

# The

# Advocate

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2010 Online Edition 2 ELEANOR HOBBS, PH.D., ANP, *Editor*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is fast approaching the end of the year. I don't know about you but the days are passing so quickly that if I could, I would put myself in for new brakes. Most of your practices/jobs are again in full speed making the day never seem long enough. Daylight savings time only adds to the sense of days passing by.

Our dinner meetings are well underway with December 7th being the last before the holidays. Debra Chalmers always does such an outstanding job.

We just had our NP of the Year Award Night to honor Dr. Donna Hallas. As always, Anne Klassert and her members put together a great evening. We were fortunate enough to have Senator Kemp Hannon stop by to recognize Donna's achievement.

The New York State Nurse Practitioner's Annual Conference at the Sagamore was enjoyed by all with topics to enthrall all that attended.

Our Public Relations Chair, Peg O'Donnell has been very busy so be sure to check out her update. In fact, all our Chairs have done a remarkable job this past year and bring you up-to-date in their columns. I have been blessed to have had a great Board that work together well yet carry out their commitments autonomously. It facilitates a smooth running chapter. I have to give a special thanks to Jeanne Martin. As our Secretary and Regional Director she definitely keeps our reputation of a great chapter unchallenged. She is the glue to us all.

As of January 1st we welcome Pat O'Sullivan as

President-Elect and are very fortunate to have Jeanne Martin as our Chapter Secretary for another two years.

With Governor Patterson leaving office soon we can only assume things should only get better from here on. I don't know why Governor Patterson seems to be completely against NP's. All of our efforts this past year were not in vain. We communicated with a great number of people who now know and support us. This will make the future efforts easier. Nonetheless, we still have to keep up our vigilance. I want to again thank all of our members who gave of their time to visit our Legislators. At the Awards dinner, Senator Kemp Hannon said he would continue to support us. This is a key person to have on our side. If you are unable to make lobby visits, calls and e-mails also work. Our Legislative Guru is Mary Beth Koslap-Petraco. She will answer any questions you may have. Please remember to contribute to the PAC. Without funds we have no legislative clout.

It is never too late to get involved. You can start off as a committee member responsible only to that committee chair but if you feel like you can handle more responsibility than go for one of the Executive Board positions. You don't have to wait for positions to be posted to let your decision be known. You can contact any Board Member at any time. If that is too much at the present time than just recruiting new members is a great help. So true the saying that there is strength in numbers.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa and a very Happy New Year!

*Best Wishes!*

*Rose Cassidy, MS, BSN, ANP, PNP*

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

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the NPALI members who have supported our monthly meetings in 2010. Whenever possible we try to present a purely educational meeting and offer contact hours. NPALI sponsored three of these meetings in 2010, and five NPALI members served as presenters. Thank you to **Joe Fasano, Barbara Sprung, Diane Bartscherer, Dan Jacobsen, and Pat Hood** for volunteering your time and sharing your expertise.

Though I wrote four grants in 2010, it is becoming increasingly obvious to me that grant monies are no longer being awarded for the type of small professional organization dinner gatherings that we have. More and more we need to find corporate sponsors to fund these dinners, as the \$25 registration fee doesn't begin to cover the cost of dinner out at a nice restaurant. Since so many of you enjoy the monthly networking, we plan continue to hold monthly meetings in 2011, even if we can't always offer CE credit. Keep in mind that the registration fees we collect for the non CE meetings help to defray the cost of the CE meetings, so we value your attendance each month.

By now everyone knows that we are no longer mailing invitations. Please check the web site often for updates, and let us know immediately if you have a change of email address.

The **January 12, 2011** meeting is "**Managing Diabetes One Step at a Time.**" Venue will be listed on the web site.

February is national heart month. "**Stable Ischemic Heart Disease: Risk Stratification and Patient Identification**" will be presented on **February 10th 2011** at Piccolo Bussola Restaurant in Mineola. National speaker **Vera Barton-Caro, MSN, FNP-BC** is the guest presenter, and you will receive one ANCC contact hour. Registration for this meeting is limited and *open to current NPALI members only.*

Every year we designate one meeting for PAC donations. In 2011, **February is PAC month** for

NPALI. You will not be asked to pay a registration fee, you will register online directly with the sponsor. Instead we are asking each of you attending the dinner to bring a check with you and make a donation. Checks must have your address on them (hand written is OK), and must be made out to NPA NYS PAC. *Please show us your heart, and be as generous as you can.* Sorry, we can't accept cash for the PAC, only personal checks. *Consider making a PAC donation even if you can't attend the meeting!*

The **March 2, 2011** meeting will be on the topic of **Homeopathy**. The last time we presented this topic it was one of our most popular meetings. Venue will be announced on the website.

