
SOUTH FLORIDA COUNCIL OF ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES, INC.

JULY 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all of the new Board members and we are thankful that all of the others remain. Unfortunately, it saddens me to announce that I will be resigning my position as President after 11 years on August 1, 2005. As many of you know, in March Governor Bush appointed me to the ARNP position on the Board of Nursing. This appointment requires the Florida Senate to do a strict review of your background, experience, education, and professional organizations, etc that you are involved in. The full Senate then has to confirm your appointment for you to fulfill your obligations for the position. Since I hold an officer position in a professional association it may be a potential conflict of interest, therefore I need to step down. It has been a true pleasure serving the council and watching it grow, as well as meeting so many new people and maintaining long and lasting friendships. As a founding member, I am very passionate about the council and will continue my membership and involvement as much as possible. Being selected to serve on the Board of Nursing is an honor and as the ARNP member I know I can help to enhance this profession at that level and

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2005-2006 BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT- VICKY STONE-GALE, ARNP

Open position after 8/1/05

HOME-954-423-8978 CELL 754-581-5126

FIRST V.P.- ROBIN PETIT, ARNP

HOME-954-565-1660 WORK-954-355-5756

2ND V.P.-PAT FORSYTH, ARNP

HOME- 954-962-7577 WORK-954-987-2020

TREASURER-CHERYL GREENBERG, ARNP

HOME-954-384-8252 WORK-954-986-9200

SECRETARY-PINKY CHANCE, ARNP

HOME-954-581-8137 WORK-954-583-4647

WAYS & MEANS-TODD THOMASON, ARNP

HOME-954-581-4292 WORK- 954-383-8836

NOM. COMMITTEE CHAIR-TERRI
FOCARACCI, ARNP

HOME-954-781-5930 WORK- 954-739-2571

SPECIAL EVENTS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AMY WALLER, ARNP

HOME-954-680-6554

DAMINICA MCPHILLIPS, ARNP

HOME-954-418-3318 WORK-722-4206

WELCOME TO ALL NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS!! IF YOU SHOULD HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE MEETINGS, JOBS, IDEAS, ETC, PLEASE CALL ONE OF US. WE ARE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN ANY IDEAS YOU MAY HAVE FOR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES, MEETING SUGGESTIONS, TOPICS, SPEAKERS, ETC.

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hopefully make a difference. Thank you for all of your support and I hope you all will strive to continue this council as the new President takes over.

Vicky

LEGISLATIVE

We continue to work hard and fight for our profession as we move forward each year. It is unfortunate that we have to continue the fight but if not organized medicine will take us over. This year we made some strides in the legislation with the bills being passed for you to (1) write Home Health orders, (2) perform and sign FDLE physicals, (3) sign handicap parking permits.

Unfortunately our DEA issue did not get on the agenda because of fighting two other important bills that had to be stopped or it would severely restrict our practice.

Those included the 33% supervision bill, which would require the physician to be on site 33% of the time you are practicing and the bill which would have given the Board of Medicine the right to regulate all nurses.

These two bills were stopped because they never made it to the Senate---FMA knew if they did they would have been shut down in the Senate. We need to protect our profession and the only way to do this is to become aware of what is happening in the legislature and become involved to stop it. You need to know who your legislators are and visit them to discuss the issues. You can find this out by looking at your voter's registration card for what House and Senate district you are in. Then see who is in that area you can visit. Many have no idea what an ARNP does and it is our job to educate them. If we don't take the initiative to try and help with change, then we shouldn't complain when negative changes occur in our profession.

SFCAPN MEMBERSHIP

Remember that our council no longer requires FNA membership, so encourage your colleagues to join the SFCAPN group. If they are interested in joining they can call any Board member or email me at vsgalearnp@comcast.net

SPECIAL EVENTS

Our special events committee will be working hard this year to put together a Legal seminar schedule to take

place in April of 2006. We hope to have a full day seminar with break out sessions for seasoned ARNP's and students to take part in. This is in the planning stages now so watch for more information to follow. We will also continue our 50/50 raffle at each meeting.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

If anyone has any current job positions they know of please send them to me via e-mail or by phone. There are many people looking and we need to pass around any opportunities. What may not be of interest to one person may be the perfect opportunity for another. Please remember that when you are interviewing out there, DO NOT sell yourself short. If you settle for a low salary, then it sets the precedence for other ARNP's searching. You may get turned away but eventually someone will pay you what your worth. We are all worth every penny of what we are asking. Also don't forget your benefits-paid malpractice, health insurance, CEU reimbursement, vacation & sick time. Those should be negotiated also. And do not forget to have a contract. It will protect both you and your employer. You should have attorney assistance in writing a contract to ensure accuracy and coverage protection. I highly recommend "Nurse Practitioner's Business Practice & Legal Guide" by Carolyn Buppert. She has sample contracts, protocols, state-to-state guidelines and laws. What a wonderful book and you can order it on line by looking at the following website: www.nurse.net or by calling 1-800-638-8437 and tell operator to keycode in AB108. It is well worth the \$82.00

PRESCRIBERS LETTER

Do you know what the latest is on the drugs? Their side effects? What has gone to controlled status?

