

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Newsletter editor: Cameron O'Carroll

2025 PA AWHONN CONFERENCE

- April 10, 2026
- Harrisburg University
- 7am-5:30pm



**The Official Newsletter of the PA
Section of AWHONN**



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@awhonn_pa

AWHONN Pennsylvania Section



Updates from the Chair

Gerri Maurer



On to the New Year, 2026. Much of the focus through January, February and March has been on preparations for the PA section conference in April. Many tasks start very early, and the work is required in layers. To date preparation has included: the location, lodging, catering, speakers, CE application, budget, brochure and advertising, vendors and sponsors, registration, door prizes, etc... We will be showcasing outstanding speakers and researchers from PA. Please see the attached brochure. All is going well and we will have a great conference in April. We hope to see all of you there!

We have been accepting applications for interns for 2026-27 term year. We are trying to reach all schools of nursing in PA to reach senior level student nurses who have a special interest in obstetrics, women health or neonatal nursing. If you know of a contact person at a school of nursing in PA, please share the information. Jen Cacciotti will share more information in this newsletter.

Goals for PA Section in 2026:

1. Redo the webpage - Interns working with Chair to redesign and increase information
2. Enduring education section for members and students - develop a file of education programs that can be accessed online with CEs attached free to members and students
3. Recruit new members - develop business plan to implement recruitment efforts across the section

Don't forget to register for National Convention to be in Florida again this year in June.

Gerri Maurer, Section chair

Updates from the Finance Committee: Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Cupps

Colleagues,

I hope your month is off to a great start. Since our last update, AWHONN has made great progress towards our PA goals. Getting involved with new programs, that we will present in a few months after our April 10th conference, will help our financial position.

The opportunity we will be a key player is:

AWHONN's Every Woman, Every Baby. More to come.

Nancy J. Cupps MSN, RNC-OB



Sponsorship Coordinator Becca Kelly



With the postponement of the Fall 2025 conference, we had some pivoting to do in order to plan our April 2026 statewide conference in Harrisburg. All but one of the seven original vendor commitments reaffirmed their commitment for the spring; the seventh could not attend due to the date change but hopes to participate next year.

All in all, we reached over 200 potential vendors/sponsors for the April 2026 conference! We kept a modest goal -- 20 vendors max -- and we exceeded that by two, plus an additional sponsor for door prizes! The 23 vendors attending will be available to meet in the conference room across the hall from the auditorium where the conference will be held. Our door prize sponsor, Caring Cradles, will also send materials for any interested parties to take. Please stop by and support our sponsors while at the conference!

Updates from the Legislative Committee:

Chair, Paula Hayden-Vazquez,
Legislative Coordinator



The legislative committee has been tracking some new legislation in the state and has updated our tracker to only include relevant (and moving) pieces of legislation. The Senate will reconvene on March 16th, and the House will reconvene on March 23rd. Following this break, we hope to begin tracking new legislation and to see movement on current bills. For the month of January, our special interest topic was on the Keeping Obstetrics Local Act (KOLA), which is one of the federal legislative pieces for AWHONN on the Hill. Registration for AWHONN on the Hill is open until March 27th. For the month of February, our special topic was on “The Great Healthcare Plan” that was presented by President Trump to reinvent the US healthcare system. All the legislative material is posted on the PA AWHONN website, and if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the committee coordinator.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please sign up using this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1-sUDy_VDqIwS8VOIWbN2YIkFLklzuekg-5TnZ_Nrn_Ch7Q/viewform

Welcome to the Leadership Team!

Linda Millbauer – Membership Coordinator



Linda Millbauer, CRNP, specializes in obstetrics and gynecology and is a certified nurse practitioner by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She practices at UPMC Womancare Associates and is affiliated with UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital. She completed her bachelor and master's degrees in nursing at Carlow University in Pittsburgh. Linda lives in Murrysville, PA. Linda has been a member of AWHONN for many years. She received her RNC-OB from NAACOG in 1990.

Welcome to Region 8 - Section Advisory!

