



Seasons greetings from your CA Section Chair and Secretary/Treasurer

Hello AWHONN California Members,

As we approach the end of 2025, we would like to recap some of the achievements of our AWHONN CA Section in collaboration and support from all our members and the nursing community.

We are thankful for our robust AWHONN CA membership of over 3,400 members, the highest membership volume in the country.

Our Section Leadership team of 16 leaders assists with our annual conference planning and overseeing our Chapter teams. We currently have 7 Chapters in Northern California and 8 Chapters in Southern California.

Our Chapters have hosted over 25 virtual or in-person events this year

We hope to see many of you at our upcoming AWHONN CA 2026 Conference in Long Beach in February 2026. Don't forget there is a virtual option (with recordings available for 30 days) if you are not able to join us in person.

Get 25% off your AWHONN CA 2026 Conference registration when you share a poster virtually or in person! Submit your abstract or poster via the google form on the flyer in the newsletter.

Our Pre-Conference events include an Intermediate Fetal Monitoring Class, EFM Instructor Training Class, and a Student/New Grad Event with hands-on stations. Book your stay as hotel rooms are filling quickly.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season with family and loved ones.

Thank you for all you do for our birthing population!

With gratitude,

Sue Stone and Marinda du Toit



YOUR SECTION LEADERSHIP TEAM

Section Chair

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SAVE THE DATE!



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

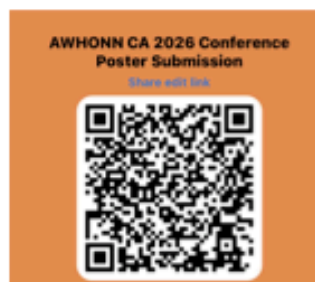
Pre Conferences:

- 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.

AWHONN CA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Our Chapter and Section leaders, along with some of our student members, met in late September at the beautiful Sycamore Springs Resort in Avila Beach. The weekend was filled with training and opportunities for collaboration, inspiration, networking, and dialogue to help advance AWHONN's mission, vision, and strategic goals.

We also managed to incorporate some activities and self care to nurture and nourish ourselves and each other.



AWHONN CA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE





EDUCATION UPDATE

Robyn Garrett



Thank you, Robyn Garrett!

We would like to thank Robyn for her years of service to AWHONN CA as the Education Coordinator, as she prepares to hand over the reins to Sharon Dey-Layne.

Welcome to your new role, Sharon!

Get 25% off your AWHONN CA 2026 Conference registration to share a poster, whether you can attend only virtually or will be there in person! Submit your abstract or poster via the QR code to the right.

Would love to see all the amazing QI, EBP, and research projects all of you are working on! Thank you!



Sharon Dey-Layne



In 2026, AWHONN CA will launch its Journal Club under the guidance of Sherri Mendelson PhD, RNC, CNS, IBCLC. Beginning in January, with the LA Valley Chapter, every other month there will be a continuing education opportunity where one chapter will host an in-person and/or virtual opportunity to review one or two research articles on a specific topic to learn more about the components of a research study and the evidence for nursing practice.



[Click here](#) to learn more about AWHONN's Monthly Tracing Review

Opportunity for Growth

If you want your team to grow in their understanding of accountability, belonging, and culture, consider the inspiring work of Dr. Kanika Harris who will be speaking at our California Conference in February. Dr. Harris received funding from the California Health Care Foundation to support the Bill of Rights for Birthing People. She is passionate about addressing racial disparities in maternal health and will be offering a training program for California Chapters in 2026.

MARKETING UPDATE Sharon Dey-Layne



Sharon Dey-Layne

Thank you, Sharon Dey-Layne!

We would like to thank Sharon for her years of service to AWHONN CA as the Marketing Coordinator, and we welcome her as she transitions into her new role as Section Education Coordinator.

Emily Broadwater will be transitioning into the Marketing Coordinator role under Sharon's guidance. Welcome Emily!



