



Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON) Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Saturday, September 27, 2025
Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, Rhode Island

Welcome & Call to Order

The annual business meeting of the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON) was called to order at 9:33am ET by Dyane Bunnell, DNP APRN AOCNS® CPON® NPD-BC, APHON President 2023-2025. She invited the 2024-2025 APHON Board of Directors and Executive Director Allison Summers, CAE AAiP to provide introductions from the stage.

Quorum Established

APHON's Secretary, Mary Newman, DNP RN CPON® NE-BC called for Active and Emeritus members to electronically check-in to establish a quorum. It was confirmed that the quorum was met with over 140 members present, and this was generally accepted by the members present.

2024 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the previous year's annual business meeting, held in Salt Lake City, Utah on September 13, 2024, were presented for approval. Motion: To approve the minutes from the 2024 APHON Annual Business Meeting. *Carried by unanimous consent.*

Treasurer's Report and Financial Update

APHON Treasurer, Kaye Schmidt, MA RN NEA-BC CPHON® provided the membership with financial highlights from fiscal year 2024 which included:

- APHON received a clean audit for the 2024 fiscal year.
- The landscape of healthcare and associations has changed dramatically since 2020, however APHON has been on a path to financially steer those challenges and to stabilize its financial position. The membership was reminded that the APHON financials and annual tax filings are found on APHON's Governance page.
- APHON's net assets equate to six months of reserves, which aligns with the industry standard for an association like APHON, per the National Council of Nonprofits. APHON should strive to increase their net assets to reflect up to 12 months.
- APHON primary source of revenue is driven by the education and program areas, representing 64% of monies earned. Membership revenue makes up 13% of APHON's revenue, and members were encouraged to invite others to join.

APHON President Report

President Dyane Bunnell shared highlights of this year's accomplishments. Some key points included:

- APHON's membership count at the end of December 2024 stood at 3,342 across all categories. The association welcomed 665 new members. This year we launched the Member open house program. These events are open to all new and long-standing members.
- The APHON Member Survey shared insights that are driving the development of education content for APHON's Annual Conference and the Spring Education Exchange, improvements in existing education programs, and investigation into the launch of new programs. The data also informed views on member benefits and how APHON can serve our non-member community.
- The Spring Education Exchange 2025 success was shared with the members, and all were encouraged to attend virtually on May 13-14, 2026.
- The 5th edition of the Essentials of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing: A Core Curriculum publication was released in 2025, and gratitude was expressed to the editors, section editors and contributing authors.

- The Chemotherapy/Biotherapy Provider Program continues to be a success. In 2024, nearly 900 instructors led 400+ courses with almost 3,800 individuals gaining their provider cards and 5,360 individuals completing their renewal.
- In 2026, JOPHON will become a digital journal with six issues a year, a decision made due to market changes and cost increases.
- The ACE Center live and on demand quarterly webinars have served over 400 individuals in the period from January through August 2025. Overall, 40+ JOPHON Courses have provided for over 2,460 NCPD credits earned since the start of the year.
- APHON continues to work towards adding and improving their educational offerings and therefore an investigation into making changes to launch new technology systems in 2026 is taking place.
- The Medication Fact Sheets were updated with new drugs added to the current selection.
- The importance of APHON members standing up as nurse advocates was emphasized. It was noted that members of the APHON community went to Washington, DC for the Alliance for Childhood Cancer Advocacy Action Day, the American Nurses Association Day on the Hill and the Patient Quality of Life Coalition Lobby Day.
- A point was made that APHON was set up as a 501(c)(3) entity which means we exist to accept donations and do charitable good. The Star Fund is APHON's fund for general donations and has been promoted to membership this year.
- APHON is celebrating its 50th anniversary next year. A task force has been created for the occasion and members will hear more in 2026.

APHON Awards & Recognition

The program then moved to celebrate our membership community.

Chapter Awards

APHON's Local Chapter Committee Chair, Kari Wheeler, DNP APRN CPNP-AC BMTCN® CPHON® CPN announced the local chapters award recipients.

