

Call For Abstracts

Purpose: To recognize nursing innovations, evidence-based practice projects (EBP), research that reflects the diversity of nursing in clinical practice, administration, and education, Practice Improvement Projects, including simulation projects, projects completed or completing at work to improve patient care, lessons learned, or successful changes to processes in the nursing field, and Students. Posters will be chosen at the discretion of the Posters Committee based on quality of abstract and adherence to specified guidelines. Certificates will be awarded for the Best Innovation, EBP/Research, Practice Improvement Project, Student, and People's Choice. **THE main presenter will be able to attend Nurses Expo FREE OF CHARGE.** Grant forms for secondary student presenters are available.

For information and forms, go to www.statelinenurses.org or email statelinenurses2013@gmail.com

Deadline to submit: CLOSED for 2026

Stateline Nurses Network Awards

Nursing Excellence should be rewarded! Nominations are being accepted for both our *Distinguished Advocate for Nursing* and our *Excellence in Nursing* awards. For information, online and fillable PDF forms, go to www.statelinenurses.org or email statelinenurses2013@gmail.com

Deadline to submit: CLOSED for 2026

Stateline Nurses Network Scholarships

Monetary awards in the amount of \$1,000 will be presented to select individuals in good standing for:

- Pre-licensure student - RN or LPN (must be enrolled in at least 2nd term of clinical courses)
- BSN degree completion student
- Graduate student in nursing
- Doctoral student

For information and forms, go to www.statelinenurses.org or email statelinenurses2013@gmail.com

Deadline to submit: CLOSED for 2026

Sponsorship, Exhibits, and Advertising Opportunities

Interested in sponsorship opportunities, big and small, exhibiting, or placing an ad at our conference?

Contact us at statelinenurses2013@gmail.com and we will send you our sponsorship packet with full details.

Electronic Evaluation Information

The link to the electronic evaluations will be emailed to registrants a few days before the conference. Check your spam or trash folder and if you do not see the email, contact statelinenurses2013@gmail.com and we will send another link.

Keynote & Speaker Information

MORNING KEYNOTE: Kim Kraft, MSN, RN, CPAN(r) CAPA(r), has been a nurse for nearly 50 years. Her extensive background includes experience as an Advanced Perianesthesia Nurse Clinician, Assistant Professor of Nursing Education and Clinical Coordinator. She is a respected member and former president of the American Society of Perianesthesia Nurses (ASPAN). Drawing on her professional expertise and personal experience navigating a challenging illness, Kim offers a valuable perspective on the intersection of psychology and healing as a cancer survivor.

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE: Kearsti-Rae Knowles, MMT, LPMT, MT-BC, is the owner of Safe in Sound Music Therapy, LLC and serves a wide spectrum of populations including older adults (Dementia/Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, general), hospice, children with emotional and behavioral disorders, individuals with Autism, individuals with developmental disabilities, children with Down Syndrome, individuals with assorted mental health diagnoses, and children with vision and hearing loss. Her mission is to musically walk with people of all ages and abilities on their journey to feel comfort, experience growth, and build connections.

Go to our website for information on all speakers, objectives, and short bios www.statelinenurses.org.

SNN Volunteer Grants

We have a great opportunity for up to 5 nurses or nursing students to get involved with AND attend Nurses Expo free of charge! In exchange for **FREE** attendance, we ask for help the day before and during Expo. For an application, go to www.statelinenurses.org or send an email to statelinenurses2013@gmail.com

Deadline to submit: CLOSED for 2026

Group discounts available!

Group discount for 5 or more nurse attendees!
Contact statelinenurses2013@gmail.com
for details on how to apply!

NURSES EXPO 2026

Presented by
Stateline Nurses Network



and the

Nurses Expo 2026
Planning Committee

Empowering
Our Future



Two Keynote & Nine
Breakout Speaker Sessions!

Friday, April 24, 2026
7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

BMO Center
300 Elm Street
Rockford, IL 61101
DIRECTIONS

Program Purpose & Objectives

Nurses Expo 2026 is designed to provide an environment conducive to sharing of information and fostering the development of professional relationships and is intended for past, present, and future nurses from hospital, home, occupational, community, private practice and clinical settings. At the conclusion of Expo 2026 the participant will be able to:

- 1) Formulate personal and professional goals that promote individual growth and the advancement of the nursing profession.
- 2) Relate learned information to the care of the patient in the clinical and community setting.
- 3) Develop an increased awareness of available resources through professional and personal interactions.
- 4) Gain a deeper appreciation for the breadth of continuing education provided to nurses within the community/region.

Contact Hours – Mercyhealth is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the Wisconsin Nursing Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This activity has been approved for 6.75 contact hours. Attendance and completion of the evaluation for the entire session(s) is required to receive CEs.

