



AWHONN

MARYLAND

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

MARYLAND SECTION MESSENGER

AWHONN MARYLAND CONFERENCE SHINES ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY



The 2025 AWHONN Maryland annual conference brought together over 200 perinatal nurses and key stakeholders in maternal-child healthcare for an inspiring event at the beautiful Chesapeake Bay Beach Club. Set against a stunning waterfront backdrop, attendees engaged in dynamic sessions, meaningful networking, and professional development.



The conference featured a powerful lineup of plenary presentations, including:

- The Journey of Respectful Maternity Care
- Critical Care of the Obstetric Patient
- Integrating Trauma-Informed Care Practices for Safe and Compassionate Birth Experiences
- Engaging in Advocacy for Perinatal Mental Health
- From Chart to Court: How Documentation Impacts Legal Outcomes



We extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors, including Stryker as our Gold Level Sponsor, and GE Healthcare and Obix as our Silver Level Sponsors. Their support, along with that of 20 additional exhibitor sponsors, helped make this event a truly memorable and impactful experience. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this incredible gathering!

- Stacey Iobst, PhD, RNC-OB, C-EFM, CNE, Section Chair



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2025 MD CONFERENCE PHOTOS

SPEAKERS & VENDORS



HAPPY HOUR



LEADERS



HOSPITAL TEAMS



INTERN SNAPSHOT 📸

Thanks for the great event!

716 Messages	259 Attendees	123 Photos/Videos Shared
34 Community Board Posts	28 Sessions	

 Maryland Section Conference



2025 SPRING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On April 29th, nurses from all over the United States converged in Washington, DC to meet with elected officials. Stacey Iobst, PhD, RNC-OB, CNE (and her daughter, Julie), Bassey Etim-Edet, MS, RN, C-EFM, CNL, Naomi Cross, MSN, RN, C-EFM, CNE, Lakisa Ballard, MSN, RN, C-EFM, RNC-OB, Cynthia Sparks, RNC-MNN, CBC, CCM, and Oishani Basuchoudhary, MD AWHONN Student Intern were proud to represent Maryland nurses as they advocated for four key issues:

- **HR. 1909:** Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2025
- **S.1232/HR.2531:** Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act
- **Title VIII** Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act
- Oppose **Budget Cuts to Medicaid**

These bills are vital to fund data surveillance, analysis, and evidence-based practice for the families for which we serve. They also confront workplace violence and request funding to bolster the nursing workforce. Maryland nurses were able to meet with legislative staffers from the offices of Representatives Jamie Raskin and Johnny Olszewski, as well as Senators Angela Alsobrooks and Chris Van Hollen. It was a privilege to advocate on behalf of nurses and patients.

-Bassey Etim-Edet, MS, RN, CNL, Legislative Coordinator



We'd love to hear from YOU!



We are eager to hear what our Maryland nurses need from their AWHONN membership. Your insights are invaluable to us! Please take a moment to click the survey link or scan the QR code. In just six short questions, you can share your opinions on the past education and networking events offered by AWHONN MD, as well as your ideas for future events. We're also listening for interest in developing a mentorship program for AWHONN MD members! <https://umms.surveymonkey.com/r/THTC2CD> or



Your voice matters—join us in shaping the future of nursing in Maryland!



CHAPTER COORDINATORS NEEDED



Embrace the call!

Unite with a great team of nurses to strengthen our AWHONN MD Section, all while making connections with fellow nurses and reveling in the experience! We are presently on the lookout for energized volunteers for the following roles:

- Northern Maryland Chapter Coordinator (Carroll & Frederick Counties)
- Central Maryland Chapter Coordinator (Montgomery, Howard, Anne Arundel Counties)

Chapter Coordinators carry out the following duties:

- Send welcome letters to new members
- Host a minimum of one chapter event each calendar year
- Attend quarterly leadership meetings
- Communicate with the leadership team and promote chapter events



Interested? Contact us at awhonnmd@gmail.com

REPRESENT YOUR HOSPITAL & BECOME A HOSPITAL LIAISON!

