

**THE HIGHLIGHT
THE SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 51, NUMBER 3
3RD QUARTER 2025**



**HERE'S THE SCOOP FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

Colleagues,

I am writing to you from the enchanting city of New Orleans for EN25 as a delegate for Texas for the ENA General Assembly. It's an honor and a privilege to represent you at the national level. Texas has a whopping 73 delegates this year, with six of us from San Antonio. Some major themes for this year are improving pediatric and obstetric patient care with education, evidence-based resources and staff oversight. ENA is committed to meeting the needs of these vulnerable populations which directly affect the Texas and San Antonio area. Please join us for the October meeting where we will discuss the outcome of these and other important resolutions. We are also honoring our own Mary Leblond for the National Lifetime Achievement Award. Please give Mary some love for this much-deserved award.

SA ENA had the privilege of hosting the 2025 San Antonio Nursing Consortium Patient Safety Conference to a sold-out crowd September 6th. Experts in the field of artificial intelligence brought us a relevant and thought-provoking program. Next year's program will focus on nursing resilience and how it impacts patient care. We will bring you updates as they are made available.

SAENA Meetings

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

- **October 14, 2025 Officer Elections**
Mission Trails Baptist Hospital
3333 Research Plaza
San Antonio, TX 78235
- **November 11, 2025**
Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital
9119 Cinnamon Hill Dr
San Antonio, TX 78240
- **December 9, 2025 Dinner/Awards**
Mi Familia Restaurant
18403 I-10 West
San Antonio, TX 78257
White Elephant Gifts!

Business Meetings are currently being held in-person and via Zoom. If your facility would like to host a SAENA Business meeting contact: Leslie Hinson at leslie.hinson54@outlook.com

If you know of someone who would like to present a 1-hour lecture at a SAENA meeting, please contact Carol Twombly at cltwombly@aol.com

For meeting locations and Zoom access information see the SAENA website at:
www.sanantonioena.org/meetings/

Our own SAENA conference, *Concepts in Emergency and Critical Care Nursing – 2025* on August 19th was a huge success. The feedback has been outstanding. We hosted experts from all over the US to include our keynote speaker, Terry Foster, ENA Past President 2023. We offered both live and virtual options to allow greater participation. We have already started planning for next year's event. Keep a lookout for details to come.

We are excited to announce that we have national expert for CEN Review, Justin Milici, to present in early May 2026. This was a request from our partners at Methodist Healthcare. We have locked in a venue. You should see flyers coming very soon for this two-day event.

If you are thinking about getting your CEN in the near future or just want to brush-up on the latest clinical practice guidelines, plan to join us for this informative experience.

Our meeting in October will be at Mission Trails Hospital. We will be covering updates from EN25 as well as election of SAENA officers, particularly, President-elect and Director. Details on this meeting as well as the virtual link can be found on our website, sanantonioena.org.

Hope to see you all very soon!



Leslie Hinson, MSN, RN, CNL, CEN
SAENA President 2025



What's Hot!

SAENA 2026 Officer Elections October 14, 2026

Current Nominations:
President Elect – Sharon Keith
Secretary – Carol Twombly
Treasurer – Diane Walcutt
(2 yr term)
Director – Leah Charles
(2 yr term)

EN25

New Orleans Sept 17-20
<https://www.ena.org/emergency-nursing-2025>

Texas ENA

Virtual Conferences

Wellness, Self-Care, Resilience

Dec 5, 2025 (1p - 5p)

- **½ day, 3.5 - 4.0 contact hours**
- **Registration TxENA website at:**
<https://txena.org/2025-virtual-conference-series/>

SAENA Officer Elections

October 14, 2025

The SAENA Officer Elections will be held during the Business Meeting on October 14th. The meeting will be held at the Mission Trail Baptist Hospital at 6pm.

Current Nominations:

- **President-elect: Sharon Keith**
- **Secretary: Carol Twombly**
- **Treasurer-elect: Diane Walcutt (2 years term)**
- **Director: Leah Keith (2 years term)**

If you wish to run for a position on the SAENA Board of Directors, contact Barbara Baldwin at bbaldwin@satx.rr.com or (210)378-5673

Members attending the meeting virtually via Zoom are eligible to vote!

