

Excellence in Leadership Development



Presented in memory of Sharon Connor, AACN director of membership and chapters from 1985 to 1997, for her advocacy of volunteerism and dedication to the success of chapters

Greater Washington Area Chapter – AACN Washington, DC

Greater Washington Area Chapter has consistently succeeded in attracting leaders who inspire others to excel as leaders. Our members work in many different areas of their respective facilities—and our medical institutions are competitive—but we are all united in our vision and goals. We are friends with the common interest of being the best. That competitive and friendly spirit has allowed our chapter to produce such great leaders.

Key points of our leadership development plan for succession:

- Elected officers and appointed board members have an understudy who is copied on all emails and works closely with the board member to prepare them to succeed.
- A “call for officers” to the board of directors, as well as the duties of each chapter position, is posted on our web site and distributed in our newsletter, at conferences and at dinner meetings.
- Many of the committee members who work on planning our annual conference have later become president of the chapter.
- We developed a succession resource called the If I Die Book which details how to run the chapter. Information known only to board members, such as passwords, is kept in a secure place with the chapter secretary.
- The chapter’s outgoing president hosts an annual “transition of power” meeting. This potluck and champagne toast celebration allows newly elected officers to meet with outgoing officers and discuss pending programs, exchange ideas and answer the “how do I do that?” questions. The previous year’s strategic plan is reviewed followed by a presentation on plans for the next year by the incoming president and president-elect.

The chapter’s leadership will continue to seek to inspire fresh voices to take on the challenge of shepherding the chapter to even greater success.