Cheniqua Morales

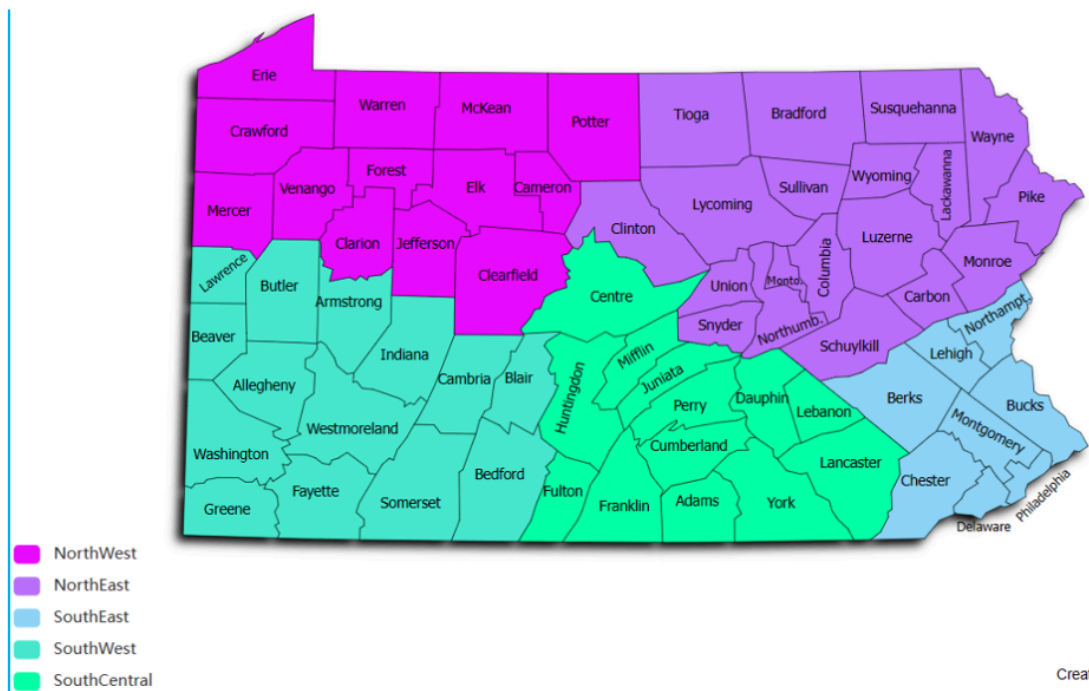
Cheniqua Morales serves as the Perinatal Patient Safety Nurse at New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, Section Advisory Committee Chair-Elect, Section Advisory Leader, and Co-Chair of the NYC Chapter of Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, and Lead Faculty for Simulation and Clinical Training with The Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey. Cheniqua designs high-impact simulation and quality improvement initiatives that strengthen teamwork, communication, and readiness for obstetric emergencies. Known for her engaging and interactive teaching style, she helps clinical teams translate evidence into safe, effective bedside care while mentoring future healthcare leaders. She is the 2026 AWHONN Excellence in Clinical Education Award recipient and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Nursing Education.



CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

AWHONN PA Section leadership board email addresses/phone numbers:

AWHONN leader	Email address	Chapter	Phone number
Kim Bogart	nursekim71@yahoo.com	Northwest PA Co-coordinator FB administrator	814-860-9150
Jenn Young	jenn.young79@gmail.com	Northwest PA Co-coordinator	814-873-9973
VACANCY		Northeast PA Coordinator	
Carol McIlhenny	swatie2@msn.com	SouthWest PA Coordinator	814-330-7777
Tonya D Wert	twert2@wellspan.org	SouthCentral Co-coordinator	717-574-6011
Amanda Lawrence	lawrenceac@upmc.edu	SouthCentral Co-coordinator	717-495-3450
Kathy Mulcahy	kmul246@msn.com	Southeast PA Coordinator	215-337-1905
Gerri Maurer	gerri.maurer@pitt.edu gmrmaurer@comcast.net	Chair	412-780-8620
Nancy J Cupps	cuppnj@upmc.edu	Secretary/Treasurer	412-327-1827
Paula Hayden-Vazquez	paulahayden35@gmail.com	Legislative Coordinator	240-274-9341
Victoria Coleman	vicole@comcast.net	Mentor	215-816-8044
Jen Cacciotti	jlt316@psu.edu	Intern Coordinator	814-931-6147
Terry Myers	myersel@windtream.net	Event Coordinator	724-664-6321
Becca Coopie Kelly	rebeccacoopiekelly@gmail.com	Finance – Vendor coordinator	412-303-6318
Kristen Brenneman	brenneman@jhf.org	PA-PQC representative	412.586.6714



**Updates from
South-Central PA:**
Tonya Wert
Amanda Lawrence

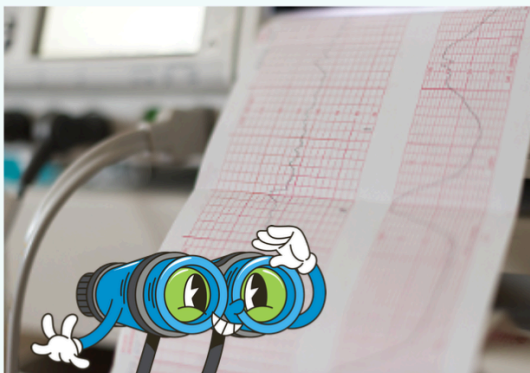


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PENNSYLVANIA

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

SOUTH-CENTRAL CHAPTER



Read Between the Lines: Second
Stage Labor: Critical Assessment
of EFM Tracing

**For description of this
webinar, click on the
graphic above.**

Watch Party.

