES

Section Philanthropic Enterprise Coordinator
Section Community Liaison

Vendor Management Coordinator

Sherri Mendelson
tomsherri1@ca.rr.com

Membership Coordinator

Lauren Barden, MSN, RNC-NIC,
C-ONQS, NPD-BC
lauren.bardenrn@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 all,

Those who went to Nationals, I hope you enjoyed it! There were lots of amazing educational topics this year. I recommend viewing some if you get an opportunity. AWHONN also teamed up with the American Red Cross and came out with NALS (Neonatal Advanced Life Support) to give an additional option for learning neonatal resuscitation. The goal is to reach more providers to improve the outcome of neonates, especially in maternity deserts.

Be sure to reach out to me if you need any support with events, especially those offering CE's. Remember, the Great State of California has requirements that must be met in order to give CE's.

Below, I have listed some offerings from AWHONN. Happy learning!

Changes in Fetal Movement Patterns

Decreases or changes in fetal movement can be a critical indicator of fetal distress, yet many warning signs go unnoticed. AWHONN's [Changes in Fetal Movement Patterns course](#) provides evidence-based guidance to [help you recognize concerning movement changes](#), communicate findings effectively with care teams, and improve patient outcomes with timely intervention.

- Price: \$40 for members | \$60 for nonmembers
- 1.0 nursing contact hour (NCPD activity available through 2/9/2028)
- Contact productsales@awhonn.org for group purchasing for your hospital or institution.

Upcoming/Recent Webinars

All online events are recorded and available for on-demand viewing.

Perinatal Bereavement Community Chat Q3: Grief and Trauma in Perinatal Loss

Tuesday, September 2 | 2 pm EST | Price: Free

Ask the Expert: Every Tracing Tells a Story: Mastering EFM Documentation

Wednesday, September 3 | 3 pm EST | Price: Free

Expert Insights With Lisa A. Miller: What's in a Wave? Understanding the Sinusoidal FHR Pattern

September 22 | 3 pm EST

Price: \$49.95 members | \$59.95 nonmembers 1 nursing contact hour/CME

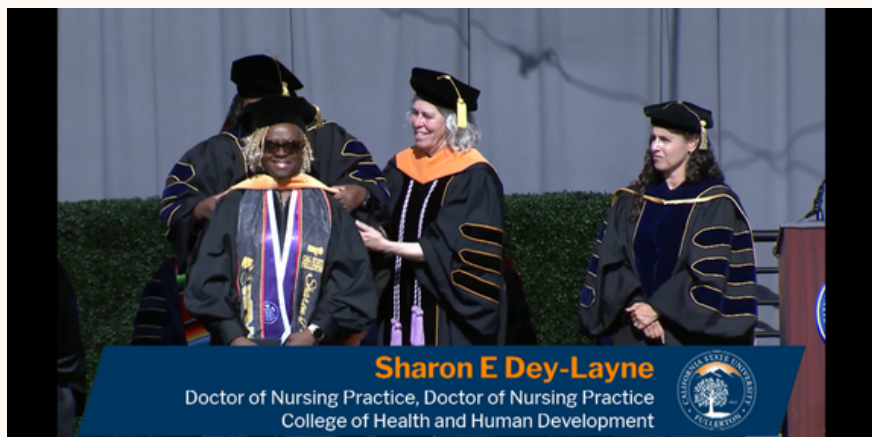
MARKETING UPDATE Sharon Dey-Layne



Sharon Dey-Layne

shardey99@gmail.com

Congratulations to Sharon on earning her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree this May! Sharon's dedication, hard work, and perseverance have culminated in this incredible achievement. Throughout her DNP journey, she has focused on improving maternal and obstetric care, implementing innovative solutions to enhance patient safety and team performance. Her commitment to evidence-based practice and leadership in simulation-based training has set a high standard for healthcare excellence. We are proud to celebrate Sharon's accomplishment and excited to see the lasting impact of her work on patients, colleagues, and the broader nursing community.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Amy Scott, Southern CA
Tracy Weeber, Northern CA

There has been considerable activity within the United States government recently. The effects of HR 1 will take time to unfold. Here are some resources to view more about how HR 1 will affect women and children:

- Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance-<https://www.mmhla.org/articles/the-one-big-beautiful-bill-act-obbbba-and-its-impact-on-maternal-mental-health>
- KFF: The independent source for health policy research, polling, and news.
<https://www.kff.org/medicaid/kff-health-tracking-poll-views-of-the-one-big-beautiful-bill/>
- The Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health- <https://policycentermmh.org/does-the-one-big-beautiful-bill-act-obbbba-directly-impact-maternal-health-benefits/>
- League of Women Voters- <https://www.lwv.org/blog/what-one-big-beautiful-bill-and-its-impact>

We are advocates for the health of women and newborns. It does not matter whether you are liberal, conservative, Democrat, or Republican; we have an obligation to nursing and our patient population to step up and save the health and lives of our patients. Let your voice be heard. Contact your representatives in Congress at <https://www.congress.gov/>, or consider using the website <https://5calls.org> – also available as an app for Apple and Android phones. Check it out!