- Local Chapter Community Service Award: APHON Dallas Fort Worth Chapter.
- Local Chapter Excellence Award: APHON Central Florida Chapter.

JOPHON Awards

APHON's JOPHON Editor, Kristin Stegenga, PhD RN CPON® announced that Assistant Editor Casey Hooke, PhD PCNS-BC APRN FAPHON FAAN was stepping aside after dedicating eight years of service and Clifton P. Thornton, PhD MSN RN CPNP as approved to take over the role. She then announced the JOPHON awards.

- The Dianne Fochtman New Author Award recipient was Sandra Ross, RN.
- The JOPHON Writing Award recipient, sponsored by SAGE Publications, was Sue Zupanec, MN NP.

Chemotherapy Biotherapy Instructor of the Year Award

Chemotherapy Biotherapy Provider Program Committee Chair Terri Boyce, DNP APRN CPNP-AC CPHON® BMTCN® announced the Chemotherapy Biotherapy Instructor of the Year Award was granted to Kristine Hoelle, RN MSN CPHON® CPN.

Jean Fergusson Excellence in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing Award

The Patient Family Education Committee Chair Myndy Livingston, CNP APRN CPON® delivered the Jean Fergusson Excellence in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing Award to Denise Lahoski, RN MSN CPHON® CBMT.

APHON Distinguished Awards

The APHON distinguished award recipients were recognized for their excellence in mentorship, leadership and service to APHON.

- Meredith Foxx, MSN MBA APRN NEA-BC PCNS-BC PPCNP-BC CPON® was awarded the Dr. Nancy E Kline Mentoring Award. This was presented by APHON Past Presidents Joan O'Hanlon

Curry, DNP RN CPNP-PC CPON® NEA-BC FAAN FAPHON and Deborah Echtenkamp, MSN RN CPON® FAPHON.

- Janice Nuuhiwa, MSN RN NPD-BC CPHON®-Emeritus FAPHON was granted the Dr. Casey Hooke Distinguished Service Award. This was presented by APHON Past President Casey Hooke.
- Mylynda Livingston, CNP APRN CPON® was recognized with the Dr. Patricia Greene Leadership Award. This was presented by APHON President, Dyane Bunnell.

Leadership Development Committee Report: Election Results

APHON's Leadership Development Committee Chair and APHON Past President Janice Nuuhiwa shared the results of the 2025 slated election, confirming Natalie Alwin, BSN RN BMTCN® as the incoming Director-at-Large to serve a three-year term. Director Sharon Bergeron, BSN RN CPON® was recognized for her board service that begin in 2019, completing two terms. Amy Newman, PhD RN CPNP-PC was recognized as the 2025-2027 APHON President.

Installation of the 2025-2026 APHON Board of Directors

Janice Nuuhiwa installed the members of the 2025-2026 Board of Directors to include:

- Amy Newman, PhD RN CPNP-PC – President
- Dyane Bunnell, DNP APRN AOCNS® CPON® NPD-BC – Immediate Past-President
- Mary Newman, DNP RN CPON® NE-BC – Secretary
- Kaye Schmidt, MA RN NEA-BC CPHON® – Treasurer
- Natalie Alwin, BSN RN BMTCN® – Director-at-Large
- Mindy Bibart, DNP RN CPHON® NEA-BC CPPS CBBSS – Director-at-Large
- Ijeoma Julie Eche-Ugwu, PhD MPH FNP-BC AOCNP CPHON® BMT-CN® – Director-at-Large
- Danielle Gunter, PhD RN CPN – Director-at-Large
- Amy Haskamp, MSN RN PCNS-BC CPON® CHPPN FPCN FAPHON – Director-at-Large

Presidential Address

Amy Newman addressed the members as the new president. She called on the members to imagine the possibilities that could be created for the organization and the community of pediatric hematology/oncology nurses.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Amy Newman, at 10:20am ET.