

# The

# Advocate

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2011 Online Edition 4 ELEANOR HOBBS, PH.D., ANP, *Editor*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



After a long, cold, and snowy winter, I hope you are all enjoying the warmer sunny weather and longer days of spring. We sold out our Annual Conference held at the Crest Hollow on April 8th in record time. We had two outstanding speakers, Wendy Wright MS, ARNP, FNP, FAANP, and Margaret Fitzgerald DNP, FNP-BC, NP-D, FAANP, CSP who got rave reviews. I would like to thank

Debra Chalmers, Program Chair, who spent hundreds of hours assuring that each and every detail was addressed so that we would all have a perfect day. This year many of our attendees registered on line using Pay Pal. Many thanks to Carol D'Abbraccio, who worked out all of the issues with Pay Pal, and assisted many members with using this new system.

There are many members who volunteer to make our Annual Conference the successful day that it is; and without "all hands on deck", we would not be able to have this conference. Debra was able to work her magic once again, and we will have the pleasure of having Wendy Wright and Margaret Fitzgerald return for our 2012 conference, scheduled for March 30th, once again at the Crest Hollow.

Our May dinner meeting about treating diabetes held at Carlton on the Park was both informative and enjoyable. This was the program snowed out in January, but it was certainly worth the wait. The June dinner will be held in Melville, about H-Pylori. There are no summer dinner meetings; but look for email notification this summer about our September dinner meeting.

As you probably already know, this is a very important legislative year for NPs. Our Legislative Chair, Dr. Mary Beth Koslap-Petraco has been doing an amazing job setting up lobby visits with key Long

Island Legislators to educate them about the importance of our three (3) bills. Many thanks to Jeanne Martin, our Regional Director, and Secretary, who painstakingly went through our whole membership list and was able to identify each member's senate and assembly district. Mary Beth then uses this list to contact our members to make legislative visits. As we all know legislators want to hear from their constituents. For those members who have gone on legislative visits, thank you! If you have not been on a visit, please think about going if Mary Beth contacts you. You will not have to go alone, and will be with an experienced NPA LI member.

Although our membership is now over 700, there are still many of your colleagues who do not belong to The NPA. I ask that each of you recruit just one new member. For anyone that is precepting students, informing your student NPs about the benefits of membership should be part of what you are teaching them. The changes in the healthcare landscape are exciting; but we need to have all of the NPs joined together to help facilitate change.

Nominations are in for our NP of the Year award. We look forward to honoring our winner at our 30th Anniversary dinner program in the fall. A big thank you to Anne Klassert and her committee, who make this a great event every year.

If you serve on a committee, I would like to personally thank you for everything you do to help our chapter be so successful. If you have not volunteered as of yet, please consider working with one of our committees...even a few hours of your time every few months would be very helpful. If you are interested, please email the chair of the committee that interests you, this information is on the web site.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer, and I look forward to seeing you in September.

*Diane Massucci*

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

We are winding down our scheduled programs for the summer; dinner meetings will resume in September.

1. "Managing Diabetes One Step at a Time" presented May 5, 2011, at The Carlton: this meeting was originally scheduled in January, before the snowstorm forced us to cancel the program. It was definitely worth waiting for. If you attended and would like a copy of the slides, please let me know.

2. The June 1, 2011, program, "Helicobacter pylori: Importance of Appropriate Testing and Management" will be held at Blackstone Steakhouse. Both of these events are networking meetings, not CE events. We have decided to open the June meeting to nonmembers, but they must still be pre-registered. No onsite registration will be allowed.

Please check the NPALI website in late summer for fall events. All dinner meetings are for members only.

The annual "Practice Issues" conference held on April 8, 2011, at the Crest Hollow Country Club was an overwhelming success, judging by the evaluations collected. The conference actually sold out two months in advance. If anyone knows of a place that can accommodate a large group like ours, we might be interested in a larger venue for 2013. These conferences need to be planned well over a year in advance.

