



AWHONN

ILLINOIS

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

Issue 2- Fall 2024

Bi-Annual Newsletter

Editors:

Genevieve "Gen" Stoner

Christina "Tina" Stupek

All About AWHONN

Our mission is to empower and support nurses caring for women, newborns, and their families through research, education, and advocacy.

What AWHONN does for your clinical practice and professional development:

Clinical Practice:

- Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Position Statements
- Access to Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing (JOGNN) and Nursing for Women's Health (NWH) Journals.

Professional Development:

- Emerging Leader Program, Research, and a wealth of volunteer opportunities at the Local, State, and National level.



AWHONN Illinois Needs YOU:

Please take a moment to complete a Needs Assessment Survey on perceived education needs, and continuing education interests AWHONN Illinois can use to serve you better. We appreciate your feedback. Survey closes 12/31/2024



[Survey link](#) or scan

Section Chair Corner

Christine Emmons

AWHONN Illinois continues to serve and support the education needs of women's health, obstetric, and neonatal nurses throughout the state. **We are 715 members strong!** Our annual state conference at the Embassy Suites East Peoria Riverfront Hotel & Conference Center coincided with the celebration of Perinatal Nurses week October 10-16, 2024. The conference planning committee welcomed eighty-five nurses to a pre-conference event Wednesday evening and a full day of learning and networking together with 15 exhibitors. We were able to offer timely and relevant topics this year on human trafficking, milk donation, milk donation after loss, and digital health during pregnancy and the postpartum period. AWHONN Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Clifton Kenon, Jr opened the day Thursday with a powerful message "Together We Rise, Beyond DEI," and closed the day with "Because I Said So...Setting Boundaries in Professional Life."

SAVE THE DATE: AWHONN Illinois will be hosting our annual conference this spring.

Join us April 9-10, 2025, at Maggiano's in Schaumburg, Illinois. Our agenda is nearly final, and we expect to release promotional material in early January. We hope to see you there

AWHONN Illinois Celebrates all Nurses!

Link to [become a member](#).

"Change the way you look at things & the things you look at change."

Wayne W. Dyer

Did you know:

Illinois Items

Public Act 103-0160 details that parents of newborns are to be educated on the option to voluntarily donate human milk.

Public Act 101-0511 details prescribed human milk health plan coverage

DocAssist key features A toll-free psychiatric consultation line serving all of Illinois (1-866-986-2778) staffed by child and adolescent psychiatrists specialized in pediatric and perinatal consultations.

Pediatric and perinatal consultations with health care providers include:

1. Mental/Behavioral Health
2. Substance abuse
3. Trauma-informed care
4. Medication and therapy best practices
5. Screening, diagnosis, and referral processes
6. Assistance in locating local referral resources

Customized training and education upon request on specific behavioral health topics

Syphilis cases are on the rise. Did you know that for all pregnancies in Illinois, both first-visit and third-trimester testing is required (410ILCS 320/1)? Syphilis monthly reporting will be required by IDPH starting in April 2024. The process is similar to HIV monthly reporting. All forms and reporting details will be sent from IDPH.

Scan for an electronic copy.



Chapter Events

- AWHONN Illinois **East Central Chapter** in the Champaign-Urbana area has been rekindled. Please welcome Chapter Co-Coordinators April Hine and Melissa Reigart. They are long-time AWHONN members, enthusiastic about their specialty, and excited to serve in this capacity effective January 1, 2025.
- Mona LeGrand (past AWHONN Illinois Section Chair) from the **Southern Illinois Chapter** is hosting a hybrid learning event "*The Role of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and How to Provide Trauma-Informed Care for Survivors*" presented by Amy Signore, DNP, MSN, BS, RN, SANE-A February 25, 2025. Registration will open 12/01/2024.
- Joanne Sorce and Autumn Mels, Chapter Coordinators for the **Chicago Suburbs** are hosting a learning event Winter 2025.
- Chris Emmons is hosting a learning event on behalf of the **South-Central Chapter** March, 2025.
- **Northwest Chapter**- Chapter Chair Gen Stoner has plans to host a winter in-person/hybrid event date & time to be determined.

