



the review

A quarterly newsletter of the North Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants

Cindy Renner, PC, Editor

July, 2004

PA of the Year Awards:

PA of the Year Awards were presented at the Spring conference. There were 2 candidates selected by the Awards Committee for Outstanding PA of the Year. The recipients of the Outstanding PA of the Year are : Corrine Coughlin and Rebecca Ritter. The award for Humanitarian PA of the Year was awarded to Beth Ann Korczak..



2003 North Dakota PA of the Year, Corrine Coughlin, PA-C , was nominated by Mukesh V. Patel, MD and the Tioga Medical Center where Coughlin currently practices. According to Dr. Patel and the Tioga Medical Center; “Corrine provides health care to patients of all ages with acute and chronic diseases with an emphasis on wellness and preventive medicine. Corinne travels to satellite clinics providing frontier medicine at Powers Lake , Wildrose, and Ray performing a variety of duties. She alternates hospital Emergency room call with 2 physicians and another PA., handling simple medical problems to complex trauma. She is able to effectively handle crisis situations with calm composure. Corrine demonstrates courtesy and professionalism to patients, family and staff. She is certified in ACLS, PHTLS and attended the ATLS course. “

2003 North Dakota PA of the Year, Becky Ritter, PA-C, was nominated by the OB/GYN Department at Mid Dakota Clinic, Bismarck, North Dakota where Ritter currently practices. According to the department; “Becky is quite literally ‘the best thing that has happened’ to our OB/GYN Department. PA Ritter has surprised in every good imaginable way. She started our successful adaptation into the modern OB/GYN arena, but she continues as our thought and care leader. Becky is helping set up our Center For Women website, and is reworking the pre-op portion of the website where most of pre-op instruction can be accomplished online. She is our primary surgical assistant and takes two-thirds of the night call. Above all, Becky engenders trust and respect in all that she does. We do not think it excessive to say that our department could not successfully function without her. Like Lillel the elder and scholar of old, “A single candle can light a thousand without diminishing itself.””



2003 North Dakota Humanitarian PA of the Year Beth Korczak, PA-C, was nominated by Kathryn Waitman, FNP-C from the Roger Maris Cancer Center, Fargo, North Dakota where Beth currently practices. According to Waitman, “Beth works with pediatric cancer patients practicing in very compassionate manner. Beth’s primary goal is to treat the patient’s disease and yet she is always cognizant of the need to allow these ‘small people’ to live life to the fullest. Children never want to be different than their peers and Beth helps these kids to achieve this goal by being down to earth and honest with them. Beth often acts as a resource to not only patients and families but to the Pediatricians also caring for these children. Her success with her patient is readily visible when you walk into her office and see the pictures of her and her patients plastered on the walls. I believe Beth is the epitome of the definition of Humanitarian: One who is devoted to the promotion of human welfare and the advancement of social reforms; a philanthropist; compassionate. “

Please congratulate these individuals!

NDAPA Spring Conference

Heidi Olson-Fitzgerald, PA-C

The Spring Primary Care Seminar was held May 6 and 7, 2004 at the Ramada Plaza Suites and Conference Center in Fargo. Nearly 200 registrants and speakers attended this annual event. Topics ranged from Osteoporosis to Pain Management, Common Dermatoses to Infant Formulas. Comments and feedback regarding the conference were excellent.

Next years conference will be **Thursday and Friday, April 28 and 29th, 2005** at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. The CME committee is discussing adding evening lectures Wednesday April 27th.

For the 2005 Conference, ACLS Recertification will be offered Wednesday, April 27th, 2005 at MeritCare. The recertification will be sponsored and coordinated through MeritCare. If participants are interested, please contact Tasha Haug at MeritCare Health System 701-234-6448 or tashahaug@meritcare.com. Course information is available at the Meritcare Education web site at: provider.meritcare.com, link to educational activities. Registration for this course is not available online- please call MeritCare to register.

Kathy Ohly Scholarship Fund

Thanks to all of you for your great support of the Silent Auction held at the Primary Care Conference in May. The Kathy Ohly Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 was awarded to Ann Owens of Hillsboro, ND who is currently enrolled in the UND PA program. She was very appreciative. We were able to raise over \$540.00 from the Silent Auction. In addition, every year I write a letter to the husband and sister of Kathy Ohly to update them on the scholarship recipients. Within the last two weeks, I received a very nice thank you note from Kathy's sister thanking the academy for their continued support of the scholarship fund. She also sent a check for \$200.00 for the fund.