The Prescriber's Letter is an excellent resource for NP's. It will inform you of changes and new drug and treatment information. The cost is \$88/year but well worth it.

Order at www.prescribersletter.com or call 209-472-2240.

We still have plenty of license plates for sale that say, "Promote your help-visit a Nurse Practitioner". Cost \$10.00

Practice Issues

It is important that your protocols are up to date and filed with the Board of Nursing yearly. **This is your responsibility.** You also must keep a copy at your work site in case of a surprise audit. Also make sure your collaborating physician sends a yearly update to the Board of Medicine. Know what is supposed to be in your protocol and ensure you have back up coverage, phone coverage and chart review documentation in the protocol. See the Florida Board of Nursing MQA web site for information on what is to be included.

MEDIA ATTENTION

Once again, we stress getting media coverage. If you know of someone at the Sentinel or Herald who would be willing to do an article on an ARNP, let me know.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Your membership applications are enclosed with the newsletter. Please get them returned as soon as possible so your cards can be mailed out early. If your colleague does not have an application, please make copies and give to them or any students interested in joining.

MEETING TIDBITS

The buffet dinner seems to be a hit and everyone can find something on the buffet that pleases him or her. We will continue the buffet through the next year since we have received so many great comments.

Remember elections are now held in December with new officers taking office in January. This helps to prevent filing corporation papers twice in a year. If you are interested in running for any board position please let us know. We welcome new faces and ideas.

PRESCRIPTION PADS

One of the problems we are having is that the pharmacists still are not following the law by placing you as the prescriber on the RX bottle label. Pharmacists in the area tell me that even with physicians writing the RX they have a tendency to put the first name listed on the pad (if there are multiple names) on the bottle label. To try to eliminate this problem it is suggested that you get your

own Rx pads with your name only on it and place your license number on the pad. Pharmacist can then fill it with your name and license number and will not have a physician name to place on the bottle. **The physician's name does not have to be on your RX pad.** I am in the process of working with Medi-scripts and trying to get the pharmaceutical companies to sponsor ARNP's with them and this way you can have a solo prescription pad.

One other option is to talk to the pharmaceutical reps in your area to see if they can do your pads. I was able to get solo prescription pads through Schering –Plough and they can order for you through their company. Ask your Schering-Plough rep to process the request for you.

NPI ENUMERATOR

Soon your UPIN number for Medicare will be replaced with an NPI number. The date this goes into effect is approximately May, 2007. This is a national number that will be used for everything regarding Medicare to identify you. Instead of UPIN numbers every provider will have an NPI number. They are recommending you apply now for this number before the rush starts. You can do this on line or by mail---go to www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov and follow the links and steps to download the form or complete it on line. I did this and had my number in 10 days. Store it in a safe place, like with your protocols and license so you won't forget where it is. Your billing person should also be made aware you have applied and received this number for when it is needed in the future.

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer and continue to be a part of our council. The networking is great, lectures are informative with CEU's given, the food is good, and the cost is very reasonable for what you get.

You will make new friends and possibly develop life long friendships! Share our newsletter with your colleagues, students and friends and encourage them to attend to stay abreast of what is happening in our profession. Being involved in a professional organization will benefit you in the long run---how else can you be kept so up to date on your profession's issues?

Hope to see you in September

Vicky Stone-Gale, ARNP

SOUTH FLORIDA COUNCIL OF ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES, INC.
MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE FT. LAUDERDALE AIRPORT WYNDHAM
GRIFFIN ROAD & I-95

REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 P.M.
MEETINGS WILL START PROMPTLY AT 6:45 P.M.

A BUFFET DINNER WILL BE SERVED DURING THE LECTURES.

MEETING DATES AND TOPICS

SEPTEMBER 20TH

Restless Leg Syndrome

Speaker to be announced

Sponsor—Smith Kline Beecham

MARCH 21ST

Diagnosis and Treatment of Malignant Melanomas

Maggie Oliviero, ARNP Derm/Melanoma Specialty
Plantation

Grant sponsored

NOVEMBER 15TH

TO BE ANNOUNCED

MAY 16TH

Legislative Update

Barbara Lumpkin, RN FNA

Vertebroplasty

Sponsor-Kyphon

JANUARY 17TH

BPH and Prostate Cancer

Paul Kahn, M.D. Urologist, Plantation FL

Grant from Boehringer-Ingelheim

JULY 18TH

Topic to be announced

YOU MUST RSVP FOR EACH MEETING TO TODD THOMASON AT
TDTANC@AOL.COM

TOPICS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE