



APN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

February 2009

Message from the Chair

2009 has started off with exciting possibilities for Advance Practice Nurses in Arkansas. House Bill 1134, if passed, will eliminate the mandate for collaborative practice agreements between APNs and physicians which will allow APNs to be PCPs and will entitle us to equal reimbursement by insurance companies.

Earlier this month Gov. Beebe signed a bill that will assist with scholarship money for nursing faculty. The Tobacco Tax bill will help fund the Trauma Centers and the Addiction Bill allowing more people to get treatment for mental illness and drug addiction. We are very excited about new opportunities for Advance Practice Nurses.

As Advance Practice Nurses we need to become more comfortable with sharing our knowledge with other nurses in the state. The Arkansas Nurses Association's annual conference will be held October in Little Rock. The conference in 2008 was successful in combining two separate conferences (the ARNA conference and the APN conference) and this process will be repeated in 2009. The APN council is putting out a challenge to all APNs in

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Arkansas Nurses Information Listserve

The ARNA CA Task Force has established a grass roots communication chain to notify nurses of upcoming legislative issues. The 2009 legislative year is proving to be a demanding session. There are many issues that involve all of the more than 40,000 Arkansas nurses. **We are urging ALL nurses to sign up ASAP so that you can be kept apprised of vital information for nurses.** We have chosen to use YahooGroups for ArkansasNurses because it is simple to use and there are no associated costs. At this time only selected moderators will post messages. This will not be an open listserve with back and forth dialog (like the APN listserve), rather it is a means of getting information out quickly to everyone, especially while the legislature is in session.

Sign up today by sending an email to:

ArkansasNurses-subscribe@yahoo.com using the email address where you wish to receive these emails.

Or go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ArkansasNurses/join> to subscribe. Please forward this listserve information to every Arkansas nurse that you know so we can make sure everyone has the opportunity to be informed. Our goal is to be able to reach every nurse with important information quickly.

New Email Listserve for APNs

We have created a free email listserve to facilitate communication between APNs across the state. This allows information to be disseminated quickly and without the significant cost and delay associated with paper newsletters like this one. Discussion focuses on legislative and regulatory issues; clinical issues; scope of practice and role issues; reimbursement; credentialing and certification; upcoming educational programs. Subscriptions to this listserve and all postings are currently being approved by a moderator. Last November we added every APN for whom we had a valid email address.

We urge all APNs who are not yet on this listserve to subscribe by sending an email

(from preferred email account) to:

AR-APN-subscribe@yahoo.com

or sign up on the website at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AR-APN/join>.

Once subscribed, you will be able to post a message and it will go to all the APNs who are on the listserve. All of the messages are archived on the list's website for future reference.

If you have questions or need assistance email Michelle Taylor at michelle.np@cox.net.



Subscribe to AR-APN

Legislative Update:

Because there is a significant time lag in any print material, the most up-to-date information can be obtained by subscribing to the listserves.

New Medicare APN/PA Website

CMS has established a website which includes PowerPoint presentations and links to various CMS publications related to APNs and PAs www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/70_APNPA.asp The **Advanced Practice Nursing/ Physician Assistant Web-Based Training** program on reimbursement is another excellent resource www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/apn2

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

For those seeking APN positions or employers looking to fill a position, stay tuned. We will soon offer paid advertisements for APN positions for a very affordable fee. This will be a great source of "non-dues" revenue.

ARNA 96th Annual Convention October 29-31, 2009

Doubletree Hotel/State Convention Center
Little Rock, AR www.arna.org

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Arkansas to send in abstracts for the ARNA annual conference. As an APN you are not required to present only to other APNs; you can present to RNs or APNs on any topic. If you do not feel that you are ready to present to a group there is always the poster presentation that receives a lot of attention or articles to be published in the APN newsletter. As professional nurses we have a tremendous amount of expert knowledge to pass on to other nurses. Throughout the state there are many experienced nurses that have been sharing their knowledge and can be an asset to mentor those APNs that have not been active in this role. There are so many opportunities for us to share our knowledge with each other we hope that as an APN you will take that initial first step.

Marilou Shreve-Doffin, APN Council Chair

**Gerontological Nurse Practitioners
New Alternative Certification Criteria**

In an effort to increase the number of health care providers who are prepared to care for the growing numbers of geriatric patients, the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) is now offering an alternate GNP certification. Acute Care, Adult, and Family nurse practitioner educational programs contain gerontology content and many of these NPs are now delivering care to a majority of gerontological patients. Licensed nurse practitioners who hold an active certification as an Acute Care, Adult, or Family NP are candidates for the Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Alternate Eligibility Recognition Examination. Criteria includes a minimum of 2000 clinical hours of practice as an NP with the older/geriatric population within the three years before submitting the application and completion of a minimum of 75 education hours (continuing education and/or academic) in the last five years which cover specific content areas. For more information see the ANCC website at www.nursecredentialing.org.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Prostate Screening Bill Passed Without NPs

HB1031 proposed by Rep. Fred Allen, D-Little Rock, was signed into act by Governor Beebe on February 5. HB1031 requires health insurance carriers to provide at least one screening per year for any man forty years of age and above, according the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines. **HOWEVER, WE WERE UNABLE TO GET THE LANGUAGE OF THIS BILL CHANGED TO INCLUDE NURSE PRACTITIONERS.** This only underscores the importance of our Health Policy Committee and Lobbyist. We need every APN to support ARNA's efforts both financially and with your phone calls and letters.

APN Conference Calls

The first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm all APNs are welcome to join the call. For call in number or more information contact the APN council members:

Marilou Shreve-Doffin - Chair

mdoffin@rainbowpediatric.net 479-422-5250

Julie Thibodaux - Secretary/Treasurer

jthibodaux@sbcglobal.net 479-633-4397

Angi Roberts - Member-at-Large

angikroberts@hotmail.com 501-425-0205

Did you know... The Arkansas Nurses Association's APN Council is a State Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Practitioners, making members eligible for a \$15 discount on individual ACNP membership. Student memberships are also available. For more information www.acnpweb.org You are also eligible to receive a free subscription to the Journal for Nurse Practitioners (JNP). If you are not receiving it already, sign up at www.npjjournal.org.

Telephone Numbers for the Capitol

House of Representatives Switchboard 501-682-6211

Senate Switchboard – 501-682-2902

Please put these numbers in your palm pilots, cell phones or rolodex so you are ready when we need to flood the switchboards with calls in support of our bills.

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