



The Schedule

Chapter 1904 1

December

2017

2017-2018 Chapter 1904 – Goals

Goals:

1. Retain our current membership.
2. Recruit new membership
3. Engage current & prospective members in social events to foster a sense of support & camaraderie.
4. Explore service opportunities in the community.
5. Continue to implement our practices, goals set by past presidents.

OFFICERS - 2017-2018

President:

Karen F. Smith – fortenberrysmith@yahoo.com

President-elect

Kari Ulrich – kari.ulrich@brgeneral.org

Vice President

Kristy Simmons – ksimmons10@cox.net

Secretary

Annette Savoy – jsavoy6@eatel.net

Treasurer

-- Lindsey Gueho – lindsey_usry@yahoo.com

Board of Directors:

Lisa Anderson – lisadandersonrn@yahoo.com

Megan Mayhew – meganallenrn@gmail.com

Barbara Friscia – bfriscia@hotmail.com

Cindy Thomas -- thomasfly@cox.net

Pollie Harris – pollieharris@bellsouth.net

Nominating Committee

Stephanie Powers –

Stephanie.Powers2@womans.org

Julie Neupert – julienneupert3@gmail.com

Emily Stewart -- emily.stewart@womans.org

Advisor – Barbara Friscia –

bfriscia@hotmail.com

Be sure to send me what you did to celebrate at each facility. Thanks.



Please come and join us....

AORN Chapter 1904



Christmas Social

-Please Join us -

When: Thursday, December 7th 2017

Where: Mi Padres

*7750 Bluebonnet Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA.*

Time: 6:00 PM.

Sponsored by Edda Dupaquier with Ethicon



President's Message:

The holiday season and end of the year rush has begun for everyone. The latest edition of the ***Periop Insider*** highlighted keys to a resilient holiday and I think it worthy of repeat here; because as we all know, as professional caregivers we often don't take time for ourselves ESPECIALLY during the time between Thanksgiving and New Year's. This time is often spent juggling commitments with work, family, and friends, so much so that often it feels like there is often too much to do and not enough time to breathe. So as this season kicks into full gear, I implore you to not feel guilty if you need to take a step back for your own mental health (and sanity). As the article addresses, practicing these skills will provide you with a much more meaningful and positive holiday season:

- **Connection:** The most important part of the holiday season is connecting with the people who mean the most. It isn't about the perfect party or gift, it is about taking time to connect with loved ones in a meaningful way.
- **Engagement:** Consider what you truly love about the holidays and focus on that. The same goes for work, remembering what gets you fired up about being a perioperative nurse helps you stay engaged in your practice.
- **Self-Care:** Every time you say "yes" to one thing, you are saying "no" to something else in your life. Often times the 'something else' is ourselves. Saying no needs to be thought of as a strength, not a weakness.
- **Reflection:** What were your greatest joys this year? What were your greatest disappointments? What do you want to be your best? What do you want to do your best? Self-reflection provides the opportunity to learn and evolve, growing ourselves as both members of our family, but also society.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and I will see you in the New Year!

Best wishes,

Karen

Karen Fortenberry-Smith
AORN Chapter #1904 President



AORN of Baton Rouge Chapter 1904 **Treasury Report as of November 20, 2017**

Checking Balance: \$13,292.77
Savings Balance: \$ 1,864.32
Cash: \$ 60.00



October Expenditures

2 new student memberships (reimbursed to K. Simmons)
\$40.00

October Credits

Flood relief Donation \$1,000.00
National Dues Deposit \$ 500.00
T shirt sale deposit (from last year sales) \$ 30.00
T shirt sale deposit (from last year sales) \$ 28.00

November Expenditures

Candy reimbursement – Outreach cmte. (K. Simmons)
\$15.68

November Credits

None **Lindsey Gueho, Treasurer**

1904 Committee Chairs -- 2016-2017

Policy-Bylaws:

Vendor Fair: Cindy Thomas -- thomasfly@cox.net

Newsletter: Sheila Allen – sallen254@gmail.com

Program : Kari Ulrich -- kari.ulrich@brgeneral.org

Membership: Annette Savoy -- jsavoy6@eatel.net

Periop Outreach: Kristy Simmons – ksimmons10@cox.net

Historian: -- Lindsey Gueho – lindsey_usry@yahoo.com

Ways & Means: Emily Stewart – Emily.stewart@womans.org

// Co-Chair: Kristy Simmons – ksimmons10@cox.net

Thanks to all who have volunteered to serve on committees!!!



