



# the review

A quarterly newsletter of the North Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants

Cindy Renner, PA-C, Editor

August, 2008

## President's Message:

Greetings colleagues and friends! I know I should have written this before I left San Antonio. I get so motivated when I am at national conference. Kate Larson will be reporting on the House of Delegates, so I will just share a bit of what went on at the North Central Regional Meeting.

The various chapters reported tales of success and some of distress. The most alarming thing to me was hearing that third party payers in some areas were refusing to reimburse for some previously covered PA services, causing distress to providers and consumers. Hopefully these payers will be convinced that PA's are efficient and essential to health care in their areas.

Membership was a common concern. Other states shared strategies to boost membership, such as a phone campaign to reach out to nonmembers and face to face contact to encourage membership. Large numbers are especially important now, when we need support for our legislative efforts.

We have a new budget which includes significant appropriations to support our current legislative efforts to expand our prescriptive privileges, as well as other issues.

I again applaud those of you who do so much work to keep our local academy projects going. Thanks also to the new board and committee members.

Please feel free to call me or any board member if you have questions or suggestions regarding academy issues.... We sincerely want to hear from you.

Wayne Kartes, President



## New Membership Benefit Offered



**Attention, please- all NDAPA members.** NDAPA is now offering you the opportunity for a free membership to The Medical Letter on drugs and therapeutics. This includes CME-up to 50 category 1 credits each year, treatment guidelines, adverse drug reaction program and a handbook of antimicrobial therapy. They are independently funded and not sponsored by any drug company. In order to receive this benefit **you must first contact :**

**Terri Lang-ASAP** at [telang@medicine.nodak.edu](mailto:telang@medicine.nodak.edu)

or 701.838.6394, and tell her that you want your name put on the sign up list. We will need your e-mail address or mailing address. You will then receive pass codes to their web site. The actual cost, if you were to subscribe to this individually, would be considerable. We hope that you will find this site useful. Thank you for your continued membership to NDAPA.

Randy Perkins, PA-C/Membership Chair

## Letter from the Editor...

I love words. I love how they can be woven together into a beautiful serene verse, while someone else can use those same words to write an exciting novel. They can convey deep emotion, or be cool and detached.

As PA's we have to learn to use words to describe and report as we document our patient encounters. We must condense lists of symptoms, events and observations into a few sentences which future providers can hopefully understand and use to treat these patients.

I recently changed jobs and went from typing all my own notes into an electronic medical record, to dictating over the phone. I have had to become a careful proofreader after discovering several words or phrases in my dictations that didn't exactly say what I intended.

Imagine the transcriptionist listening to endless dictations day after day as she tries to type. The Supervisor of our transcription department told me they type more than 13,000 dictations per MONTH! It is therefore not surprising that sometimes what gets typed is not exactly what we want on the patient's permanent record...

I have kept track of some of my funny dictations over the years, and our Transcription Department Supervisor sent me some they have compiled. It appears that funny dictations can be broken down into several categories.

### **There are those that result from the transcriptionist just "mis-hearing" the dictation, such as:**

"While in the ER she was examined, *X-rated* and sent home."

"He is a *formal* smoker." (*Always puts on a coat and tie before lighting up...*)

"I am seeing the patient in Dr. D\_\_\_'s *abscess*."

"...he has *HOMO-II*." (... home O2)

"She had *romantic* fever as a child."

"LUNGS: no wheezing, no *crackers*."

"His *material* grandmother had diabetes Type 2." (*I think Madonna wrote a song about her when she was younger...*)

"*Interstitial* personality disorder..." (Would that be a PSYCH, or a UROLOGY consult...?)

### **Some just make you blush:**

"The pelvic exam will be done later on the floor..."

"Examination of the genitalia revealed that he is *circus - sized*."

"He did a time-out with the nurse prior to starting the procedure."

### **Sometimes the funny result happens due to a simple punctuation error – like forgetting to say "new paragraph"...**

"Vaginal packing out. Dr. M\_\_\_ in."

"Ongoing problems with constipation. Floater left eye."

### **At the end of a long day it can be hard to organize our thoughts or make a firm decision...**

"The skin was moist and dry."

"Occasional, constant infrequent headaches on and off."

"Healthy appearing decrepit 69-year old male, mentally alert but forgetful."

"The patient was alert and unresponsive."

Letter from the Editor (continued from page 2)

**Often we know the facts we are trying to document, but they just LOOK different on paper:**

“The patient refused autopsy.”

“She has no rigors or shaking chills, but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.”

“Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.”

“The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.”

“She had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.”

“On the second day the knee was better and on the third day it disappeared.”

“She stated she had been constipated for most of her life, until she got a divorce.”

“The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be somewhat depressed.”

**I bet the transcriptionists sometimes wonder if we need to review our anatomy notes:**

“Rectal exam revealed a normal sized thyroid.”

“Both breasts are equal and reactive to light and accommodation.”

“He is numb from his toes down.”

**Simple spelling errors or a missing word can change the meaning altogether:**

“The patient is a traveling *lumbar* salesman.”

“The lab test indicated abnormal *lover* function.”

“*Athletes* noted on the bottoms of both feet.”

“I saw your patient today, who is still under our *car* for physical therapy.”

**And finally, there are dictations that aren't exactly what we meant to say, but get the point across anyway:**

“...increase in symptoms over the last six months with periods of *exasperation*. “ (exacerbation)

“He frequently eats at *fat* food restaurants.”

“The patient has two teenage children but no other abnormalities.”

My personal apologies to transcriptionists everywhere who patiently suffer through interminable droning dictations day after day. I hope the occasional “bloopers” cause them to laugh as hard as I did when I read some of these!

***(If any of you come across a funny dictation that you want to share please e-mail them to me and we will publish them in upcoming newsletters.)***



**Win FREE MEMBERSHIP  
to NDAPA for 2009!!!**

Submit an article on any topic that would be informative or helpful to your fellow PA's.

Write about your area of expertise, ideas for promoting PA day, share an interesting case study...

Names of all authors of articles chosen for publication in each newsletter from now until Spring Conference will be entered into a random drawing for one of **three** free 2009 memberships! E-mail your articles to: [eatchocl8@aol.com](mailto:eatchocl8@aol.com).



## 2008 House of Delegates Report...

Hello fellow members of the North Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants. It was another great year in the House of Delegates (HOD) in San Antonio. Although the HOD was the shortest of record, there was still interesting business. Some say that we are maturing as a profession and have less business to address. However, there are many “word changes” that delegates are still compelled to challenge.

The most newsworthy of changes was the adoption of the HOD to increase dues from \$215 to \$250.



Junior Delegate—Wayne Kartes

adoption of of 2008-B-02 which supports the speaker of the HOD to communicate with NCCPA to support and proceed with re-evaluation of the recertification process. Debate was held to look at a ten year recertification cycle with NCCPA. Also, discussion was held about the proposed elimination of Pathway II recertification examination.

Position papers were adopted for HIV Prevention, Routine Vaccination of Human Papilloma Virus, and the guidelines for Ethical Conduct of PA Profession. The position paper on Patient and Family Center Care was referred back to committee.

This is the first dues increase in eight years. Treasurer Finchhandler presented an excellent proposal about the dues increase. The cost of the annual AAPA conference and the monies available from drug representatives are crucial along with the growth of the academy to include travel expenses and lobbying, etc. Another interesting change is the



Alternate Delegate—Scott Barry

*(continued on page 5)*

(continued from page 4—HOD Report)



Junior Delegate—Wayne Kartes, Chief Delegate—Kate Larson and Alternate Delegate—Scott Barry at HOD in San Antonio, 2008

New bylaws were also adopted for the HOD to charter or recharter constituent chapters as well as suspend or revoke the charter of a constituent chapter. The bylaw change, 2008-C-14 was adopted and states the AAPA believes that Physician Assistants should be referred to as Physician Assistants and not combined with others such as mid-level practitioners or advanced practice clinicians.

Election of 2008 officers was held and are Vice President—William Fenn, First Vice Speaker—Alan Hull, Second Vice Speaker—James Delaney. Nominating committee members are Mary Ann Ramos and Karl Wagner.

A special thank you to NDAPA for the support for Wayne Kartes, Scott Barry, and myself to attend the House of Delegates 2008 in sunny and hot San Antonio. I had a great time representing North Dakota and hope to do so again in the future.