The 2012 "Practice Issues" conference will be held on Friday, March 30, 2012 again at the Crest Hollow Country Club. We have invited Wendy Wright and Margaret Fitzgerald back for an encore appearance due to popular demand. If you really want to attend, send your registration in as early as possible. We have discussed giving preference to current members in 2012, before opening the event up to nonmembers. No registrations will be accepted until the flyers go out in January 2012. I confirm all registration for any NPALI event; please don't make the mistake of assuming you are registered if you don't receive an email confirmation from me.

I know many of you are happy to get together on a monthly basis just for networking; it would be great if we could squeeze more CE events in. If anyone has access to CE programs or grants, they are certainly welcome to contact me. The issue is of course, we need to figure out how to pay for the

dinners if we don't have a sponsor.

Please feel free to contact me @debrachalmers@nyc.rr.com at any time with questions and concerns. Often the feedback I get is anonymous, though it is more helpful to me if you actually give me the opportunity to contact you directly about your concerns.

I want to thank the Board of Directors and the members of NPALI for their continued support.

*Debra A. Chalmers, MA, ANP-BC*

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Happy Spring! Community Service has been busy and our NPALI members have been amazingly generous this past winter. The February and March Meetings were dedicated to collecting items for our Soldiers. Members brought in needed items and those who did not have time to shop donated money. Community Service Committee Members went shopping with the \$384.00 collected and we were able to get many more needed items. We donated the items to the Blue Star Mothers, which is a non-profit group of mothers who have, or have had, children honorably serving in the military. They sent our donations overseas to our troops. The following is a quote from their letter:

"We would like to thank you & your organization for the cookies, nuts and other items that you donated. These were wonderful snacks that may remind them of home! Your generosity lets our troops serving overseas and veterans here at home know that America has not forgotten them."

At the May meeting, we did a 50/50 collection, and the money collected will help purchase Baby care items for pregnant women in need. In June, we will be collecting Baby care items for the Suffolk County Department of Health "BABY SHOWERS". Please see our website for needed items.

We want to thank our members for their generosity and hope everyone has a happy, healthy summer. Anyone interested in joining us please call Linda at 631-744-0813 or Debbie at 631-205-5161.

See you in the fall!

*Linda Aumock And Debbie Deierlein*

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**VISIT US ON THE WEB AT  
[www.npali.org](http://www.npali.org)**

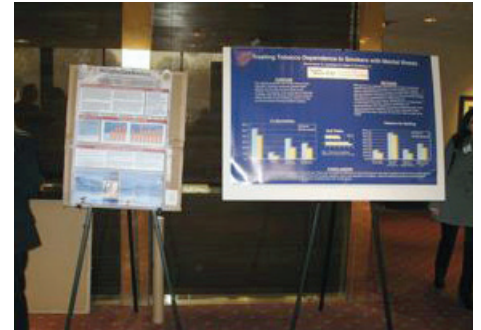
# ANNUAL PRACTICE ISSUES CONFERENCE, APRIL 2011



*Smooth Registration*



*Karen Stellato, ANP, and  
John DiPietro, ANP*



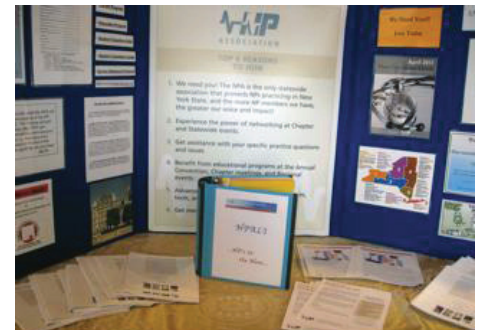
*Poster Presentations*



*Anne Klassert, Mary Beth Petraco,  
Eleanor Hobbs and Debra Chalmers*



*Diane Massucci, President NPALI  
and Wendy Wright, Speaker*



*NPA Table*



*Bruce Zitkus and Mary Beth Petraco*



*Ingrid Bloomfield, Laughing and Learning*



*Margaret Fitzgerald*



*NPALI Board of Directors*



*Andrea McCloy, FNP, Nicole Capogna, FNP,  
Laura Galeotafiore, FNP and Luisa Santos, ANP*



*Jeanne Martin, NPA Regional Director*

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

It is with great pleasure that we announced the SNP Scholarship Recipients at the Annual Conference on April 8th. They were Ruchi Sharma and Harleen Bedi both of Adelphi University. All the SNP Schools on Long Island were represented in the candidates that applied. It is always a tough decision for the Scholarship Committee to make the final pick.