Please mark your calendars for our annual "**Practice Issues**" conference to be held on **April 8th 2011** at the Crest Hollow. **Wendy L. Wright MS, ARNP, FNP, FAANP** and **Margaret A.**

**Fitzgerald DNP, FNP-BC, NP-C, FAANP, CSP** are our featured speakers, and we are sure to sell out early again next year. *Consider submitting a poster abstract* (details listed separately).

As I stated earlier, we need sponsors to fund the monthly meetings, as well as the annual conference, so keep the referrals coming. East end NPs in partic-

ular, please refer potential sponsors to me so that we can plan meetings further east for you.

Please feel free to contact me directly with comments or suggestions at [debrachalmers@nyc.rr.com](mailto:debrachalmers@nyc.rr.com)

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

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

We have had a good start to our Community Service activities this fall. In October, we did the "Walk for Beauty" in Stony Brook. We raised \$468.00 which will aid in Breast and Prostate Cancer research at Stony Brook University Hospital.

At the November dinner meeting, members brought in non-perishable food items which were donated to the Mount Sinai Congregational UCC Food pantry. The 50/50 raffle, along with some members' monetary contributions, enabled us to send \$236.00 to the Long Island Cares/Harry



Chapin Food Bank.

We plan to collect new, unwrapped toys to be donated to "Toys for Tots" at the December dinner meeting. These toys are given to local children by the Marines of Long Island.

On behalf of our Community Service Committee, (Laura, Fran, Korto, Cathy, Liz, and Arlene), Debbie and I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to our collections. We all wish you a joyous, healthy, safe holiday season!

*Linda Aumock & Deborah Deierlein*



## LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEE

At this writing, we still do not know the outcomes of some legislator's seats based on the last election. The election results will determine which party will control the New York State Senate when the state legislature reconvenes in January. Several contests were too close to call and recounts have been called for. While we have friends on both sides of the aisle, we will be starting all over again to educate new members as well old ones about our bills. Since this is the end of the two year legislative cycle all of our bills will

have to be reintroduced with new numbers. We may also need to find new sponsors for our bills depending on the outcome of the election.

Many republicans were elected during this election and they have vowed to repeal the new federally mandated health care legislation or starve it to death by not funding it. Nurse Practitioners stood to be an integral part of the new health care legislation. How this election will affect our practice remain to be seen.

The NPA has added three new bills to our legislative agenda. The bills are listed below, and as you can see the bills only have Assembly sponsors so work still must be done to get sponsors in the Senate. Either a republican or democratic sponsor will be sought for the bills depending on which party ends up controlling the Senate. Primary sponsors of bills must be from the party that controls the chamber in which the bill is introduced. The Loan Repayment and Mental Health bills are self explanatory. The Global Signature bill has been introduced to eliminate the need to pass legislation to change each law that states "physician" every time a discrepancy is noted, but the function is clearly within the scope of practice of NPs. Most of this questioned legislation was passed before the profession of Nurse Practitioner was legislated into existence.

And now a word about The NPA PAC. As you can see, we have an extensive legislative agenda. Getting these bills passed takes money. By law the money we pay for our dues cannot be used for this purpose. Every year we are asked to contribute to the PAC, short for Political Action Committee. The NPA has raised almost \$32,000 of the \$50,000 goal for the 2009/10 cycle. We are more than half way there. The NPA has stated that if each member contributed \$10 we would meet our goal. I am personally asking each member to send \$25. I think most of us can afford that amount and we need to put our money where our mouths are. We just cannot move our legislation without this money. It pays to send NPA representatives to various functions for the legislators where we have the opportunity to influence the legislators to gain their support. If you have not sent a check since September, 2010, it is time to send another check. 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. Thank you for your generous support.

