



2026 NCONL Membership Meeting and Conference Schedule

“Nurse Leaders: Creating a Healthy Work Environment”

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 (Grandville Ballrooms C/D)

12:00pm	Registration Opens
1:00pm - 1:15pm	Welcome from NCONL President Chantal Howard, DNP, RN, CEN, NEA-BC
1:15pm - 2:45pm	Opening Keynote: “Building Bridges Not Walls: Leading Multigenerational Work Teams” Rose O. Sherman, EdD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN Professor Emeritus, Florida Atlantic University Editor, Emerging RN Leader Blog
2:45pm - 3:15pm	Break Sponsor: Cone Health
3:15pm – 4:15pm	“Where Science Meets Art: Leading with Creativity and Inspiring Teams” Donna Lake, PhD, RN, NEA-BA, FAAN Colonel, USAF (Retired) East Carolina University Professor Emeritus
4:15pm – 5:30pm	<u>2025 Poster Winners:</u> Best Research: “Preparing Nurses to Support the Family During Resuscitation: An Exploratory-Descriptive Qualitative Study” Kelly Powers PhD, RN, CNE, FNAP UNC Charlotte School of Nursing Jaclyn Duncan, MSN, RN, PCCN, NE-BC Nurse Manager, Atrium Health King’s Mountain Best Practice: “Improving Efficiency and Staff Satisfaction in the Operating Room Through a Revised Block Scheduling Framework at a Rural Community Hospital” Juli Forbes, DNP, RN Vice President/CNO, ECU Health Beaufort Hospital People’s Choice: “Goodbye Contract Labor.... Hello Internal Pipeline” Garth McClune, MSN, RN, NEA-BC Director, Resource Team, Advocate Health – Charlotte Market
5:30pm - 7:30pm	Poster Gallery Debut and Reception – Grandville Ballroom A Welcome by the Research Committee & Reception Sponsor: Wolters Kluwer

Thursday, April 16, 2026 (Grandville Ballrooms C/D)

7:00am	Registration Opens
7:30am - 8:30am	Breakfast in Grandville Ballrooms C/D
7:30am – 8:30am	Emerging Leader Breakfast in the Nottingham Room - Second Floor Breakfast Sponsor: Advocate Health
8:30am -8:45am	Day 1 Recap
8:45am - 10:00am	“So you want to be a Mentor/Mentee... Have you considered the consequences?” Ernest Grant, PhD, DSc(h), RN, FADLN, FAAN Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Duke University School of Nursing
10:00 am -10:50am	Break in Exhibitor Gallery/Poster Gallery Break Sponsor: Cone Health
11:00am – 12:00pm	“Legislative Update” Kimberly Gordon, DNP, CRNA Co-Founder, Healing Politics NCONL Legislative Chairperson
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch/NCONL Business Meeting
1:00pm – 2:30pm	“CNS Models and Value (ROI)” Duke Health: Michael Urton, DNP, APRN, AGCNS-BC, NEA-BC, FAMSN Stephanie Ross, MSN, APRN, AGCNS-BC, MEDSURG-BC, CNS Cone Health: Jessica Buckner, DNP, RN, AGCNS-BC Heather Tripp, MSN, APRN, AGCNS-BC, ONC Advocate: MaryAnn Moon, MSN, APNP, ACNS-BC Health: Carmen Shaw, DNP, RN-BC, NEA-BC, CPC
1:00pm – 2:30pm	** Break-Out Session for Emerging Leaders “Finance for Emerging Leaders: Departmental Budgeting Workshop” Kelly Kester, DNP, RN, NE-BC, CCRN Senior Director, Nursing, Heart Services Duke University Hospital
2:30pm – 3:20pm	Break in Exhibitor Gallery/Poster Gallery - Grandville Ballrooms A/B Break Sponsor: Cone Health
3:30pm – 4:30pm	“Influential Nursing Leadership: Relationship Building Tactics with Non-Nursing C-Suite Executives” Mary Strickland, DNP, MSN, RNC, NE-BC, Chief Nursing Officer Dr. Anne Shriner, Chief Medical Officer UNC Healthcare Nash
4:30pm – 5:30pm	District Break Out Meetings
5:30pm – 7:30pm	Exhibitor Gallery Reception – Grandville Ballrooms A/B Gift Basket Raffle and Prize Drawing (6:00pm) Welcome by Reception Sponsor: Qualivis

Friday, April 17, 2026 (Grandville Ballrooms C/D)

7:00am	Registration Opens
7:30am – 8:30am	Breakfast in Grandville Ballrooms C/D
7:30am – 8:30am	CNO Breakfast in the Nottingham Room - Second Floor Breakfast Sponsor: Duke Health
8:30am – 8:45am	Day 2 Recap
8:45am – 9:00am	Research Awards Ceremony
9:00am – 10:00am	“Emerging Leaders: Closing the Competency Gap” Samantha Belden, DNP, RN, CEN, NCONL Emerging Leader Mentor Nicole Deal, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, CAVRN, Novant Health Tiffany Burton, MSN, RN, CMSRN, NEA-BC, Advocate Health
10:00am – 10:30am	Break/Check-Out
10:30am – 11:30am	“Virtual Nursing, Reducing Nurses Cognitive Burden” Russell Tremblay, MSN, RN, CMSRN, NEA-BC, CAVRN Monica Valentine, MSN, RN, NE-BC Taylor Dye, BSN, RN, MS-BC Advocate Health
11:30am – 12:30pm	“Leadership that Heals: Prioritizing Nursing Well-being” Christina Bowen MD, ABIOM, DipACLM Chief Well-Being Officer, ECU Health Medical Director, Outer Banks Health Center for Healthy Living
12:30pm	Closing Remarks/Adjournment Chantal Howard DNP, RN, CEN, NEA-BC NCONL President

Cone Health is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the North Carolina Nursing Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission of Accreditation.