I especially want to thank all of you who donated items to the auction. It seems like the same people every year who give so generously and they often are not recognized for their efforts. Thank you.

Remember that we can all contribute cash donations as well when we fill out our applications every year to join the academy - even a \$5.00 contribution means a great deal (if every member donated just that amount we would raise over \$500.00 a year). This is a charitable donation and is tax deductible.

Thanks again and congratulations to Ann!

Micki Lueck, PA-C

THANKS to the CME Committee

Here's to the members of the CME committee!!!

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the members of the CME committee for all their hard work in putting together a successful conference this past Spring. There is a great deal of work that goes on throughout the year in order to coordinate this Spring CME event. The CME committee works together to coordinate speakers, sponsors and financial support for the conference, along with following up and assisting with coordination of CME/ANA credits. This group works hard to be sure this event provides quality medical topics and appropriate information.

Committee members are: Cory Jones, Joan Nycklemoe-Connell, Sue Ivankoivich, and Bruce Larson. Please join me in thanking and commending these individuals for a job well done! If you would like to participate on the CME committee, please e-mail me: hmfitz@att.net

Thanks-

Heidi Olson-Fitzgerald, PA-C

President's Notes

By Wanda Knudson, PA-C, Past President

Wayne Kartes and I attended the AAPA 2004 House of Delegates. The hot topics this year were co-parents, emergency contraception and foreign-trained PA's. The policy on equal access to health care for children aimed at protecting access to children of non-traditional couples drew the most debate. The House did finally pass this policy. Two policies on emergency contraception were also approved. There was much debate since some delegates equated EC with abortion. The House passed a policy adopting foreign-trained PA's. This does not include foreign-trained medical graduates.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for their support during the past 2 years. We have a great bunch of people on the board and the committees who put a lot of time and effort into making the NDAPA what it is. Good luck to Kate Larson as new President. I'm sure she'll do a terrific job.

U.N.D. MEDICAL SCHOOL FACULTY MEMBER WOLD RECEIVES 'CARING AWARD'



GRAND FORKS, N.D. – Terrie Jo Wold, a faculty member in the physician assistant program at the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences, recently received the Caring Award from the Eta Upsilon Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau (STT) International Nursing Society at UND.

Established in 1994, the Caring Award recognizes a STT member for excellence in nursing as demonstrated by caring.

For the last three years, Wold has coordinated a mission team from Calvary Lutheran Church in Grand Forks to spend 10 days each spring working in cooperation with the people of El Triunfo, Honduras. Not only does the team provide them health care, but also offers health information, has constructed a classroom and medical clinic, and has provided additional services.

2004 House of Delegates



Wanda Knudson, Chief Delegate & Wayne Kartes,

As a junior delegate to the 2004 House of Delegates, I want to thank the North Dakota Academy for giving me the opportunity to serve in that position. It has been several years since I have attended the House of Delegates meetings, and it was surprising how quickly one acclimates to that situation. There were many topics discussed and voted on, and happily most of them were handled in a way that I felt was quite progressive and insightful. Our Academy is large and our voice is heard, and our input requested.

I am somewhat envious of those who are more active, and have been for many years in the Academy's House of Delegates, participating in its policy making. The time that they dedicate to this process is significant and we should all be appreciative of their efforts. They are working on our behalf, and I for one certainly appreciate their efforts. There were many issues addressed, including new options for certification, foreign PA graduates, greater access to health care and professional entry level, just to mention a few.

I urge anyone who has a little time and interest to think about serving on either the state or national level.

Reports of the House of Delegates are available, but if anyone is interested in discussing them with me, I would be happy to share my experiences at the House of Delegates.

Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as junior delegate to the 2004 AAPA House of Delegates.



Sincerely,

Wayne Kartes, PA-C

Minutes- NDAPA Board Meeting 5/6/04

Present: Wanda Knudson, Kate Larson, Ginger Collins, Cheryl Ulven, Micki Lueck, Terrie Wold, Jean Nygaard, Heidi Oson-Fitzgerald, Terri Lang, Patricia Blomquist, Roger Preszler, Cindy Renner

- ❖ Previous minutes were reviewed. Ginger moved, Cindy seconded and board approved minutes.
- ❖ Progress on web site for the academy not available due to Denise Lorenz absence. Wanda will contact Denise for update prior to pursuing other alternatives such as AAPA or UND SOMHS for assistance.
- ❖ Patricia reported that the Domestic & Foreign Non-profit Organization form has been renewed. It was recommended that the contact name on the form be changed from President to treasurer for consistency in renewal process.
- ❖ Jeff Mackie PhD, inspirational/motivational speaker has submitted info to academy for consideration as a potential speaker. He is sponsored by Glaxo Smith Kline. This lecture would NOT qualify for clinical CME but could be professional CME or luncheon speaker. Info placed in file for CME committee to consider for next year.
- ❖ Membership info forms have been sent out with no follow up at this point. Gold forms noting renewals or memberships connected with registration for the conference will be collected tomorrow by Terri Lang.
- ❖ Request submitted from "Society for Preservation of PA History" for joining. Cost is \$250/year to be included in book. NDAPA would also be responsible for updating ND HX content. Unanimous decision that this is not a cost effective measure at this time.
- ❖ Legislative Committee- no info due to absence of Denise. Terrie Wold inquired if action being considered to alter prescriptive privileges for controlled substances to Class II? UND PA Program has had inquiries from around the state. NP's have Class II prescriptive privileges. Wanda will seek more info on this issue from Denise and the Board of Medical Examiners. It was noted that practice laws can take years to alter or change - so the process should be initiated if it is a desirable goal- for both PA's & Medical Board.
- ❖ Corporate Sponsor- Roger reports no action this past year due to his deployment. He does have a new contact with the Dakota Foundation which donated \$5,000 for a recent military medical conference in the state. He has not made any pharmaceutical contacts.
- ❖ Scholarship Committee- One applicant- Ann Owens from Hillsboro. Kate moved, Heidi seconded and unanimously approved to accept this application. \$500 check will be given formally to Ann at the conference if she attends. Silent Auction donations are being collected and this will be set up tomorrow.
- ❖ Reimbursement committee- Jean Nygaard recommends that PA's request quarterly or monthly statements on their revenue generated, number of patients seen etc. to keep abreast of activity. She will submit key questions and answers in the newsletter. Board recommended that conference speakers on coding/reimbursement issues be offered at least every other year to keep membership up to date on changes.
- ❖ Professional Wellness- no report
- ❖ Treasurer- Pat submitted report- spent \$4,973.18 for year. Balance is \$16,926.82. Profit from last years CME conference was \$12,652.77.
- ❖ Public Relations Committee- Have 178 registrations so far for conference with average of 8-10+ walk on's expected. No students registered this year. Next year the conference is scheduled for April 27-29th at the Holiday Inn. 2006 conference will be May 3-5 at the Holiday Inn. Heidi requested topic ideas for future conferences. Volunteers from Board for speaker intros and timing. UND Conference staff has agreed to hold costs for their services for the next few years- approximately \$8,000 + paper costs etc. The web site registration process has been well received. Encourages more PA's to be presenters at conference.
- ❖ Board agreed to not meet post conference since agenda items are minimal. Will request that Heidi submit post-conference info to board members as needed.
- ❖ House of Delegates- Junior Delegate position is open- requires that person has been an alternate previously. Wayne Kartes has expressed interest- accepted as delegate for 2004 AAPA HOD meeting in Las Vegas. Alternate Delegates have withdrawn. These positions will be announced at the lunch meeting at the conference.