Amplify nurse voices across Maryland! We have 24 liaisons in 33 birthing hospitals in Maryland. Join us and help build our hospital liaison program!



Position description:

- Share upcoming AWHONN MD events with RN colleagues at your hospital
- Report back to AWHONN MD leadership the needs and requests from RN colleagues
- Attend meetings with the Hospital Liaison Coordinator as needed

To see current vacancies visit:

[https://maryland.awhonn.org/hospital\[1\]liaisons/](https://maryland.awhonn.org/hospital[1]liaisons/)



Upcoming Chapter Events



AWHONN
NORTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF AWHONN PRESENTS:

YOGA WELLNESS EVENT

SCAN TO REGISTER

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

JUNE 11, 2025
6 PM - 8 PM

STRETCH | STRENGTHEN | SERVE

Light Refreshments and Beverages

No experience needed! Just step out of the scrubs and onto the mat. Breathe deep, laugh loud, and stretch like your shift depends on it!

UNIVERSITY OF MD SCHOOL OF NURSING
FRONT LAWN- IN CASE OF RAIN 2ND FLOOR
655 W Lombard St. Baltimore, MD 21201

CONTACT CHERICE DEW 443.869.1536 FOR MORE INFO

AWHONN
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Practice Brief Webinar

September 10th 7:30-8:30p

Join Us for a Refresher

We will review and discuss the most recent practice brief, # 21:
Optimizing Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes in Perinatal Patients With Diabetes

Jaimi Hall, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM

Our amazing Eastern Shore Chapter Coordinator will lead an overview and discussion of the practice brief. Join us to receive updates and connect with AWHONN colleagues!!

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/AWHONNMDBrief21>

AWHONN Members: FREE
Non-members: \$10
All proceeds will be donated to our diaper drive

AWHONN FREE CNE & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES!

Get FREE CNEs!!!

Scan this QR Code for Free CNE Instructions!



Or visit: <https://maryland.awhonn.org/announcements/>

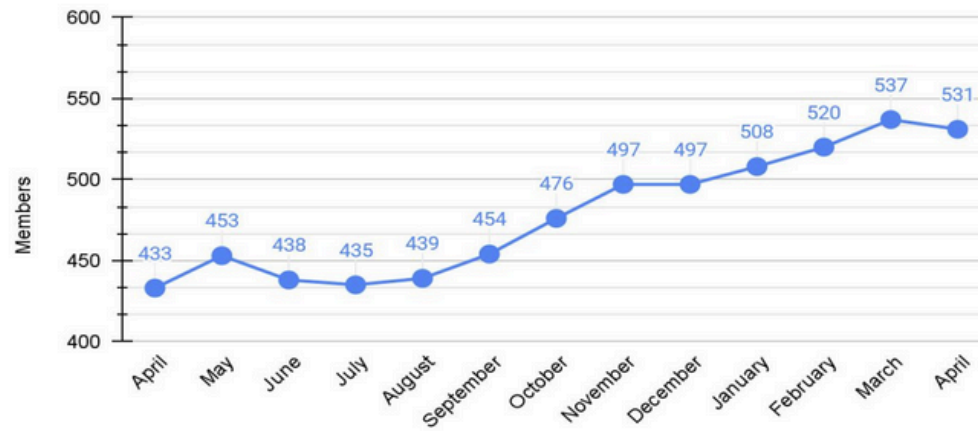
Access **free** webinars that offer **free** CNEs for AWHONN Members! Access **free** resources such as PDF downloads, toolkits, EBP Guidelines and more!