Nominations will be accepted from the floor if candidate meets eligibility criteria for position.

Eligibility Criteria – see Article V, SAENA Bylaws at:
https://www.sanantonioena.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2025_05_13_Bylaws.pdf



SAENA

Kerrville Flood Relief

The SAENA wishes to thank its members and those others who so generously donated clothing, household items, food, gift cards and money after the recent devastating July 4th Kerrville floods. Leslie Hinson delivered two pickup truck size loads of items and gift cards to the designated collection sites at Sisterdale and Center Pont VFD.



Yvonne Moseley, Barbara Baldwin, Diane Walcutt, Mary Leblond, and Janet Pena

Rolling cart contains a small portion of the items donated.

2025 Conference a Success!

SAENA's annual educational conference *Concepts of Emergency and Critical Care – 2025* was a huge success this year!

This year's event started off with a pre-conference dinner hosted by Grifols and a lecture on *Myth or Reality: The Rabies Threat in the US and the Role of Postexposure Prophylaxis* presented by Virginia Kraus RN, MSN. The dinner was attended by over 25 of the conference attendees.



The 7-lecture conference had 123 registrants: 87 in-person and 36 virtual.





Featured speaker Terry Foster



Speaker Dr. Mary K. Lytwyn, MD.



The conference was attended by 19 exhibitors, without whose support the event could not have been held.





The SAENA Conference Committee thanks the speakers, participants and sponsors for making the 2025 conference such a success.



Join the SAENA for Our 2026 Conference!



San Antonio Emergency Nurses Association

SAVE THE DATE!

***Concepts of Emergency and
Critical Care Nursing – 2026***

August 27, 2026

Drury Inn & Suites

15806 I-10 West San Antonio, Texas 78257

www.sanantonioena.org

SAENA's NEW MEMBERS

The SAENA welcomes our new members who joined since June 12, 2025:
Raul Rodriguez, Kaylen Key, Sofia Flores, Trinity Rabago, Haley Krebs, Olivia Ponton, Joseph Norris, Julia Vereen, Kayleigh Witcher, Sara Guerra, Raven Sunico, Jeremiah Montemayor, Diane Fowler, Brittany Cascio, Mark Betancourt-Martinez, David Bunch, Alyssa Hayes, Gabriela Ramos, John Pirkle, Michael Kingsbury and Alisha Hawkins.

SAENA Welcomes First Time Attendees!

SAENA was pleased to welcome multiple first attendees at the July 8th Business meeting.



Isabelle Donnelly, Rikki Hufford, Gabriella Beltran, Rachel Stevenson Left to Right

Also attending for the first time via Zoom were Karalea Loper and Monizza Perry.

San Antonio Nursing Consortium's Safety Conference

The SAENA helped organize the SANC's Safety Conference held on September 6, 2026 and hosted a booth to explain the advantages of being a member of the SAENA or other nursing professional organizations.



SAENA members who attended the conference and help man the SAENA booth
left to right: Mary Leblond, Sarah Evans, Barbara Baldwin and Janet Pena

Texas ENA 2025 Virtual Conferences

Dec 5, 2025 (1p-5p) – Wellness, Self-Care, Resilience

- ½ day, 3.5-4.0 contact hours
- \$60 each or \$200 for all 4 (ENA members)
- \$70 each or \$250 for all 4 (non-ENA members)
- Registration on the TxENA website at <https://txena.org/2025-virtual-conference-series/>

2025 TNCC Provider Courses!

October 25 - 26, 2025

**STRAC Building
7500 US-90 #1,
San Antonio, TX 78227**

***For more information see
[https://www.sanantonioena.org/
education/tncc/](https://www.sanantonioena.org/education/tncc/) or***

***Contact: Susan Douglass
susan.douglass1948@yahoo.com
or (210) 215-5540***

2025 ENPC Provider Courses!

December 6-7, 2025

**For more information see
[https://www.sanantonioena.org/
education/enpc/](https://www.sanantonioena.org/education/enpc/) or**

**Contact: Diane Walcutt at
dianewalcutt@yahoo.com or
(210) 387-7236**

Nursing Practice & Government Affairs

What's Happening and What's New in Nursing?

