



Florida Nurse Practitioner Network

May- June 2014 Newsletter Bullets

Good Morning!

We would like to bring you up to date on what's new in your own backyard of Florida. In this newsletter you will find the following:

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Quote of the Month:

*"One person with a belief is equal to a force of ninety-nine who have only interests."
- Peter Marshall*

FNPN Conference

Mark your calendars and invite your colleagues to the 11th Annual FNPN educational conference! Our theme this year is "Freedom to Practice: Charting our Course". The conference will be held Friday & Saturday August 22 & 23, 2014 @ the beautiful Wyndham Buena Vista, Orlando. Register early for this action packed event that will include the new Florida mandatory licensure requirement! Our Keynote speakers this year are Barbara Safriet J.D., LL.M, FAANP, Jeff Bauer, PhD, and Tay Kopanos, DNP.

In addition to our all-star line-up of national speakers, FNPN will honor Senator Denise Grimsley and Representative Cary Pigman with "Distinguished Legislator" awards. Both were instrumental with legislation that would have significantly enhanced nurse practitioner practice thereby improving care access.

Also instrumental in advocating nurse practitioner practice, Allison Carvajal, will be presented with the Distinguished Advocate Award.

We hope that you will join us later that afternoon for an intimate "fireside" chat with these legislators and advocates and learn firsthand about the current and future legislative climate.

For more information or to register for the conference, [please click here](#)

Message From AANP

Gail Sadler MSN, ARNP-BC, FAANP President of ANPB and AANP Florida State Representative

FLORIDA NP'S, How proud we are of Dr. Jan Towers, she has been there for Florida year after year. If you are attending AANP in Nashville, please introduce yourself to Jan and thank her for her lifetime work committed to NPs.

The induction ceremony is open to all so if your state members wish to come by and congratulate Jan at the presentation that would be nice and if they have other plans ask all to stop and tell her thanks for all she does and still does for NPs!

It is with great pleasure that the Executive Committee of the Fellows of AANP announce the 2014 recipient of the Loretta C. Ford Award. Dr. Jan Towers a pioneer in the Nurse Practitioner movement. Dr. Towers is recognized and sought after by policy makers and professional organizations for her expertise in health care policy that centers on patient outcomes and advances the practice of nurse practitioners. Dr. Towers has worked tirelessly to advance the role of the nurse practitioner.

A founding member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners she has committed her career to nurse practitioners of all specialties. Working to increase visibility of NPs across the country and as a participant in shaping the organization to become the largest full service organization for nurse practitioners globally. Dr. Towers is founding editor of the Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and founding director of the AANP Certification Program.

Dr. Towers will be honored at the 2014 Fellows induction on Thursday, June 19th at 6:30 pm. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Towers.

Legislation Update

Jean Aertker-VP Legislation

[CLICK HERE to visit our 2014 legislative page for more legislative updates](#)

Shining Stars

Dr. Debbie Friedrich wins Champions of Health Award

On April 17 the Manatee Chamber of Commerce celebrated its second annual Champions of Health awards breakfast honoring finalists and winners in nine categories. Dr. Debbie Friedrich, immediate past legislative Vice President of FNP, was selected as a finalist in the Nursing category.

Dr. Friedrich is tireless in her commitment to improving health care and health outcomes through practice, research, and education including interprofessional practice and education. She is a pioneer in improving preventive cardiology within the primary care practice setting in Manatee County.

Dr. Friedrich has been equally determined in her role to improve the cardiovascular health and understanding for professionals and patients. She has served a leadership role for the National Lipid Association Summer Clinical Lipid Update and a multiyear term board member for the Southeast Lipid Association. Recently, she spearheaded the National Million Hearts Initiative for the University of South Florida College of Nursing .

Dr. Friedrich also participated in the USF Sarasota-Manatee Blueprint for Health Professions – a federally funded study to improve the preparation of health professionals, and in particular nursing, to meet workforce demands in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

Currently she is teaching nurse practitioners in the College of Nursing, Doctoring I and II in the College of Medicine at the University of South Florida and practices in Bradenton, Florida at Palma Sola Internal Medicine.

Her expertise, collaborative nature, and willingness to serve, regardless of compensation, have earned her tremendous respect from our colleagues in medicine, physical therapy, and pharmacy.

Laureen Fleck Wins Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year!

