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Greetings from your AORN Board!

May marks the annual celebration of Nurses Week. This year we will celebrate from May 6 to May 12. It is an annual event dedicated to acknowledging and appreciating the vital role nurses play in healthcare. The theme for Nurses Week 2024, "Nurses Make the Difference," encapsulates the immense impact nurses have on patient care, community health, and the overall healthcare system. During this week, the American Nurses Association (ANA) will spearhead various campaigns and activities to honor nurses' contributions. These include [#NursesLightUpTheSky](#), where landmarks are illuminated to celebrate nursing excellence, and initiatives like the [Thank a Nurse](#) gift matching and the Mary Eliza Mahoney lecture series to address key health and workforce issues. This year's installment is entitled, "[Activism and Advocacy: Building on the Legacy of Mary Elizabeth Mahoney.](#)" The ANA encourages the public to participate by expressing gratitude on social media using #ThankANurse, sharing stories, and supporting nurses through donations. This week serves as a reminder of the dedication, innovation, and compassion that nurses bring to their profession every day.

Did you know that you can become an affiliate member of the ANA if you are not already a member of your state nursing association? Simply log-in to your My AORN on the AORN website and search under My Member Benefits.

Happy Nurses Week!

Brenda G Larkin
AORN Secretary



"The nurse is temporarily the consciousness of the unconscious, the love of life of the suicidal, the leg of the amputee, the eyes of the newly blind, a means of locomotion for the newborn, knowledge and confidence for the young mother, a voice for those too weak to speak, and so on." – Virginia Henderson, RN

"Together We Rise"

Our president's theme is more than just a slogan. Watch the first installment of the 2024 president's forum featuring President Tolliver engaging Periop nurses in the issues impacting the profession and patient care. Studies show patients are more likely to share openly and follow through on treatment plans when they connect with their caregivers. This is where diversity in healthcare makes a tremendous difference. The more healthcare professionals reflect the communities they serve, the better patients can relate and feel understood. This leads to better communication, trust, and ultimately, improved health outcomes for everyone! Listen to the episode [here](#).

GETTING TO KNOW AORN PRESIDENT-ELECT, DARLENE MURDOCK

President-elect Murdock is a mother, sister, mentor, coach, and friend to many. She is also a mother to two big fur babies and enjoys spoiling and walking them daily. Darlene loves whale watching, hummingbird watching, and going to the movies, especially sci-fi and action movies. Darlene's nursing career started in the operating room, where she specialized in ophthalmology. She scrubbed and circulated eye cases, and after six months in eyes, she advanced to the position of eye coordinator. After a year, she decided to expand her knowledge and skills by moving to a Level 1 trauma center, Memorial Hermann-TMC, where she continues to work as a staff nurse specializing in trauma. Her passion for being a bedside leader remains unwavering.

During her 30-year career at Memorial Hermann, she has held various positions, such as posting coordinator, the business office nurse, and the charge nurse. For decades, Darlene served as the editor-in-

chief of 'The Surgical Sunrise,' the Surgical Services newsletter. She has chaired and been a member of various committees both in the OR and for the facility. In that work she has conducted performance improvement projects and various initiatives influencing positive change and a safety culture. One of her most fulfilling roles was the chair of the Professional Nurse Advancement Program, coaching, mentoring, and advising other nurses in reaching their professional goals.

AORN Leadership

During her first year as a perioperative nurse, Darlene was encouraged by the educator to attend AORN local chapter meetings and become a member, which she did. She also attended her first Expo in New Orleans. Darlene became certified in her third year as a perioperative nurse. Darlene increased her volunteer work with AORN when she became more independent. In 2008, she wrote her first AORN Journal article, 'Trauma: When There's No Time to Count.' Shortly after that, Darlene became the chair of the Trauma Specialty Assembly and, a couple of years later, the local chapter president. Darlene has served on national committees before pursuing a position on the board of directors. She looks forward to continuing to support the members of the association as the next president.

AORN Board Activities

May 16-18, 2024

EORNA Congress & IFPN

Valencia, Spain

Nakeisha Tolliver

May 29-30, 2024

AST Surgical Technology Conference

Denver, CO

Nakeisha Tolliver

May 4, 2024

Oregon Council of Perioperative Nurses

Virtual Conference Presentation

Brenda Larkin

May is Mental Health Month

The world is constantly changing – for better or for worse – and it can be overwhelming to deal with everything going on around you. While society is getting more comfortable discussing mental health, it can still be hard to know “Where to Start” when it comes to taking care of your own well-being.



This May, [Mental Health America](#) can help you:

LEARN - how modern life affects mental health with new resources to navigate our changing world.

ACT - by building your coping toolbox so you can manage stress, difficult emotions, and challenging situations.

ADVOCATE - to improve mental health for yourself, your friends and family, and your community.