- **Free Workplace Violence Training** Until Oct. 20, members have free access to a workplace violence training program that leaders can use to help nurses learn the five key warning signs that predict escalation and how to effectively de-escalate situations in real time. Access training:
<https://aaccn.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00NTE4OTgyJnA9MSZ1PTM3OTMxMTM5NyZsaT01Mjg2NzY5Mw/index.html>
- **New Clinical Guidance for Pericarditis** An ACC consensus statement provides concise clinical guidance for the diagnosis and management of pericarditis. The guidance includes novel diagnostic criteria, the role of multimodality cardiac imaging and new treatment algorithms that reflect recent advances. Access guidelines:

- **Early Hearing Aid Use May Lower Dementia Risk August 22, 2025**

A study of 2953 participants from the Framingham Heart Study found that individuals under 70 with hearing loss who used hearing aids had a 61% lower risk of developing dementia compared with those who did not use aids. The research highlights the importance of early intervention in hearing loss to mitigate dementia risk. The study, published in JAMA Neurology, adjusted for factors like age, sex, and education but found no significant risk reduction in participants over 70. The study was supported by the National Institute on Aging.

The Takeaway:

Early hearing aid use can reduce dementia risk in those under 70.

[Read More](#)

- **FDA issues draft guidelines for non-opioid solutions to chronic pain** By [Robert Herpen, MA](#) September 11, 2025

Key Takeaways:

The guidelines address issues related to development and prescription of non-opioid pain drugs. They are part of a broader FDA effort to solve issues related to the ongoing opioid crisis.

The FDA has issued new draft guidance to promote safe and effective non-opioid treatments, and to curb prescription-related opioid misuse.

- **Long COVID Hitting Doctors and Nurses Hard by David Brzostowicki September 03, 2025**
(Excerpts from article)

Jeffrey Siegelman, MD, contracted COVID-19 in August 2020 and, 3 months later, published a [paper](#) online in JAMA about his experiences.

Today, he's still dealing with the symptoms, as one of many healthcare providers who have long COVID. He said his experience highlights the impact of long COVID on hundreds of thousands of doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers, by some estimates, who have been on the frontlines fighting the pandemic from the beginning. A [recent Yale-led study](#) found that 20 million Americans have been diagnosed workers have been affected. Months after their initial infection, these people struggle to return to work, let alone be productive.

According to a [January 2025 report](#) from the US Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, nearly 1 in 4 healthcare workers (23.5%) with long COVID reported their symptoms significantly affected their work. Arjun Venkatesh, MD, chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, and a lead author of the Yale-led study, has observed the mental and physical toll long COVID has had on his fellow colleagues suffering from the condition. The five most prevalent symptoms among people who missed more than 10 workdays were fatigue, [headache](#), muscle aches, joint pains, and shortness of breath. Those with these specific symptoms were also the most likely to experience work loss.

What's Happening and What's New in Government Affairs?

State

Texas Legislature 2025 The 89th Legislature's regular session ran from Jan. 14 to June 2, 2025. This was followed by two additional special sessions.

- ***Providing basic care to students does not violate Texas' parental consent law, state guidance to schools says.*** *The guidance comes in response to confusion over a new state law requiring schools to notify parents whenever students need health care services. By [Jaden Edison](#) Sept. 11, 2025 Texas' new parental consent law does not prevent nurses from administering basic health-related services like providing Band-Aids or checking a student's temperature, according to updated state guidance sent to school district administrators on Thursday. The Texas Education Agency's [revised guidance](#) came in response to widespread confusion about Senate Bill 12, a sweeping state law that includes a requirement for schools to obtain written approval from parents before offering to students routine health assistance and medication or conducting medical procedures.*

National

(AACN. September, 2025)