Kate Larson,  
2008 Chief Delegate  
NDAPA



*Celebrating*  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS:  
VALUED PARTNERS IN CARE

*National PA Week*  
October 6-12, 2008

AAPA  
40<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

Join AAPA in honoring the **40 years** of health care provided by the PA profession during the week of **October 6-12**. Visit the AAPA website at [www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org) to access the PA Week toolkit that will assist you with planning celebration activities. Thank you in advance for taking an active role in National Physician Assistant Week and helping to make it a national success!

## Mark Your Calendars

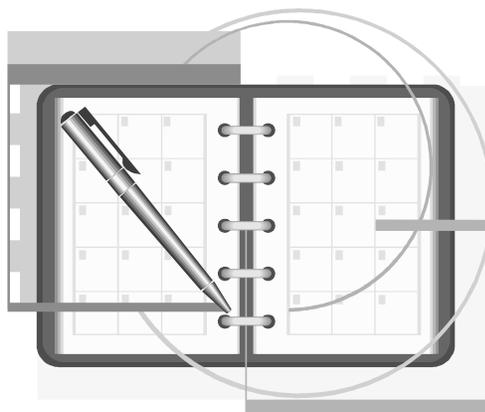
*(submitted by Lori Dockter, CME Chairman)*

Our 2008 primary care conference was a huge success!! We would like the 2009 conference to be just as successful. Feel free to contact one of the committee members if you have heard a good speaker or know of one. We are always open to new ideas.

Mark your calendars for the 2009 Spring Primary Care Conference April 30 to May 1st 2009 at The Holiday Inn in Fargo!

### ***The 2009 committee members are:***

Lori Dockter--Chairman  
 Heidi Olson Fitzgerald  
 Cory Jones  
 Scott Barry  
 Cheryl Ulven  
 Mike Verhey  
 Cathy Urlaub  
 Cindy Renner  
 Jackie Hjelmstadt  
 Joan Nickelmoe Connell  
 Lori Klabunde  
 Ginger Collins  
 Cassandra Kringlie



## Meeting Minutes

*The following minutes are abbreviated minutes from the Board meeting on April 30, 2008, General Assembly Meeting and Post Conference Meetings on May 2, 2008 and the Teleconference Board Meeting on July 27, 2008. Full minutes will be posted on the NDAPA web site: [www.ndapahome.org](http://www.ndapahome.org)*

### **NDAPA BOARD MEETING**

**April 30, 2008; 8:30 p.m.**

#### **Present:**

Wayne Kartes, Scott Barry, Pat Blomquist, Cindy Renner, Randy Perkins, Kate Larson, Terri Wold, Cheryl Ulven, Cory Jones, LaVonne Charbonneau, Terri Lang, guest – Nick Sence – AAPA Representative.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### CME – Cory Jones

This year's conference was discussed. Between 200–250 attendees are expected. Three students from UND will be presenting their scholarship projects on Friday. Assistance from the Board members was requested to introduce speakers and monitor time for each presentation. Speaker fees, honorariums and contracted services from UND were discussed. The possibility of increasing the fees for vendors was discussed and will be revisited.

##### HOD

Wayne Kartes and Kate Larson will be attending the National Conference in San Antonio in May.

*(Minutes Continued from Page 4)*

#### Membership – Randy Perkins

Membership for 2007 was 106. This year 76 have renewed their membership to date. Typically there are additional renewals with conference fee. Randy presented the possibility of providing Web-based “The Medical Letter” by the Academy as a method to increase membership. This would cost approximately \$9.00 per member and would include the availability of several hours of CME. The specifics will be further researched by Randy and will be presented at the June meeting. It was decided that members will be requested to provide their e-mail addresses to the Board and that membership information will be provided by e-mail. Membership binders will no longer be mailed to members, but that information will be available on the Web site: [www.NDAPAhome.org](http://www.NDAPAhome.org). The possibility of requiring a password to access certain information was discussed.

#### Public Relations

Three boxes of shirts with the NDAPA logo was purchased many years ago were discovered in storage. These will be used as incentives as deemed appropriate by the committee.

#### Scholarship – Cheryl Ulven

Discussion regarding providing scholarships to North Dakota students attending other PA Programs was discussed. This possibility as well as selection criteria will be researched by Cheryl and Kate. Alternate methods to fund the scholarship was discussed. The Silent Auction typically brings in about \$500.