I will continue to include all of the bills and their numbers in each Legislative Report because of our very busy legislative agenda.

As I am sure you all remember our primary piece of legislation is:

\* [A.765 \(Gottfried\)/S.2948 \(Montgomery\)](#)-**Patient Access & Advocacy Act** - Removal of Statutory Collaboration & Reimbursement

The remainder of our legislative agenda is listed below:

\* [A.6651 \(Gottfried\)/S4490 \(Duane\)](#) - **Reimbursement Assurance** to assure health plans do not deny reimbursement for services rendered by nurse practitioners acting within their lawful scope

\* [A.7877 \(Gottfried\)/S4491 \(Duane\)](#) - **Access Protection** to promote practice opportunities for nurse practitioners by prohibiting health plans from excluding nurse practitioners from their provider networks and to insure that reimbursement rates are reasonable

\* [A.3704 \(John\)/S.3908 \(Duane\)](#) - **NP Worker's Compensation Access Act** authorizing NPs to fully participate within and be reimbursed under the worker's compensation program in NYS as a legislative study bill

\* [A.2028-A \(John\)/S.2969 \(Montgomery\)](#) - **Death Certificate Bill** authorizing NPs to sign death certificates. PASSED SENATE

\* [A.1719 \(Gottfried\)/S.2947-A \(Hannon\)](#) - **Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR)** authorizing NPs to issue orders not to resuscitate

\* [A.6654 \(Gottfried\)/S.4070 \(Montgomery\)](#) - **Immunization Bill** to add NPs to the category of persons legally qualified to certify that an immunization required by section 2164 of the public health law may be detrimental to a child's health

\* [A.10218 \(Gottfried\)](#) – **Global Signature Bill** – An act to amend the education law, in relation to authorizing Nurse Practitioners to perform functions in conjunction with diagnosing an illness consistent with the scope of practice of NPs.

\* [A.11655 \(Schroeder\)](#) - **Loan Repayment** - Establishes the nurse practitioner loan repayment program; authorizes the commissioner to award loan repayment awards to certain nurse practitioners

\* [A.11650 \(Ortiz\)](#) - **Mental Health** - Authorizes nurse practitioners to admit a patient to an inpatient mental health unit on a voluntary or involuntary basis.

*Mary Beth Koslap-Petraco*

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

The NPALI has been busy keeping our NPs in the news!

Positive Public Relations result in:

Educating the public by increasing our visibility!!!!

Some of the recent work accomplished:

1. Halloween and prescription drug safety articles which have been distributed with NPALI members quoted.
2. Peg O'Donnell guest interview for a careers in nursing website:  
<http://www.bestnursingdegree.com/interview/peg-odonnell>
3. Danielle Well served as a guest blogger/columnist for the Dermatology Nurses Association
4. Mary Beth Petraco served as an interview source for an article about flu shots
5. Guest interviews with Debra Chalmers about High Cholesterol, and woman's health and fitness,
6. Fios TV covered the Long Island Lightning wheelchair Basketball Tournament, which the NPALI hosted.

Please visit the NPALI website under "news and announcements" for more details.

**And there is much more to come! Stay tuned!!**

- Long Island Business News interview about the future of Health Care, and the role NPs will play in it
- Long island Press interview.
- Nurses Rock Radio Station interview
- More press about our community Services, and our NP of the Year.
- Mary Beth Petraco as an interview source for an article on DM

There have been a multitude of media opportunities locally, and around the country, which has al-

lowed for positive promotion of the NP role.

OUR VISION IS TO INCREASE EXPOSURE  
AND RECOGNITION FOR  
ALL NURSE PRACTITIONERS  
PLEASE CONTACT US WITH ANY NEWS!!!

ALSO, WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU  
ABOUT ANY EXPERTISE THAT YOU HAVE  
THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE! YOU, TOO,  
CAN BE A QUOTABLE SOURCE! IT'S EASY!

CONTACT PEG OR DAMIAN, AND WE CAN  
MAKE IT HAPPEN!