Most of the candidate's qualifications were quite similar, and it is often the strength of the Letter of Intent that was the tie-breaker. The Letter of Intent was the factor that made you pursue the SNP track. It is okay to give accolades to your Professors and or School but that doesn't tell us anything about your intent. They may have reinforced your decision to be an NP but were not the reason you originally had taken that path. Also, why you need the scholarship is not intent. Everyone can find a need to use extra funds. Any of the students that applied can reapply in the fall if they are still actively pursuing their studies as a SNP.

Just a reminder that all the requirements are on NPALI.org web site. The candidate is disqualified if they did not submit an official transcript or a Curriculum Vitae.

The date for the fall has not yet been set. It will be the same date for SNP and the DNP Scholarship. It is usually the end of October or in November. The date will be posted on the NPALI web site and also sent out with the weekly updates sent to our members.

Any questions can be directed to myself at [rncass52@hotmail.com](mailto:rncass52@hotmail.com) or to any member on the committee.

Have a great summer!

*Rose Cassidy*

## MEMBERSHIP

Currently, we have over 730 members. We always want that number to increase, but we are also very interested in the retention of our present members. Past members have said "but, I am too busy to get anything out of the membership". Every person is a voice even if only reflected in a membership total. Legislators are very interested in total membership. Numbers tell them about strength. They know that they must have

a number of constituents with a group this large. Therefore, as you can see our goal is to have every NP and SNP on Long Island become a member, and stay a member. If you are retired, it is nice to know your actions still have a significant impact through membership.

Recently, at the Annual Conference at the Crest Hollow, Margaret Fitzgerald reminded us that it is of utmost importance to belong to not only a National Organization but also to your local or State organization.

Please go to the NYS NPA web site to review the latest incentives for recruiting new members such as NPA bucks and for ways the SNP can transition into NP practice and still afford to maintain membership.

Please remember to update your contact information if it has changed since completing your membership application.

*Rose Cassidy*

## LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEE

Our lobby visits are off to a great start with the spirit of cooperation and assistance from many of our members! To date we have visited three legislators among them Senator Dean Skelos, the most powerful Republican legislator in New York! In past years it took many months of intense calls and letters to get an appointment with Senator Skelos, and this year it only took a few weeks! That really says something that such an influential legislator is willing to meet with our members on a timely basis. A huge thank you to Peg O'Donnell, Susan Smith, and Pat Sullivan who visited Senator Skelos. The senator asked some good questions, but the consensus was that he was not sure what NPs do. He seemed surprised when he was told NPs all had prescriptive privileges. Pat Sullivan made very good points about preventive care and keeping elderly out of the hospital thereby saving money. Pat Sullivan (who has her own business), spoke a good deal about home care, and how her visits save health care dollars. Susan Smith and Peg O'Donnell spoke a good deal about primary care saving health care dollars. The senator said he

was “very interested”, and asked where the bills stood in the legislature. He was going to “follow up”, and “look at this closely.” According to Peg O’Donnell this was a very positive visit and we do have Senator Skelos’ attention.

Pat Bruckenthal and Patricia Hansen visited Assemblyman Andrew Raia. Mr. Raia was versed on the three bills. He had the Newsday editorial which supports the repeal of mandatory collaboration on his desk and he was supportive of the bills. His only question was why the Medical Society of the State of New York was not on board. We talked about perceived threats to their practice, but in reality how the Modernization Act would not change that. We also spoke of the impact of the ACA, the impact on providing primary care to New Yorkers and how NP’s have always been there to take care of those with no or lower reimbursement. Dr. Bruckenthal advised the Assemblyman that other physician groups such as the Family Practice MD’s are in full support of our practice and reminded him that Collaborative Practice Agreements do not mean that we are supervised. He was surprised that some NP’s have to pay for an MD to enter into a Collaborative Practice Agreement. Assemblyman Raia felt the midwives laws of 2010 opened the doors for us.

