

May 2021  
Vol 1 Issue 2

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Conference

AWHONN On  
the Hill

Legislative Update

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5K Fun Run/Walk

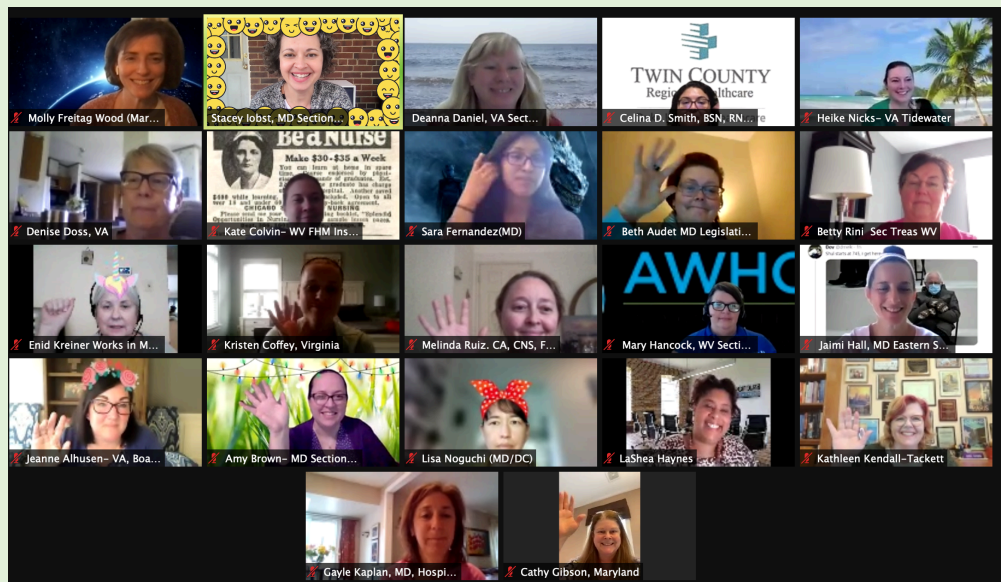
May & June  
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## Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia Virtual 2021 Spring Conference

AWHONN Members from the Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia sections came together on April 17th to listen to presentations by **LaShea Haynes** and **Dr. Kathleen Kendall-Tackett**. Ms. Haynes kicked off our conference with a presentation about how to prepare hospital units for The Joint Commission's requirement to have a written plan and protocol in place to care for patients identified as a suicide risk. Dr. Kendall-Tackett followed with a presentation about how breastfeeding and anti-inflammatory treatments such as Omega-3s, cognitive therapy, and antidepressants protect maternal mental health by lowering inflammation. We also learned about research and quality improvement projects conducted throughout hospitals in our region. Ms. Haynes wrapped up our afternoon by sharing strategies for infusing passion back into our perinatal nursing practice. A highlight of our day was a competition for best Zoom background or video filter. Winners received gift card giveaways of their choice! Thanks to our speakers and attendees for a great afternoon together!





## Contact Us

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AWHONNMarylandSection/>

### AWHONN Website

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AWHONNMarylandSection/>

### Section Email

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### Section Leaders

**Stacey Iobst**  
Section Chair

**Amy Brown**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Anita Morales**  
Webmaster/Social Media Coordinator

**Jackie Kuchta**  
Membership Coordinator

**Stacia Moreno**  
Student Coordinator

**Beth Audet**  
Legislative Coordinator

### Chapter Coordinators

**Shannon Riley** | Anne Arundel

**Jaimi Hall** | Eastern Shore

**Mitchelle Griffiths** | Prince George

**Joy Schucker** | N. Baltimore

**Malissa DaGraca &**

**Judith Coombs** | S. Baltimore

**Toni Boyd** | Southern MD

**Sherrie Burkeholder** | Western MD



**Beth Audet, Shannon Riley, and Wendy Post** were selected to receive scholarships to attend the virtual AWHONN on Capital Hill event on March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is Shannon's third time attending the event. We recently caught up with her to learn more about the experience.

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**AWHONN MD:** Shannon, why did you decide to pursue the scholarship opportunity?

**Shannon:** AWHONN on the Hill is my favorite AWHONN event. My experiences at the event each year have highlighted that not all the pressing issues we face in health communities for women and young families are widely known. Sharing concern with legislators and staffers by providing personal and professional experiences raises meaningful awareness and leads to policies and funding which directly benefit the populations we serve.

**AWHONN MD:** Tell us what you focused on at AWHONN on Capital Hill.

**Shannon:** This year AWHONN asked legislators to support three specific bills. AWHONN members from around the country met virtually with their legislators' offices to lobby for the bills. The bills are listed and explained below. Each of the bills sponsored by AWHONN are parts of a larger packet of 12 bills introduced by Rep. Lauren Underwood (D- IL) who is a registered nurse and a Black woman. The bills are aimed at reducing the incidence of morbidity and mortality among Black women, who have four times greater maternal mortality than White women even after adjusting for education and socioeconomic status. This collection of bills is known as the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act or "Momnibus".