E Mail us with your thoughts, ideas and news!  
Damian Becker at [djb92465@msn.com](mailto:djb92465@msn.com),  
Peg O'Donnell at [Pegsfullmoon@aol.com](mailto:Pegsfullmoon@aol.com)

**No news is too big or too small to report**

*Peg O'Donnell, Public Relations Chair, NPALI*

## 2010 NP OF THE YEAR

NPALI is pleased to honor Dr. Donna Hallas, Phd, PNP-BC, CPNP as the 2010 Nurse Practitioner of the Year. Dr. Hallas is a Clinical Assistant Professor at New York University College of Nursing. She holds a PhD in Nursing from Adelphi University, a MS in Nursing from SUNY Stony Brook, a BS in Nursing from Adelphi as well as a BS in Biology from the University Of Hartford. Her Nursing career spans four decades with a primary focus on pediatrics. Dr. Hallas is an accomplished author and researcher. She is a member of several nursing organizations

including NPANYS, National League for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau and the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP). Dr. Hallas is the founding member and a past president of the Long Island Chapter of NAPNAP. Dr. Hallas has demonstrated excellence as a nurse scholar, clinician and educator. She is a tireless mentor and advocate for Nurse Practitioners.

The Awards Dinner honoring Dr. Hallas was held on October 28, 2010 at the Westbury Manor. Dr. Hallas was joined by her family, friends and colleagues for this festive event. Senator Kemp Hannon visited to congratulate Dr. Hallas on her achievements. The NPALI is proud to have Dr. Hallas as a member.



*NPALI members Lois Lagerman, MJ Jones, Jessy Augustine*



*Dr. Judith Haber, Ann Taub, Dr. MaryBeth Koslap Petraco,  
Dr. Donna Hallas, Dr. Arlene Steckel*



*Dr. Haber, Senator Kemp Hannon, Dr. Donna Hallas,  
Rose Cassidy, Anne Klassert*

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Greetings to all of our NPALI members! As 2010 winds down, this is a good time to reflect on the events and accomplishments of the NPA this year. You will be pleased to know that our organization is in sound financial shape and is growing in both size and strength. As in past years, some of the major priorities included Public Relations, Membership and Legislative issues.

In the area of PR, our Legacy Fund dollars, which thanks to the NPALI was well funded, have been put to great use as we have enjoyed great media exposure across the entire state of New York. Some of the highlights include numerous local television interviews by our NPA members and leadership in the upstate area as well as a major national television interview by NPA Chair, Dr. Susan Apold, ANP, PhD, debating the role of nurse practitioners against Dr. Mario Motto, M.D., President of the Massachusetts Medical Society on a Sunday edition of "Fox & Friends" that aired 4/25/10. Additionally, several prominent radio interviews were conducted featuring NPA members discussing nurse practitioner issues and healthcare topics. One of the most coveted and exciting pieces of PR was a Sunday front cover of Long Island's Newsday on 6/13/10 titled "Nurse Practitioners: No Need for Doc Supervision". This article featured Marion Golden (Chair Elect, NPA) and Peg O'Donnell (PR Chair NPALI) with Peg's picture on the front cover! With all of the national and local discussion occurring regarding Healthcare Reform, nurse practitioners are definitely a huge part of the solution and continued media exposure helps to ensure that the public and our legislators know that.

Our membership has increased, despite the current economic climate. From an organizational point of view, this is almost unheard of and is a credit to what the NPA offers its members. For what amounts to less than 55 cents a day, nurse practitioners and student nurse practitioners are represented by a voice that advocates the issues that are important to us as well as provide numerous member benefits. Some of these include (but not limited to): assistance with practice issues; online NP resource guide; ongoing opportunities to attend local, regional and statewide programs for CEUs and networking; a Career Center; 3 free hours of Human Resource advice from a HR expert; online social networking programs (Facebook and NPs2NPs.org); quarterly publications (The Communique); NP Bucks which offers \$65 voucher that can be applied to membership renewal or NPA conference registration fee; Student Transition Rate program; and a membership discount from Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