Congratulations to FNP PAC Chair Laureen Fleck. Laureen was nominated and selected for South Region Florida Nurses Association (FNA) Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year. Laureen was recognized for outstanding clinical contributions to patients and community, especially in diabetes care and management, entrepreneurial business contributions in NP healthcare initiatives and faculty contributions to students and peers in innovative business and research/practice issues.

Around the State and Around the Nation

NP Concerns Amid Veterans Healthcare Issues

Submitted by Jean Aertker

Amid the crisis in the VA system nationwide, there is always concern when the news looks for filler stories to post. This one ran in the NY Times and quotes a former physician provider who makes a negative comment about NP quality of care. Be mindful of such comments and support our VA NP colleagues who do a great job caring for the Veterans. If the physician shortage is directly related to the loss of lives and delays in care as reported, then fix that shortage of physician specialists and do not use this flawed operations issue to disparage the good name and expertise of NPs.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/30/us/doctor-shortages-cited-in-va-hospital-waits.html?emc=edit_th_20140530&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=42577187

Education Updates:

Jul 23

[Metabolic and Endocrine Disease Summit](#)

Wednesday, July 23 2014 at 7:00am ET in Lake Buena Vista, FL

Aug 22

[FNP Annual Clinical Conference](#)

Friday, August 22 2014 at 12:00pm ET in Lake Buena Vista, FL

Sep 20

[2014 U.S. Psychiatric and Mental Health Congress](#)

Saturday, September 20 2014 at 7:15am ET in Orlando, FL

Please check for important educational opportunities posted on our website at www.fnpp.org.

Job Announcements!

There have been many new **job postings** around the state on our web site at www.fnpn.org for those of you that may have an interest. On our new website, the most recent postings are on the front page. A new feature will allow postings to be visible for 90 days. Please feel free to pass this along to your colleagues who may be interested in it as well, or who may have an interest in finding out more about our network. For those of you that have found jobs on our website, please be sure to let us know!

Do you know an employer who might find the FNP Job posting a worthwhile site? If so, please be sure to tell them about the website and the fact that on average 20 or more jobs are posted each month. The traffic to our website is incredible and we have more and more folks seeking employment through this site than ever before. Let them know you saw it on the FNP Website!

Membership Update

Pamela Johnson-Membership Chair

Dear Members,

In order for us to have our voices heard in Tallahassee, we will need to increase our membership, at the same time working hard to retain current members. One of our goals this year will be to actively work on recruiting new members to FNP to make our organization stronger.

Renewal Reminder-Membership in FNP runs on an annual basis Jan-Dec. Please renew your membership today. Membership in FNP can be as a group or individual member.

Individual members belong and receive many benefits as part of their membership-frequent communication during the legislative session (or special sessions), a paid lobbyist based in Tallahassee, access to posted job opportunities, access to posted upcoming conferences and many more benefits. If you belong to your local NP group you are not an FNP member until you join FNP individually, group and individual membership are two separate levels of membership. I encourage you to visit our newly redesigned web page today www.fnpn.org and while you're there you can renew online.

Group Presidents- please renew today and continue to be an integral part of our growing organization. We value our group members as this creates a vital network of NP groups throughout the state. These groups help disseminate information about trends, issues and changes impacting NP's at the state and national level. As a group member we will also assist with conference planning and obtaining approval for CEU's if offered. We will also assist with promoting your conferences and activities and can provide assistance or link you with support in web design.

FNP now has several options for membership:

\$75.00 - New Member /Renewing

\$50.00 - Student / Retired Member

\$120.00 - NP Group Member

\$120.00 - Organization Member

As the Chair of the Membership Committee I am always open to suggestions and new ideas. If you have any questions, please contact me. This year, when joining/renewing, we also ask you to consider 'bringing a friend' to the registration table and helping build our organizations to where they should be. With the numbers of Advanced Practice Nurses nearing 15,000 in Florida, we should have a strength that can overcome any push from our medical community. We hope you will let us nurture that side of you if you need it and engage those around you to do the same. Please be sure to contact us should you have

questions about legislation, membership, education and more. Our Executive Assistant, Regina, is always available either by phone, computer and even skype!

FNP PAC Update

As voters, we are in a position to support the candidate of our choice by promoting their campaign not only on Election Day but by participation and promotion of the candidate's campaign promises.

Advanced practice nurses in Florida have not been able to practice to the full extent of our scope of practice and education because of political restrictions imposed on us in the House and Senate.

Our PAC committee will be traveling throughout the state to raise money and participate in fund raising efforts to build OUR VOICE in the Florida political arena. We will also support the candidates that support our issues by monetary contributions to their campaigns.