CHAPTER CHAT

Lake Surgery Center:

We welcomed **Eddie Pitre**, RN to the surgery center as our new OR charge nurse. He has been a very quick learner and we are excited to have him as part of our team. We have been busy as our case load has continued to increase with the addition of new surgeons and the end of the year rush. Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Lake Surgery Center team!

BRG

Filling the open education position, held by so many amazing mentors over the years, was not taken lightly by the management and education team. Over the course of several months applicants went through a series of interviews with the educators, team leaders, managers, and finally the director. November 27th, **Jennifer Metrejean** was warmly welcomed as our newest member of the Perioperative Education Team. She has been a staff member since January of 2007 and brings invaluable experience having participated in the preceptor program and in speaking to Periop 101 classes. Jennifer is certainly going to excel and has already jumped full force into multiple projects given to her by management in her first week. Talk about hit the ground running! I have no doubt, she will be running circles around us all in no time flat!

Karen Smith

Pop Quiz

Seriously, give peace a chance

Which awards are normally handed out in December?

- a. Academy Awards
- b. Nobel Prizes
- c. Grammy Awards
- d. Pulitzer Prizes

[Take the quiz](#), and see who won last month. Correct answers will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card.



1904- Chapter Chat: Please share your news and "whadsup". Send to sallen254@gmail.com

IN THE KNOW FROM AORN

Avoid a shocking experience

Mitigate your risk for injury associated with the use of electrosurgical units. Follow these Guideline at a Glance implementation steps in this month's *AORN Journal*. [Login as a member to read it in its entirety](#).

Over 34,000 perioperative nurses hold the CNOR credential.

How does your compensation compare?

Don't short change yourself or your direct reports. The 2016 Salary Survey and the member-only salary calculator are ready. Are you? [Find out](#) what your peers make before your next annual review.

LSBN

Louisiana is moving to biennial licensure that will allow RNs and APRNs to renew their licenses for two (2) years. This transition becomes effective with the license renewal period beginning October 1, 2017 for your 2018 active license.

Licensees whose last name begins with the letters **A-M** will renew during the 2018 renewal season and will be renewing their license(s) for a 2-year period. Such biennial license(s) will be active from January 1, 2018 and expire on **December 31, 2019**.

***Licensees whose last name begins with the letters **N-Z** will renew during the 2018 renewal season and will be renewing their license(s) for a 1-year period with renewed license(s) active from January 1, 2018 and expiring **December 31, 2018**. Licensees whose last name begins with the letters N-Z will begin biennial renewal processes next year.

Continuing education (CE) requirements for the upcoming renewal season will remain the same as previous years. You must have obtained the appropriate number of CEs based on the number of hours worked during the **2017** calendar year. Those licensees applying for biennial license(s) are NOT required to have obtained double CE hours.

If you utilized LSBN's NURSE PORTAL during last renewal season, simply log into your same account. If this is your first time utilizing LSBN's NURSE PORTAL, you will need to create a user account and complete the email validation process within LSBN's NURSE PORTAL. The system will guide you through a two-step process to create your user account.

For quick and easy completion of the process, it is recommended that you utilize your personal email address. You will be able to verify your license(s) renewal shortly after processing via LSBN's website.

Note: a late fee will be charged if you have not renewed on or before midnight (central standard time) December 31, 2017. The final deadline is midnight (central standard time) January 31, 2018.

<https://www.lsbns.state.la.us/About/NewsEvents/tabid/114/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/134/Nurse-Portal-Information-for-Online-Renewals.aspx>

Louisiana Council of AORN Chapters

Chair – Ramie Miller -- ramiemiller@yahoo.com

Secretary – Barbara Friscia – bfriscia@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Melissa Guidry --

LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF AORN CHAPTERS

Upcoming business for the upcoming January Council Meeting in New Orleans will include Elections/Appointment of Chair Elect and Treasurer, who will take office in July 2018. LASN presentation and any upcoming career fairs at Nursing schools. Ramie Miller has a power point that can be customized. Look for details in future newsletter.



Activities for Periop Nurse Week

For PNW, AORN national came down to NOLA to share SC&E news/information with local leaders at Muriel's Restaurant, then shot a welcome video with local chapter members.

We followed up with a **Teddy Bear Clinic** at Tulane/Lakeside Hospital, where children were able to bring there "sick" stuffed animals to be "operated" on by some of our surgical nurses. They were gifted special teddy's that rotated throughout the various "pre-Op" venues like getting vital signs, taking an x-ray, and bringing the teddy into an OR; first meeting a CRNA & Circulating Nurse, and then going into the "recovery" room.

Not sure who had the most fun.....the children or the nurses who participated. **Ramie Miller**

Ramie included some great pictures to share.

LSNA

2018 Nightingale Awards & Gala March 3, 2018 at Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2018 Nightingale Awards & Gala to be held Saturday, March 3rd, at the Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge. [Click here](#) for more information, to submit nominations, and for ticket sales and sponsor opportunities. **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2017**

Read the *PELICAN* online!

Online editions of *THE PELICAN* are available to you at any time. [Click here to find the link on the LSNA website.](#)

Get involved with LSNA Leadership 2018 Nurse Leader Institute will be held January 8-12 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Baton Rouge, La.

This exceptional learning opportunity is sponsored by the Louisiana Action Coalition and is designed to strengthen leadership skills for registered nurses across the spectrum of the health care delivery system and academic settings as well. While some of the content is directly related to the institutional setting, the knowledge transcends to other settings. Individual nurses interested in enhancing their leadership potential and agencies seeking to develop nurse leaders are encouraged to register for this event. [Click here for Registration information.](#)





Expo Grants Available Soon

Applications for grants to attend the 2018 AORN Global Surgical Conference and Expo open **October 3, 2017**.

These grants are intended to assist with travel and registration costs to attend the conference in New Orleans March 24-28, 2018.

<http://aorn.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0yMjMxNTk4JnA9MSZ1PTkxMDgzOTgwJmxxPTEyODc3NTYx/index.html>

Nominate Today

Honor a colleague's dedication to perioperative nursing by nominating them for an AORN Individual Achievement Award.

We encourage AORN members to nominate yourself or a worthy colleague. Individual and Chapter [award nominations are now open](#).

<http://aorn.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0yMjMxNTk4JnA9MSZ1PTkxMDgzOTgwJmxxPTEyODc3NTY3/index.html>

The AORN Foundation is now accepting donations for the **2018 Silent Auction** to be held at AORN's Global Surgical Conference & Expo. Chapter donations are some of the Auction's most popular items each year! Ideas include: state-themed gift baskets, purses, jewelry and gift cards. All proceeds from this event support the programs of the AORN Foundation. [Donate today!](#)

Baton Rouge Chapter AORN November 3rd, 2017

**Baton Rouge General
Baton Rouge, La.**

- ❖ Kari – Called meeting to order at 7:08 PM. Guest were introduced and welcomed.
- ❖ **Board of Directors:** meeting on Thursday November 2nd was cancelled.
- ❖ **President elect:** Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 4th 2018 at 6:00 PM, Woman's Hospital campus conference room. Our speaker will be Vangie Dennis an AORN National Board of Directors. The topic will be Leadership, Smoke Evacuation practice and the most current Board updates.
- ❖ **Treasury Report:**
 - Checking: \$ 13,308.45
 - Saving: \$1,864.31
 - Cash: \$60.00
 - Total : 15,232.76
 - **October Expenditures:**
 - Kristy Simmons (Reimbursement for New Student Membership)
 - **October Credits:** Flood Relief Donation \$1,000. National Dues Deposit \$230.50

- Deposit (t shirt sales from last year Sales) \$58.00

❖ **Ways and Means:** We will do a Lula Roe fundraiser Sunday Nov 12th. Emily has a flyer for anyone that may need one to post in their facility.

❖ **Historian committee** Lindsey and her members obtain pictures and information needed for awards submission. Everything is kept on digital format. Please e-mail her anything you have that she can use for this.

❖ **Vendor Fair:** Cindy Thomas is the chair: February 1st 2018. It will be at Woman's Hospital. Please let Cindy Thomas know if you know of any vendors that would like to attend. Cindy will be Sending invites to all the Vendors this week. The Vendor fair committee will be informed after that of what is needed for the fair.

❖ **Newsletter:** Karen stated that Sheila Allen does the newsletter. Please send her information that you would like to see in the newsletter.

❖ **Membership Committee/ Social Media:** All membership committee members should have received their contacts. Please remember to CC Annette when sending out information to the membership.

❖ **Perioperative Outreach:** Carbin Jr. High will be November 8th at 8:00 A.M. Annette and Kristy will be going. Kristy would like to do a float in a parade. More information to come.

❖ Next meeting January 2018.

❖ Meeting Adjourned.

National AORN

Expo Chapter Contest - Ready, Set, Go!

The [Chapter Tool Kit](#) is up and running with loads of resources including - PowerPoint, social media images, links to videos, and emails to help you communicate the value of attending AORN's Global Surgical Conference & Expo 2018.

Challenge: Recruit Chapter members to register for AORN's Global Surgical Conference & Expo between now and February 15, 2018.

Prizes: The Chapters with the highest percentage of members registered will win two five-night hotel stays in New Orleans and a \$250 gift certificate to celebrate in your hometown! Four Chapters will win – one per Chapter size.

[Register](#) now and save \$100 on early bird pricing until January 31, 2018.



If your email address has changed or you would like the newsletter delivered to another address, please let Sheila know at sallen254@gmail.com



Recertifying Your CNOR in 2017?

If you are due to recertify your CNOR credential in 2017, the deadline to complete your application is **December 31**. Retiring or ineligible nurses may apply for [Emeritus Status](#) to preserve their credential. Need more time to earn CE? Extend your credential by one year with the [CNOR Extension Year](#) option.

[Download the 2017 Recertification Checklist](#)

OR Succession Planning

Thinking about how your facility will respond to nursing shortages on the horizon? Our friends at the *OR Manager* publication are. In this month's edition, OR Manager teamed up with CCI's Dr. James Stobinski to cover the importance of succession plans for OR leaders, and what steps you can take to build future leadership.

If You Got It, Flaunt It

You worked hard for your certification, so why not show it off? We carry certification-specific jewelry to help you celebrate your achievement as a perioperative nurse.

[Shop Certification Jewelry](#)

Louisiana Action Coalition

January 8-12, 2018, in Baton Rouge

Those who attend are eligible for a mentorship program with recognition as a Nurse Leader Institute Fellow.

[Click here](#) to access the brochure, course content and registration information.

The Nurse Leader Institute (NLI) is a statewide program of the Louisiana Action Coalition designed for emerging nurse leaders and those aspiring to leadership working in all sectors of health care, including acute, post-acute and ambulatory providers, long-term care, home/community health, public health and schools of nursing. The NLI was created to provide nurse managers with the tools they need to be successful.

There will not be another NLI until 2019. Don't miss this opportunity to learn new leadership skills and network with seasoned nurse leaders from across the state and with colleagues who share your dedication to nursing.

Nurses who complete the NLI are eligible to participate in LAC's nine-month Nurse Leader Mentorship Program. In this program, mentees are paired with experienced nurse leaders who are chosen specifically as their mentors. Upon completion of the mentorship, participants are honored at the annual LNF Nightingale Gala as Nurse Leader Institute Fellows.