AWHONN wants to hear from you about HR 1! What are your thoughts on the passage of the "Big, Beautiful Bill"? How will it affect you or your patients? Share your thoughts.
<https://awhonnvoices.gv-one.com/requests.html?gId=4757&rId=18776>

The CDC published Pregnancy-Related Deaths: Data from Maternal Mortality Review Committees on August 22, 2025 <https://www.cdc.gov/maternal-mortality/php/data-research/mmrc/?cove-tab=3>. Of note, maternal mental health conditions were the second largest contributor to deaths (the latest data was for 2021). This brings us neatly to:

- **SB 626** —California's Perinatal Mental Health Equity Bill—recently passed the Assembly Health Committee with unanimous support! It now heads to Appropriations, bringing us one step closer to delivering real change for California's families.

Update on AWHONN on Capitol Hill 2026:

- The event will be held April 27 & 28, 2026. The host hotel will be the Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill (525 New Jersey Ave NW). More details will be available once registration opens, typically in January.

Thank you for your time and energy!

With appreciation,

Tracy & Amy



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE Lauren Barden

RECRUIT 3 FRIENDS, GET A FREE MEMBERSHIP!

California Section AWHONN Membership Report: 2025 Chapter Increases by Quarter

Quarter 2- Updated July 30, 2025

	2024 Births	% members by births	Q1	Q2	Q3 To date	Q4	Quarter Increase	% Increase
N1- Chico	6300	1.70%	107	99	74		-8	-8%
N2- North Coast	6,450	NA			130			<i>new</i>
N3- Sacramento	29,360	1.10%	326	354	341		28	8%
N4- San Francisco	15,500	1.50%	342	351	251		9	3%
N5- East Bay	29,830	1.20%	372	370	371		-2	-1%
N6- C. Sierra Basin	19,440	0.60%	126	124	125		-2	-2%
N7- Silicon Valley	25040	1.10%	287	291	306		4	1%
131,920			1575	1589	1598			
S1- Monterey/SLO	7520	1.10%	86	83	72		-3	-4%
S2- Central Valley	35,030	0.50%	174	177	178		3	2%
S3- St. Barb/Vent	13,340	0.90%	119	117	112		-2	-2%
S4/S5- LA county	94,950	0.50%	509	490	482		-19	-4%
S6- Orange	34,050	0.80%	267	266	262		-1	0%
S7- Inland Empire	45,150	0.90%	409	404	408		-5	-1%
S8- San Diego	40,050	0.70%	274	280	274		6	2%
270,090			1838	1817	1788			
Total Births- CA 402,529								
Current Total Members			3422	3408	3377			

Areas changed in Q3: N4- San Francisco and N1- Chico



COMMUNITY LIAISON UPDATE

VACANT

Thank you, Holly!

**Thank you for your dedication
as an AWHONN volunteer!**



Holly Gless-Green

gless.international@gmail.com

**If you are interested in serving as
the new CA Section Community
Liaison, please contact us [here](#)
[Job Description](#)**

VENDOR COMMITTEE UPDATE

Sherri Mendelson

CALL FOR
VENDORS/EXHIBITORS

The Vendor Committee is actively recruiting sponsors for the AWHONN CA 2025 Leadership Development Meeting and sponsors and vendors for the AWHONN CA 2026 Conference. Hologic will be sponsoring the AWHONN CA Leadership Development Conference.

Currently, the following vendors are registered for the AWHONN CA 2026 Conference: Securitas Healthcare, Huggies Healthcare/KCC, Memorial Care, and Amico Patient Care. Additionally, Mom365 has committed again to bringing their fantastic photo booth to the conference.

The AWHONN CA Section greatly appreciates the support and participation of all these wonderful sponsors. In addition, a big thank you to our Vendor Committee Members: Myoshi Lee, Katrina Johnson, and Rosemarie Cervantes Hernandez.

Please forward any contacts for vendors and sponsors that you may have, including Maternal-Child based non-profits, to awhonn.casection@gmail.com. The vendors and sponsors increase the value of the conferences, decrease the cost to the attendees, and help AWHONN CA bring you the best speakers and experience.



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT LIAISON UPDATE

Michelle Glover, Southern CA | Susan Collins, Northern CA



Michelle Glover

Michelle.awhonn@gmail.com



Susan Collins

suescollins@yahoo.com

We are planning an exciting Student Pre-Conference for nursing students and new grads at the 2026 CA Conference in Long Beach.

We will host a skills fair for attendees to learn and practice several different OB and Newborn skills!

ACCOUNTABILITY, BELONGING & CULTURE Estelle Deetlefs

Dear Colleagues,

I am honored to serve as your newly appointed Accountability, Belonging, and Culture Coordinator for the AWHONN California Section.

Before sharing my vision, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Brandy Frye, our outgoing representative. Brandy's talent, enthusiasm, and unwavering commitment to open and honest conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) have left a lasting impact on our section.



"Brandy, thank you for setting the bar high and inspiring us all." We will miss you!

Brandy showed us that this role is not just a title, it is an opportunity to uphold the values that strengthen our profession and the communities we serve. I would like to share with you what it means to me to be the ABC Coordinator for the California Section.

A

Accountability

Leadership is a responsibility, not a privilege. As your representative, I will be accountable to you to listen actively, act with integrity, and ensure that our section's initiatives reflect your voices and priorities. Together, we will hold ourselves accountable for advancing maternal and neonatal health outcomes across California, something we all feel strongly about.



