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# the Preemie Press

Volume 26 : Issue 3



National  
Association of  
Neonatal  
Nurses

Delaware Valley Chapter

## Letter from the President

Lauren Stracuzzi, MSN, RNC-NIC, ACCNS-P

Happy Holidays from all of us on the DVANN Board! We had a great turn out for the Fall Conference and it was one of my favorite DVANN events to date. Thank you to everyone who participated, and for making it such a special day. As we look forward to the upcoming year, the DVANN Board will continue to work hard to ensure that our members receive cutting edge information that enhances neonatal nursing care.

I would like to thank the outgoing DVANN board members, Cailin Tallent and Kristen Gerhardt. Their dedication and commitment has made DVANN a better organization. Remaining on the board will be Jennifer Hart, Kelly Roebuck, Heather Hopkins, Katie Behringer, Liz McCarthy, and Tommie Farrell! Without them, this organization would not be what it is. For the last 3 years I have led along side of an incredibly dedicated and creative team, and I feel very fortunate! In the upcoming year, Michelle Ferrant will begin her term as President, and I will serve as Immediate Past President. Jen Jacob-Freese will be joining us as the Education Director and Caitlin Hicks will be the oncoming Communications Director.

We look forward to another year of growth and joy! As always, please contact any of the board members with questions, comments, or concerns. We love to hear from you all! Cheers to a happy and healthy new year!

Be well,  
Lauren

## 2018 Board Members

### President

Lauren Stracuzzi, MSN, RNC-NIC,  
ACCNS-P

### President Elect

Michelle Ferrant, DNP, RNC-NIC,  
ACCNS-N, CBC, CPLC

### Treasurer

Katie Behringer, MSN, RNC-NIC,  
CBC

### Secretary

Elizabeth McCarthy, MSN, RNC-  
NIC

### Education Director

Kristen Gerhardt, MSN, RNC-NIC

### Membership Director

Kelly Roebuck, MSN, RNC-NIC

### Community Outreach Director

Heather Hopkins, BSN, RNC-NIC

### Advocacy Director

Tommie Farrell, BSN, RNC-NIC

### Podcast Director

Jennifer Hart, MSN, RNC-NIC, CBC

### Director of Communications

Cailin Tallent, BSN, RNC-NIC

## DVANN Out & About

### Mother's Home

We continue to visit Mother's Home in Upper Darby where we educate the mothers and mothers-to-be on topics related to everything from breastfeeding and safe sleep, to vaccinations and post-partum depression. It's always a wonderful time, and we hope you can join us at one of the events.

### Philabundance

As always, our time at Philabundance was both fun and fulfilling! DVANN members and their family members packed over 530 boxes of non-perishable foods for seniors with food insecurity! Missed this event? We will be planning another trip back in 2019.

### NANN

DVANN represented at the NANN Conference in Anaheim, CA (aka NANNaheim). Always a wonderful educational offering, our members had a great time, and learned a great deal to improve their practice.



# Advocacy Update

## Tommie Farrell, BSN, RNC-NIC

By the time this newsletter is published, we will have experienced a historic midterm election cycle based on participation alone. Engagement in politics can be important, but let's not lose sight of our own focus in healthcare. Healthcare policy is not politics. Sometimes it seems that they are intertwined, but it is important for us to identify when to wade into a political skirmish, or when it is best to find the small part that we own in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for patients.

Here are some ways to engage in advocacy and guess what?! You do most of this every single day.

- **Social Media:** Do you promote best practices in breastfeeding, immunizations, and yearly flu shots when you “like,” post, or retweet/tweet? You are an **ADVOCATE**.
- **Work Environment:** Do you educate your families about “best practice” around hand washing, use of medical equipment, infection control, or anything else? You are an **ADVOCATE**.
- **Personal Life:** How often have you been asked for your opinion about health concerns in your family or in the school drop-off line? Do you pause, reflect, and give your “best practice” answer? You are an **ADVOCATE**.

Everyone looks to **NURSES** for their thoughts and opinions as we are the most trusted profession! We model great behaviors in caring for America's patients. We are in a unique position to impact healthcare and policy at all levels. Don't underestimate your power! Let's take it to the next level by owning our expertise! Call, write, or email your local politician, school board, or township supervisor when you find that they are steering away from what you know is best for healthcare. Talk to their staff and start with identifying yourself as a RN. Let them know you heard something they said and would like to give them more information on the issue. You know when misinformation can harm patients, so step up your game. It is easier than you think! We are all **ADVOCATES**.

Respectfully,  
Tommie Farrell





## DVANN Fall Conference Awards

Please take a look at this year's award winners! Below are details on criteria for the award, what they will be receiving, and their nomination write-up.

### International Community Service Award: Morgan Oceanak

Purpose: To recognize and encourage nurses who provide volunteer outreach health assessment, treatment, and/or education to the international community.

Award: \$500 award and recognition in DVANN's *Preemie Press*.