- Staffing Standards: PDF Download
- AWHONN Postpartum Risk Assessment Tool: PDF Download
- Respectful Maternity Care Toolkit: Toolkit
- Journal CNEs:
 - Breast Cancer Risk Assessment
 - Omega-3 Consumption During Pregnancy to Support Optimal Outcomes
 - Oocyte Cryopreservation for Fertility Preservation in Healthy Women
 - Perinatal and Neonatal Implications of Sickle Cell Disease Journal CNE Activity
 - Perinatal Care for Individuals with a History of Sexual Trauma

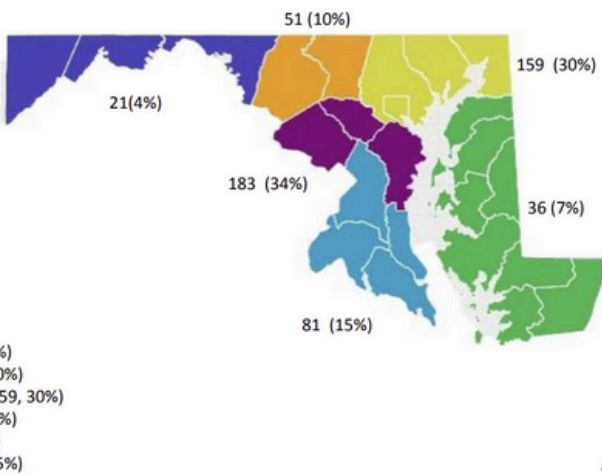
Just to name a few... Over \$1,000.00 in free resources!

2025 MD AWHONN MEMBERSHIP

AWHONN Trends in a Year (2024-2025)



531
Members



April 2025

We are pleased to report a consistent and positive trend in our membership growth over the past year. The AWHONN Maryland Section has welcomed an increase of 98 new members—an achievement made possible by your ongoing support and engagement.

Thanks to the dedication of our leadership team and the success of both statewide and local events, we are fostering a strong, active community. We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to expand our reach across Maryland.

We encourage you to invite your colleagues and friends to join AWHONN and be part of this important work. Thank you for your commitment to advancing the health of women and newborns through your membership and advocacy.

- Cara Caccamisi, BSN, RN,
Membership Coordinator

LOOKING FOR STUDENT INTERNS

The Maryland section of AWHONN is hosting a Student Intern Program this upcoming academic year. The internship term will run from September 2, 2025, through May 1, 2026. Interns should show a commitment to the mission and vision of AWHONN and have a passion for women's health, obstetric, and neonatal nursing. **Deadline for submission of applications is Friday, August 1, 2025.** Notifications will be sent to applicants by August 15th. **Application Link:** <https://forms.gle/NeF6p8JcSkrzsAUg9>



To be eligible ~ applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be currently enrolled in an entry-level nursing program in the state of Maryland (not graduate Level)
- Must have completed at least one semester
- Have at least one remaining year in their program
- Must be a Student member of AWHONN (Once accepted into the internship, students will have 30 days to become an AWHONN Student Member.)
- Incentives ~ Students who are fully engaged and successfully complete the internship will receive the following benefits:
 - Complementary registration for the AWHONN MD annual conference
 - Reimbursement of NCLEX registration

CONNECT WITH US

[HTTPS://MARYLAND.AWHONN.ORG/](https://maryland.awhonn.org/)

AWHONNMD@GMAIL.COM



AWHONN Maryland
Section



@awhonn_md



@_awhonnmd

SECTION LEADERS

STACEY IOBST
Section Chair



AMY BROWN
Secretary/Treasurer

ANITA MORALES
&
KIM HALL
**Webmaster/Social Media
Coordinators**

BASSEY ETIM-EDET
Legislative Coordinator

LAURA GARIFO
Education Coordinator



CARA CACCAMISI
Membership Coordinator

NAOMI CROSS
Newsletter Coordinator

TINA LARSON
Student Coordinator

JESSICA CHIAPPELLI
**Hospital Liaison
Coordinator**

CHAPTER COORDINATORS

JAIMI HALL
Eastern Shore

JUDITH COOMBS-HAYLETT
&
CHERICE DEW
Northeastern MD

SHERRIE BURKHOLDER
Western MD

VACANCY
Northern MD

VACANCY
Central MD

AASTASSHIA LACY
Southern MD



STUDENT INTERNS

VACANT
Legislative Intern

VACANT
Education Intern

VACANT
Membership Intern

NICOLE ONYENYEONWU
Newsletter Intern