Emily Broadwater

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Amy Scott, Southern CA
Tracy Weeber, Northern CA

The Government shutdown has ended! Here is what we know about the legislative package that was signed on 11.12.25:

- Three full-year Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) appropriations bills:
 - Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, Agriculture-FDA, and Legislative Branch—funds the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and Congress through 9.30.26.
 - Maintains funding for all other federal agencies and programs at FY24 levels through 1.30.26.
- The Agriculture-FDA portion of the bill provides \$107 billion in mandatory funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The bill also funds the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) at \$8.2 billion, an increase of about \$600 million over FY25.
- The legislation includes some provisions to protect the federal workforce including reversing shutdown-related reduction in force notices, requiring back pay for all federal employees who forewent pay during the 43-day shutdown, and barring future federal workforce reductions through 1.30.26.
- The package does not extend Affordable Care Act (ACA) enhanced tax credits that are slated to expire 12.31.25, causing substantial price hikes in ACA marketplace health insurance premiums.
- It does not provide a resolution on key FY26 funding decisions or the threat of long-term funding cuts that could have sweeping consequences for maternal and child health (MCH) populations, programs, and providers.
- There are still proposed funding reductions marked by Congress that propose significant cuts to core MCH programs, including:
 - \$767.251 million for the Title V MCH Block Grant, which includes a \$46.449 million decrease to the Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS) portion of Title V compared to FY25.
 - Elimination of funding for Healthy Start.

Harvard University is offering a free, self-paced, 7-week government course, titled, “We the People: Civic Engagement in a Constitutional Democracy.” [Click here](#) to learn more!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Amy Scott, Southern CA
Tracy Weeber, Northern CA

Major changes to nursing student loans will take effect on 07.1.26, under the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA). These changes include the elimination of Grad PLUS loans for new borrowers, new annual and lifetime loan caps, and a restructuring of repayment plans. See the table below listing key changes for nursing students:

Feature	Current Rules (Before 7.1.26)	New Rules (On or After 7.1.26)
Grad PLUS Loans	Available, allowing borrowing up to the full cost of attendance.	Eliminated for new borrowers.
Annual Loan Limit	Varies, can be supplemented by Grad PLUS.	\$20,500 for most graduate nursing programs.
Lifetime Loan Limit	\$138,500 aggregate for Direct Loans; no aggregate limit on Grad PLUS.	\$100,000 aggregate limit for graduate programs, including undergraduate loans.
Repayment Plans	Multiple options available, including SAVE, PAYE, and ICR.	Only two options for new borrowers: a Standard Repayment Plan and the Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP) .
PSLF	Available to qualifying nurses.	Remains available, with payments under RAP qualifying.

Note on "Professional Degree" Status: The U.S. Department of Education has excluded graduate nursing programs (such as Nurse Practitioner and CRNA programs) from the definition of "professional degrees" that would qualify for a higher \$50,000 annual and \$200,000 lifetime cap. This means many advanced practice nursing students will face a significant funding gap that may require seeking private loans.

What You Can Do to Prepare:

- **Borrow Before the Deadline:** If you are in a program that starts before 7.1.26, taking out at least one federal loan (including a Grad PLUS loan) before that date can "grandfather" you into the current rules for the remainder of your program.
- **Explore Alternative Funding:** Students starting on or after 7.1.26, will likely need to find alternative funding sources, such as scholarships, employer assistance programs, or private student loans, to cover costs exceeding the new federal limits.
- **Understand Repayment Options:** All borrowers will eventually transition to the new repayment landscape, where the SAVE, PAYE, and ICR plans will be phased out by 7.1.28, leaving only the new Standard Plan and the RAP.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Amy Scott, Southern CA
Tracy Weeber, Northern CA

- **Monitor Official Guidance:** The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is expected to provide further clarification on specific transition rules and definitions. Check the [Federal Student Aid website](#) for the latest updates.
- **Please add your name to the American Nurses Association (ANA) Spotlights Call to Action:** Nursing is a Professional Degree – Sign our petition for the Department of Education to include nursing in its proposed definition of 'professional degree' programs.
<https://ana.quorum.us>
- **Find your congresspersons here:** <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member> and reach out to them to express your concern
- **In your web browser, type:** “Script to express concern regarding U.S. Federal Department of Education reclassifying nursing profession” and you will have talking points for a call, email or letter to your congressperson (a good use of AI).