As a registered nurse, you are at the heart of today's healthcare operation. Nurse managers play a pivotal role in recruiting, retaining and motivating staff; ensuring clinical quality; managing both fiscal operations and services to patients, as well as many other areas of responsibility. The NLI was created to help nurses succeed in these roles.

To access the brochure, course content and registration information, [click here](#).

California Governor Vetoes Surgical Smoke Bill

On Monday, California Governor Jerry Brown vetoed [Assembly bill 402](#), which would have required California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health to develop a regulation requiring the evacuation of surgical smoke in health facilities. The bill had passed the Assembly in September 2017 after the Senate passed it in late spring 2017. Governor Brown vetoed a similar bill last year.

Governor Brown's [October 9 veto memo](#) explains the Governor's view that occupational health and safety standards, such as regulations requiring evacuation of surgical smoke, are already within the purview of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, which can regulate without a legislative mandate. The Governor urges the bill sponsors to work directly with California's Standards Board and regulatory agencies to evaluate the need for regulation concerning evacuation of surgical smoke.

The evacuation of surgical smoke is included in AORN's 2017 [Policy Agenda](#). AORN led the effort on [legislation in Rhode Island](#) also requiring the evacuation of surgical plume. For more information on how you can get involved with AORN Government Affairs, please contact [Danielle Glover](#), Government Affairs Manager.



IN THE KNOW

Now **FREE** with membership: **AORN Journal CE contact hours**

Are you thinking about recertification, renewing your license, or just staying current? Earn more than 200 free contact hours, including our *Journal* CE archives and pay nada, zilch, nothing. *Journal* CE articles address your perioperative challenges with a variety of topics. [Access articles now](#).

Editor's Note:

Heaven forbid! One of the things we all dread is to have a medication error. We check & re-check & still medication errors are made every day. So what can we do to ensure that our patients are safe when we give medications? What can we do so that we do not become a statistic?

A couple of months ago, I read that a team of researchers observed 3,675 medication administrations made during 277 surgeries. I would imagine, "Yikes", was the response to the results: 124 cases involved at least 1 medication error (a mistake in the ordering or administering of the drug) or adverse drug event (harm or injury related to a drug—whether or not caused by error). Nearly 80% of those events were found to be preventable. The results indicated that 1 in 20 [1 during every other procedure) resulted in an error that either caused harm to a patient or the potential to cause harm. Wrong dosage, omitted medications, & failing to intervene when needed were the most common errors encountered. They also found that changing policies, telling employees to try harder, but those means do not correct the underlying reasons for the errors.

So what are some of the suggestions for preventing these potentially harmful errors from occurring? Here are 7 tips offered for consideration:

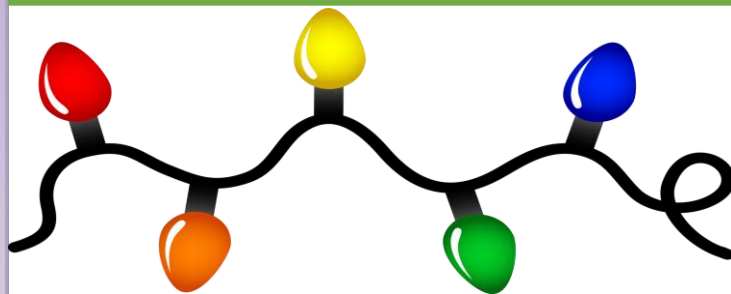
1. Barcode-assisted syringe labeling. Suggested is to place the technology at the immediate point of care & make sure it performs fast enough & is user-friendly enough to prevent frustration from the staff when using the technology. There can never be too much advanced education when implementing a new technology.
2. Barcode-assisted documentation. Labels should include drug name, dose, & expiration date. These point-of-use documentation technology can provide safeguards such as allergy alerts & dosage calculators the assist the user to prevent errors. In addition, these documentation systems can prevent oversights & failure-to-act when patient's condition changes. Such systems remind providers to check patient's blood pressure after 10 minutes elapses since previous reading & to re-dose antibiotics.
3. Eliminate workarounds. I always say that perioperative practitioners are the most creative folks on the planet. If there is a way to work around a policy, we will find it. Consider additional layers of verification & minimize the chance of circumventing safety processes & checks. Make sure the safeguards do not interrupt workflow or complicate patient care by making them the easiest way to accomplish the task.
4. Reinforce handoff procedures. Communication continues to be one of the leading causes of error. During each phase of the patient care pathway, checklists & consistent methods of communicating such things as allergies, potential drug interactions, drugs given, etc to maximize communication to enhance patient safety.