#### Newsletter – Cindy Renner

A plea for articles was heard. It was decided to ask the membership for participation. Any article submitted will be entered into a drawing held annually for a free one-year membership to NDAPA.

#### Legislative – Kate Larson and Scott Barry

They have been meeting with the Board of Medical Examiners for about 18 months and a strong working relationship has been formed. BOME attorney John Olson will be assisting in the wording of the law change supporting the prescribing Schedule II drugs by Physician Assistants as well as the entire process of bringing the bill before the legislature. Mr. Olson has offered to be the lobbyist for NDAPA starting this fall. The NDBOME will sponsor the bill before the legislation.

#### New Business

The need to increase the amount of reimbursement to delegates to attend the national convention was discussed. Motion moved to increase the amount from \$1500 for delegates and Jr. delegates to \$2000, and alternates reimbursement from \$750 to \$1250. Motion passed.

#### **Minutes General Assembly—Fargo, ND**

##### **May 2, 2008**

Treasurer’s report was given by Pat Blomquist. The membership was informed that expenses for the convention and for legislative activities will likely increase next year.

#### Committee Reports:

CME report was given by Cory Jones. The next convention will be April 30 to May 1, 2009 in Fargo, ND.

Legislative report was given by Kate Larson. She updated the membership on the proposed legislative changes that will be presented at the next Legislative Assembly in 2009.

Scholarship report was given by Cheryl Ulven. Since the UND PA Program is now a 24-month program, there will not be a scholarship given this year. New guidelines on the scholarship are currently being developed.

Membership reported by Randy Perkins. He urged the recruitment of new members to the Academy. He also discussed some new benefits of members the Board is considering.

Newsletter reported by Cindy Renner. Cindy made an appeal for more articles for the newsletter. As an incentive, all members who submit an article will be placed in a drawing. One lucky person will receive a free one-year membership to the NDAPA.

Nick Sense from the National AAPA was on hand and reported on some of the changes that are happening at the national level. Some of these included changes to the current Medicare/Medicaid legislation.

*(minutes continued from page 5)*

Mr. Sense reminded everyone to return the AAPA reimbursement survey that will be sent out to all members of the AAPA. He asked the membership for their continued support.

Mary Ann Laxen from the UND PA Program reported on the Program.

Old Business The bylaws are currently being reviewed and updated. The plan is for completion at the end of the year.

New Business -- Election of Officers

Wayne Kartes was elected President by voice vote. .

President-Elect: Cheryl Ulven was nominated and was elected President-Elect by voice vote.

Vice President: Lori Klabunde was nominated and was elected Vice President by voice vote.

Secretary: Lavonne Charbonneau was nominated and was elected secretary by voice vote.

Treasurer: Pat Blomquist was nominated and was elected Treasurer by voice vote.

Director at Large: Curt Kroh was nominated and was elected Director at Large by voice vote.

Junior Delegate: The following persons were nominated. Scott Barry, Jim Berglund, Heidi Fitzgerald, Lori Dockter, and Kate Larson. Lori Dockter was elected by secret ballot. She will be attending the national convention in San Diego in 2009.

Two alternate delegates are to be selected from the following nominees: Cory Jones, Joan Connell, Cheryl Ulven, and Lori Dockter. Cheryl Ulven and Cory Jones were elected by secret ballot. They will be attending the National Convention in San Diego in 2009. The membership was reminded that Kate Larson is Chief Delegate to the 2008 Convention in San Antonio as she was the Junior delegate in 2007.

Other New Business

Kate Larson reported on the new law that allows practitioners to obtain the pharmacy records of patients that you suspect of being drug seekers.

Randy Perkins reminded the membership to report any knowledge of impaired practitioners to the Board of Medical Examiners. There is help available for them.

Scott Barry informed the membership that if they practice in more than one state, they need separate DEA numbers for each state.

The PA Humanitarian of the Year is Sharon Ric. She was nominated by her preceptor, Dr. Harts. The PA of the Year is Nikki Anvinson.

We would like to recognize Executive Secretary Terri Lang for all her hard work and dedication to the NDAPA.

The next general assembly will be April 30 – May 1, 2009 in Fargo.

### **Minutes NDAPA Board — After Convention**

**May 2, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by President Wayne Kartes. Members in attendance were Pat Blomquist, Randy Perkins, Cory Jones, Scott Barry, Lori Dockter, Cheryl Ulven, Michael Verhey, Curtis Kroh, Jodi Moore, LaVonne Charbonneau.

