

GEORGIA ADVANCED PRACTICE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008

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NEXT STATE MEETING

HOSTED BY THE
GRIFFIN CHAPTER

February 21, 2009

Details will be posted on
the website.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

MARIAN BLAESSER

As my year as President of UAPRN draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some changes that occurred in 2008.

1. Thanks to the efforts of our State Secretary, Jodi O'Sullivan, rolling membership is now a reality for UAPRN. We feel that the ability to join UAPRN at any given time of the year will increase members and member satisfaction. Spread the word and help us grow!
2. We have partnered with the Atlanta CNS group to expand our member base, as well return to the original focus of our group—the care and feeding of all Advanced Practice Nurses in Georgia. Future endeavors will include assisting the CNS obtain title protection in Georgia. Stay tuned!
3. Scholarships have been established for one Nurse Practitioner student and one CNS student. The award is \$1,000.00. Applicants must be a member of UAPRN and a current student in good standing. Watch the website for application

and more details.

4. We again are visiting the Capital to highlight Advanced Practice—see article below.
5. We continue to nurture our relationship with our lobbyist group and feel confident in their ability to carry us to our goal.

Thank you for the confidence you placed in me. It has been a pleasure to serve, and I will continue to be an active participant in UAPRN.

Marian Blaesser, DNP

WHO SAID THAT?

“When it comes to the future, there are three kinds of people - Those who make it happen, those who let it happen and those who wonder what happened.”

CAPITAL HEALTH FAIR

We will again visit the Capital and present a Health Fair to highlight the role of the advanced practice nurse. The Health Fair will be Tuesday, January 13th from 9AM to 1PM in the Rotunda.

Our lobbyists were able to

arrange a high visibility area. We will present information on general health, women's health, issues and provide information on the role of the advanced practice nurse.

It is our vision and goal



to have a regular presence at the Capital and to maintain a high profile.

Join us if you can!

**WEBSITE UPDATE
JODI O'SULLIVAN**

WOW! 2008 has come and gone!

UAPRN ended the 2008 membership season with 600+ members—more than 2007 but far from the necessary level of 1200 to sustain our lobbyist efforts. In order to encourage membership, 2009 membership has been started and will be on a “rolling” basis. Your 2009 membership term will be from date of joining with expiration one year later. We have approximately 60+ members for 2009 at this point.

Remember that the majority of members at this time have a membership expiration date of 12/31/2008. Your website login will be valid until 01/31/2009 at which time the website logins will be changed for the new membership year.

There have been some questions/problems in the past few weeks with website login ability. Our website company has checked these issues and has not found them to be a website problem. With that being said, please make sure that you have enabled pop ups for the UAPRN web site as this is how members only access is obtained on the website.

The login is not case specific. If you continue to have a problem

signing in, please clear your computer history and retry. If the problem continues send an

email to:
usprnsecretary@hotmail.com or to info@uaprn.org and I will attempt to help get you on the website.

Please remember that the fastest and preferred way to join is **ONLINE!** If you chose to mail your membership application there is a 6-8 week delay in processing!

PLEASE DO NOT SHARE LOGIN INFORMATION WITH OTHERS!!!! IT DILUTES BOTH YOUR MEMBERSHIP VALUE AS WELL AS UAPRN'S ABILITY TO PROTECT YOUR INTEREST AND PRACTICE ABILITY. Please refer any issues to the appropriate leadership team member for resolution.

This is an exciting time in the United States as well as Georgia for the practice of Nurse Practitioners and other mid level practitioners!!!! There are several large proposals in the states around us which could potentially affect our practice in Georgia as well as in the United States!

KEEP INFORMED!!! Watch the political arena and call your national and state representatives as the need arise.

It has been proven many times in the past that grass-root efforts work and we can be a LARGE voice if we stand UNITED!!!!