U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) News Release—HHS Advances Women’s Health, Removes Misleading FDA Warnings on Hormone Replacement Therapy (11.10.25):

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/hhs-advances-womens-health-removes-misleading-fda-warnings-hormone-replacement-therapy#:~:text=The%20FDA%20is%20initiating%20removal,on%20data%2C%20not%20fear>

The Menopause Society Comments on the FDA Announcement on Hormone Therapy (11.10.25):

<https://menopause.org/press-releases/the-menopause-society-comments-on-the-fda-announcement-on-hormone-therapy>

Registration is open for AWHONN on Capitol Hill 2026:

The event is being held on 4.27 & 28.2026. The host hotel is the Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill (525 New Jersey Ave NW). Register here: https://my.awhonn.org/NC_Event?id=a0IVO000008pFIBYAU#

Thank you for your time and energy!

With appreciation,
Amy & Tracy



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE Lauren Barden

RECRUIT 3 FRIENDS, GET A FREE MEMBERSHIP!

California Section AWHONN Membership Report: 2025 Chapter Increases by Quarter

Quarter 3- Updated October 31, 2025

	2024 Births	% members by births	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Quarter Increase	% Increase
N1- Chico	6300	1.70%	107	99	74	70	-4	-5%
N2- North Coast	6,450	NA			132	125	-7	-5%
N3- Sacramento	29,360	1.10%	326	354	343	330	-13	-4%
N4- San Francisco	15,500	1.50%	342	351	252	246	-6	-2%
N5- East Bay	29,830	1.20%	372	370	372	358	-14	-4%
N6- C. Sierra Basin	19,440	0.60%	126	124	122	127	5	4%
N7- Silicon Valley	25,040	1.10%	287	291	307	308	1	1%
	131,920		1575	1589	1602	1564		
S1- Monterey/SLO	7520	1.10%	86	83	71	71	0	0
S2- Central Valley	35,030	0.50%	174	177	175	172	-3	-2%
S3- St. Barb/Vent	13,340	0.90%	119	117	115	117	2	2%
S4/S5- LA county	94,950	0.50%	509	490	485	479	-6	-1%
S6- Orange	34,050	0.80%	267	266	259	269	10	4%
S7- Inland Empire	45,150	0.90%	409	404	404	383	-21	-5%
S8- San Diego	40,050	0.70%	274	280	271	258	-13	-6%
	270,090		1838	1817	1780	1749		
Total Births- CA	402,529							
Current Total Members			3422	3408	3394	3357		

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



COMMUNITY LIAISON UPDATE

Laura Senn



Welcome Laura!

Please join us in welcoming Laura Senn, who will be serving in the role of Community Liaison.

VENDOR COMMITTEE UPDATE

Sherri Mendelson



CALL FOR VENDORS/EXHIBITORS

The Vendor Committee is making great headway in the recruitment of vendors for our February 2026 Conference. Our committee welcomes any further vendor suggestions or contacts.

Some of our confirmed vendors include:



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT LIAISON UPDATE

Michelle Glover, Southern CA | Susan Collins, Northern CA



Michelle Glover

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Susan Collins

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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

Greetings to my fellow AWHONN and nursing colleagues!

This is not a scientific paper, but a reflection on accountability, culture, and belonging, shared from my own perspective as a nurse, colleague, and leader.



Accountability

I don't know about you, but I love working with someone who accepts accountability. It is such a joy to collaborate with people who take responsibility for their actions, follow through on their commitments, and say with confidence: "The buck stops here." These are people who recognize that their actions matter—that they have impact. They are emotionally mature enough to own their influence and decisions. According to Gottlieb (2021), knowing that you have influence in the world and in situations is called agency. Agency is a sign of maturity—as a person and as a leader. When you show up in the world understanding that you cannot change others, only yourself, you demonstrate true leadership. When you can lead yourself—your thoughts, emotions, and behaviors—you naturally have impact on those around you. "If you do not choose your attitude and priorities, the world will choose them for you." So, what is your attitude about AWHONN? How do you think about the organization? How do you feel when you participate in its activities? Do you show up? Do you deliver on your promises? Let's hold ourselves accountable for our impact—and grow together in this mindset.