Legislatively, the biggest news this year was that our DNR bill (A1719-A/S2947-A) was passed by both houses of the legislature and was sent to the Governor's office for review. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed the bill due to technical difficulties that were encountered as a result of a bill passes earlier known as the Family Healthcare Decisions Act. Certain provisions of this bill altered the scope of our bill. Also, the current Governor expressed concerns with nurse practitioners executing DNR orders, though, obviously, this concern was not shared by the full body of the legislature that passed the bill. Of note, this bill did garner a great deal of bipartisan support. Hopefully, with the instillation of a new administration, our legislative agenda will be more successful in the coming year. With the political climate being what it is and healthcare quality, access and cost being of great concern and priority to almost all politicians, we have a great deal of influence and can offer much needed solutions to help consumers of healthcare throughout New York State. Of note, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recently published a paper making recommendations directed to individual policy makers; national, state, and local government leaders. The paper states that "nurses should practice to the fullest extend of their education and training" as well as stating that "Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States". It's an amazing testimony to the hard work, effort and influence that

## *REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT Continued*

our national, state and local NP organizations are working together to make huge gains in advancing our profession.

Lastly, I'd like to say congratulations to our chapter for contributing the most money to the NPA PAC fund this year. I'd also like to congratulate our own Dr. Bruce Zitkus, current Research and Finance committee Chair, for being the biggest single PAC donor. I have every confidence that together, we will continue to do great work in the coming year and make great gains in advancing our profession. Happy holidays and all the best for a safe, happy and healthy New Year!

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

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## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

We are happy to announce that Sheryl Nielsen has been awarded the DNP Scholarship. She is currently pursuing her DNP through Wilkes University in Pennsylvania. Our SNP recipient is Leela Kurian currently pursuing her Masters through Adelphi University. Congratulations to them both.

The committee members: Mary Beth Koslap-Petraco, Lois Lagerman, Jessy Augustine, Janice Fleicshman-Eaton, and Lisa Horvath meet at least twice a year to review applicants and on a need to basis. The SNP Scholarship includes any student in the conventional tracts or in on-line tracts. Any questions can be directed to myself at [rmcass52@hotmail.com](mailto:rmcass52@hotmail.com) or to any member on the committee.

Happy New Year.

*Sincerely,  
Rose Cassidy*

## MEMBERSHIP

As of November we have 686 members. Please continue to recruit new members. It would be nice to reach 700 members.

If you have a change of address, phone number or email, please send me an email to [GarfieldRN@aol.com](mailto:GarfieldRN@aol.com). Our programs announcements and Advocate are now sent via email and we want to make sure you are up to date with what is going on with our chapter.

Your voice is important to us. If you have any comment or suggestion please let me or one of the other board members know, We always welcome suggestions. Please get involve on a committee. By being part of a committee you have the chance to network with other members and qualify to win a raffle at our Practice Issues Conference which will be held on April 8th.

On behalf of the membership committee enjoy the holidays and best wishes in 2011.

*Ingrid Bloomfield*

# NPALI ANNUAL CONFERENCE RESEARCH ABSTRACT APPLICATION

## APRIL 8, 2011 NPALI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Members of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Long Island, Inc., are invited to submit an abstract of their research to be presented as a poster at the 2011 NPALI Annual Conference. Authors may submit more than one abstract.

<b>Poster Abstract Guidelines</b>	<b>Presenting Author</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abstracts must be no longer than one page with a one inch margin on all sides and font size 12</li> </ul>	Name:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research abstracts must include title and author information</li> </ul>	Title:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purpose, methodology, results, and implications for NPs must be clearly identified</li> </ul>	Address:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 1 page biosketch of the presenting author must be sent with the abstract</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advertising and/or commercial materials may not be distributed</li> </ul>	City:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only generic names of drugs or other products may be used in the body of the poster</li> </ul>	State:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poster size is limited to 4'x8'</li> </ul>	Zip Code:
<b>SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 31, 2011.</b>	Cell Phone:
	Home Phone:
	Fax:
	E-Mail:

Questions or additional information: Contact Dr. Zitkus at [bruce.zitkus@stonybrook.edu](mailto:bruce.zitkus@stonybrook.edu)

Please send your abstract to:

Dr. Bruce S. Zitkus  
Chair, Research Committee  
NPALI, Inc.  
17 Abets Creek Path  
East Patchogue, NY 11772

Nurse Practitioner Association of Long Island  
373 Nesconset Highway, Suite #210  
Hauppauge, NY 11788  
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Public Relations	Margaret O'Donnell
Research	Bruce Zitkus
Scholarship Committee	Rose Cassidy
Regional Representative	Jeanne Martin
Alternate Regional Rep.	Rose Cassidy

## 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).