It was a very positive meeting.

Assemblyman Raia was quite surprised that NPP’s are not able to admit to inpatient psychiatric facilities. As per the Valid Signature Bill, Assemblyman Raia was told of an example where an NP could not sign a “sick note” for a patient that the NP had been seeing for 5 years because the language in her employment policy only allowed a physician to sign her sick notes. In summary Assemblyman Raia said” As far as the two clean up bills (mental health and valid signature), I am rock solid.” Raia stated that he is on the Health Committee and the NP Modernization Act is in the Higher Education Committee. The Assemblyman did state “But if the bill comes across my desk, I will sign it.”

Senator LaValle was visited by Linda Aumock, Marion Golden, Sheryl Nilsen, Yvonne Piniro, and Alison Abrams on April 18. In summary, while Senator LaValle stated he supported NPs, he was not forthcoming with his all-out support of our bill to remove statutory collaboration,

but he did state that the future of primary care is with NPs. At this time Assemblyman Raia would commit no further.

We have many more lobby visits coming up. If you receive an email to make a visit to your elected official, please make every effort to say yes. You will not be going alone and we have excellent Talking Points from The NPA to prepare you for the visit. We have appointment(s) for visit(s) to Senator John Flanagan and Assemblymen James Conte and David McDonough coming up very shortly. Lisa DiSanto Grossman is aggressively working on getting appointments with more legislators who have been targeted by The NPA for local visits.

Our very aggressive legislative agenda will not move forward without the support to the PAC. We need to continue to encourage anyone who has not made a donation should do so at their earliest convenience. Please make sure the check is written to “The NPA PAC.” Please mail it to The NPA at 12 Corporate Drive, Clifton Park, NY 12065.

The bills are listed below. I will continue to include all of the bills and their numbers as we become aware of them in each Legislative Report. The only bill which does not have both a Senate and Assembly sponsor is the Mental Health bill which was duly noted by Senator LaValle during the visit to his office.

\* [A 5308 \(Gottfried\)/S.3289 \(Young\) - NP Modernization Act](#) - Establishes the nurse practitioners modernization act which allows the practice of registered professional nursing by a certified nurse practitioner to include diagnoses and performance without collaboration of a licensed physician.

\* [A.2157 \(Gottfried\)/S.3881 \(Hannon\) - Valid Signature Bill](#) - An act to amend the education law, in relation to authorizing nurse practitioners to perform functions in conjunction with clinical services within their scope of practice. (Otherwise known as our Valid Signature Bill encompassing issues such as DNR, Death Certificates, etc.)

\* [A.1603 \(Ortiz\)/S.4525 - Mental Health Bill](#) – Authorizes nurse practitioners to admit patients to Inpatient Mental Health Units on voluntary or involuntary basis.

*Mary Beth Koslap-Petraco*

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE: NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN THE NEWS**

Public Relations: the practice of managing communication between an organization and its publics.

And that means each and every one of you!

NPs in the News: Lets keep the Momentum Going!

### **STATE LEVEL:**

Seth Gordon and Jane Nugent, FNP were the featured guest on "New York Now", a statewide public TV weekly newscast. They were both terrific. A statewide poll question after the show simply asked:

*"Do you support the Nurse Practitioner Modernization Act?"*

The response was overwhelming!!! 96% sent in a RESOUNDING YES!!!!!! What a message to Albany!!!

Seth was also interviewed on NPR radio "The Capital Pressroom", and had the opportunity to answer many questions in detail.

Seth Gordon was interviewed by the Albany Times, which made it's way down to Newsday. The interview was overall very positive, however, they unfortunately kept using the word "supervising"

while describing our relationship to physicians. Marion Golden, the Chair of The NPA from Long Island, wrote a wonderful response which was published in Albany. We are hoping to have the response published in Newsday, and other downstate publications.

### **LOCAL LEVEL:**

Peg O'Donnell won the Nassau County Women's History Month Trailblazer Award, and continues to sit on the Nassau County Medical Society Preventative Medicine committee

The April Conference Pictures are to be published in local papers soon.