B

Belonging

When nurses feel a sense of belonging, they thrive, and so do the communities they serve. My vision is to work with you to ensure that every member who we encounter feels valued, supported, and connected. Whether you are a student, a new graduate, or a seasoned leader, there is a place for you in AWHONN. Together, we will create opportunities to collaborate, share knowledge, and celebrate the diversity that makes our profession strong.

C

Culture

Culture is not something we inherit; it is something we create. I am committed to fostering a culture that promotes innovation, inclusivity, and respect. A culture where every voice matters, where emerging leaders are mentored, and where courage and compassion drive every decision. By shaping this culture intentionally, we not only strengthen our organization, but we also elevate the care we deliver every day.

Thank you for trusting me with this role. I look forward to working alongside each of you.

With gratitude and commitment,

Estelle Deetlefs (BSN, MA)

NATIONAL NEWS

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



2026 AWHONN CONVENTION

June 6-10 • Orlando, FL • Disney's Coronado Springs Resort



AWHONN DISTRICT 4 RURAL HEALTH *Summit*

FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS CARING
FOR RURAL BIRTHING FAMILIES

HOT TOPICS:

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

October 6 & 7, 2025

Hybrid—Virtual AND In-Person

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

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

SAVE THE DATE!

THIS ACTIVITY HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE NORTHEAST MULTISTATE DIVISION EDUCATION UNIT FOR APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTACT HOURS. THE NORTHEAST MULTISTATE DIVISION EDUCATION UNIT IS AN ACCREDITED PROVIDER OF NURSING CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BY THE AMERICAN NURSES' CREDENTIALING CENTER'S COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION.

NEW IMPACT FACTORS RELEASED



**Congratulations to
AWHONN's Journals!**

**JOGNN's 2024 IF
Increases to 2.0**

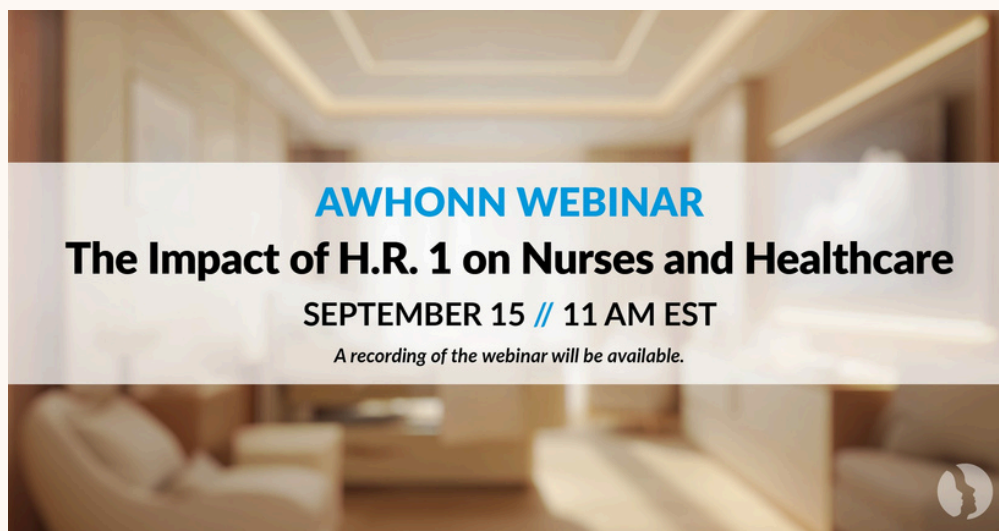
NWH's Inaugural IF 1.5



NATIONAL NEWS

Women's Health Education Series Now Available!

Have you seen our new [#AccidentallyHonestRN](#) video series? [#AWHONN](#) is looking for passionate [#nurses](#) to be featured! We're creating a space for candid, heartfelt, and honest conversations about the realities of perinatal nursing. Whether you want to vent about a tough shift, share how a patient impacted you, or impart some nursing knowledge you've picked up along the way, we want to hear it all. Submit to be featured in one of our video interviews. <https://bit.ly/3R38rdO>



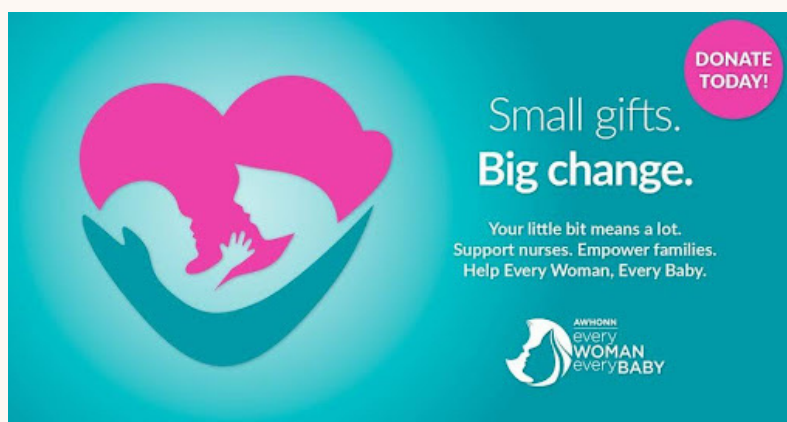
In July, Congress passed, and the President signed into law H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The tax and spending bill contains hundreds of provisions, among which are several that will impact nursing and health care. In this webinar, panel members will describe several provisions of the new law and how they are expected to impact health care. There will also be a presentation of the results of a recently conducted survey of AWHONN members to understand how H.R. 1 is impacting budgets, staffing, purchasing decisions, and daily operations. [Register now](#) for this free webinar.