Morgan's Nomination: Morgan volunteered through Love Volunteers in Cape Town South Africa for two weeks in a government funded health clinic. Morgan had a huge impact on the lives of those less fortunate in Cape Town. Most of the medical projects supported by the program are government funded local clinical facilities for people who cannot afford private medical care, and are severely understaffed and underfunded, with a lack of vital resources. Morgan volunteered through providing assessments, weights, vitals, vaccines, wound care, etc. Through her efforts, she helped to support the impoverished and disadvantaged people in the Cape Town community, making this a very rewarding experience that will serve her well as she works towards obtaining her advanced degree as a nurse anesthetist.



### Professional Development Award: Michele Farley

Purpose: To recognize and encourage professional development in neonatal nursing.

Award: \$500 award, a complimentary DVANN conference registration, and recognition in the *Preemie Press*.



Michele's Nomination: Currently, Michele is pursuing a degree from Wilmington University (Masters of Science in Nursing Leadership, Executive Track) to further her professional development as a nurse leader. She is passionate about neonatal nursing and ensures that she holding the highest standards of evidenced- based neonatal nursing practice and education by being a certified NICU nurse (RNC-NIC) as well as serves on her hospital's shared governance as a department chair. She holds monthly hospital wide meetings as well as dedicates half of her clinical time as Quality Practice and Patient Safety Chair in which she promotes the best possible patient outcomes through the presentation and discussion of clinical practice and practice related information, evidence based quality improvements, and safety initiatives.

Michele plans to use this award towards furthering her education by obtaining her MSN in Nursing Leadership at Wilmington University with an anticipated graduation date of June 2020. This money will help to lessen the financial burden of going to school as well as support her as she advances her professional development.



# DVANN Fall Conference Awards

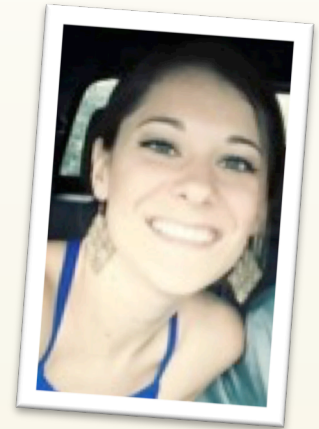
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## REACH Award Winners: Colleen Hemmerle & Tammie Meeker

Purpose: To recognize and encourage nurses who reach further to touch lives. The award will honor and recognize a nurse who has been nominated for her motivation to advance the practice of nursing in one of five categories (research, education, advancing bedside nursing, community interest, humanitarianism).

Award: One year free NANN and DVANN memberships, a complimentary DVANN conference registration, and recognition in DVANN's Preemie Press

Colleen's Nomination: Colleen has successfully filled the role of the Advanced Practice Education (APE) Chairperson for NICU East at CHOP. She has led a number of outstanding and comprehensive education role outs. Most recently, she helped educate 90+ nurses for pump integration. She also has strategically thought about professional growth and helped to host professional growth sessions for NICU staff focusing on organizational and national opportunities for growth. She has helped improve the unit's patient family education compliance and is the go-to for unit education. She is also professionally growing herself. She is enrolled in her MSN for Education, recently received her RNC-NIC, and over the past year has completed two professional development ladder opportunities: PEAK and PEAK II. While Colleen balances all these roles and the financial burden of her MSN, this DVANN/NANN membership will definitely help her to continue to manage of these vital roles.



Tammie's Nomination: Tammie has been a devoted member of NANN and DVANN for many years, in conjunction with her practice as a surgical neonatal nurse practitioner at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Tammie is a compassionate, kind and knowledgeable caregiver, supporting not only her patients and families but her colleagues as well. She is a standout provider and educator to those around her. In her place of work, Tammie is a go to resource for the surgical population, and is an expert provider for G-tubes, providing expert care to issues that arise and their treatment. More recently, Tammie presented at the annual NANN conference on TEF/EA management. Her lecture was valuable and well received by those who had the opportunity to hear her. For her professional involvement and education, I am honored to nominate Tammie for this year's DVANN REACH award.



**Want to nominate someone for our 2019 awards? Don't wait! You can submit nomination at any time! Just go to our website to obtain a nomination form, and submit it to [dvannurses@gmail.com](mailto:dvannurses@gmail.com)!**

## Congratulations to These Amazing DVANN Members!

DVANN's very own Lori Brittingham was awarded the Nightingale Award of Pennsylvania for her accomplishments as an advanced practice RN! Congratulations Lori! This is amazing!



Our fabulous Podcast Director, Jennifer Hart, submitted the DVANN podcast work to Haverford Township for consideration for their "compassionate award." We were lucky enough to receive an award with the township saying we helped to "foster a compassionate community" via our podcast!

## Meet Liz!

**Liz is one of the newest members of the Board, and took over in late summer as Secretary!**

Hi DVANN!! My name is Liz McCarthy and I am excited to be your new DVANN Secretary. I have been a nurse in CHOP's N/IICU for the past six years. I recently transitioned to the Education Nurse Specialist role, with a focus on nightshift, this past July. I love the energy DVANN members have and their drive for improving neonatal nursing. I also love their passion for getting involved and giving back to the community. A fun fact about me is that I'm getting married this January, and we are planning a wedding in under six months! Planning has been lots of fun, but super busy to say the least! I'm looking forward to meeting lots of DVANN members at events throughout the year!