Diane Bartscherer was noted in Newsday for her role as President of the NPALI.

We continue to be noted and quoted in a variety of publications...we want Nurse Practitioners to be a household word!

We are always looking for volunteers to share their health expertise!! We are collecting names and specialties

And we are always looking to share any stories, awards, and news about our members

Please do not hesitate to contact:

Peg O'Donnell: Pegsfullmoon@aol.com

Damian Becker: djb92465@msn.com

Susan Marks: SMarks4NP@gmail.com

We are always here for you!



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**2012 Practice Issues Conference**  
**Friday, March 30, 2012**  
**Crest Hollow Country Club**

# REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Greetings fellow NPALI members! As you may all be aware, the future of healthcare from a national perspective has certainly gotten its share of headlines and attention as the current administration looks to implement healthcare reform to improve coverage and access of care to all citizens. To that end, there has been an incredible amount of activity and importance given to what The NPA has been trying to accomplish for over two decades. ....the removal of artificial barriers to practice, namely, removing Statutory Collaboration for Nurse Practitioners in New York State.

The NPA and its lobbying team have been extremely busy putting together a strategy. In January, the team created new language for our current legislative agenda, paring down the number of bills to three. Our main bill, formerly known as the Patient Advocacy and Access Bill was revamped and given a new name: The Nurse Practitioner Modernization Bill. The other two pieces of legislation are the Global Signature Bill that would make existing bills provider neutral, thus allowing NPs to sign off on disability forms, and other such forms where it stipulates "Physician Signature" and the Mental Health bill that would allow Psychiatric NPs (NPP) to be able to voluntarily or involuntarily admit patients to inpatient psychiatric units based on their clinical judgment. In February and March, the Governmental Affairs team kept an eye on the Capitol, waiting for an opportunity to begin lobbying the legislators as most of their time was consumed with the NYS budget process. As you all know, for the first time in many years, the State budget was passed ON TIME by March 31, 2011. After that, it has been full speed ahead.

Our local grassroots efforts have been mobilized statewide and nurse practitioners throughout NYS have been calling on their local legislators to discuss our legislative agenda with them. The NPALI has been no exception. With great thanks to Dr. Mary Beth Koslop-Petraco, our Grassroots Coordinator and Legislative Affairs Chair, and a Peg O'Donnell, our Public Relations Chair, we have put together a strategy that has paired up our NPALI members with their local Senators and Assemblypersons for local lobby visits. Thank you to all who have so generously given up your time and have already made these visits. There is nothing more powerful than having a constituent discuss an issue with his/her legislator. Every vote counts and they are counting on our votes so make your voices heard. If you haven't made a visit, please consider doing so if asked by our Legislative Affairs team.

From a publicity point of view, The NPA has been making appearances across NY State. Several TV interviews have been given by The NPA leadership and members alike. A recent seven minute interview by Seth Gordon, President & CEO NPA was aired in April on Capitol Tonight, a major news program in the Albany region. There have also been news pieces in the Albany Times Union and Newsday. These opportunities have been made possible by our Legacy Fund dollars at work. The NPALI has been very generous in donating to this fund and it has been able to do so because of how active and vibrant our chapter has been. I'd like to thank all of you who continue to support the NPALI through your continued membership and your participation in our monthly events. You are the life blood of this organization and your continued support will help further The NPA in its goals to limit barriers to NP practice.

*Jeanne Martin, ANP, Regional Director/Region #7, NPA NYS*

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## PAYPAL ON THE NPALI WEBSITE

As a convenience for our members, you are now able to pay for our monthly dinner meetings using a credit or debit card. You simply go to the website [www.npali.org](http://www.npali.org), click on the event that you want to attend, enter the registration information and then click submit. You will then be directed to the Paypal website which is a secure site where you enter your payment information. If you do not get a confirmation from Paypal then you have not entered the appropriate information and you are not confirmed as paid or attending. A reminder: if you are using a credit card with a different name on it, or paying for another member, you must let us know so we know who is attending.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol @ [carolfnp@gmail.com](mailto:carolfnp@gmail.com).