

# The

# Advocate

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ELEANOR HOBBS, PH.D., ANP, *Editor*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. As the Summer comes to an end, the NPA LI is gearing up for an exciting Fall. Our dinner programs will resume in September, and we will honor our Nurse Practitioner of the Year this Fall as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary. The NPANYS's Annual Conference will be in

Saratoga Springs this year, October 26-30, 2011. If you have not attended this conference in the past, I highly recommend it. There are always excellent speakers, a chance to network with NPs from across the state, and Saratoga Springs is a great town to visit.

We had a very busy and successful legislative season, and many thanks to Mary Beth Koslap-Petraco, our Legislative Chair, for organizing the legislative visits. This year we had many informative visits to legislators, and I want to thank all of our members who took the time to participate. Although our Modernization Bill did not pass into law this year, Governor Cuomo did sign the Death Certificate Bill, as well as a bill that now allows NPs to sign preadmission forms in Assisted Living and Adult Care Facilities.

We welcome Susan Marks, our newly appointed Chair of the Public Relations Committee to the Board of Directors. Susan has been an active member of the Public Relations Committee, and we're excited to have her promoting our work. Please feel free to contact Susan and let her know where you work and what you do, as we are al-

ways eager to publicize the good work that our members are doing.

Although our Chapter is the largest in the State, many of our colleagues are not members of the NPA LI. I know it may sound like a cliché, but there is strength in numbers! Removal of mandatory collaboration remains on the agenda, and we need to continue to increase our membership. Encourage your fellow NPs and NP students to join The NPA.

I look forward to seeing all of you this fall and working together.

*Diane Massucci*

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

With classes starting soon, we have set a date to accept both SNP and DNP Scholarship Applications. The deadline will be October 28, 2011. All information regarding the application process is on the Web site. Although you have to wait for the start of the semester to obtain your official transcript copy, you can work on your Letter of Intent and Curriculum Vitae.

As always, you have to be in it to win it! If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [rmcass52@hotmail.com](mailto:rmcass52@hotmail.com). As I have always said, **YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!**

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer months.

*Rose Cassidy*

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

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer. As usual, it went very fast! At our last NPA dinner meeting in June the Community Service Committee collected for the Suffolk County Department of Health Baby Showers. Our members contributed needed items: a \$25.00 gift card for Target, and through the 50/50 and individual donations, another \$280. With that money, we purchased nine (9) \$20.00 Wal-Mart gift cards and ten (10) \$10.00 King Kullen gift cards.

As we get into the fall season, we would like to continue with some collections that have been so successful in the past thanks to the efforts of you, our members.

We are planning the following:

- October 2, 2011 - Walk for Beauty, Walk for Breast and Prostate Cancer in Stony Brook Village
- November – Food collection and cash donations for Harry Chapin, Long Island Cares
- December- Toys for Tots collection

We want to thank our members for their generosity and we are looking forward to seeing you all this fall. Anyone interested in joining us please call Linda at 631-744-0813 or Debbie at 631-205-5161.

*Linda Aumock And Debbie Deierlein*

## LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEE

Governor Andrew Cuomo has signed our Death Certificate Bill into law! It took some time and some very tenacious lobbying by the lobby team of The NPA but we can celebrate a success. Now we just need to be as tenacious with careful and targeted lobbying and we WILL get our NP Modernization Bill passed too! As Senator Dean Skelos told Peg O'Donnell last year, "it is just a matter of time." As we move forward with our legislative agenda, I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to make these very important visits. All of you who made visits were acting on behalf of ALL of us. We owe each of you who made the visits a debt of gratitude for taking the time out of their busy schedules. We do understand if you are unable to take time off to make a visit, and that is why we are even more grateful to those who can. Just a reminder, we can "catch

more flies with a spoonful of honey than a barrel of vinegar." If you do make a visit remember to be polite and professional and stick to The NPA talking points. It might be difficult especially when the legislator does not support our legislative agenda. If we continue to kill the legislators with kindness, we will ultimately win!

Georgia Vnook-Early, Gail Couleas, and Dr. Virginia Beaton visited Senator John Flanagan. The Senator asked about the removal of mandatory collaboration for the Nurse Midwives, and why Nurse Practitioners did not receive the same consideration. It passed quickly due to a crisis. The Senator was told, there WAS a crisis, and in the very near future, there would be thousands of individuals in NY seeking medical care because of the Federal Legislation mandating that all Americans purchase health insurance. Additionally, we told him there are not enough physicians to care for all of these newly insured, and there would not be more in the future because almost all physicians choose a specialty rather than primary care. The Senator was noncommittal following the visit, so we will wait for the advice of The NPA regarding any future visits in the fall.