Culture

The word culture fascinates me. It's such a small word for something so vast — so deeply ingrained and woven into everything we do. In organizations, culture is not just created — it's lived. As a nurse, you are a leader in the perinatal space and Abrahamsson & Magnusson (2021) remind us that what leaders say, do, and prioritize sets the tone for everyone else. Leaders shape culture. They are visible. Their actions are observed, discussed, sometimes judged — but always impactful. Fair or not, as a leader you are constantly influencing the tone of your team and the direction of your organization. Leaders determine culture — every day, through their example.

Belonging

How do we make our team feel that they belong—that they are welcome and that they contribute meaningfully to the success of our organization? Belonging became deeply personal when I chose to emigrate to another country later in life. It was both exciting and challenging—especially around language and communication. Even though English is widely spoken in my home country, and is the primary language in the U.S., I was surprised at how much could get lost in translation. When I surveyed a group of learners about how much they clearly understood of my teaching, the result was humbling—only about 80% initially, especially in virtual settings. But growing up in a country with eleven official languages (and now sign language as the twelfth), I learned early on that communication takes effort. It takes patience, empathy, and a desire for common understanding. I love diversity—it brings richness, creativity, and unique solutions. But it can also bring conflict when miscommunication arises. Language is the expression of our inner world. Understanding one another is an act of respect. And remember: "An accent is a sign of bravery." It means someone left something familiar behind and is striving to belong in a new place.

Closing Thoughts

Accountability, culture, and belonging are not just words—they are the heartbeat of how we connect, lead, and serve. Let's keep showing up for one another, for our communities and for our shared mission in AWHONN.

PHILANTHROPIC ENTERPRISE UPDATE **Barbara Mauger**



Please join us in congratulating Barbara Mauger, DNP, RNC-OB, NPD-BC, on her appointment as the California Section Philanthropic Enterprise Coordinator. After three outstanding years as Orange County Chapter Coordinator, Barbara has stepped into this Section-level role to expand philanthropic outreach across California and strengthen connections between AWHONN National, the CA Section, and our local chapters.

Barbara combines deep clinical and educational expertise with a proven track record of community engagement and volunteer leadership. Her experience organizing chapter activities, cultivating sponsors, and creating meaningful fundraising events positions her ideally to lead new philanthropic initiatives for the Section. She is committed to making our Section's work both high-impact and sustainable.

Priorities and Plans for the Year Ahead

- Promote the Every Woman Every Baby (EWEB) charity statewide and identify concrete, chapter-level ways to increase engagement.
- Support and coordinate chapter diaper drives and other community outreach projects.
- Develop toolkits and shareable resources to help chapters run successful fundraisers and community events.
- Explore products and merchandise for sale at events or online to increase visibility and Section resources.

AWHONN CA Conference Donations Welcome

Barbara is organizing a fundraising project for the CA Section Conference in February. We invite members, chapters, and partners to consider donating items or experiences to support our philanthropic goals. Donations will directly benefit AWHONN's community programs and help us meet ambitious engagement targets for the coming year.

Barbara's Vision

Barbara looks forward to collaborating with our wonderful CA Section members and chapter coordinators. Her goal is to build a philanthropic program that serves as a model for other states. She will be connecting with chapter coordinators quarterly to share ideas, provide support, and celebrate successes.

How to Get Involved

If your chapter is planning a diaper drive, fundraiser, or has items to donate for the conference, please watch for Barbara's outreach — she'll be in touch via phone, virtual meetings, and in-person visits to support your efforts. We're excited for this next chapter under Barbara's leadership and grateful for her continued service to AWHONN California. She can be contacted at 714-396-5733 or by email barbara.awhonnoc@gmail.com

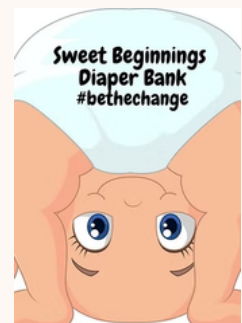
DIAPER DONATIONS

1 in 2 families lack the diapers they need to keep their infants clean, dry and healthy. Our amazing AWHONN California community has donated over **57,000** diapers this year to local community organizations.