Partner With AORN and Your Local Nursing Schools

In the next five years, 20% of those currently working in the perioperative specialty are expected to retire. At the same time, the demand for perioperative nurses is on the rise—growing 1% to 2% every year. This shortage is further exacerbated because fewer students are being exposed to the specialty in their classroom and clinical settings.

As part of our commitment to perioperative nursing, AORN now offers [Fundamentals of Perioperative Practice™](#) to Schools of Nursing for \$20 per seat*. This course provides a well-defined foundation of perioperative nursing concepts including the undergraduate level QSEN competencies. Students will learn aseptic techniques and teamwork skills that can be translated into clinical experiences.

****Only available for Schools of Nursing. Contact [Laurie Clark](#) at AORN for contract details.***



5. Avoid common pitfalls. Ensure that the facility has a blame-free environment.....that's not to say unaccountable. Make lettering large enough to be easily read & store drugs in non-adjacent bins that could be misleading. [look-alike/sound/alike]
6. Standardize. Anesthesia trays, pre-filled/premixed medications, should be developed to minimize the opportunity to make errors.
7. Know the correct route. Premixed drugs & all medications have a proper route of administration so all involved should be cognizant of how drugs are administered safely.....& not be afraid to speak up.

If errors are occurring in your environment related to drug administration, take the time to evaluate the process. As in most errors, process improvement is based on careful evaluation of the errors to develop targeted solutions to prevent them from happening.

One of the things we all have in common is that we want to create an environment for our patients that is safe & efficient. As Karen reminded us, one of the ways we can do that is to take care of ourselves. Errors are made because of the human factors about which we have little control. Nevertheless, it behooves us to take care of ourselves so we are better equipped to take care of others.

Wishing you the Merriest Christmas ever & a blessing-filled 2018.

Thank you all for what you do each & every day. You make a difference!
sla

News from Nursing:

From ANA Insider - www.nursingworld.org

WHO calls for continued progress toward eliminating viral hepatitis

The World Health Organization announced that almost 3 million people have received treatment for hepatitis C and 4.5 million people have been treated for hepatitis B since 2015, and the number of countries drafting national plans to eliminate the disease have increased nearly fivefold over the last five years. However, the agency, which aims to eradicate viral hepatitis by 2030, says more work is needed and urges governments and medical groups to continue implementing measures to support prevention, screening and treatment. [Healio \(free registration\)](#) (10/30)

Utah nurse reaches settlement over arrest at hospital

Under a \$500,000 settlement, Utah nurse Alex Wubbels has agreed not to sue over her arrest by a police officer who was told he could not take a blood sample from an unconscious patient. A portion of the settlement will go toward helping people obtain body-camera footage as well as a donation to the Utah Nurses Association, and Wubbels has agreed to help the ANA's #EndNurseAbuse campaign.