Samantha Gray visited Assemblyman Charles Lavine. Assemblyman Levine warned NPs to expect strong opposition from the medical community who are, as he put it, "trying to protect their turf". Mr. Levine was gracious, concerned, asked pertinent questions to clarify his understanding of various points and stated, he is behind our agenda, and will do whatever he can for us.

Barbara Wildfeir, Pat Sullivan, and Maureen Houck visited Assemblyman James Conte. Assemblyman Conte listened attentively to our points on the NP Modernization reform. He did not promise anything or even mention that we had influenced him one way or the other. On the signature reform, he intimated that it would not be a problem to amend the bill to accept an NP to sign orders within their scope of practice. For the psychiatric NP provider reform amendment, Assemblyman Conte seemed to hear our point that the barrier to practice for psychiatric NPs needs to be eliminated, thereby allowing Psychiatric NPs the ability to admit to an inpatient facility.

Peg O'Donnell and Margaret Malone visited Senator Charles Fuschillo. It was a very positive meeting. Sara, Senator Fuchillo's Chief Legisla-

tive Assistant, met with our members. The visit was short due to the chatter from the Equitable Marriage Act, only about 4 minutes, but substantive. We discussed the IOM report as it relates to independent practice. Senator Fuschillo is clearly on the side of NPs and supports the bills.

Diane Hanson visited the newly elected Senator Jack Martins. Diane Hanson said he was VERY interested, and he would like more information. We will send him a copy of our legislative agenda; and we are considering a follow up visit after sending a copy of our legislative agenda.

Dr. Bruce Zitkus and Peg O'Donnell visited Senator Lee Zeldin. Bruce and Peg had a very good conversation with Senator Zeldin. They told him we appreciated his support of our Death Certificate Signature Bill. Peg asked for the Senator's support for the various legislative bills. Since he is Bruce's Senator Bruce focused on his NP practice and invited Zeldin to come to Bruce's office at any time to see what Bruce does as an NP. He was forthcoming about the difficulties he has encountered as a new Senator, and was VERY eager to hear our whole story. He was attentive, concerned, and asked appropriate questions. He was also honest at the end of the conversation, stating that he really THOUGHT he knew about NPs. However, after speaking to Peg and Bruce, he realized how little he really understood about NPs. Bruce and Peg were at ease, and did not feel any intensity in the room. Bruce and Peg felt very comfortable with the exchange, and both walked away feeling like they really educated him, and we may have engaged a new supporter.

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 had difficulty getting members to make visits during the summer months so we suspended the visits until the fall. Lisa DiSanto Grossman is aggressively working on getting appointments with more legislators targeted by The NPA for local visits.

Our very aggressive legislative agenda will not move forward without OUR support of the PAC. We need to continue to encourage anyone who has not made a donation to do so soon. Please make the check payable to "The NPA

PAC." Please mail it to the following address:

**The NPA  
12 Corporate Drive  
Clifton Park, NY 12065**

And, please remember that a new PAC year starts in September, so it will be time for all of "YOU" to make a donation again.

Listed below are our bills. I will continue to include all of the bills and their numbers so we become aware of them in each Legislative Report.

- [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  
Legislative Issues Chair*



*Left to right: Margaret Malone, MSN, BSN, RN, Fuschillo's Special Assistant Sara Holly & Margaret O'Donnell, FNP, ANP, BC, MS, RN*



*Senator Lee Zeldin, Margaret (Peg) O'Donnell, FNP, ANP, BC, MS, RN & Bruce Zitkus EdD, ARNP, ANP B-C, FNP B-C, CDE*



Seated left to right: Alison Abrams, ANP, GNP, Linda Aumock, CPNP, RNMS, Sheryl Nilsen, MS, RN, ANP-C  
 Standing left to right: Beverly Dean, ANP, FNP, DNP, New York State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle and Yvonne Pineiro, ANP



Seated left to right: Georgia Vnook Early, WHLNP, BSN, MSN & New York State Senator John J. Flanagan  
 Standing left to right: Gayle Couleas, ANP-C & Virginia Beaton, Ph.D., FNP-BC

## NURSE PRACTITIONER ASSOCIATION

### OUR MISSION

To promote high standards of healthcare delivery through the empowerment of nurse practitioners and the profession throughout New York State.