Membership Goal: 1200

Current Membership: 600

APNs:Improving the Bottom Line
By Troy Heidesch

I am please to present this article by Troy Heidesch, DNP(c). He is a featured writer with Advance Magazine and sole proprietor of a healthcare practice in North Georgia.

There are multiple studies demonstrating that APN care is safe and effective while, at the same time, maintaining high patient satisfaction scores (Brown & Grimes, 1995; Horrocks, Anderson, & Salisbury, 2002; Laurant et al., 2005; Lenz, Mundinger, Kane, Hopkins, & Lin, 2004; Mundinger et al., 2000; Venning, Durie, Roland, Roberts, & Leese, 2000). APNs have used this information to increase their ability to more effectively treat patients. In addition, APNs are forging ahead with new and innovative practice models, such as retail clinics. The success of these clinics has shown that consumers are interested in health care which is convenient, timely, and cost effective (Hansen-Turton, Ryan, Miller, Counts, & Nash, 2007; Kissinger, 2008; McNerney & Mohan, 2007; Mehrotra, Wang, Lave, Adams, & McGlynn, 2008; Thygeson, Van Vorst, Maciosek, & Solberg, 2008).

While APNs are finding innovative ways to treat individuals and families, we seem to be forgetting about another demographic that is ripe for change. Small and medium sized business owners are seeing their health insurance costs rise and their bottom lines shrink; especially in our current economic recession (Holahan & Cook, 2008; Hurley, Felland, Gerland, & Pickreign, 2006; Vesely, 2008). These demographics would welcome any improvement in their bottom line and APNs could provide the answer. Let me explain.

Studies have shown that employees with multiple health risk factors such as obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and/or depression cost businesses significant amounts of money in absenteeism (Aldana & Pronk, 2001; Bungum, Satterwhite, Jackson, & Morrow, 2003; Cooper & Dewe, 2008; Leynen et al., 2006; Serxner, Gold, & Bultman, 2001). Additionally, even when employees go to work, they are not as productive as when they are healthy or have fewer health risks such as obesity, hypertension, diabetes, coronary heart disease, smoking, or physical inactivity (Cooper & Dewe, 2008; Gates, Succop, Brehm, Gillespie, & Sommers, 2008; Pauly, Nicholson, Polsky, Berger, & Sharda, 2008; Schultz & Edington, 2007). This loss in productivity costs businesses a substantial amount of money.

Data demonstrated that when these same employees are treated effectively, the cost of treatment is much cheaper than the cost of lost productivity (Pelletier, Boles, & Lynch, 2004). This improvement in productivity offers them an opportunity to improve their bottom line while taking care of their employees. APNs could offer several services to these companies such as on-site or off-site occupational health, fee-for-service business healthcare calls, health and wellness programs, and contractual office site employee physicals and chronic disease management. These businesses are vulnerable demographic who need a cost effective way to improve their operating expenses and APNs can provide that solution. APNs should seek out business men and women who are hurting during this financial slowdown. We know APNs can help as we have the ability to treat them and their employees in such a way that is effective, timely, and highly satisfying.

www.uaprn.org

UAPRN OF GEORGIA

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The United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Georgia organization was born during a strategic planning session of the Nurse Practitioner Council of Coastal Georgia (NPCCG) in 1999. The members of the NPCCG felt that if all APRNs registered in GA were united into one collective voice, this voice would translate into a political and organizational powerhouse for advanced practice professional and political issues.

The currently used LOGO is the same that was selected at the third meeting of state membership. It features intertwined stethoscopes and is encircled by the name of our organization: United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Georgia. This LOGO was designed by the first vice president's son, David Alan Dillard.

2009 STATE LEADERS

President—Tammy Wilbanks

President Elect— Kelleigh Strickland

Secretary— Jodi O’Sullivan

Treasurer— Jauna Patterson

Director of Health Policy—Karen Schwartz

Legislative Chairman—Cecelia Eley

Membership Chairman—Jennifer Waller

School Liaison—Mary Goldsack