The Healthy Mom&Baby Diaper Drive working in partnership with diaper maker Huggies (TM) and the non-profit National Diaper Bank Network, matched our efforts by donating over **115,700** diapers!

Thank you to each and every one of you for your diaper donations.

<https://www.health4mom.org/diapering/diaper-drive/>



NATIONAL NEWS

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



 **2026 AWHONN CONVENTION**
June 6-10 • Orlando, FL • Disney's Coronado Springs Resort



Every patient deserves to be heard,
supported, and treated with dignity.

Explore AWHONN's Respectful
Maternity Care Toolkit

RESPECT
Every Patient
Every Interaction
Every Time®

 AWHONN



[Click here](#) to explore AWHONN's Respectful Maternity Care Toolkit

CHAPTER UPDATES

CHICO CHAPTER



The Chico chapter rounded out the 3rd quarter with over 4000 diapers for our local Women's Resource Clinic. They were very grateful for our chapter's donations that will help so many families.

The CA Leadership Conference in Avila Beach was a great weekend to inspire our group and to be able to come away with many ideas as well as share time with other CA leaders.

Our 4th quarter will be spent on spending time with our families over the holidays which inspired our chapter meeting to include a Christmas ornament exchange. We are hoping for a great turnout of current AWHONN members and future members.

We all are looking forward to a great 2026.

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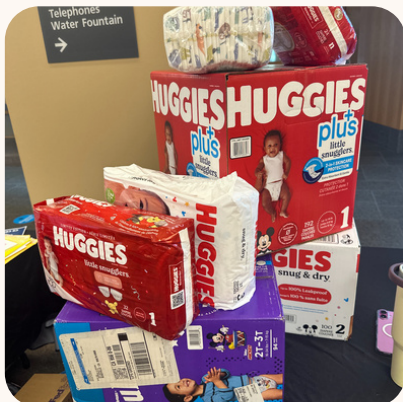
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VACANCY: Legislative



CHAPTER UPDATES

SACRAMENTO CHAPTER



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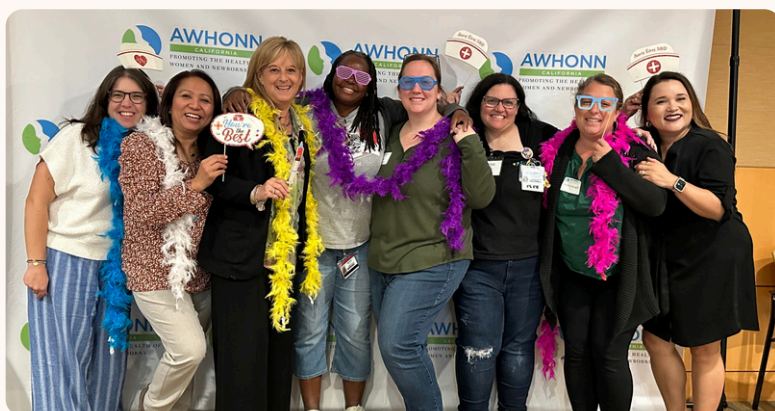
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 Pending

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CHAPTER UPDATES

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA/NORTH BAY CHAPTER



The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter hosted a successful Dine and Learn event at Il Fornaio, featuring LaShea Thompson's insightful presentation on preterm labor and standardization of care. We were pleased to welcome several new AWHONN members, including awarding a complimentary membership to Sharon Reichow! In addition we celebrated the evening with AWHONN-themed raffle prizes and launched our holiday diaper drive in support of birthing families served by Help a Mother Out in Oakland.

Be sure to save the date for our upcoming webinar, "Size Inclusive Birth" with Jen McLellan, January 29 6:30-8:00.

