

NNA ANNUAL CONVENTION

120 Years of Nursing Excellence:

Honoring our Legacy, Shaping our Future

October 1 & 2, 2026
Kearney NE



CONVENTION AGENDA

Wednesday, September 30 – Pre-Conference

- 4:30 – 7:30 pm Exhibitor and Poster Setup
6:30 – 9:30 pm NNA PAC Fundraiser at Cunningham's on the Lake

Thursday, October 1 – Day 1

- 7:00 am Exhibitor and Poster Setup
- 7:30 am **REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS OPEN**
Breakfast – *provided*
- 8:00 – 8:30 am **PONCA TRIBE DEDICATION**
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Blake Smith, NNA President
- *Our Past* -
- 8:30 – 9:30 am **GENERAL SESSION 1** **1.0 Contact Hour**
Honoring Our Legacy: A Retrospective Panel Discussion
Moderator: Sue Schuelke PhD, RN-BC, CNE, CCRN-K
Panelists: Linda Hardy PhD, RN, CNE, CTN-A, Marla Kniewel EdD, MSN, RN,
Barb Nickel APRN-CNS, CCRN, CRNI, Rita Weber MSN, RN
- 9:30 – 9:45 am Networking Break – Visit Exhibits
- 9:45 – 10:30 pm **GENERAL SESSION 2** **0.75 Contact Hours**
**Honoring Our Regulatory Roots: Nebraska's Journey of Collaboration
and Progress – Ann Oertwich PhD, RN**
- 10:45 – 11:45 pm **GENERAL SESSION 3** **1.0 Contact Hours**
**Beyond Florence: The Value of Knowing Our History and How Fiction Can Help – Marilee
Aufdenkamp MS, RN**
- 11:45 am – 12:30 pm Lunch – *provided*
Visit Exhibits
- *Our Present* -
- 12:30 – 1:15 pm **GENERAL SESSION 4 – RESEARCH POSTERS** **0.75 Contact Hours**
Research Posters with Authors
- 1:15 – 2:00 pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS** **0.75 Contact Hour**
Breakout 1: **Strengthening the Transition: Core Precepting to Support New Graduate Nurse
Success – Staci Kolm EdD, MSN, RN and Sarah Dunsmore, PhD, RN**
Breakout 2: **Samaritans at 30,000 Feet: Managing Medical Emergencies on Commercial
Airline Flights – Curtis Olson BSN, BA, RN, EMT-P, CEN, TCRN**
- 2:00 – 2:45 pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS** **0.75 Contact Hour**

Breakout 3: Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Practice: Building Guardrails in a Rapidly Changing Clinical Landscape – Darrel Moreland MSN, APRN-NP, PMHNP-BC, ADHD-CCSP

Breakout 4: Staying Ahead of Murphy's Law: A Proactive Approach to Quality Improvement – Cristina Ritzema MPH, BSN, RN, CHES, NP-BC

2:45 – 3:30 pm	Networking Break – Visit Exhibits	
3:30 – 4:30 pm	GENERAL SESSION 5 From Awareness to Action: Integrating Social Determinants of Health into Nursing Practice and Education – Angela Johnson EdD, RN	1.0 Contact Hours
4:00 pm	Exhibits Close	
5:30 – 6:00 pm	NETWORKING RECEPTION	
6:00 pm	NNA AWARDS DINNER with Honor Guard GENERAL SESSION 6 – Anne Thallas EdD, MSN, RN, NE-BC, CPN, President, NONL	0.25 Contact Hours

Friday, October 2 – Day 2

7:00 am	REGISTRATION OPENS	
	<i>- Our Future -</i>	
7:30 – 9:00 am	40 UNDER 40 AWARDS BREAKFAST GENERAL SESSION 7: Finding your Why: The People Who Helped Me Become the Nurse and Leader I am Today – Tiffany Whitney DNP, RN-BC	0.25 Contact Hours
9:00 – 9:15 am	Networking Break	
9:15 – 10:00 am	NNA BUSINESS MEETING	
10:00 – 10:45 am	CONCURRENT SESSIONS <u>Breakout 5: Leveraging Generative AI to Enhance Cultural Humility and Clinical Judgment</u> – Toni Woods DNP, MBA, BS, BSN, RN <u>Breakout 6: Empowering Nurses & Improving Patient Safety: An NPECable Approach to Practice Excellence</u> – Cristina Ritzema MPH, BSN, RN, CHES, NP-BC and Anne Schoening PhD, RN, CNE	0.75 Contact Hour
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	GENERAL SESSION 8 The Future We Choose: Nursing's Role in Shaping Tomorrow – Katie Boston-Leary PhD, MBA, MHA, RN, NEA-BC, FADLN, FAONL	1.0 Contact Hour
12:00 pm	ADJOURN	8.25 Contact Hours

DISCLOSURES

- **Successful Completion** – Participants must check-in on both days, participate in a minimum of three educational sessions, submit a verification of attendance form noting the sessions attended, and complete the online evaluation to receive a certificate of completion. To receive contact hours for the poster session, participants must gather a minimum of 5 stamps from poster authors and turn in their poster verification card at the end of the session.
- **Contact Hours** – Participants meeting the successful completion requirements will receive up to 8.25 contact hours. VTL Center for Professional Development is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Nebraska Nurses Association

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