### OUR VISION

New Yorkers deserve access to nurse practitioners who are free to practice without unnecessary barriers. Nurse Practitioners are committed to providing quality care as integral members of a collegial healthcare community.



Left to right: Yvonne Pineiro, ANP, New York State Assemblyman Dan Losquadro & Alison Abrams, NP, ANP



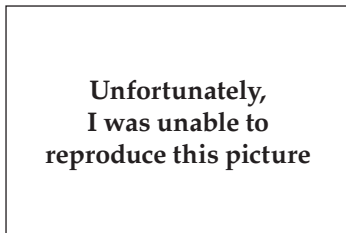
Senator Jack M. Martins' Chief of Staff Justin Burke with Diane Hanson, ANP-BC

### ASSOCIATION VALUES

- Commitment to excellence and serving the public good;
- Respect for the worth and dignity of individuals;
- Organizational and Professional accountability;
- Respect for pluralism and diversity of opinion and contribution;
- Mutually beneficial outcomes for members and for society;
- Flexibility in adapting and adjusting to change; and,
- Encouragement of growth, continuous learning and discovery.



New York State Assemblyman Charles D. Lavine with Samantha Gray, RN, CS, ANPC



Left to right: Assemblyman Andrew P. Raia with Patricia Bruckenthal, PhD, APRN-BC, ANP

## 2011 NURSE PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR

The Nurse Practitioner Association of Long Island is proud to announce this year's Nurse Practitioner of the Year: Joan Ginty, MS, RN. ARNP, BC

Mrs. Ginty will be honored at the 2011 NP of the Year Award Dinner to be held on Thursday October 6, 2011, from 6:30 to 10:30 pm, at the Jericho Terrace, 249 Jericho Turnpike, Mineola, NY. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this festive affair. Visit our website for details on reservations.

Anne Klassert

## PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Now that summer is over and we are rested and renewed, we will resume our monthly dinner meetings. I make every effort to find CE programs, though it is not always possible. I have listed below the tentative meeting schedule, so you can plan in advance. I have tried to rotate the nights of the week so that everyone has equal opportunity to attend. If unforeseen circumstances occur, these dates may have to be changed. You can take advantage of online registration, or you can send a check to the PO Box. Please check the NPALI web sites for the invitation postings. Please do not RSVP to a program until the event is posted. I will personally confirm all responses prior to the event. Until we have your check or credit card payment, you are not registered for the program.

Dinner meetings are for current NPALI members only unless otherwise noted.

Monday, September 19th 2011, NPALI is presenting "Exercise is Medicine, the Nuts and Bolts for a Nurse Practitioner." NPALI member L. Jim Bentley BA, BSN, MSED, ANP-C is the guest speaker, and the program will be held at Piccola Bussola restaurant in Mineola.

Please be sure to attend the October Awards dinner.

- Tuesday, November 15, 2011:  
"Understanding Hyponatremia"
- Thursday, December 1, 2011:  
"A Holistic Approach to Cancer Care"
- Monday, January 23, 2012:  
"Diagnosis and Treatment of Gout & Hyperuricemia" at Mario Restaurant in Hauppauge
- Wednesday, February 29, 2012:  
"Pulmonary Assessment and Management" presented by Dr. Arunabh Talwar
- Friday, March 30, 2012:  
Annual Conference, "Practice Issues 2012" with Wendy Wright and Peg Fitzgerald as guest speakers

- Thursday, April 19, 2012:  
TBA
- Tuesday, May 15, 2012:  
TBA
- Wednesday, June 6, 2012:  
TBA

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding NPALI programs.

*Debra A. Chalmers*

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## ANCC RECERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

I recently received an email from the ANCC which I reviewed and found that I could enter my professional development at any time during my five-year renewal cycle so it is already recorded in my account when it's time to renew. I entered 3 programs which I attended and found that this system will track my professional development using Access My Account in the Certification section of the ANCC Web site. It also does the math, adding up my total CEUs. I found it under Professional Development in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. I can apply these courses directly to my online renewal application when my renewal date nears, saving time and effort. Professional development is one part of ANCC's certification renewal requirements. Visit [www.nursecredentialing.org](http://www.nursecredentialing.org) for additional information.

*Eleanor Hobbs Ph.D., ANP-BC, APRN-ADM  
Editor*

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

*Executive officers*

It's that time again when the Board of the NPALI is seeking members that want to make a difference, get involved, and share ideas with their colleagues. Please feel free to nominate yourself or a fellow member of NPALI. We would love to hear from you and have you contribute your talents and energy to our organization. Self-nomination is encouraged. Mentoring is readily available.