Several issues were briefly discussed. It was agreed that the reimbursement for the alternate delegates to attend the National Convention should be increased to \$1250 and for the Chief and Junior Delegate should be \$2000. These increases will begin with the 2009 convention.

Next years conference table rates for the vendors was discussed. Scott moved that the rate increase to \$750 for one table and \$1100 for two. This was passed by voice vote. The rates will be re-evaluated after the next conference.

2009 CME chair will be Lori Dockter. 2009 corporate sponsor chair will be Cory Jones. The possibility of increasing the registration fee for the 2010 conference was briefly mentioned.

Terri Wold who was selected as Junior Delegate for the 2008 National Convention cannot attend. Wayne asked members to inform him if they are not able to attend the meetings or phone conferences.

(minutes continued from Page 6)

**Minutes: NDAPA Board Meeting Teleconference  
July 27, 2008**

Present: Wayne Kartes, Cindy Renner, Randy Perkins, Cory Jones, Curtis Kroh, Pat Blomquist, Scott Barry, Lori Dockter, LaVonne Charbonneau, Terri Lang

Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Pat Blomquist. \$26,598.22 was earned with the 2008 Spring conference. The Scholarship fund earned \$937.50 in the Silent Auction. NDAPA has significant funds in the checking account. Various types of interest bearing accounts were discussed. It was moved to have the Treasurer move funds into an appropriate interest bearing account as she deems fit. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The budget for fiscal year year 2008-2009 was presented. Several line items had significant increases in funding especially for the Spring conference and to give this a figure of \$10,000. A motion was raised to increase Terri Lang's salary to \$350/month. This passed unanimously. Randy Perkins asked for an increase in the membership line item to cover the cost for the new membership benefit The Medical Letter. After much discussion, the increase was approved.

Membership—Randy Perkins—The Medical Letter will cost the Academy \$9.00 per member. After discussion, it was decided that Randy will submit an article to the quarterly newsletter informing the membership of this benefit and asking interested members to contact Terri Lang, who will give each member their PIN number to allow them to log on the site. Additional PIN numbers can be purchased from the company as needed. Some discussion was held regarding a Package deal, Spring conference, annual membership and The Medical Letter all in one. Membership has increased this year. Randy will personally contact each PA in the State that isn't a member and ask them to join the organization.

Newsletter—Cindy Renner

Mid August is the next newsletter. Articles are needed.

CME—Lori Dockter and Cory Jones

Cory would like to thank everyone for their help and assistance. The Spring conference was a success. Mostly positive feedback was received. Some of the dislikes, box lunches and concurrent sessions. Methods to change these were discussed including asking the Drug Reps to sponsor a lunch, and having informal, non-CME topics at the concurrent sessions. There will be a bigger main conference room next year.

Public Relations No report.

Wayne Kartes did announce that Heidi Fitzgerald resigned as chair from this committee.

Legislative Kate Larson couldn't attend. She did inform Wayne of several issues. The cost of the Bill may be more than we anticipated. The increase in the line item in the budget did show the anticipated increase. Jeff Gross, undertaker from Mohall, and representing the State Mortician's Board will be asking for a Century Code change to allow PA's to sign death certificates. Currently PAs can pronounce death, but cannot sign the certificate. Nurse Practitioners can sign, but PA's cannot. He has been put in contact with Kate Larson and Scott Barry and this change will be added to the proposed bill. Randy Perkins reminded us that any practitioner that you have knowledge of being impaired, must be turned into the NDBOME. We were also reminded that any change in supervising MD must be reported to NDBOME within 72 hours.

New Business

Delegates Wayne Kartes will be Chief delegate at the 2009 National Convention. Lori Dockter will be the Junior delegate. Cory Jones and Cheryl Ulven are alternates.

Attendees are needed for the North Central Meeting.

Cheryl Ulven who is the President elect will be attending the Leadership Summit.

The next meeting will be in October or November and will be a teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

LaVonne Charbonneau,  
NDAPA Secretary



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**The mission of NDAPA is to promote quality, cost-effective, accessible health care to enhance the health and well-being of the people of North Dakota and to promote the professional and personal development of Physician Assistants.**

