

November 2009

Newsletter

Editor: Patty Quan



President's Message

By Shannan Stephenson MSN, CPNP

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Hello NAPNAP-LA and Welcome all new NAPNAP-LA members!!!

Well, flu season is sure here! That probably means we are all *a lot* busier. Hopefully we are remembering to take care of ourselves and to get our own flu vaccines. Just a friendly reminder because I know it is popular amongst us nurses to put "Number One" 2nd, or perhaps even 10th. I speak from personal experience after having recently brought H1N1 home to my not so grateful significant other. While he recuperates from a secondary pneumonia, I am reminded of the importance of stopping to take care of myself!

Meanwhile, NAPNAP-LA has been busy making a few changes. If you haven't noticed, our website has not been updated for a while. This spurred a conversation amongst the board about creating a new website. We decided to take advantage of National's new web-hosting service, and hope to launch the new website by the beginning of 2010. We will include useful applications such as an Electronic Job Board, a link to a chapter E-Group, and a Current Event Section where members will be able to tell other members about PNP-related events! We believe it will make it easier to help find preceptors, new jobs, and greater support for our common purpose.

In order to keep the website up to date, we have decided to create a new Board position within the Communication Committee (which includes the Newsletter Chair), titled the "Website Chair". This chairperson will be the liaison between NAPNAP-LA members and National's web-hosting service. The Website Chair will also be responsible for receiving information-based emails from the board and members, and for adding this new information to the website. Like other board members, he or she will attend board meetings and will enjoy the benefit of free registration for the National Spring Conference. If you have basic computer competency and an interest in being on the NAPNAP-LA Board, we would love to hear from you. This is a great opportunity to be of service, and it looks impressive on the CV.

News Alert!!! As of November 2009, National's Executive Board has approved allowing students the right to vote and to hold office on the Board at a chapter level, with an exception of President and President-Elect offices. Maybe there is a new Website Chair among one of our PNP students??? If you or someone you know may be interested in this new opportunity, please email me.

I want to thank and congratulate our Social Committee on a successful fall dinner! It was sponsored by MedImmune and titled "*What's New in Flu? Update on FluMist 2009... What's New in RSV? Update On Prevention of RSV...*" The guest speaker was Harry Pellman, M.D. It was educational, tasty, and a great opportunity to network.

I also want to acknowledge the Program Committee for the hard work they are doing in the planning and organizing of the NAPNAP-LA Annual Spring Conference. This will be held on Saturday February 27th, 2010 in Long Beach. Save the date! We have an informative and entertaining schedule lined up for you!

I wish you and your families a wonderful and well holiday season. And thanks again for everything you do!

Best wishes,

Shannan Stephenson, CPNP

NAPNAP-LA Chapter President



NAPNAP-LA Calendar 2009/2010

Board meetings will generally be held on Monday evenings at 7:30pm. The entire membership is welcomed to attend these meetings. I am hoping to have at least 1 of these meetings be in person. It will be on the Saturday preceding the scheduled conference call. The call would then be cancelled. I will let you know when this in-person meeting is to be scheduled via email.

Board Meetings

- December 14th, 2009
- February 8th, 2010
- April 6th, 2010

Newsletter articles are due 08/28, 11/01, 02/01, 05/01

NAPNAP – LA Spring Conference will be February 27, 2010

Pal and One of Our Own nominations are due in February

NAPNAP National Conference in Chicago is April 15th – April 18th

Scholarship Applications are due in April

Board/Scholarship End of the Year Dinner will be the 1st week of June (date to be determined)

Drug dinners are to be scheduled.



Legislative Update – November 2009

By Joana Duran MSN, PNP, CNS

“Expanding Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice to Make Room for Healthcare Reform”

By Joana R. Duran MSN, PNP, CNS

The role of the Nurse Practitioner (NP) was originated in the 1960s, in response to a nationwide physician shortage. Today, there are an estimated 145,000 NPs practicing throughout the United States, each providing a continuum of primary healthcare services in a variety of acute, outpatient, and specialty care settings, with varying degrees of autonomy. Current legislature gives each state control over the laws that govern NP scope of practice, resulting in wide discrepancies in the types of services an NP can deliver to patients from state-to-state. Never has the topic of NP scope of practice been of such concern to policymakers as during this time, when maximizing accessibility of primary healthcare services for the public, and controlling healthcare costs, are at the top of the agenda for healthcare reform.