## Upcoming Conferences

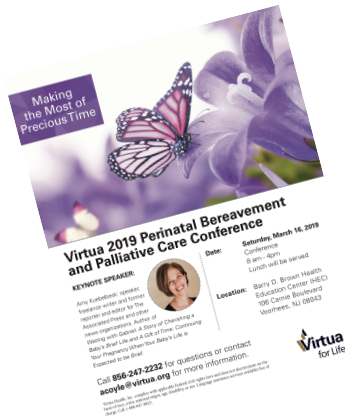
Please visit our website [dvannurses.org](http://dvannurses.org) and click on “Conferences” to download the following conference brochures.

**If you have an upcoming conference at your institution, and would like it featured in this newsletter, please email [dvannurses@gmail.com](mailto:dvannurses@gmail.com)**

# Children's Hospital of Philadelphia 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Chronic Lung Disease Conference

When: March 13, 2019

Where: The Union League of Philadelphia



## Virtua's 2019 Perinatal Bereavement & Palliative Care Conference

When: March 16, 2019

Where: Barry D. Brown Health Education Center (HEC),  
106 Carnie Blvd., Voorhees, NJ 08043

## Job Postings

**If there are NICU positions open in your organization, please let us know at [dvannurses@gmail.com](mailto:dvannurses@gmail.com).**

The level IV Newborn/Infant Intensive Care Unit at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia utilizes the latest technology to provide care to sick newborns and infants. The N/IICU is currently hiring Registered Nurses with a minimum of one year RN experience (acute care experience preferred). Positions are 24 or 36 hours per week, including every third weekend. CHOP does more than make a difference in the lives of children - we offer the same endless opportunities for growth, change, and support to the professionals who make up our team! Please click on the links below to apply:

Registered Nurse (experienced RN), NICU, 72 hours bi-weekly, rotating shifts

<https://career4.successfactors.com/sfcareer/jobreqcareer?jobId=22754&company=C0000169453P&username=>

Registered Nurse (experienced RN), NICU, 48 hours bi-weekly

<https://career4.successfactors.com/sfcareer/jobreqcareer?jobId=22283&company=C0000169453P&username=>

Please contact Kristina Cobey with the Nursing and Respiratory Career Center with questions at [cobey@email.chop.edu](mailto:cobey@email.chop.edu).



# Membership Update

Kelly Roebuck, MSN, RNC-NIC

## Membership Opportunities:

Interested in becoming a member of the board? Curious but not quite sure if you want to commit? We would like to offer a board mentorship program for interested candidates. If interested, please reach out to us via email at [dvannurses@gmail.com](mailto:dvannurses@gmail.com).

## Social event:

We are looking to bring back our annual social event. Historically our social events have been held by popular demand in the summer time at the Mann Center. We had a brief survey at a former winter dinner event where we heard from you some other popular ideas including a beach trip, an escape room, and continued events at the Mann Center. We will be putting together an upcoming social event and would like to see you there! Stay tuned for more information to come!

## Membership Spotlight:

Each edition of our newsletter we like to highlight one of our members. This can be anyone from a new member, to a standout colleague, someone who is actively involved in many projects, or just simply an awesome NICU nurse! Have an idea of someone to recognize? We would love to hear from you! Send us their name and a little bit about why they should be recognized, and we will do the rest!

## Recruitment:

DVANN continues to remain steady with our membership and active participation among members. Our current membership is 258 strong! We want to continue to grow and reach more NICU nurses in the Delaware Valley region. For that, we need your help!

There is little to no work involved! We would like to come speak to the nurses at your organization, both new nurses as well as experienced NICU nurses. Please reach out to Kelly Roebuck through [dvannurses@gmail.com](mailto:dvannurses@gmail.com) to help us get in contact with your manager to set up a date and time.

We also want to give you a free membership! How? Attend all DVANN events for one year or recruit two new members (and let us know to receive credit). Did you know group discounts are available? Group membership discounts are as easy as 1, 2, 3! See the NANN website at [www.nann.org](http://www.nann.org) for more details.

Stay tuned for NEW surprise opportunities to win a free membership in 2019!

-Kelly



## Thank you!

Dear DVANN Membership,

I just wanted to say that it has been a privilege to be your Director of Communications for the past four years! I hope that I have served you well. Working on your Board has been such great fun, and I have learned so much from this group.

This is my last newsletter that I will be putting together, and come January 2019, Caitlin will be taking the reigns! Please welcome her as you did me. I look forward to seeing everyone at future DVANN events!

Sincerely,

Cailin



### **Save the Dates!**

**We are working on a bunch of offerings for 2019, but we do have a few dates to mark on your calendars!**

**March 14, 2019**

**Winter Dinner Meeting**

**April 10, 2019**

**Annual DVANN/PPS Dinner Meeting**

**September 19, 2019**

**Membership Appreciation Dinner**

**November 12, 2019**

**DVANN Annual Fall Conference**