NATIONAL NEWS

Donate to Every Woman, Every Baby!

Nurses are the heartbeat of maternal and newborn health. They show up, give their all, and make a difference every single day. This summer, we're asking our community to give a little—because it goes a long way. With your \$5, \$10, or \$25 gift to Every Woman, Every Baby, you help fund scholarships, continuing education, and leadership development for the nurses who care for every woman, every baby, and every family. Let's lift up those who care for us all. Donate today! <https://www.awhonn.org/little-goes-a-long-way/>

Prefer to donate by text? Simply text EWEB to 243725 and give back to those who give their all.



Conversations on Women's and Neonatal Health

AWHONN Insights is your go-to source for candid nursing conversations with peers and experts alike. Tap into a resource that offers insight into the day-to-day experiences perinatal nurses like you face. Our hosts and guests offer unique but familiar perspectives because they are perinatal nurses just like you. Join us as we dive into current nursing issues, challenge norms, and engage in real-world dialogue to affect change and drive solutions.

Whether you're in labor & delivery, education, or public health, our podcast supports your professional growth and advocacy for every woman and every baby.



AWHONN INSIGHTS

The Home for Candid Nursing Conversations

CHAPTER UPDATES

CHICO CHAPTER

The Chico Chapter held diaper drive that started July 28th and ended August 31st.

These much needed diapers and supplies are being donated to the Women's Resource Center in Chico. All their services are available for free. Their services include pregnancy testing and verification, pregnancy options information, limited obstetrical ultrasound, parenting programs, 24-hour help line, and material assistance which includes maternity clothes, furniture, and yes, DIAPERS!

Lori, Karen, and Linda met up with Brenda from the resource clinic at Enloe Health's annual Mother's Stroll where we dropped off much needed diapers.

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

We are excited to announce a new education opportunity. Becky Cypher is coming to Sacramento on Tuesday, October 21, 2025. The event will be held at the UC Davis MIND Institute in Sacramento, California. There are two different sessions on the same day. The morning session will be 0800-1200 and is titled "Antepartum Perspectives: Electronic Fetal Monitoring and High-Risk Patients." The afternoon session will be 1300-1700 and is titled "Perinatal Care and Liability: Persistent Issues, Practical Answers." Each session is \$125 for members or \$200 for both sessions. Lunch is NOT provided. There will be a diaper drive and LOTS of GIVEAWAYS!

Scan the QR Code for
Registration Information:



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
ss Stark425@gmail.com

Membership
Leslie Thielen
nickjoedrew@gmail.com

Legislative
Beth Hennessy
bethhennessyyn@gmail.com

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



**Sacramento AWHONN
Chapter Events
October 21, 2025**



https://my.awhonn.org/NC_Event?id=a0W0000006LOa9YAG
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

CHAPTER UPDATES

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA/NORTH BAY CHAPTER

The San Francisco Bay Area chapter has welcomed new leadership to our chapter! We are excited to introduce Cristina Zuniga Education Leader, Karen Poon, Community Liaison, and Sara Larsen, RN Chapter Membership Leader.

After an inspiring time at AWHONN National, Kelley, Amy and Cristina are hard at work planning an upcoming fall dinner event and a winter webinar around Size Inclusive Birth. We are looking forward to great collaboration and education opportunities for our SF Bay Area Chapter members!

Cristina Zuniga (she/ her/hers) has been a perinatal for 20 years and holds several professional certifications including Inpatient Obstetric Nursing (RNC-OB), Electronic Fetal Monitoring (C-EFM), and Obstetric and Neonatal Quality and Safety (C-ONQS) and Respectful, Equitable Care (REC-C). She has experience teaching classes for expecting families, clinical and didactic courses to nursing students, provides continuing education courses for perinatal nurses, and has been in the role of clinical nurse educator, at CPMC, for the past two years. Cristina also participated in AWHONN's Emerging Leader 2024-2025 cohort.



Karen Poon has been a registered nurse for over 13 years, advocating for maternal and newborn health throughout both Southern and Northern California. She began her nursing career in San Diego and eventually moved up to the Bay area. Karen currently works at Sutter Health California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco and is back in school to obtain her Post Graduate Certificate in Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP) from Georgetown University. As a future WHNP, her goal is to drive health advocacy, including increasing access to care, raising awareness, and empowering women to make informed decisions for themselves and their families. During her free time, Karen enjoys running along the waters and dreaming about where to travel next (when she gets some free time!)



Sarah Larsen graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ohio University in May 2025. She also holds an Associate of Science in Nursing from College of Marin and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from UC Santa Cruz. Sarah first joined AWHONN in 2023 as a student volunteer. She is passionate about women's health and advancing health equity.



Chapter Coordinator
Kelley Lee-Brennan

kelley.l.brennan@gmail.com

Membership
Sarah Larsen

sarahiplarsen@gmail.com

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

Legislative
Meghan Duck
meghan.m.duck@gmail.com

Education
Cristina Zuniga
night.nurse.zuniga@gmail.com

CHAPTER UPDATES

NORTH COAST CHAPTER

The North Coast chapter is officially up and running!