(Continued on Page 2— Minutes—NDAPA Board Meeting)

- ❖ Approved to purchase a digital camera- spending up to \$300- for filming NDAPA activities and general publicity of PA's practicing around the state. Cindy moved and Cheryl seconded this motion- unanimously approved.
- ❖ Cheryl presented a framed, matted certificate of recognition presented to the academy by the UND PA Program at their last graduation ceremony for certificate graduates.
- ❖ Leadership summit meeting dates unknown. Possibly will be held in July in Virginia.
- ❖ Candidates for board officers are being sought. Slate of officers will be voted on by membership at luncheon meeting.
- ❖ It was agreed upon unanimously to move the Primary Care Conference dates to the end of April each year- to avoid Spring activities (graduations etc), Mother's Day, and same month CME with Annual AAPA Conference. NDAPA Board meeting will be held at 9 pm Wednesday evening, first day of conference. Conference may begin at 5 pm with dinner session on Wednesday and continue through Friday afternoon to provide more CME's.
- ❖ Upcoming Annual AAPA meetings with HOD & CME will be in Orlando 2005, San Francisco 2006, Philadelphia 2007, & San Antonio 2008.
- ❖ Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Wold, NDAPA Board Member

Minutes- NDAPA General Membership 5/8/04

Ramada Plaza Suites

- ❖ President Wanda Knudson called meeting to order at 12:53 p.m. Corey Jones, PA-C addressed the group to encourage members to participate in board committees and positions. Wanda introduced new president, Kate Larson, which she will start her position on July 1, 2004. This position will be held for a period of two years.
- ❖ Nominations were held for the following board positions:
 - Vice President – Ginger Collins
 - Secretary – Wayne Kartes
 - Treasurer – Pat Blomquist
 - Director at Large – Cheryl Ulven
- ❖ Nominations ceased and vote taken with the above positions re-instated.
- ❖ Nominations were taken for the 2005 House of Delegates.
 - Junior Delegate – Kate Larson
 - Alternate Delegate – Ginger Collins, Jean Nygaard, Jerane Forsberg, and Barb Heier.
- ❖ Vote was taken and Ginger Collins and Jean Nygaard will attend as alternate delegates. Barb Heier will attend as Junior delegate as she is agreeable to that and Kate Larson declined.
- ❖ Discussion was held about starting on a website for NDAPA. UND School of Medicine PA Program will assist with the website.
- ❖ The membership was asked if anyone was interested in attending the 2004 AAPA conference as an alternate delegate this year in Las Vegas. Lu Graeber will attend as an alternate delegate.
- ❖ Mary Ann Laxen talked to the group regarding the New Masters Program at UND School of Medicine.
- ❖ Kathy Ohly Scholarship was awarded to Ann Owens from the NDAPA.
- ❖ Leadership conference will be held July 30-August 1 in Alexandria, VA. Those interested in attending are Valerie Martin, Ginger Collins, and Mandi Splonskowski.
- ❖ Meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kate Larson, President Elect

Public Relations:

Public Relations Committee has a new chairperson. Bruce Larson from Lisbon has accepted the position of chairperson for the PR committee and will coordinate PR activities. Jean Nygaard and myself will continue as committee members and assist Bruce as needed. We do welcome and encourage involvement of other members. Please feel free to contact out new chairperson or any committee members with your interest.

Please contact this committee for literature regarding PA's in North Dakota, promotional material are available in limited supplies (also from AAPA), information and nominations for PA of the Year Awards, information and your suggestions for PA Day October 6th, and to receive the NDAPA display board for promotional events.

Rural Health PA of the Year



Rural Health PA of the Year was awarded to Teresa Neilsen at the National AAPA Conference in Las Vegas. Ms. Neilsen is from New England, ND and was the recipient of the North Dakota Outstanding PA of the Year 2003 award given by the NDAPA. This award honors a PA who has provided accessible, quality health care to the underserved in a rural community.

This is a prestigious award, and we should be proud to have a ND PA win such an award. Ms. Neilsen is an excellent PA and a perfect candidate to win this award.

Congratulations to Teresa!!!

CME Corner:

August 16-20, 2004

Certification and Recertification Exam Review.
Western Michigan University PA Program,
Kalamazoo, MI. 269-387-4174.

August 23-27, 2004

Certification and Recertification Exam Review.
CME Resources.
Chicago, IL. 800-522-3439.

September 16 & 17, 2004.

Internal Medicine Review for Nurse Practitioners and
Physician Assistants.
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN.
800-323-2688 www.may.edu/cme

CME Corner (Continued)

September 17-18, 2004

9th Annual MedCenter One Medical Conference
Bismarck, ND www.medcenterone.com

October 1, 2004

Women's Midlife Health Conference 2004.
United Hospital, St. Paul, MN. 800-605-3744.