[The Washington Post \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (11/1), [The Salt Lake Tribune \(Utah\)](#) (10/31)

Most children with Zika infection have only 2 of 4 main symptoms

Two of 33 children with Zika virus infection in Miami-Dade County, Fla., were asymptomatic, and 51.6% of those who were symptomatic reported having only two of four main symptoms, which are arthralgia, conjunctivitis, fever and maculopapular rash, compared with only 9.6% who had all symptoms, according to a study in Pediatrics. Researchers also found that Zika infections among those who reported only two symptoms were travel-related, and none of those with travel-related Zika were asymptomatic. [Medscape \(free registration\)/Reuters](#) (11/2)

Report: Worker safety needs an integrated approach

A recently released report from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health says that improving worker safety and health demands that employers use an integrated approach with "a sharp focus on using policies and practices to influence working conditions." Glorian Sorensen, a report co-author and director of the school's Center for Work, Health and Well-Being, said employers will also see improved operating and financial outcomes from an integrated approach. [Safety + Health magazine online](#) (11/1)

Report: Nurse managers affect work environment, outcomes

A Press Ganey nursing report said nurse managers affect the working environment for nurses and, by extension, patient outcomes. The report, based on nurse and patient survey data, found autonomy and professional development are the biggest factors affecting nurses, while autonomy, staffing and teamwork are the work environment factors that most affect patient outcomes. [Healthcare Dive](#) (11/14)

Pain management plan increases use of opioid alternatives

Wisconsin-based Gundersen Health System's pain management program, designed to reduce opioid use, has led to an increase in the use of alternative therapies such as chiropractic care, physical therapy and acupuncture. Gundersen established a chronic pain committee, created a registry of patients using opioid medications and a chronic pain agreement, and established prescribing guidelines as part of its program.

[Hospitals & Health Networks Magazine](#) (11/13)

Updated heart guidelines lower threshold for hypertension

New guidelines from the American Heart Association and 10 other groups, including the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association, reduce the hypertension threshold from 140 mm Hg systolic over 90 mm Hg to 130 over 80, meaning 46% of US adults would be diagnosed with high blood pressure. The guidelines, published in the [Journal of the American College of Cardiology](#) and in [Hypertension](#), call for patients already being treated for high blood pressure to work toward the lower goal and for adults to address early hypertension with lifestyle changes rather than medication.

[The Washington Post \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (11/13), [USA Today](#) (11/14), [Medscape \(free registration\)](#) (11/13)

ANA responds to medical group's position on APRNs

ANA President Pamela Cipriano, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, defended advanced practice registered nurses in a statement responding to the American Medical Association's adoption of a lobbying agenda that opposes independent practice for non-physician providers of health care. "For AMA to imply that APRNs are incapable of providing excellent care or that their care puts the patient at risk is blatantly dishonest. The future of health care calls on all health care professionals to work together as a team to meet the growing demand for health care services," said Cipriano. [Forbes](#) (11/20)

LEGISLATIVE POLICY & REGULATORY NEWS

CMS considers Part D changes to address opioid abuse, out-of-pocket costs

The CMS announced Thursday it is asking for information regarding payers passing on drug discounts at the point of sale. The agency is also considering treating out-of-pocket costs for biosimilars like generic drugs, permitting midyear formulary changes after a lower-cost generic drug enters the market, and allowing Medicare drug plans to require members receive opioid prescriptions from selected prescribers and fill them only at certain pharmacies as part of measures to fight the opioid abuse epidemic. The proposal is open for comments until Jan. 16

[Reuters](#) (11/16), [Kaiser Health News](#) (11/16)

Study links Medicaid payment changes, access to primary care

Researchers said every \$10 increase or decrease in Medicaid payments to clinicians was associated with a 1.7% change, in the same direction, in the proportion of patients who could get a first appointment with a primary care physician. The study in JAMA Internal Medicine said Medicaid funding reductions that lower physician fees will reduce patient access to primary care. [Reuters](#) (11/16)

AORN Prep for CNOR Live - New Courses Now Open!