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CHAPTER UPDATES

NORTH COAST CHAPTER

North Coast is up and ACTIVE! We had our first virtual event on October 23rd presented by Rebekah Wheeler: "Preventing Trauma in the Birth Professional." Rebekah is a Certified Trauma Counselor and CNM. Here is a link to her site, and you can contact her if you would like her to present for your chapter. She is AMAZING. <https://www.rebekahwheelerhealing.com/>

All our leadership positions are now filled, and we have an amazing team!

We just hosted a Christmas tree decorating event in Windsor, CA on November 30 at 5pm. The Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Grove is an annual holiday event located on the Windsor Town Green, the premier central gathering place for Windsor residents and visitors. The event highlights 250 lighted individually decorated holiday trees lining the walkways of the Green. Students, families, groups and local businesses showcase their talents in design and decorating with their themed trees which draw thousands of visitors to Old Downtown Windsor for the Holidays. The event runs throughout the month of December each year.

We have a tree that we decorated with full AWHONN color bling! This is also a Diaper Drive event, and will have information about AWHONN, as well as the Diaper Drive with QR codes as ornaments for people to scan and donate. We can't wait to share pictures! The trees can be viewed starting December 4th, and will be up throughout the month of December.

February 5th we are hosting a webinar where Kelly Brennan-Lee (from the SF Chapter) will be giving her amazing presentation on preeclampsia. Information on that will be posted soon!

Finally, we are working hard to put together some in-person dinner/learning events for early 2026!

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CHAPTER UPDATES

CENTRAL SIERRA BASIN CHAPTER (FORMERLY SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY)



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VACANCIES:

**Secretary/Treasurer,
Education, Membership,
Legislative, Community
Liaison**

CHAPTER UPDATES

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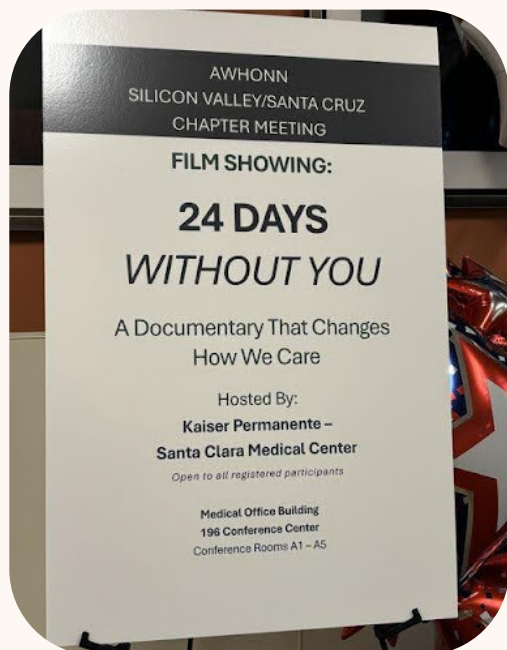


Legislative

Pending

CHAPTER UPDATES

SILICON VALLEY/SANTA CRUZ CHAPTER



We are sharing some photos from our 11/12/2025 Movie Screening of “24 Days Without You,” hosted by Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara. We have an upcoming dinner event in January 2026 hosted by Sanofi in San Jose. Details to come!



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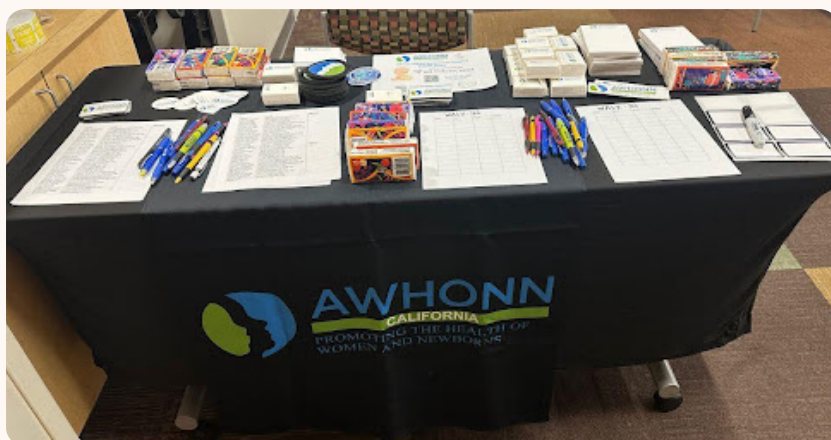
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CHAPTER UPDATES

INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER

Terri Thompson is our newest chapter leader. She is taking over the membership role for the Inland Empire chapter. Terri has 28 years of experience in the perinatal field. She was a supervisor at Loma Linda University Medical Center for 15 years. Terri is now the Lead Professor of Nursing Care of the Childbearing Family (OB) at California Baptist University and teaches clinicals also. She earned her Doctorate in Nursing degree in Nursing Education. Terri is married and has 4 children, one of whom is disabled. So she has a wide range of experiences and perspectives, including the role of Faculty Advisor for the Office of Minority Health.

The Inland Empire Chapter is planning a dinner meeting to be held at a nice restaurant. The speaker will cover FfN testing and corticosteroids to help the preterm newborn. The event will take place on January 15th, 2026.

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CHAPTER UPDATES

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER



On September 25th, members of the OC Chapter gathered at Zov's Tustin Bistro for an engaging evening of education, networking, and celebration—courtesy of Hologic. The highlight of the night was a compelling presentation by Shellie Nelson, PhD, RN, who shared valuable insights into the recognition and management of preterm labor (PTL).

Dr. Nelson's talk explored the tools available for assessing PTL, including:

- Clinical evaluation
- Ultrasound
- Laboratory testing using fetal fibronectin (fFN)

She emphasized the importance of implementing a standardized PTL protocol to improve outcomes and consistency in care. A key focus was the optimal timing of antenatal corticosteroids (ACS), guided by accurate PTL assessment, to enhance neonatal outcomes.

In addition to the educational component, attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner and a lively atmosphere filled with quizzes, door prizes, and plenty of laughter. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with colleagues and deepen our understanding of a critical topic in perinatal care.

Thank you to Hologic for sponsoring this memorable evening, and to Dr. Nelson for her expertise and dedication to advancing maternal-fetal health.



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CHAPTER UPDATES

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CHAPTER UPDATES

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CHAPTER UPDATES

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CHAPTER UPDATES

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CHAPTER UPDATES

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MEET OUR 2026 INTERNS!

Melanie Woon

Melanie Woon graduated with her BSN from the University of San Francisco in May 2025 and currently works on the Cardiac Progressive Care Unit at Kaiser San Francisco. She has a passion for maternal–infant health and hopes to practice in the NICU or postpartum setting in the future. Her experiences interning in the NICU during nursing school solidified her dedication to supporting newborns and their families during critical moments. Outside of the clinical setting, Melanie runs an online platform, @mel.crochets, where she designs and shares premie crochet patterns to bring comfort to NICU babies and foster community among caregivers and crocheters worldwide. This work has furthered her commitment to compassionate, family-centered care. Melanie is excited to join AWHONN CA as an intern and looks forward to contributing to initiatives that support nurses, patients, and the broader community.



Josephine Diaz Calderon

I am a newly graduated nurse dedicated to advancing equitable, compassionate, and culturally responsive care for diverse communities. I earned my Master of Science in Nursing from Western University of Health Sciences, where I gained clinical experience in maternal–child health, NICU, and obstetrics. During my NICU rotation, I developed a strong interest in supporting newborns and their families through some of their most vulnerable moments.

As the daughter of immigrant parents, my commitment to health equity is deeply rooted in witnessing the challenges families face when navigating language and cultural barriers in healthcare. These experiences shaped my passion for advocacy, culturally responsive communication, and patient centered care.

I am an AWHONN member, a Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society inductee, and a 2025 AWHONN CA poster presenter. I am especially passionate about maternal–child health, NICU nursing, patient advocacy, and patient education. I look forward to contributing to AWHONN CA through service, collaboration, and uplifting the nursing community.