Newborn News

- 7th edition of STABLE is currently being rolled out. Class structure is changing to an online portion and in person or a all online format. The STABLE Foundations Course is a prerequisite learning for all participants.
- AWHONN has published the Neonatal Nursing: Clinical Competencies & Education Guide, 8th edition
- Illinois Safe Sleep Support is a program for families in Illinois that provides resources for patients and families. Find resources at this link [IDPH: infant safe sleep](#)

Student Sector



AWHONN Illinois section will accept applications for student nurse interns. The intern must be a nursing student currently enrolled in any nursing program in Illinois entering the 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. We are looking for interns to start in May of 2025! Visit Illinois.AWHONN.org site for developing information on the exciting opportunity.

Legislative Lines

Getting started as a Legislative Advocate

Nurses play a key role in influencing healthcare policy at the state and federal levels. Here are some ways in which nurses can make an impact:

1. Policy Engagement and Advocacy:

- Nurses can actively participate in policy development by joining state and national nurses' associations. These organizations provide a platform for nurses to express their opinions and advocate for patient-centered policies.
- Attending legislative sessions helps nurses understand how the system works and allows them to engage directly with policymakers.
- Use AWHONN resources to learn the process, understand key issues, and review policy-making steps. Start with the Legislative Action center and Government Affairs staff at: [Advocate - AWHONN](#)
- Become familiar with your state and federal legislators. What bills do they sponsor or support? Do they have a position on a bill you believe would influence the health of a mother or baby? Communicate your position to your policymaker through an email, call, or visit.
- Discuss bills at chapter meetings to gain greater perspective.

2. Why Is Nurse Involvement Important?

- Nurses need to be part of policy discussions to ensure their perspectives are considered. Ask yourself what policies would improve outcomes of mothers and newborns. Inform your policymaker.
- Despite being respected and trusted, nursing involvement in policymaking has been limited.

3. Areas of Influence:

- Nursing shortages: Nurses can advocate for policies that address staffing challenges and improve nurse-to-patient ratios.
- Community needs for healthier lifestyles or culturally appropriate care.

4. Quality of Care and Resource Allocation:

- Through policy work, nurses influence practice standards and processes, ensuring quality care delivery.

In summary, nurses have a unique role in shaping healthcare policy. Their active engagement and advocacy can lead to positive changes that benefit both patients and the healthcare system.

Upcoming events

National- Annual conference June 21st to June 25th, 2025 in Florida- Rosen Shingle Creek

State- Annual Conference April 9th & 10th, 2025 Schaumburg, IL

Chapters- visit the events page at <https://illinois.awhonn.org/>

Check Facebook and Instagram for activities

<https://www.facebook.com/AWHONNIL/>

<https://www.instagram.com/illinoisawhonn/>

Illinois Resources

-AWHONN.org

-Illinois.awhonn.org

-ACOG.org

-AAP.org

- - www.ilpqc.org

-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Admin. (samhsa.gov)

-[IL Perinatal Regionalization](#) & levels of care (IDPH.gov)

DocAssist Website- illinoisdocassist.uic.edu



AWHONN Illinois Hospital Liaison Program

AWHONN Illinois is seeking volunteers to serve as a liaison at Illinois hospitals with obstetric services. Our vision for the hospital liaison is to promote AWHONN as a trusted resource for education, and evidence-based clinical practice.

- The hospital liaison will disseminate information on education programs at the local, state, and national levels within their hospital.
- The hospital liaison will promote Section and Chapter activities to women's health and perinatal colleagues.
- The hospital liaison will also communicate the professional and educational needs of the women's health, obstetric, and neonatal nurses within their hospital to the AWHONN Illinois Section leadership team.

The organization can offer support for liaisons interested in coordinating educational webinars, or in-seat events. (Optional)

Requirements for designation as a Hospital Liaison are active AWHONN membership and employment at the hospital in which they serve. If you are interested in this role, please get in touch with me using the information provided below.