The team had a meet and greet on August 18, where they introduced themselves to nurses in the area and gathered a list of topics that nurses would love to learn more about!

Their first topic will be a Zoom session about trauma-informed care for healthcare providers. Dates and registration information will be shared with the members soon.

A warm welcome to Kristin Aharonian as the new Legislative Leader!

**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

Legislative

Kristin Aharonian
Kristinaharonian@gmail.com



VACANCY: Membership

CHAPTER UPDATES

CENTRAL SIERRA BASIN CHAPTER (FORMERLY SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY)

Hello, AWHONN California Members!

✨ Well-Being Corner

Nursing is all about giving, but don't forget to give yourself some love, too.

♥ This month, take a break for just 5 minutes a day to do something that's just for you. Step outside, take a few deep breaths, write down one thing you're grateful for, or simply enjoy your coffee without multitasking.

➡ What's one small way you'll prioritize yourself this week?

Next Chapter Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

We'd love for you to join us! Mark your calendars now.

☀ Leadership Opportunity

Are you passionate about making a difference in our nursing community? We're looking for a dedicated nurse to step into a leadership role. This is a great chance to collaborate with fellow nurses, inspire your peers, and drive meaningful change.

Interested? Reach out to:

Melissa Mora, Chapter Coordinator

✉ melissa@peakrn.com

☎ 210-369-8770



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



We are sharing some photos from our dinner event on August 14 sponsored by Laborie: Optimizing Maternal Outcomes with Laborie: ROM+ and Traxi



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
awhonnsvscmembership@gmail.com

VACANCY: Education



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



Legislative

Allyson Sapp

ahsapp@gmail.com

CHAPTER UPDATES

INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER

The Orange County and Inland Empire Sections held a joint virtual event on Thursday August 21. We did a Film Showing of "24 Days Without You." This film was produced by Annie Sterle and Rebecca Rizzio. Annie is an Amniotic Fluid Embolism (AFE) survivor and the documentary shared her harrowing experience and the aftermath for her and her husband. After the 1 hr film, Annie and Miranda Klassen, the founder of the AFE Foundation, were there for a 45 min. Q & A session.

38 nurses were in attendance, mostly AWHONN members from Southern California. The film struck a chord for many nurses and most were impacted emotionally. The discussion was lively, informative and emotional. This film is highly recommended for all maternal-child nurses and doctors concerning trauma responsiveness, PTSD, family dynamics and the maternal-newborn bond.



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
Terri Thompson
thompson1288@verizon.net



CHAPTER UPDATES

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

We have another wonderful dinner event coming on September 25th at Zov's Tustin Bistro, courtesy of Hologic. We hope you can join us!


AWHONN
 CALIFORNIA
 PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
 WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

AWHONN Orange County Chapter Presents:

Preterm Labor Assessment: Tools and Clinical Applications

WHEN: Thursday September 25th, 2025
Time: 6 pm -8 pm

Presented by:
Shellie Nelson, PhD, RNC-OB
 AWHONN Board of Directors Member

Objectives:

- Review available tools for assessing preterm labor (PTL) including clinical evaluation, ultrasound and laboratory testing using fetal fibronectin (fFN).
- Highlight the importance a standardized PTL protocol.
- Discuss optimal timing of antenatal corticosteroids (ACS) based on PTL assessment.

Dinner location:
Zov's
17440 E. 17th Street
Tustin, CA 92780

Fee:

- \$10 AWHONN Members/Students
- \$15 General Admission (Excl.\$2.51 fee). Full refund if event cancelled or if requested prior to 09.24.25

All attendees are entered into our raffle for a chance to win exciting door prizes. Additional opportunities to win table prizes available throughout the event.

Eventbrite QR Code/ Registration Link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1505284429249?aff=oddtator>



One (1) Continuing Education Hour will be awarded at conclusion of meeting. This provider has been approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing.

Not yet an AWHONN Member?
 If you are interested in becoming an AWHONN member, go to: <https://awhonn.org/membership/>
 Join us on Facebook: [AWHONN OC Chapter](#)
 Questions: Barbara Mauger, barbara.awhonnoc@gmail.com

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

Legislative
 Sherri Hatch
nurseslhatch@gmail.com

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

Membership
 Brittany Silva
brittany_grant1024@yahoo.com

Education
 Lauren Bendon
lauren.bendon@gmail.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

Hi All! Happy (end of) summer and thanks to our dedicated nurses that support our SB/VC Chapter! We are looking for a new Chapter Secretary/Treasurer to replace Becca Licha, who has been steadfast in her support of AWHONN. She will still be around to cheer us on. Please let us know if you are interested. We have a new group of people that have come together to be your Chapter leaders but we can still use more support and input.

If you have any suggestions for events for the chapter please let any of us know. We are looking into having an event in April, 2026 and November, 2026 but are open to other ideas.

We had a beautiful day at the Goleta Beach for our first family beach day. PeriGen sponsored our lunch and gave us a lot of great information on the PeriGen products available. Tyler and Megan, we cannot thank you enough for your time and generosity. It was so great to meet you both and to share stories together on a beautiful Santa Barbara day. Thanks also to a great team for putting things together: Becca Licha, Joss Garibay, Ashante Pusey-Jackson, and Megan Burton. Thank you for your perseverance and dedication to women!!