It is believed that in order to meet the healthcare needs of our growing population, address physician shortages, and reduce the cost of healthcare, primary care providers of all training backgrounds will have to step forward to provide care to their fullest scope of practice. The differences in NP scope of practice from state-to-state may slow the uniform expansion of NP primary care services, prohibiting them from offering valuable, accessible, and affordable primary care to the public, which they are trained to provide. Currently, only six states, including Alaska, Arizona, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington have NP scopes of practice that are among the most expansive, allowing NPs to practice independently with no physician oversight, prescribe medications and develop protocols without physician involvement, and legally direct a medical home on their own. California is a bit more conservative, allowing NPs to diagnose, order tests and medical equipment, refer patients, and furnish medications, but only according to protocols that are developed in collaboration with the physician with whom they practice. The California Association of Nurse Practitioners (CANP) is working hard to change state legislature to reflect a broader scope of practice similar to that of the less conservative states mentioned.

The lack of consistency in the expansion of NP scope of practice is effectively hindering the use of NPs to their maximum capacity. In an effort to meet the healthcare needs of our population, and improve access to quality and low-cost healthcare services, a national effort has been initiated to increase NP autonomy across the board. Particularly, in the area of primary care, as President Obama’s plans for healthcare reform currently revolve around the medical home model, where everyone has access to a primary care provider that can provide quality, safe, and affordable primary care services, as well as referrals to specialty services when complications arise. Expanding NP scope of practice would allow NPs to function autonomously throughout the county as primary care providers, directing their own practices, and meeting the growing need for more medical homes.

Such efforts, however, have been met with great resistance from some medical associations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which released a front page article in their April 2009 Newsletter (entitled "AAP Plans to Clarify Role of Nurse Practitioner"), portraying NPs as unsafe, and encouraging their members to oppose the scope of practice legislation that would permit NPs to have independent practices throughout the country. On the other hand, through negotiations and talks that have followed such oppositions, the medical and nursing communities are drawing closer together, realizing their need for one another in attaining the common goal of providing quality and safe care to the public. It is everyone's hope that although change may be difficult, its results will benefit us all, and that prospect may be just the thing to unite us.

Committee Updates:

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Helen Lau, CPNP

In keeping with our focus on mental health, community outreach continues to support the KySS project. Our chapter developed a 1 hour presentation to educate families and teachers about mental illness identification and treatment options in the early adolescent. Although there have been delays with doing the presentations in the Torrance/Gardena area schools, we continue to identify middle schools in other areas that are interested in raising public awareness on this very important topic.

If you would like to help us on the day of the presentation or have contacts at an interested middle school, please email me at helenlau01@hotmail.com.

Continuing Education Committee

The Annual NAPNAP-LA/CHLA APN conference will be held on February 27, 2010, at the Houssels Forum at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. The CE Committee is planning another inspiring program. Registration will begin in January, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Cat Goodhue CPNP at cgoodhue@chla.usc.edu.

Treasurer's Report

DATE: Activities from 8/9/08-10/19/09

BALANCE ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2009	
ACCOUNT TYPE	AMOUNT
CHECKING	\$ 6,340.65
CD # 1	\$ 14,650.76
CD # 2	\$ 12,449.77
Total	\$33,441.18
INCOME	
CATEGORY	AMOUNT
National Membership Credit (July)	\$ 2,150.00
Interest (8/24)	\$ 1.37
Interest (9/24)	\$ 1.46
TOTAL	\$ 2,152.83
EXPENSES	
CATEGORY	AMOUNT
No expenses	\$ 0.00

Submitted by: Mimie Honda Treasurer