- **The Department of Health and Human Services has issued a [call for nominations](#) for a new Healthcare Advisory Committee** to advise the HHS Secretary and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on programs and policies that can help improve the US healthcare system. We need to ensure nursing is at the table! If you have a potential candidate for nomination, or are interested in serving in this capacity, please fill out [this survey](#) by COB, Monday, September 15, 2025.
- **AACN Joins Congressional Briefing on Nursing Education, Workforce, and Research** On September 4, the Nursing Community Coalition, which AACN convenes, hosted a Congressional Briefing on the top three ways members of Congress can support the nursing

workforce. We were pleased to have panelists from five nursing organizations join this conversation, including our Government Affairs Committee member, Dr. Melody Eaton. House Nursing Caucus Co-Chair, Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01), commenced this briefing by outlining the importance of funding nursing workforce programs and the National Institute of Nursing Research, as well as support for more nursing faculty.

- **Federal Policy Updates**

Breaking News: The House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health has advanced the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 (H.R.3593) to the full Committee. AACN will continue to update the membership as we have additional information.

The Department of Education and Department of Labor move to [integrate education and workforce systems](#) through staff detail, integrated state plan portal, and centralizing program funds.

HHS's MAHA Commission released a new report, the [Make Our Children Healthy Again Strategy](#).

Visit AACN's [Policy Watch webpage](#) for all federal policy updates:

<https://aacn.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0xMjA5ODA0NSZwPTEmdT0xMTgxNzQ5NDg2JmxpPTExNzY4MzUxNg/index.html>

(Washington Update: August, 2025)

- **ENA Supports Legislation to Combat ED Boarding**

ENA recently supported new legislation tackling the boarding issue plaguing the nation's hospitals. The Addressing Boarding and Crowding in the Emergency Department Act (H.R. 2936/S. 1974) was introduced by Reps. John Joyce, R-Pa., and Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., for the first time this year.

The ABC-ED Act seeks to leverage hospital bed tracking data and facility coordination to address the boarding issue, especially for those needing transfer to post-acute care. Additionally, it would mandate a study to determine best practices for public health data systems to ensure more hospitals have access to innovative techniques and strategies to combat overcrowding and ED boarding. The ENA Government Relations Team has begun to discuss ENA's support for the ABC-ED Act in recent congressional meetings and is working closely with partners such as American College of Emergency Physicians to support passage of this legislation.

(Washington Update: September, 2025)

- **House Appropriations Committee Clears Funding Bill Preserving ENA Priorities**

On Sept. 2, the House Appropriations Committee passed the fiscal year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, which funds essential programs aimed at improving emergency care. This legislation is the first step in the legislative process for funding health care programs.

ENA priorities, such as the National Institute of Nursing Research and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs, remain largely intact. The Emergency Medical Services for Children program, which is in danger of being eliminated, is receiving \$24.3 million, the same level of funding under the bill as it received in 2025. The committee also ensured the continuation of the MISSION ZERO program, which allows military trauma teams to share their expertise in civilian trauma centers.

ENA has advocated aggressively for these programs and will continue to educate members of Congress on the importance of maintaining robust support for health care programs that improve emergency care in the U.S. Congress has until Sept. 30 to pass federal funding for the next fiscal year or risk a government shutdown.

- **ENA Advocates for Priority Programs, Legislation During August Recess**

During the August recess, the ENA Government Relations Team communicated with more than 25 congressional offices to advocate for priorities related to issues such as ED boarding, workplace violence, drug overdose and nurse burnout. Targets for those meetings included the House Energy & Commerce and Judiciary committees and the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions and Judiciary committees. These committees have jurisdiction over ENA priority bills including the Save Healthcare Workers Act, Tyler's Law, as well as the existing Dr. Lorna Breen Act and MISSION ZERO programs.

EN411 Grassroots Advocacy

Members of Congress need to hear from their constituents – this means you!

Action Alerts highlight ENA's priorities before the House and Senate. Through the links below, you can send a letter or X post to your member of Congress.

[Boarding and Overcrowding Has Been a Problem for Years. Let's Do Something About It.](#)

[MISSION ZERO Is Popular, Innovative and Needs to be Reauthorized. Learn More.](#)

[Workplace Violence Has No Cure. Tell Congress to Do More to Fight It!](#)

[Support Tyler's Law to Effectively Implement Fentanyl Testing in EDs!](#)

[Support the Reauthorization of Programs to Combat Emergency Nurse Burnout!](#)

ENA State Leaders: Got a State Bill to Track?

Contact ENA Government Relations and let us know the bill number - gov@ena.org

If you haven't signed up already, click below and never miss another Action Alert!

[Join EN411](#)

For any questions or concerns contact littlemommanurse@aol.com



Mary Leblond, MSN, RN, CEN, CA-SANE, CP-SANE, FAEN
Chair Government Affairs Committees

YOUR 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Leslie Hinson

President Elect: Dustin English

Past President: Barbara Baldwin

Treasurer: Diane Walcutt

Secretary: Carol Twombly

Directors: Lisa King and Susan Douglass

YOUR 2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bylaws / Policies: Dustin English

Election Process: Barbara Baldwin

Media: Yvonne Moseley

QSIP / Trauma / TNCC: Susan Douglass

QSIP Co-Chair: Barbara Baldwin

Pediatrics / ENPC: Diane Walcutt

Nursing Practice/Government Affairs: Mary Leblond

Membership: Wanda Sparks

Fundraising: Linda Simpson

Conference: Lisa King

Professional Education: Leslie Hinson / Carol Twombly

Newsletter: Carol Twombly

Scholarship: Thomas Culwell

2025 Texas ENA Meetings

Q4 – Oct. 17 - 18th – College Station

Hosted by Brazos Valley Chapter

For location and hotel info check the
Meetings page of the TxEA website.

<https://txena.org/meetings/>

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Opting Out

If you wish to opt out of receiving this
Newsletter or other SAENA announcements,
please notify SAENA at cltwombly@aol.com

A purple t-shirt is shown from the front, laid flat. It has a crew neck and short sleeves. The text is printed on the chest area.

SAENA Shirts!

SAENA has new Chapter shirts!

Two styles of the SAENA purple shirts:

- **“Golf Shirt”**
- **“Fishing shirt”**

Prices are \$35 - \$45+ per shirt based on style and size.

Only cash or check will be accepted when ordering.

Pick up of the ordered shirts can be done at a SAENA Business meeting.

Texas Board of Nursing - Continuing Education Requirements for RNs

All Texas RNs are reminded to review the Texas Board of Nursing's mandatory continuing education re-licensure requirements located on the website at https://www.bon.texas.gov/education_continuing_education.asp#D

There are several factors which must be kept in mind when reviewing the information on the website:

- Course content must meet the stipulation requirements of the Texas Board of Nursing
- The time frame or licensure cycle for repeating the requirement differs from course to course
- The RN's practice type and/or 'float unit' may determine if a nurse needs to take a course
- Advance Practice RNs (APRN) have additional course requirements than RNs
- Course requirements are not automatically met with certification
- Additional education requirements may be added at any time. These requirements are announced in the Texas Board of Nursing's Bulletin.

Current RN Requirements:

- Forensics Evidence Collection
- Older Adult and Geriatric Care
- Nursing Jurisprudence and Ethics
- *Human Trafficking Prevention

****Must be an approved Texas HHS course.***

Current APRN Requirements:

- Pharmacotherapeutics
- Tick-Borne Diseases
- *Pain management and prescription of opioids
- *Prescription of opioids
- Authorization to receive information from the Texas Prescription Monitoring Program

**** All APRNs with prescriptive authority authorized to prescribe opioids***



San Antonio Chapter

San Antonio Emergency Nurses Association

SAVE THE DATE!

SAENA's 14TH ANNUAL Conference

***Concepts of Emergency and
Critical Care Nursing – 2026***

August 27, 2026

****Note NEW Location****

Drury Inn & Suites

15806 I –10 West

San Antonio, TX 78257

(Intersection of I-10 and 1604 on the Access Road)

FREE Parking and Wifi

7 hours of education!

www.sanantonioena.org