Our diaper drive is still open so please feel free to support the LEAP program in Goleta.

Chapter Coordinator

Karen Pelone

kpelone@aol.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,
Secretary/Treasurer

Amazon Wishlist:



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



CHAPTER UPDATES

CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER

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

Tiffany Hoang

This past April, I had the incredible opportunity to join AWHONN on Capitol Hill as a nursing student in my last semester of school.

Being a student surrounded by experienced and dedicated nurses, educators, and leaders, I will admit I was nervous. My fears were easily put to rest when I learned it was many of my companions' first times at this event as well. We spent the first day in a conference room of the Marriott Capitol Hill listening to presenters prepare us for the next day with a thorough briefing of each initiative that we were advocating for, a personal account of what it means to be an advocate, stories and reminders of the people we are advocating for (patients and ourselves), and getting to know nurses from all around the country. The environment was incredibly welcoming. As a student from California, I sat at a table of other California locals where I was able to get to know AWHONN members and nurses that have been in the specialty for many years, who easily offered advice for me on pursuing obstetric nursing post-graduation. We exchanged contact information, connected over our shared interests in the presentation topics, and shared our anticipation and nervous excitement for the meetings that would take place the next day.



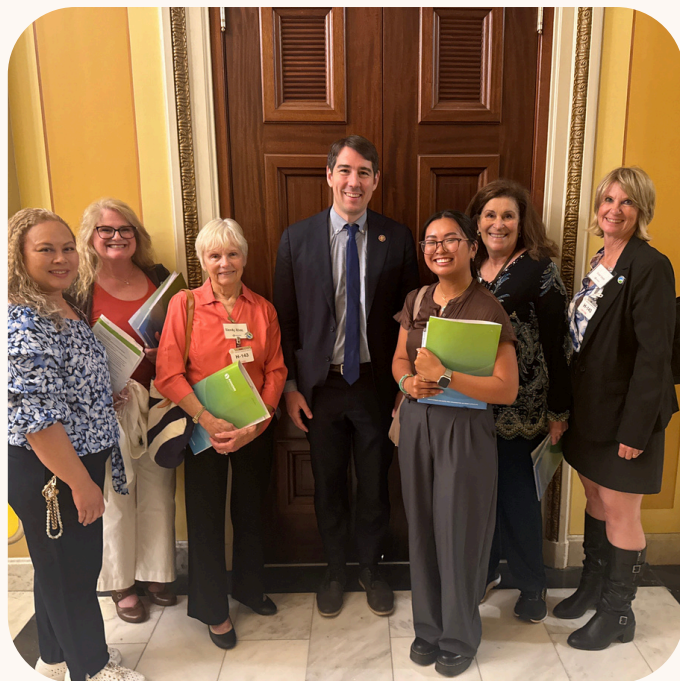
On the second day of AWHONN on Capitol Hill, I returned to Washington DC and met up with six nurses from congressional districts near my own (California's District 9). We introduced ourselves to each other and reflected on our experiences that aligned with the policies we were advocating for. Some of the nurses shared that they held seats on the maternal mortality review committees that we were advocating for the extension of while other nurses were long-time labor and delivery nurses that observed the closures of maternity wards of local hospitals as a direct result of cuts to Medicaid and federal spending. For myself, I was able to rely on my experiences as an out-of-state nursing student hoping to return to California to speak on why our representatives should cosponsor and support the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 (continues on the following page).

MEET OUR NEW GRADS

After we mapped our and practiced our proposals for our congresspeople, we departed to the different offices per our schedule. We met with legislative consultants and assistants for various congresspeople. Near mid-day, we were surprised to be whisked away to the Capitol building with access badges to meet with representative Josh Harder of my district, while he was in between congressional meetings. When Rep. Harder came out, I was immediately struck by his listening ability and empathy. We had a great discussion about his efforts to expand the nursing program at the local community college in my hometown and how he has been working towards saving Medicaid. We also met with Representative Mike Thompson while he was also between Congressional meetings.

As I reflect on my time at AWHONN on Capitol Hill, I'm immensely glad I had the opportunity to come to this event as a student. I not only experienced the legislative process firsthand, but I got to meet with experienced nurses who took the time out of their lives and busy careers to also participate in advocating for the next generation of nurses and their patients. While it was a daunting break in routine from nursing school, I feel lucky to have been welcomed into this community. Following this experience, I went on to graduate in May with my Master of Science in Nursing from the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. I hope to take my experiences on Capitol Hill with me while I study for my board exam back in my hometown of Stockton, CA; look for new graduate nursing jobs in this beloved specialty; and enter the nursing profession.

Tiffany Hoang, MSN



AWHONN RESEARCH ACADEMY

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses



AWHONN Research Academy Nurse Research Training Program Level 1

AWHONN is committed to advancing nursing science. The Research Academy supports nurses with clinical expertise and the spirit of inquiry to understand and participate in the research process. The Research Academy program is offered by AWHONN's research department and the member-driven Research Advisory Panel.

Level 1

Participants of the Nurse Research Training Program – Level 1 will learn foundational research concepts and how to critically appraise research articles.

