

Iowa Chapter of NAPNAP – Quarterly Newsletter
Summer 2025 Edition
From the Desk of Samantha Lee, DNP, ARNP, CPNP-AC
President, Iowa Chapter of NAPNAP

Dear Members,

I'm honored to step into the role of President of the Iowa Chapter of NAPNAP and share this first quarterly update with you. As many of you know, I currently serve in the Division of Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine at the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital and have the privilege of educating the next generation of acute care pediatric nurse practitioners as an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the DNP program at the University of Iowa College of Nursing.

As I begin this new role, I want to extend a heartfelt **thank you to Jodi Bloxham** for her incredible leadership, dedication, and transformation of our chapter over the past two years. Her energy and commitment to advancing our profession and growing this chapter have laid a strong foundation for the future, and we are deeply grateful.

We held our **first Chapter Board Meeting of the year on Tuesday, July 23rd at 7:30 PM via Zoom**, and we are energized for the year ahead! As a reminder, these meetings are open to all members—we *highly encourage your participation and input*. We will plan to send out “**Save the Date**” **announcements** so you can join us and stay involved.

One of the most exciting initiatives we're launching is our **Student Liaison Mentorship Program**, aimed at fostering leadership, engagement, and professional development among emerging nurse practitioners. This program gives students a seat at the table, helping to amplify their voices and provide meaningful connections within our organization.

We are thrilled to introduce our inaugural student liaisons:

- **Alex King**
- **Shelby Sorenson**
- **Molly Brennan**

All three are graduate students at the University of Iowa College of Nursing, and we're so proud to have them on board. We look forward to expanding this program and invite student participation from *all* accredited NP programs across the state of Iowa. We are actively reaching out to all programs across the state of Iowa.

"We're also thrilled to be collaborating with **Operation Santa this year. Since 2023 Foster SQUAD and Operation Santa have** brought holiday cheer to over 465 children and 240 families. In 2024, thanks to the support of our incredible community and partners, more than 2,800 children across Iowa experienced a joyful and inclusive Christmas. Now, in 2025, they are reaching even further—uniting communities, volunteers, and organizations across the state to support even more children in foster and kinship care. Our chapter will be collecting donations at our **Annual Conference**, so we invite you to contribute if you are able!" Community support is what powers Operation Santa. Here's how you can help:

- -Purchase a gift from a child's wish list

- -Sponsor a child or family with a financial donation
- Donate new books, toys, games, personal care items, for children of all ages.
 - -Spread the word and encourage others to join the cause

<https://www.fostersquad.org/santa>

Speaking of the conference—mark your calendars!



Iowa Chapter NAPNAP Annual Conference



Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City



Thursday, September 18th & Friday, September 19th, 2025



[Register and learn more here](#)

This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with colleagues, hear from expert speakers, and engage with our vibrant professional community. We hope to see you there!

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to pediatric health care. Here's to a year of growth, connection, and impactful work.

Warm regards,

Samantha Lee, DNP, ARNP, CPNP-AC

President, Iowa Chapter of NAPNAP