October 11-15, 2004

Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants
16th Annual Aloha Medical Conference
Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii
For more information:
Robert Null—1-808-432-8334
Email: OPA79@aol.com

February 3-6, 2005

23rd Annual PAAV Winter CME Conference
Physician Assistant Academy of Vermont
Topnotch Resort and Spa
Stowe, Vermont
For more information:
PAAV Administration
Tel: 603:643-2325
Email: paav@sover.net
Website: www.paav.org

March 30-April 4, 2005

The Naples Conference
Society of Emergency Medicine PAs
Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club
Naples, FL
For more information:
SEMPA Conference Administration
Tel: 603:643-2325
Email: sempa@sover.net
Website: www.sempa.org

Get Involved!

We are in the middle of our membership drive for this year and for those of you who have not paid your dues, brochures will be sent to you. When filling out the membership renewal/application, please indicate which committee(s) you would like to be involved with. For those who have already paid their dues but did not sign up for a committee, please e-mail Terri Lang at terri_lang@und.nodak.edu and let her know which committee(s) you would like to be a part of. She will inform the Committee Chairs to make sure you are included in the activities of that committee. The following is a list of the committees with a brief synopsis of the responsibility the committee has and the current list of members for the committee.

CME Committee — Coordinates all CME conferences for NDAPA.

Current members: Heidi Olson-Fitzgerald, Chair; Virginia Ceynar, Cathy Urlaub, Terrie Jo Wold, Bruce Larson, Cindy Renner, Sue Ivankovich, Cory Jones, Joan Nycklemoe-Connell

Membership Committee — Holds annual membership drive and continues efforts of recruiting and retaining members.

Current members: Denise Lorenz, Chair; Rose Bergquist

Newsletter Committee — Coordinates the production of the quarterly newsletter, The Review. Includes recruiting articles and photos from members and committee chairs, writing articles and overseeing the layout of the newsletter

Current members: Cindy Renner, Chair; Tara Haberlock, Tracy Vearrier

Legislative Committee — Acts as a liaison between state and federal/legislature and the North Dakota Board of Medical Examiners and the constituency and mentor the membership concerning legislative issues and craft new PA legislation in concert with the Board of Director.

Current members: Scott Barry, Chair; Tracy Vearrier

Reimbursement Committee — Becomes aware of current reimbursement legislation/policies concerning Medicare/Medicaid and other third party payers and writes a minimum of two articles for NDAPAs newsletter, The Review, on reimbursement issues or a summary of committee activities

Current members: Jean Nygaard, Chair

Public Education/Relations Committee — Develops programs to advance the PA profession in North Dakota, sends out public service announcements and or press releases whenever appropriate, maintains the NDAPA scrapbook and display board and coordinates and supervises PA Day activities happening within the state.

Current members: Bruce Larson, Chair; Jean Nygaard, and Scott Barry

Corporate Relations Committee — Raises non-dues revenue for NDAPA, serves as liaison with pharmaceutical companies for sponsorship of NDAPA's activities, develop/maintain NDAPA's corporate associate program (CAP) as a way to recognize the unique partnership between NDAPA and the health care industry, encourage companies to give unrestricted grants and work closely with the CME committee on logistics for the Exhibit Hall and exhibitor appreciation events with companies that wish to sponsor speakers or other events at NDAPA Primary Care Conference

Current members: Roger Preszler, Chair

Professional Wellness Committee — Develops programs to assist impaired PAs, maintains list of local and statewide rehabilitation centers, toll free hotlines, and other centers for addictive problems

Current members: Roger Preszler, Chair

Scholarship Committee — Maintains the Kathy Ohly Scholarship fund, acts as a liaison between NDAPA and the Kathy Ohly family, works with the PA Programs to distribute information and applications to North Dakota PA Students, promotes membership to students in NDAPA, and develops and implements fund raising activities for the Kathy Ohly Scholarship fund.

Current members: Micki Lueck, Chair

Election Committee — Responsible for conducting all elections of the NDAPA, including recruiting a slate of candidates for fill positions on the Board of Directors and House of Delegates and ensuring eligibility requirements are met for candidates declaring to run for any office

Current members: Mandi Splonskowski, Chair



the review

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2005 Chief Delegate—AAPA HOD

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Jean Nygaard
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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.