Evaluations – We will be using electronic evaluations for CEs. When registering, please provide your email so the link can be emailed to you before Nurses Expo. If you want to fill out a paper evaluation and receive a paper certificate, please speak to a Nurses Expo committee person on site. [Evaluation completion will close on May 8, 2026.](#)

Charity



James Hutson, Executive Director, 815-319-6885
jhutson@winnebago-countycasa.org
<https://www.winnebago-countycasa.org/>

Winnebago County CASA develops and maintains an effective, high quality CASA program to advocate for and represent children in the juvenile court system who have experienced abuse or neglect. A Court Appointed Special Advocate, or "CASA", is a trained community member appointed by a Juvenile Court judge to represent the best interests of a child who has experienced abuse or neglect and whose case is brought before the court. Winnebago County CASA empowers volunteer CASAs to speak up for children who don't have a voice—and to change a child's story. Winnebago County CASA is a 501(c)3 organization and cash donations are appreciated and tax-deductible.

Your detailed confirmation email, which will be sent closer to the date of the conference, will include parking prices, time, entrance, evaluation and registration information.

Program Agenda Friday, April 24, 2026

- 7:00-8:00am** Registration, Exhibits/Posters, Breakfast (provided by SNN), Welcome/Announcements
- 8:00-9:15 am** **KEYNOTE - The Effects of Positive Psychology on Healing**
Kim Kraft, MSN, RN, CPAN(r), CAPA(r)
- 9:15-9:45 am** **NUCCA: Finding Answers and Relief for Chronic Conditions**
Hannah Orem, Bd Certified NUCCA Chiropractor
- 9:45-10:15am** Break/Exhibits/Posters
- 10:15-11:30 am** MORNING BREAKOUT
- Session 1:** *I use the pronouns she, her, hers: care considerations for those who are gender diverse*
Anne Havrilla, MSN, CRNA, APRN
- Session 2:** *The Intersection of Pain and Substance Use Disorders*
June Oliver MSN APRN/CNS CCNS PGMT-BC AP-PMN
- Session 3:** *On Being an End-of-Life Doula*
Kimberly Rich, Doctoral Degree, Certified Grief Educator, Death Doula
- 11:30-12:30pm** Lunch (provided by SNN)
Exhibits & Posters
- 12:30-1:45 pm** FIRST AFTERNOON BREAKOUT
- Session 1:** *I use the pronouns she, her, hers: care considerations for those who are gender diverse*
Anne Havrilla, MSN, CRNA, APRN
- Session 2:** *Communicating Effectively While Responding to Dementia-related Behaviors*
Aileen Zei, BA, Human Services
- Session 3:** *Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): Tools for Compassionate Nursing Care*
Nika Winiarski, PhD
- 1:55-3:10 pm** SECOND AFTERNOON BREAKOUT
- Session 1:** *Sepsis/SIRS*
Dr. Aaron Taylor, DO/Physician-Emergency Medicine
- Session 2:** *Communicating Effectively While Responding to Dementia-related Behaviors*
Aileen Zei, BA, Human Services
- Session 3:** *Nursing Beyond Borders: Mission Nursing*
Sharon Thomas, RN, TNS
- 3:10-3:30 pm** Break (snacks provided by SNN)
- 3:30-4:45 pm** **KEYNOTE: The Song of Care: Listening, Healing, and Being Human Together**
Kearsti-Rae Knowles, MMT, LPMT, MT-BC
- 4:45-5:00 pm** Awards, Posters, Scholarships, Raffles, Conclusion

For Hotel Information

<http://gorockford.com/>

Registration Deadline April 10, 2026

REGISTER & PAY ONLINE
(preferred)

www.statelinenurses.org

OR

COMPLETE FORM BELOW & MAIL WITH CHECK:

Name: _____

Credentials: _____

Area of practice: _____

Hm Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

1st, 2nd, 3rd Choices Concurrent Breakout Sessions
(See middle panel for description)

AM Session 1-3 Choice 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___

1st PM Session 1-3 Choice 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___

2nd PM Session 1-3 Choice 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___

Payment Information*:

☐ **\$175 Nurses, health professionals** (Fee includes registration, food/drinks, t-shirt, CE's, \$20 for Stateline Nurses Network Annual Membership beginning April 1, 2026)

☐ **\$50 Pre-licensure/Undergraduate student (NO Credit)** (Fee includes registration, food/drinks & t-shirt)

** \$5 convenience fee will be added if paying online **

**Late & onsite registrations (after 4/10) add \$20 to fee.*

**Cancellations received on or before Friday, April 10 2026, eligible for refund, minus \$50 admin fee. No refunds issued for cancellations after April 10 2026. All refund requests must be submitted in writing by original registrant and will be processed to original form of payment. No refunds for no-shows or for participants who fail to complete the event.*

Mail completed form with check payable to:
Stateline Nurses Network
c/o Patricia Hall
5818 Gridley Court
South Beloit, IL 61080

IMPORTANT: an email address is required for confirmation and receipt of electronic evaluation link.

QUESTIONS? statelinenurses2013@gmail.com or call Patty Hall at 815-871-3625