The **purpose** is to provide nurses with fundamental training including the ability to:

- Critically read research.
- Participate in projects like preparing evidence-based practice projects and contributing to evidence-based guideline creation.

Details

Timeline

- The Level 1 Research Academy will start January 12, 2026 and end on November 18, 2026.
- Monthly, 1-hour virtual meetings with all participants.
- Independent virtual meetings with an assigned mentor.

Activities

- Get ready for a year of discovery, skill-building, and connection!
- We'll kick off in January with an energizing immersion into QI, EBP, and research—learning how to ask the right questions and start a literature review.
- February brings research methods to life with expert guest speakers.
- March unlocks the secrets of powerful literature reviews.
- In April, May, July, and August, you'll sharpen your critical appraisal skills across qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods, and reviews—becoming confident in evaluating any study you encounter.
- June is our midyear highlight at Convention, where networking and inspiration take center stage.
- By fall, you'll take the lead—appraising your own selected studies and wrapping up with a November proposal presentation to showcase your growth and ideas.
- This isn't just learning—it's your launchpad into becoming a confident, capable nurse researcher.

AWHONN RESEARCH ACADEMY

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses



Who is Eligible?

- Nurses who are ready to begin their journey into research in women's health, obstetric, and/or neonatal environments.
- A full member of AWHONN and maintain full membership throughout the enrollment in the Academy.
- Availability to attend:
 - A 2-hour virtual immersion on January 12, 2026.
 - Monthly 1-hour Academy virtual meetings (day/time TBD).
 - At least once monthly virtual meetings/communication with the assigned Academy mentor.
 - Independent work done outside of meeting times – approximately 8 hours a month.
 - Present progress to the RAP in May 2026 and final presentation in November 2026.
- Commitment to engage in all aspects of the Research Academy – Level 1, including:
 - Conduct an abbreviated literature review.
 - Independently appraise articles for level and strength of evidence.

How to Apply

1. Application: [Research Academy - Level 1 Application](#)
 - a. Application deadline-**September 19, 2025**
 - b. Submit a current CV and cover letter.
 - c. Description of your interest in the Research Academy and its potential impact on their career.
 - d. Briefly describe your background and life experience that has influenced your career.
 - e. Area of research interest. A defined research question or proposal idea is not needed; it only needs a spirit of inquiry and a general focus.
 - f. Confirm your time and effort commitment to complete cohort activities.
2. Notification **by October/November 2025**
3. Cohort start: **January 12, 2026**

Contact Information

For inquiries or additional information, please contact:

Angela Lober, PhD, MPH, RN, IBCLC
Senior Manager, Research & Grants
alober@awhonn.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

AWHONN WEBINAR

The Impact of H.R. 1 on Nurses and Healthcare

SEPTEMBER 15 // 11 AM EST

A recording of the webinar will be available.



In July, Congress passed, and the President signed into law H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The tax and spending bill contains hundreds of provisions, among which are several that will impact nursing and health care. In this webinar, panel members will describe several provisions of the new law and how they are expected to impact health care. There will also be a presentation of the results of a recently conducted survey of AWHONN members to understand how H.R. 1 is impacting budgets, staffing, purchasing decisions, and daily operations. [Register now](#) for this free webinar.

UPCOMING EVENTS



AWHONN
CALIFORNIA

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

DIAPER DRIVE

CELEBRATING:

SEPTEMBER

- National Clinical Nurse Specialist Week
- Neonatal Nurses Week
- National Diaper Need Awareness Week

OCTOBER

- Perinatal Nurses Week

COLLECTING DIAPERS FOR:



Scan the QR
code or visit
this link to
donate!

DIAPER DRIVE CONCLUDES 10/31/25

UPCOMING EVENTS



AWHONN

CALIFORNIA

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

AWHONN Orange County Chapter Presents:

Preterm Labor Assessment: Tools and Clinical Applications

WHEN: Thursday September 25th, 2025

Time: 6 pm -8 pm

Presented by:

Shellie Nelson, PhD, RNC-OB

AHWONN Board of Directors Member

Objectives:

- Review available tools for assessing preterm labor (PTL) including clinical evaluation, ultrasound and laboratory testing using fetal fibronectin (fFN).
- Highlight the importance a standardized PTL protocol.
- Discuss optimal timing of antenatal corticosteroids (ACS) based on PTL assessment.



Dinner location:

Zov's

17440 E. 17th Street

Tustin, CA 92780

Fee:

- \$10 AWHONN Members/Students
- \$15 General Admission

(Excl. \$2.51 fee). Full refund if event cancelled or if requested prior to 09.24.25

All attendees are entered into our raffle for a chance to win exciting door prizes. Additional opportunities to win table prizes available throughout the event.

**Eventbrite QR Code/
Registration Link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1505284429249?aff=oddtctcrator>



One (1) Continuing Education Hour will be awarded at conclusion of meeting. This provider has been approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing.

Not yet an AWHONN Member?

If you are interested in becoming an AWHONN

member, go to: <https://awhonn.org/membership/>

Join us on Facebook: [AWHONN OC Chapter](#)

Questions: Barbara Mauger, barbara.awhonnoc@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sacramento AWHONN Chapter Events October 21, 2025



https://my.awhonn.org/NC_Event?id=a0IV000006LOa9YAG

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.