Date: March 31

Time: 6:30 pm

Venue: Virtual

**Topic: AWHONN Read
Between the Lines webinar**

Register: or click on “Join Us”

**Note: participation does not
provide contact hours. For
contact hours, individual
purchase is needed.**

More from South-Central PA:



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Nurses Week Walk



HOSTED BY SOUTH-CENTRAL PA CHAPTER

Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Gettysburg Battlefield, Gettysburg, PA

[Register](#) or click on the “Join Us”

- Walk is open to everyone, AWHONN membership not required

Walk Details

- Planned route with special points of interest
- 5K walk or run
- Bring your family, friends, and park-friendly pets
- Options: participate any time between May 6-12
 - Register for the AWHONN event whose proceeds benefit the Every Woman, Every Baby program. Look for upcoming information from AWHONN.
 - Participate from your local area and post your photos to PA AWHONN social media!



AWHONN

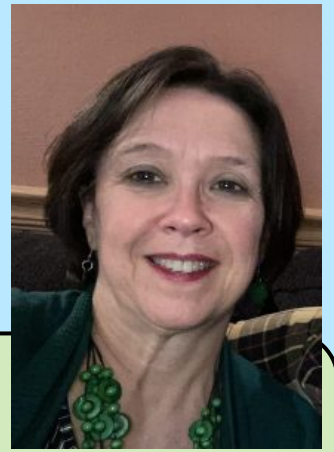
every

WOMAN

everyBABY

Updates from South-West PA:

Carol McIlhenny



The SWPA planning team continues to meet to plan events that our members want. At the end of 2025, we sent out a survey to our members to determine the frequency, location and types of meetings. Overall, the results indicated that quarterly in-person meetings in more central locations (Pittsburgh, Monroeville, Greensburg, Washington) are where most respondents indicated.

Our first quarter meetings included a virtual journal club discussing intrapartum cannabis use. The article was from the October 2025 issue of Nursing for Women's Health and was interesting. Truly, we need more data. Our first in-person meeting was Tuesday March 17 in Monroeville sponsored by Sanofi. They presented RSV prevention strategies (I'll try to supply a picture after the event. I will probably be able to add a few more details for this paragraph too).

We will continue to seek vendor sponsors to defray meeting costs and are in the planning stages for our 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarter meetings. Any suggestions for content and meeting location is welcome. Our planning team meets once per month for 30 minutes and we'd love to involve more of our members!

Photo of Chapter Activities



Southwest PA Chapter had a night out, “We had a great time and enjoyed some delicious food while we learned more about a new monoclonal antibody vaccine for newborns for RSV. Thank you Sanofi!”



donate online at
<https://www.awhonn.org/donate>

Updates from North-West PA:

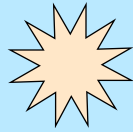
Kim Bogart
Jenn Young



Hello Members of the NW AWHONN Chapter. Jenn and Kim hope you survived the winter months! Our chapter has been quiet over the last few weeks. Kim has been keeping busy keeping the Erie County Maternal Child Health Collaborative active. If this group is something you are interested in, we meet the 4th Tuesday of the month. Small groups are forming now to address specific community needs. As an AWHONN member your input is needed and very much desired by the community members. Feel free to message Kim at nursekim71@yahoo.com

Thanks, Kim and Jenn

Updates from South-East PA



Kathy Mulcahy

Southeast chapter has gone through a transition period. Planning activities for the next quarter include a sponsored dinner with the date to be announced, and a topic education presentation event. If you have ideas of opportunities for education or networking, please be in touch with chapter coordinator, Kathy Mulcahy. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2026 Spring Conference in Harrisburg on April 10.

Updates from North-East PA



We are looking for that great AWHONN member seeking a leadership opportunity. We know you are out there. Be a part of a great leadership team and join in as a chapter leader or find a friend and both come onboard as chapter co-coordinators. If you are looking for that next step on the clinical ladder, this may be the opportunity for you. We are here to help you get started. Elissa Concini is ready to answer your questions about the position.