For anyone struggling with the pressure of today's world, feeling alone, or wondering if they can feel better.

Here are additional resources for you and anyone who needs assistance with mental health conditions can start to learn more about specific mental health topics and how to spread the word on social media. [Click here](#). *(These websites are not associated with nor endorsed by AORN)*

National Legislative Forum

To subscribe to the National Legislative Forum calls, connect with [AORN Government Affairs](#), or add this meeting to your calendar directly:

National Legislative Forum Monthly Calls are the 3rd Monday of the Month at 6:00 PM MT

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85340237621> [go.aorn.org] Meeting ID: 853 4023 7621

Chapter Officer Town Hall

The Chapter Officer Town Hall was held Thursday, April 18th. Listen to the recording here: [COTH](#)

Register for future Chapter Officer Town Halls by clicking on the hyperlink for the dates below:

[Thursday, May 16](#)

[Thursday, June 13](#)

[Thursday, August 22](#)

[Thursday, September 19](#)

[Thursday, October 17](#)

[Thursday, November 14](#)

If you need more assistance, contact Chapter Relations.

Center for Perioperative Leadership

Upcoming Live Presentations

May 22, 2024 Live Virtual Event: [Leader Exchange: Transforming Conflict into Collaboration](#)

Every day there are new articles or publications within the nursing profession sharing how bullying and incivility is on the rise in healthcare. In addition to peer-to-peer incivility among nurses, the multi-disciplinary nature of perioperative services can lead to hierarchical bullying. The negative effects of poor behavior, especially when tolerated by leaders, have been directly linked to staff dissatisfaction and ultimately employee turnover. Panelists participating in leading this discussion include:

Deborah Ebert MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CNOR, CCRN-K, CPAN, CAPA

Associate Vice President, Perioperative Services, Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center

Renee Thompson DNP, RN, FAAN, CSP

CEO & Founder of the Healthy Workforce Institute

Simone Nicholson MSN, RN, CNOR

Nurse Manager, Main Operating Room, Lankenau Medical Center

Moderator: Jake Runion MBA, BSN, RN

Sr. Manager AORN Center for Perioperative Leadership

"Nurses are always there, you care for us from the earliest years. You look after us in our happiest and saddest times. And for many, you look after us and our families at the end of our lives. Your dedication and professionalism are awe-inspiring." – Duchess Kate Middleton

On Demand Webinars and Training

Cultivating a Health Workforce by Addressing Bullying and Incivility: Strategies for Healthcare Leaders | 1CH

Learn your role in improving staff's mental health by reducing incivility within your team.

Leader Exchange: Utilizing Innovative Technology to Manage Workload

Various professional reports and recent AORN surveys have underscored the current and future staffing challenges in the perioperative arena. Notably, a higher demand of nurses and surgical technologists than supply, as well as knowledge gaps that occur from losing experienced team members. As with every challenge, there is opportunity. An opportunity to leverage technology in new and unique ways to manage individual and team workload. This session of Leader Exchange is designed to help perioperative leaders think "outside the box" and understand what might be possible by leveraging technology.

Opening Doors, Closing Divides: Perioperative Nurses Leading Anti-Racist Action

This webinar delves into the ongoing and necessary battle against racism in our profession, emphasizing why this work remains crucial in today's healthcare landscape. This webinar offers a valuable opportunity for reflection, education, and action, facilitated by President, Nakeisha Tolliver.

Member Benefit Highlight

BetterHelp

AORN has partnered with BetterHelp to support the health and well-being of our members and their loved ones. Get matched with a licensed therapist based on your preferences and needs - for convenient and professional therapy.

Access Savings

Tool Kit Highlight

[Second Victim Tool Kit](#) contains tools and resources to provide education and awareness about second victims and develop second victim support programs. Second victims are health care personnel who experience negative psychological or physical symptoms after involvement in an unintentional adverse event.

Membership

Key Membership Initiatives for 2024:

- Prep for CNOR with Membership Coupon (CNOR): 1,151
- Loyalty \$50 Off Membership (LOYAL50): 1,008
- Loyalty \$40 Off Membership (LOYAL40): 565
- Save \$30 Membership Discount (SAVE30): 209
- NPS Tracking: 1,994 cumulative response (113 in April)
 - 2024 YTD: 60 NPS; 8.6 of 10 likely to renew.

May AORN Journal



The May edition of the AORN Journal is now available. Check out the [2024 Cover Photo Contest](#) for this year and submit your photos. This edition features thanks to all the 2023 Journal Authors and Peer Reviewers. If you are interested in submitting an article for a future edition, [click here](#) to see the Author Guidelines.

Quote of the Month

"As a nurse we have the opportunity to heal the mind, soul, heart, and body of our patients. They may forget your name, but they will never forget how you made them feel." —Maya Angelou