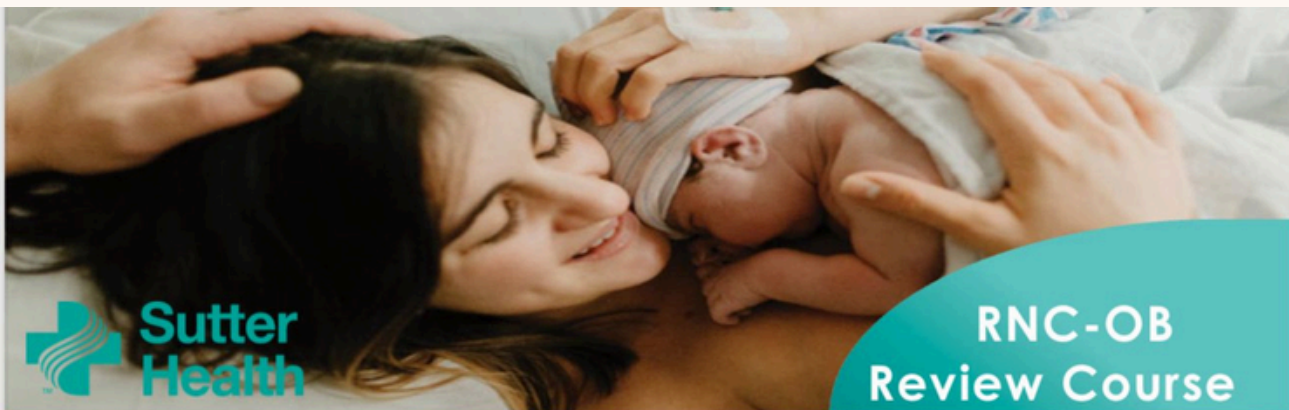
COST PER SESSION:
Members \$125
Non-members \$150

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



Sutter Health University presents Rebecca Cypher, MSN, PNNP

Sutter Health University is partnering with AWHONN's California Section to sponsor the RNC-OB Review Course. This dynamic and comprehensive 2-day review course designed specifically for nurses preparing for the Inpatient Obstetric Nursing (RNC-OB) certification exam. Through expert-led instruction, and targeted exam strategies, we'll review core content identified by the National Certification Corporation (NCC). Lectures will primarily be focused on physiology; pregnancy complications, treatment, and management; fetal assessment; labor and birth; recovery and postpartum care; and professional practice issues.

RNC-OB Course Topics:

- Review anatomical and physiological changes during the antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum periods.
- Compare and contrast fetal monitoring techniques and necessary skills to assess fetal well-being.
- Describe core elements of labor and birth including physiology, assessment and management, and complications.
- Summarize fundamentals of newborn transition, nutrition, and complications.
- Explain pharmacologic principles and safe administration of obstetric medications.



Instructed by Rebecca Cypher, MSN, PNNP

Becky brings over 37 years of expertise in perinatal care, including a distinguished 20-year Air Force career and roles in obstetric education and management positions. She currently owns a national consulting business and is involved in state and national endeavors. Becky has held leadership positions within AWHONN, including past President, lectures widely, and has numerous publications, including several key obstetrics texts such as AWHONN's High Risk and Critical Care textbook and co-author of Mosby's Pocket Guide to Fetal Heart Monitoring.

RNC-OB Review Course

In partnership with



Course Information

Date/Time: December 2-3, 2025

Hours: Day 1: 0800 – 1700

Day 2: 0800 – 1700

Location: In-Person Sessions

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

Contact: Jennifer Lombardi,
Sutter Health University
Clinical Nurse Educator
Jennifer.Lombardi@sutterhealth.org

Pricing: \$250/Sutter Employee or
AWHONN Member
\$275/ External to Sutter
\$20 Manual Fee

Bundle Pricing: RNC-OB and C-EFM

*Manual is free when you bundle both courses

\$375/Sutter Employee or
AWHONN Member

\$399/ External to Sutter

Registration:

[RNC-OB Review Course Registration Form](#)



CA 2026 CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

EARLY BIRD RATES UNTIL OCT 31ST



2026 SECTION CONFERENCE

VIRTUAL OR
IN-PERSON

Conference Speakers Include



Rose Horton
AWHONN President



Debbie Ketchum
AWHONN President Elect



Dr. Courtney Martin
Hoag Memorial Hospital

Objectives include:

- Identify Surrogacy Considerations
- Summarize Menopause Management
- Recognize Breastfeeding Challenges
- Describe Air Pollution Effects
- Define Congenital Heart Defects

Pre Conferences:

- Thursday, February 19, 2026
 - AWHONN Intermediate EFM Class
 - AWHONN EFM Instructor Workshop
 - Student/New Grad Workshop with skill stations

Main Conference:

- Friday, February 20, 2026
- Saturday, February 21, 2026
- 8.00 AM - 5.00 PM

Want to present a Poster?



Location: HILTON LONG BEACH

**SCAN OR CLICK HERE
TO BOOK YOUR ROOM
NOW**



**SCAN OR CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER!**



CEs will be offered for full conference attendance. The CE provider AWHONN CA has been approved by the CA BRN, BRN Provider #18030. The certificate must be retained by the licensee for a period of four (4) years after the course concludes. No refunds will be offered after 01/01/2026. Book your room by 01/20/2026 to get AWHONN discounted rates.