**Requirements:**

- Active Membership with Nurse Practitioner Association of Long Island and New York State Nurse Practitioner Association
- Brief statement from nominee supporting their nomination
- Resume/CV

**Available positions for 2012 are:**

President – Elect (3 year total commitment: President–Elect, President, Past President)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work #: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer (2 year term)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work #: \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for Submission: October 07, 2011

Please send your nominations to:

Nominations Committee  
c/o Susan Aiello  
9 Brookfield Lane  
South Setauket, N Y 11720



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

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I hope you all have been having a good summer season. Even though it seems that you have not heard much from The NPA and NPALI as compared to the fall, winter, and spring, there has been much activity going on and some progress. As you probably recall, there was a huge flurry of activity in the spring in trying to meet some of our key Legislators from the State Senate and Assembly. To all of you who made the time to go and visit your Legislator when asked, a huge thank you! I am proud to say that our Chapter's legislative efforts are growing exponentially and have paid off good dividends. More and more of you have been willing to meet your Senators and Assemblypersons in their home offices and many have heard our collective voice. At the State level, we made many inroads in meeting with key committee Chairs and members in advancing our legislative agenda. Unfortunately, during the last few weeks of the legislative session in June, our agenda was competing for attention with the Marriage Equality Act so a majority of the focus was on that bill. However, there still was good news in the end.

The NPA decided this year to put forth not only the Modernization Act, which would remove Statutory Collaboration, but also a Global Signature Bill that would streamline the various bills that we have put forth before (DNR, Death Certificate, NYS Workers compensation, etc.). During meetings with key legislators, some were anxious about passing an Omnibus bill making so many, albeit, necessary changes in the law. They cited their reticence as not being able to predict "unintended consequences of such a bill". However, they recognized that by doing nothing, this would hamstring providers in doing basic functions that NPs and PAs are more than capable of performing. Out of this discussion came the Death Certificate Bill. This bill went before both houses of the Legislature, and passed. Then it went to Governor Cuomo's office for review. On July 20, 2011, the Governor signed the bill into law! This bill will be effective six months after signing. The Governor also signed an amendment to Public Health Law S4657, allowing a Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant, not just a Physician, to conduct the medical exam and complete the report required prior to admission to an Assisted Living Residence. The bill also amends Social Services Law 461-c (7) to make the same changes in relation to admission and return to an Adult Care Facility. The provisions of this Bill take effect immediately. We are making progress!

For those who wanted but did not get the chance to make a lobby visit, do not despair. We plan to make many more visits in the future. It is important that our Legislators see their constituents and hear our concerns. They know that not only do we vote but our families, friends, and patients vote as well. We have a tremendous ability to influence them when they decide to cast their ballots. It is also important to note that our progress this year, and our past successes have come out of organizational solidarity and a unified, dignified message. In this day and age where partisan politics rule, it is important to stick to our message that Nurse Practitioners offer high quality, accessible healthcare, and should not be shut out of the healthcare delivery system by artificial practice barriers. Now more than ever we all need to stay on point in order to achieve our goals. It is through a cohesive voice that we will ultimately get to where we want to be legislatively.

In closing, I want to remind all of you that The NPA's Annual Conference, "Integrating Health Care Delivery" will be held from October 26th through October 30th at the Saratoga Hilton and City Center in Saratoga Springs, NY. This year, we have seven of our own members who are speakers presenting at the conference. Please consider registering for the event and supporting not only your organization but your colleagues, as well. The conference brochure is on-line ([www.thenpa.org](http://www.thenpa.org)), and I am sure that you will find many interesting topics to suit your needs. Saratoga Springs is gorgeous and is a great place for a fall conference. I hope to see you there!

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

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*Like our beautiful summer, sadly all good things must come to an end. Our fabulous Botox Special (you remember. an unprecedented \$10.00 per unit), will be available only until August 31st.*

*And our Radiesse Special (\$550.00 for the 1st Syringe and \$350.00 for the 2nd Syringe) that so many of our wise and savvy patients took advantage of will be available only until September 15th.*

*The holidays will be here before you know it... let's "face" them together!*

## 2011 Board of Directors

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Research	Bruce Zitkus
Scholarship Committee	Rose Cassidy
Regional Director	Jeanne Martin

## 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).