

AAOHN FOUNDATION

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSES FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chicago — The AAOHN (American Association of Occupational Health Nurses) Foundation is proud to announce the [2025 Board of Trustees](#). Each year members of the Board rotate off and on the Board. This staggered board membership allows for diversity of members, ideas and contacts. The newest Trustees appointed are Dr. Kathleen Golden, DNP, ANP-C, COHN-S, CCM, FAAOHN, FAANP and Michele I Willis BSN, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN.

Dr. Kathleen Golden brings over 45 years of nursing experience, including 29 years as a board-certified adult nurse practitioner. She holds certifications as a COHN-S and CCM, with clinical expertise in occupational and environmental health, college health, adult primary care, and care for unhoused populations.

In her academic career, Dr. Golden has taught doctoral, graduate, and undergraduate students in both traditional and online formats for over 25 years at universities on both the East and West Coasts. Dr. Golden has been deeply involved in professional nursing organizations, holding leadership roles on numerous local, state, and national boards, including those of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN) and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). She is currently a journal reviewer for *Workplace Health & Safety*, a position she has held for over 20 years, and is actively engaged with the Fellows section of AANP.

A recognized leader in her field, Dr. Golden has been honored as a fellow by both AANP and AAOHN. She is a sought-after national speaker on various topics within occupational health and wellness and has contributed numerous publications to the field. Kathleen earned her MSN and ANP from Simmons University in Boston, and her DNP in public health leadership from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Currently, Dr. Golden is a full time Assistant Professor at Samuel Merritt University in Oakland California where she teaches in the graduate and doctoral programs in College of Nursing.

Michele Willis is a registered nurse with over 47 years of nursing experience. A graduate of the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, she is a Certified Occupational Health Nurse Specialist and a Fellow of AAOHN. Over half of her career has been spent in the area of occupational health services both at employer sites and as the Manager of Frederick Health Hospital Employee Health. Her experience includes developing the necessary resources for the delivery of occupational health services at the worker site, overseeing the services of a mobile health unit, policy development, delivery of health and safety training programs, and development of and coordination of corporate wellness initiatives. As the Employee Health Manager for the health system, she was responsible for the health and safety of over 4000 individuals, collaborating with all levels of the organization. She continues working in Employee Health.

Michele has been an active member of AAOHN for over 20 years serving many roles in her local Chapter including President. She has been a member of the Chapter Resources/Membership Committee of AAOHN for more than 10 years and has served as committee chairman. Michele was an ABOHN Board

member for 2 consecutive terms and was Board Chair for the last 2 years of her term. She has presented at AAOHN Conference about the value of certification and has continued her involvement with ABOHN as a certification exam item writer since 2020.

I am pleased to announce that Laura Wilhoite, RN, COHN-S/CM FAAOHN continues as a Trustee and has been voted in as Vice Chair. Laura joined the Board of Trustees in 2023 and has been engaged in fundraising and reviewing our Bylaws and policy and procedures. Additionally, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Doug Hoffman, MSN, RN, COHN-S as Treasurer. Doug joined the Board of Trustees in 2021 and has been engaged in fundraising, Sponsorship, Scholarship and Grant reviews.

Stephanie Weinsier, Foundation Chair said, “The Foundation is delighted to welcome our new Board Trustees Kathleen Golden and Michele Willis as we know they will make a significant contribution, allowing the Foundation to achieve and exceed its mission and goals. And we are deeply appreciative to Shelaine Miller and Ralph Brown for their service in the roles of Treasurer and Vice Chair, respectively. Their significant contributions to the AAOHN Foundation during the pandemic have enabled us to successfully continue our mission despite a significantly challenging time in our history”.

The AAOHN Foundation is committed to ensuring occupational and environmental health nurses are the authority on health, safety, productivity and disability management for worker populations by providing them the opportunity to continue their education and conduct research.

To learn more about the AAOHN Foundation, visit <https://www.aaohn.org/AAOHN-Foundation/The-AAOHN-Foundation>. Every year, the AAOHN Foundation awards numerous scholarships, academic studies awards and research grants to occupational health and environmental nurses who qualify for these funds.

The Board of Trustees is charged with the task of securing funds to support this mission. The funds are made possible by generous donations from our sponsors, AAOHN chapters, and AAOHN members. Visit <https://www.aaohn.org/AAOHN-Foundation/Make-a-Contribution> to learn more about how you can support the Foundation with a charitable donation.

Still serving on the Foundation to drive innovation and ensure the mission and goals are met are Foundation Chair Stephanie Weinsier; Laura Wilhoite, Vice Chair; Doug Hoffman, Treasurer; Lara Spalding, Trustee; AAOHN Board Liaison William Thomack, AAOHN Ex-Officio Jennylynn Balmer, and Executive Director Catherine Pepler.

About the AAOHN Foundation

The American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Foundation (AAOHN Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, created by the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Inc. (AAOHN) in 1997 to enable occupational and environmental health professionals to improve worker health and safety by preventing workplace illnesses and injuries. Their purposes are accomplished through the awarding of grants and scholarships to support ongoing professional education, leadership development, and research initiatives within the field of occupational and environmental health. Learn more: Visit <https://www.aaohn.org/AAOHN-Foundation/The-AAOHN-Foundation>