



## MEC Upcoming Events

### **December 8, 2025:**

Partners in Practice Presentation  
“WOC Professional Roles and Responsibilities”  
Patti Burke, BSN, RN, CWOCN

### **April 15, 2026:**

Poster Award Submissions are due

### **May 31-June 2, 2026:**

WOCNext Conference Indianapolis, IN

### **July 15, 2026:**

Nominations for 2026 Election are due

### **August 15, 2026:**

Awards and Scholarships Deadlines

### **Upcoming 2026 Elections**

Open Positions:

Treasurer    Secretary    Director #2    Director #4.

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact a board member.

**Scroll down the newsletter to view pictures of the  
2025 MEC Conference!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When we started planning the 2025 conference, it started with ideas on paper and our Conference Planning Committee and Board Members worked hard to put together a great conference. I would like to thank the people who made our Midwest Chapter Conference in West Virginia possible:

1. Lisa Berning, Director 3, for coordinating the meetings, making sure we hit our budget and also Lisa stepped up as a lecturer when one of our speakers could not attend, to ensure that we could offer our foot care CE session.
  2. WV Conference Planning Committee who worked hard to put on a great conference:
 

Teresa Argento	Jennifer Short
Stephanie Constable	Jen Short
Cindy Schleis	Molly White
Michele Kessie	Tracy Swift
Ashley Begarly	
  3. WOC Olympics Friday Evening Conference Event
 

Julia Hanna	Whitney Hapney
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  4. Mary Arnold Long for stepping in when one of our speakers could not make it and presented on Fecal Incontinence.
  5. Our sponsors for their generous support:
    - Solventum
    - Hollister
    - Urgo Medical North America
    - Molnlycke Health Care
    - West Virginia University Medicine
    - EHOB Inc.
    - Institute for Academic Medicine + Charleston Area Medical Center V
    - Vandalia Health
    - WebWOC
  6. Organogenesis and Hollister for their unrestricted educational grants.
  7. Our vendors who came to support the MEC and shared their products and services with us.
  8. To everyone who brought their ostomy supplies and helped breakdown and repackage the donations to Friends of Ostomates Worldwide.
  9. For all the members who brought items for the Silent Auction.
  10. Brittany Berning, Lisa's daughter, who ran errands for us throughout the conference.
  11. To the attendees who came to learn and network with fellow MEC Members.
- As you can see, it takes a village to put on a conference.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the MEC Conference!

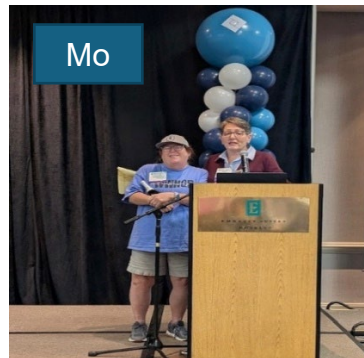
Patti Burke



Maureen "Mo" Rosette

With the fall elections completed we say goodbye to Maureen "Mo" Rosette. Thank you for stepping up as Director # 1. Mo helped launch our Partners in Practice Presentations, reached out to new members to welcome them to the chapter and reminded members of the importance of renewing their membership.

Mo, thank so you for your service to the Mideast Chapter!



## PRESIDENT ELECT UPDATE

Greetings from your President-Elect, Tracy Swift

Don't forget to check out our new YouTube page. If you were not able to attend the Partners in Practice presentation given by Carol Bauer, you can watch it on YouTube.

More to come, so be sure to become a member!

<https://www.youtube.com/@mideastchapterofthewocn>

Hope to see everyone at the WOCNext 2026 conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

## DIRECTOR #1 UPDATE

Happy Fall!

My name is Betsy Kulling, and I am excited to be your new Director #1! As part of my new role, I would like to welcome everyone to our next Partners in Practice webinar on **Monday, December 8th at 7pm**. Current MEC President, Patti Burke, BSN, RN, CWOCN will be presenting "WOC Professional Roles and Responsibilities". Please join us for an engaging presentation with Q & A to follow!