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**Maryland's two state senators are Benjamin Cardin and Chris Van Hollen. To find out who your local representative is, please visit:**

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

For more information about the status of specific bills, please visit:

<https://www.congress.gov/search>

Please find out more about legislation and advocacy endorsed by AWHONN and how you can make a difference at the individual level by visiting:

<https://www.awhonn.org/advocate/>

# AWHONN on Capital Hill Targeted Key Legislation

## S. 411 – The Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness (MOMMA's) Act

Severe maternal illness and death remain very high in the U.S. compared with other developed countries. The U.S. ranks 48<sup>th</sup> out of 184 countries for maternal deaths and is one of eight countries where maternal deaths are on the rise. Black women are 3 to 4 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes even after accounting for education and socioeconomic statuses. This bill provides grant money for healthcare centers to provide best practices and expand the definition of “postpartum” under Medicaid.

## H.R. 958/S. 796 – The Protecting Moms Who Served Act

Supports programs for maternity services through Veterans' Affairs (VA) facilities and addresses community resources to address social determinants of health like housing, nutrition, and employment status. The legislation would mandate a comprehensive study of the unique maternal health risks facing pregnant and postpartum veterans whether or not they receive care through the VA with a focus on racial and ethnic disparities.

## H.R. 1195/S. 851 – Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act

This bill instructs the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue a standard requiring healthcare facilities to implement structural environment, education, and safety to prevent workplace violence and respond when events occur. OSHA currently provides voluntary standards; however, data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and personal testimony from frontline health workers suggest that voluntary standards are insufficient.



## 5K Fun Run/Walk in Crofton, MD

Celebrate nurses' week with AWHONN Maryland by joining our in person 5K Fun Run/ Walk in support of Every Woman, Every Baby.

**Crofton Woods Elementary School**  
**1750 Urby Rd, Crofton, MD, 21114**  
**Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am**

The first 10 people to register and send their confirmation to [awhonmmd@gmail.com](mailto:awhonmmd@gmail.com) will receive a free race t-shirt!! You can find more information and register here: <https://tinyurl.com/EveryMomEveryBaby>

## Journal Club

Meets the first Thursday of every month at 7pm via Zoom. Meeting ID: 932 3070 1851 Passcode: 504574. More information at <https://maryland.awhonn.org/events/>

For our **May 6<sup>th</sup>** journal club, we will be discussing the article ***Impact of COVID-19 on Maternal Mental Health***, published in Maternal Child Nursing. If you'd like to join us and need a copy of the article please contact us at [awhonmmd@gmail.com](mailto:awhonmmd@gmail.com).

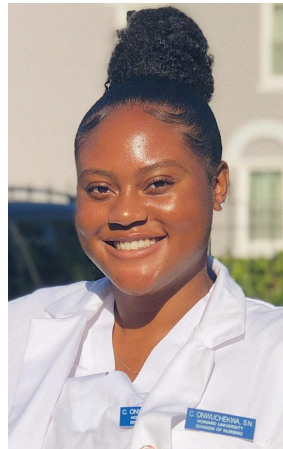
For our **June 4<sup>th</sup>** journal club **Katie Page** will be presenting her article, ***Improving Nurse Self-Efficacy and Increasing Continuous Labor Support With the Promoting Comfort in Labor Safety Bundle***, published in the Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nurses. The article can be found here:

[https://www.jognn.org/article/S0884-2175\(21\)00019-8/pdf](https://www.jognn.org/article/S0884-2175(21)00019-8/pdf)



## Student Spotlight

**Charity Onwuchekwa** is a senior nursing student at Howard University. From a young age she has been fascinated with human anatomy, pathophysiology, and treatment. She has always possessed an innate desire to help others. Charity has also been inspired by her mother, who is a registered nurse with over 25 years of experience. Charity is



currently applying for postpartum positions at local hospitals with new graduate nurse residency programs. Her long-term goal is to become a family nurse practitioner with a Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP). Outside of school, Charity volunteers as a youth mentor. She also enjoys spending time finding new recipes, going on walks, listening to podcasts or music, and partaking in her guilty pleasure - watching YouTube videos. Charity is grateful to have the resources and community from AWHONN Maryland while on her nursing journey!



AWHONN MD is hosting our inaugural diaper drive to benefit the families in DC, Maryland, and Virginia served by the DC Diaper Bank. This year, diaper need is at an all-time high due to the pandemic, lost jobs, and financial strain. We are so happy to host our virtual diaper drive to continue helping the families we serve as nurses and as a community. Help us meet our goal of raising \$1,000 in 2021!

Donate through our link here:

<https://maryland.awhonn.org/events/>

## AWHONN MD Leadership Opportunities

Would you like to work with a fabulous team of nurses to strengthen our AWHONN MD Section? We are currently seeking volunteers for the following positions. If you are interested please contact us at [awhonnmd@gmail.com](mailto:awhonnmd@gmail.com)

- Newsletter coordinator
- Education Coordinator
- Montgomery County Chapter Coordinator
- Hospital Liaisons



The **2021 AWHONN Convention** was rescheduled for **October 9 – 13** and will take place in [Kissimmee, Florida](#). The convention will focus on ways in which you can quickly adapt to uncertain scenarios, challenge the norms and bring new ideas to the table, and ensure a new future exists where you emerge as an effective leader at any level of experience. AWHONN headquarters is currently offering a scholarship opportunity to attend: <https://www.awhonn.org/awhonn-convention-scholarships/>. Keep an eye out for additional scholarship opportunities through AWHONN Maryland! [Early bird registration discount ends August 9, 2021.](#)