We need your help! Money is Power!! A brilliant legislative session is expected and we are closer than ever to reach our goals. We have a lobbyist working with us. We are well informed and networked in Tallahassee. She keeps the constant flow of information current. We cannot achieve our goals with this disruption of policy and politics! Without you, your patients, family and community support we are invisible. Become a member of the FNP PAC Committee.

Consider your commitment to our profession. We are ARNPs in private practice, hospital settings, colleges, universities and clinics throughout the state! We are YOU !

If each person in our membership donated \$10 and asked 5 more people to donate \$10 we would be on our way to political success! We have a membership of 4,300 ARNPs in Florida. We are solid, we are YOU!

[To make a contribution please click here](#)

News You Can Use



The Florida NP Network has taken the next step to keep our members informed. Keep abreast of changes in your practice around the state and around the nation. You can join us today on Facebook under Florida Nurse Practitioner and Twitter under FloridaNP. We hope to hear from you.

Send us your articles

It is wonderful to spotlight Nurse Practitioners and highlight happenings in your area. Please submit names and events to floridanpnetwork@gmail.com. FNP PAC newsletter welcomes your input!

What is a Nurse Practitioner?

A very clever video produced by nursing students at UNC-Chapel Hill!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F91ggaQs7Lc>

Modernizing Florida's use of Advance Practice Registered Nurses

Florida Action Coalition

With an increasingly older and sicker population, and a shortage of primary care physicians, better use of Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) can improve access to care, quality of care, and help contain costs.

Access

Numerous studies have found that the modernization of outdated supervision and reimbursement practices for APRNs would improve access to health care.

- A 2014 Federal Trade Commission study recommended that removing physician supervision requirements for nurse practitioners (NPs) and nurse anesthetists (NAs) would benefit consumers by improving access to care, containing costs, and expanding innovation in health care delivery...Removing unnecessary and burdensome requirements may benefit consumers by increasing competition among health care providers.¹
- The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, after a lengthy and rigorous review of the evidence in 2010, recommended that states remove outdated barriers preventing APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education and training.²
- The National Governors' Association, in 2012, concluded that to better meet the increasing need for primary care, states may want to ease practice restrictions and modify reimbursement policies to better utilize NPs.³
- The World Health Organization (WHO), in December 2013, recommended strengthening the role of nurse practitioners and strongly supported nurse/midwife-led primary health care models for sustainable, safe, cost-effective delivery around the globe.⁴

Quality

Research from 2003 to the present demonstrates the high quality of care provided by APRNs based on patient satisfaction, time spent with patients, prescribing accuracy, key health outcomes, wellness, patient follow-up, and reduction of adverse outcomes. On all of these measures, APRNs are equal to and/or exceed the quality of care provided compared to other health care providers.

- A 2010 review of multiple studies comparing the primary care provided by NPs to primary care provided by physicians found that patients of both groups had comparable health outcomes. NPs were found to outperform MDs in measures of consultation time, patient follow-up, and patient satisfaction.⁵
- A meta-analysis of 11 research trials comparing pregnancy and birthing care led by certified nurse midwives (CNM) with traditional care models concluded that CNM care is associated with reduced adverse outcomes and shorter newborn hospital stays without any reduction in maternal or child health.⁶
- A 22-state study of Medicare patients found no difference in outcomes between CRNAs or anesthesiologists working alone or as part of a care team.⁷
- A 2012 National Governors Association report found that NPs provided at least equal quality of care to patients as compared to physicians in studies measuring patient satisfaction, time spent with patients, prescribing accuracy, the provision of preventive education and key health outcomes.³

Cost

Recent studies have projected millions of dollars of cost savings by having APRNs practice to the full extent of their education and training.

- A Rand study of the Massachusetts healthcare system projected a savings of \$4.2 to \$8.4 billion for the years of 2010-2020 if state regulations of nurse practitioners and physician assistants (PAs) allowed them to practice primary care to the full extent of their education and training.⁸
- In 2010, the Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) reported that expanding APRN and PA scope of practice would result in cost savings from \$7 million to \$44 million annually for Medicaid patients alone, and \$339 million across the entire Florida health care system.⁹

- The 2010 Lewin Group's cost analysis of anesthesia in the U.S concluded that delivery models using medical direction are not as cost-effective as CRNAs acting independently and often are not financially sustainable without subsidies. In areas of low demand such as rural hospitals, CRNAs acting independently are the only model likely to have positive net revenue.¹⁰

References

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