<https://meet.google.com/ero-mbuw-owu>



Did you know that the MEC is on socials? Brittany Gesing is the Social Media Coordinator for our chapter - you may have seen her photos and videos from our Mideast Chapter conference in West Virginia last month, if you are already following us! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube for chapter updates, photos and videos of events, and networking within our chapter.





## DIRECTOR #2 UPDATE

Hello Mideast Chapter, WOC Nurses!  
Director #2 here -- working with our Awards and Scholarships!

As we look ahead, don't forget to apply for our 2026 awards and scholarships.  
Deadline: August 15th  
You're welcome to nominate yourself or a deserving colleague—let's take time to celebrate the incredible work being done across our chapter. There are still many scholarships and awards waiting to be claimed!

### **Congratulations to Our 2025 Winners!**

#### Poster Awards

Cindy Sylvia, DNURS, MSc, MA, RN, CWCN

Title: *"CRCM© Unveiled: A Comprehensive Risk and Compliance Model for Pressure Injury Risk Assessment in Legal Nurse Consulting"*

Elizabeth Kulling, BSN, RN, CWOCN, CWS

Brittany Gesing, BSN, RN, CWOCN

Title: *"Management of Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) Driveline Infections Utilizing Negative Pressure Wound Therapy: A Case Series"*

Manufacturer's Representative of the Year: Solventum Team

Jennifer Lonneman • Cathryn Hardy • Sondra Lyness



Advanced Practice Scholarship  
Julianne Cordes, BSN, RN, CWOCN



WOC Nurse of the Year  
Brittany Gesing, BSN, RN, CWOCN

Let's continue to uplift one another and highlight the outstanding achievements of our Midwest Chapter members. Keep those applications coming—next year, it could be you!

For your review:

<https://www.wocn.org/chapters/mideast-chapter-awards/>  
<https://www.wocn.org/chapters/mideast-chapter-scholarships/>

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Director #2, Awards & Scholarships  
Midwest Chapter – WOCN® Society



### DIRECTOR #3 UPDATE

Hi Fellow MEC members!

We had an amazing conference in West Virginia in September. A huge thank you to your 2025 conference planners including:

Teresa Argento; conference co-chair and Vendor Chair

Stephanie Constable; Grant proposal chair

Kim Garrison

Jen Short

Whitney Hapney & Julia Hanna : Friday evening event

MEC Board support:

Patti Burke, Grants

Tracy Swift

Cindy Schlies, Silent Auction Chair

Michele Kessie, Grants

Ashley Begarly, AV support

Stay tuned for our next conference!

Lisa Berning



## DIRECTOR #4 UPDATE

**Elections results for the MEC Board are:**

Director #1 Communications/ Membership Support -- ***Betsy Kulling***

Director #3 Conference Planning Director -- ***Lisa Berning***

**Public Policy:**

**Pressure Injury Hospital Harm Reporting Requirements**

Overview:

- CMS is advancing a quality measure requiring hospitals to report new pressure injuries (Stage 2–4, unstageable, or deep tissue pressure injury) acquired during inpatient stays.

- Part of the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program – a pay-for-reporting initiative.

#### Key Details:

- Injury Types Tracked: Stage 2–4, unstageable, and deep tissue pressure injuries.
- HAPI Timing Criteria:
  - Stage 2–4 & unstageable: Identified >24 hours after admission.
  - Deep tissue injuries: Identified >72 hours after admission.
- Scope: Applies to patients aged 18+.

#### Timeline:

- Currently voluntary.
- Expected to become mandatory in 2027.
- Stage 2 injuries encouraged for voluntary reporting starting 2025.

### **Member Voices Making an Impact on Competitive Bidding**

#### Highlights from National on how our voices are being heard

- Through social media, our message was seen more than 17,000 times.
- Our WOCNow newsletter drew a 35% open rate, well above the industry average.
- Through our LinkedIn newsletter, we reached over 9,000 impressions with an incredible 44% open rate.
- Our community came together to submit comments, letters, and shared posts to protect access to essential ostomy and urological supplies.
- The WOC nurse was recognized in The Washington Times, as well as letters submitted by the Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders and the United Ostomy Association of America (UOAA).

Ashley Begarly