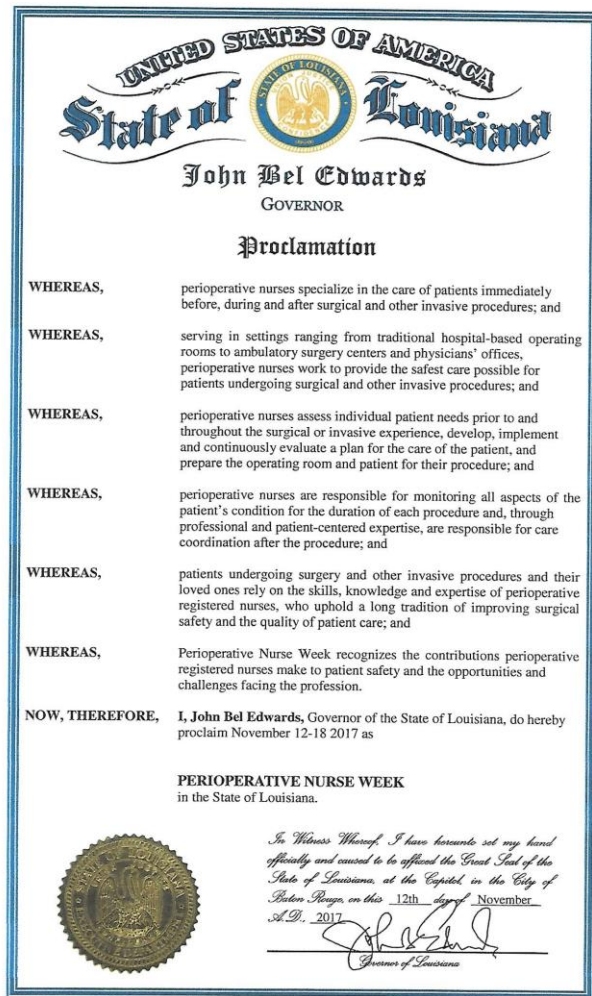
AORN supports members' and non-members' personal and professional goals to achieve CNOR® certification. Are you a Chapter President interested in hosting an event in your city? Facility pricing is available for health care organizations. Chapters hosting this event will meet an AORN Chapter Accountability Standard for providing continuing nursing education to perioperative RNs. The Chapter President hosting an event will receive a complimentary registration. Submit your [request](#) and click "Want to Host?".

For more information, contact: [Kim Simpkins](#) or [Ellice Mellinger](#).

December 2-3, 2017 Baltimore, MD
December 9-10, 2017 Salem, OR
December 9-10, 2017 Tampa, FL
December 9-10, 2017 New Orleans, LA
2018

January 6, 7, 2018 Louisville, KY
January 20, 21, 2018 Atlanta, GA
January 27, 28, 2018 Bensalem, PA
February 3, 4, 2018 North Platte, NE
February 24-25, 2018 Torrance, CA
March 3-4, 2018 Durham, NC
March 10- 11, 2018 Elkhart, IN
April 21-22, 2018 Billings, MT

Additional 2018 courses opening for registration soon: North Little Rock, AR; Louisville, KY; Middleton, NY; San Francisco, CA; Cincinnati, OH; San Francisco, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Marlton, NJ.



Nathalie Walker again procured this proclamation. Thanks Nat!



Nurse in Washington Internship

March 11-13, 2018

The Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI) provides nurses the opportunity to learn how to influence health care through the legislative and regulatory processes. Participants learn from health policy experts and government officials, network with other nurses, and visit members of Congress. Legislative 'asks' will be provided for the attendees to practice with and present in their meetings with their members of Congress.

NIWI also features an Advocacy 201 breakout session for repeat attendees or those who already have basic advocacy skills. The program, except for the visits to Capitol Hill, will be held at the Key Bridge Marriott, [1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22209](#). Reservations can be made by contacting the hotel directly at (703) 524-6400. The room rate is \$199/night plus applicable taxes. Be sure to mention The Nursing Organizations Alliance/NIWI 2018 to receive this discounted rate. You can also book online by [clicking here](#). The rate cannot be guaranteed after February 9, 2018.

I participated in this wonderful experience; awesome. If you are interested in attending this program please contact Danielle Glover dglover@aorn.org or Amy Hader ahader@aorn.org and ask to be considered for the AORN.

sla