Sincerely,

Christine Emmons, MSN, RNC-NIC, CNL, C-ONQS

AWHONN Illinois Section Chair

Cmemmons1806@gmail.com

217-303-6130

2025
APRIL 9TH & 10TH

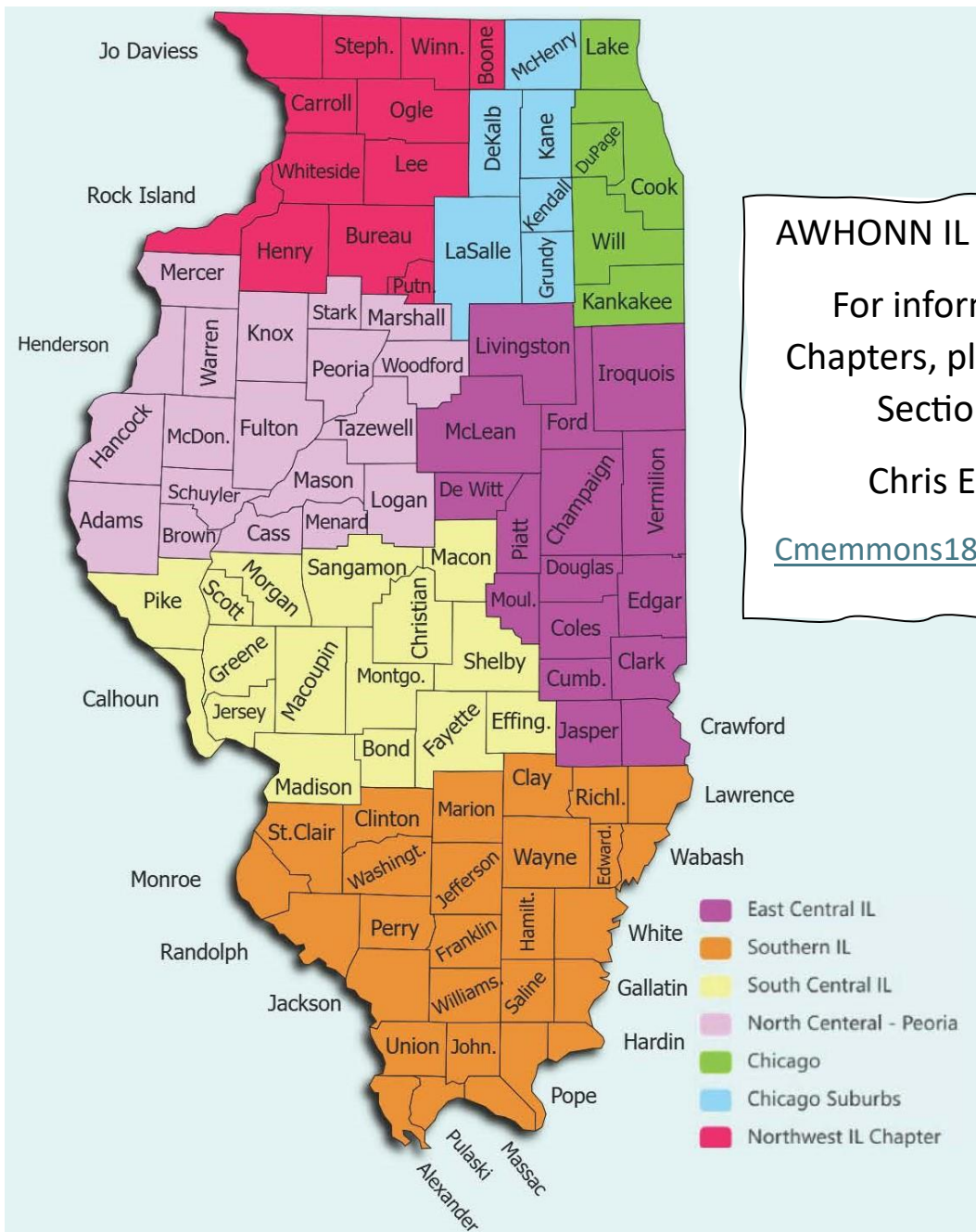
SAVE THE DATE

MAGGIANO'S IN SCHAUMBURG

Annual CONFERENCE



Visit ILLINOIS.AWHONN.ORG
for more details



AWHONN IL Chapter Map

For information on Chapters, please contact
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