Let us know if you are interested or have question

Updates from the Interns:

From Jennifer Cacciotti - Intern Coordinator

The AWHONN interns have been very busy promoting our events. Past events include the online journal club on February 16th and the PA AWHONN SWPA chapter dinner on March 17th in Monroeville. They are busy preparing for the PA AWHONN conference in Harrisburg on April 10th and will be welcoming members at the registration table.



Members of our 2025-26 intern class include:

Tristyn Auth (Pitt) - Social media
Grace Taylor (Pitt) - Administration
Marissa Schaefer (Pitt) - Membership
Cameron O'Carroll (Pitt) - Communication
/Newsletter
Zoe Fisher (Pitt) - Legislation
Julianna Musgrove (IUP) - Events
Katelyn Beyer (IUP) - NE Chapter/Events
Mackenzie Davis (GMercyU) - SE Chapter
Lillian Perkins (Pitt) - SC Chapter
Sophia Wilds (Gannon) - NW Chapter
Tessa Wright (Mt. Alyosius) - SW Chapter

Intern experience: In their words...



Being an intern with the South Central chapter of AWHONN has been a valuable and rewarding experience. Through this opportunity, I have learned more about women's health, obstetric, and neonatal care while connecting with professionals passionate about improving patient outcomes. I also work closely with Tonya and Amanda to plan events and activities that allow our group to participate, learn, and stay engaged with important topics in the field. This experience has helped me grow both professionally and personally, strengthening my confidence and deepening my interest in pursuing a career in this field. I am grateful for the opportunity to be involved and to learn from such a supportive and knowledgeable community.

Lilly Perkins

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Class of 2026



My name is Cameron and I am responsible for creating and managing the chapter newsletter, which has allowed me to develop my communication skills while keeping members informed and engaged. I collaborate closely with Gerri Maurer to create this newsletter. Her mentorship and encouragement have played an important role in my professional and personal growth. I have also had the opportunity to collaborate with other interns, which has been an amazing experience. Through this internship, I have expanded my knowledge of women's health while building meaningful connections with professionals who are passionate about improving women and newborn healthcare. I am truly grateful to be part of such a supportive and inspiring group.

Cameron O'Carroll

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Class of 2026



My experience being an intern this year has been great so far! I'm currently a senior in Pitt's nursing program and after graduation will be working at UPMC Children's Hospital in their NICU. Being in the NICU is not only a place to care for babies, but their families as well. The AWHONN internship has opened my eyes to different women's health care issues beyond the delivery room that can impact babies well into their hospital stays. I'm thankful to work with such a phenomenal team and be able to learn more about women's healthcare here in PA!

Grace Taylor

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Class of 2026



Internship applications are open!

Job Description:

Pennsylvania AWHONN Student Nurse Intern Job Description

Each year, the Pennsylvania section of AWHONN will accept applications for a student nurse intern. The intern will be a nursing student currently enrolled in any type of nursing program, in the state of Pennsylvania and entering their final year of their program.

Student interns should show a commitment to the mission and vision of AWHONN and have a passion for women's health, obstetric and neonatal nursing.

Each student intern's term will run from May to May.

Duties of the Student Intern Include

- Attend all PA AWHONN leadership team meetings.
- Actively participate in all meetings and share their unique perspective.
- Work collaboratively with members of the PA AWHONN leadership team.
- Attend PA AWHONN events.
- Serve as a representative of PA AWHONN
- Manage AWHONN PA Social Media Accounts
- Manage and develop the PA AWHONN Website
- Assist with correspondence to PA AWHONN members through mass emails
- Encourage and increase student engagement and membership with AWHONN
- Assist with planning of PA AWHONN events
- Manage quarterly newsletter
- Support PA AWHONN committees (e.g. legislative committee)

During their tenure, student interns also receive free registration to PA AWHONN events. Upon successful completion of their term, students will receive reimbursement to cover the cost of their NCLEX registration fee.

If you have questions about this opportunity,

Contact Jen Cacciotti

jlt316@psu.edu



Intern Application:

[https://forms.gle/QVsNoV](https://forms.gle/QVsNoVhBRJSipAQ9)

[hBRJSipAQ9](https://forms.gle/QVsNoVhBRJSipAQ9)



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SECTION MERCH



**PROCEEDS
DONATED TO**



AWHONN
every
WOMAN
every**BABY**

Looking Back to Move Forward:
Addressing how the past impacts our future



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04.10.26

Save the

Date!



AWHONN PA State Conference

Location: Harrisburg University, Harrisburg,
PA

Time: 8:00 am- 5:00 pm, registration begins at
7:00 am

Additional information coming January 2026

See you there!



Register for AWHONN on Capitol Hill Today!

Registration is open on the AWHONN website:
<https://awhonnconvention.org>

If you have any questions, please email advocacy@awhonn.org