Tiffany Hoang

I am a recent MSN-entry graduate from the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in Baltimore, Maryland. I'm currently orienting to a postpartum unit as part of my training to be a Labor and Delivery nurse in Stockton, CA (my hometown!) I've been so lucky to have been able to connect with AWHONN CA nurses in Washington, D.C. this past April and at the CA Section Leadership Development Conference this past September. I can't wait to dive deeper into this community. If you need anything at all for your AWHONN endeavors, I'd be happy to help!



MEET OUR 2026 INTERNS!

Megan Godsil

I am a recent graduate from Samuel Merritt University where I earned my BSN. My preceptorship at Woodland Hospital's Family Birth Center allowed me to gain hands-on experience in a field I'm so passionate about. As a new graduate RN beginning my career in Med/Tele in Sebastopol and joining AWHONN's North Coast Chapter, I'm excited to build the clinical foundation that will support my future goals in maternal and child health. AWHONN's commitment to legislative advocacy, evidence-based education, and comprehensive resources inspires me to grow professionally and make a meaningful impact for the patient population so close to my heart. I'm honored to be surrounded by such dedicated role models in this organization and look forward to supporting AWHONN's mission!



Mallory Mantong

My name is Mallory Mantong and I am in my last semester of nursing school at California State University Channel Islands. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to accept the AWHONN internship offer. As a dedicated nursing student, I am truly passionate about women's health and excited for the chance to learn, grow, and contribute to such a meaningful organization. I cannot wait to apply everything I have learned from AWHONN into my future practice as a nurse. Thank you for believing in my potential. I am honored and eager to begin this experience.



Ureka Ajawara

My name is Ureka Ajawara ('26) and I'm a MSN Graduate Nursing Student at the University of California, Irvine. With experience as a Community Health Worker, in direct clinical primary care, and research experience, I am excited for this opportunity to learn more about the area of women's health, obstetrics, and neonatal nursing. Women's health and more specifically, minority health disparities, has long been a professional interest of mine. When I don't have my head in the books or busy with school, I enjoy having fun outings with my three sisters, catching up on my many favorite shows, or listening to new music! I'm grateful for what this next year's internship will bring with AWHONN and beyond as I begin my career in nursing.



MEET OUR NEW GRAD!

Jessica Bui

We're thrilled to welcome Jessica Bui, a proud AWHONN member and recent graduate of Cal State Long Beach, to the team at UCI Health—Fountain Valley. Jessica began her nursing career earlier this year and brings both heart and dedication to her role as a night shift RN.

What makes Jessica's story especially inspiring is that she was born at the very hospital where she now works—a full-circle moment that adds a personal touch to her professional journey.

Jessica successfully completed the Perinatal Orientation and Education Program (POEP), supplemented by hands-on classes and invaluable guidance from an experienced preceptor. Through this comprehensive training, she has smoothly transitioned into her role and become a trusted member of the night shift team.

Known for her quiet strength, intelligence, and diligence, Jessica consistently delivers excellent patient care with grace and precision. Her calm demeanor and thoughtful approach make her a standout among her peers.

We're proud to have Jessica as part of our perinatal nursing community and look forward to watching her grow and thrive in her career.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Attending the AWHONN conference as a nursing student was such a rewarding and inspiring experience, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity. I loved being able to meet and connect with new grads who shared their journeys, which gave me so much encouragement as I prepare for my own transition into practice. I also plan to recruit more student members to AWHONN while I am still in school to contribute to increasing membership. A fun fact about me is that I love hot Pilates and it's one of my favorite self-care techniques that helps keep me balanced. After graduating from CSUCI in May, my goal is to begin my career as a Labor and Delivery nurse in Orange County, where I hope to grow, learn, and make a meaningful impact in maternal and newborn care.

Kindly,

Mallory Mantong



UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE



AWHONN

CALIFORNIA

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

***Sacramento AWHONN Presents:
Lisa Miller, CNM, JD***

5/19/26

Advanced Fetal Monitoring

&

5/20/26

Medico-Legal

***UC Davis MIND Institute
Sacramento, CA***



**Registration Information
Coming soon!!**

UPCOMING EVENTS



[Click here](#) to learn more about AWHONN On Capitol Hill



[Click here](#) to register for the 2026 AWHONN Convention