

SOUTH DAKOTA ACADEMY OF *Physician Assistants* "PARTNERS IN MEDICINE"



FROM THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

As fall leaped upon us, everyone is busy getting children settled into school, football and volleyball games, cross country meets and golf. Believe it or not we are already looking at the ninth week of school and the holiday's right around the corner.

September again took us to Sioux Falls with an excellent CME session, a very big Thank You to our CME committee and to Rebekah for their hard work and many long hours of planning. I would also like to thank Mary Nafus for joining our academy as our new executive secretary. Mary jumped right in during our CME meetings and did a great job. I would also like to take this time to thank Rebekah for all the years of services and long hours, and to many that went unnoticed. You will always be a part of us and a life time honorary member. Thank you seems so small for everything that you have done!

During our general membership meeting it was debated, discussed and voted on to go ahead and clean up the language of our Practice Act. We will again discuss these changes in March while at the Rapid City CME. We advised everyone to mark their calendar off in January for our Legislative Day in Pierre which is January 25th, 2006 at the Ramkota in Pierre.

Wishing you all a great holiday season and I look forward to talking to you in January.

Diane M. Weber, PA-C

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Decorating SDAPA's Tree @ the Capitol Building in Pierre third week in November, 2005
contact Vicki Blake-Nafus if you can help (605)224-7143

Reserve January 25, 2006 @ 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM - Legislative Reception - Ramkota - Pierre

Winter CME Conference - March 2-4, 2006
Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City - Reservations (605)343-8550

UPDATING THE PRACTICE ACT

By Vicki Blake-Nafus, PA-C

If you have been a PA in South Dakota for very long, you have probably heard of Dr. Robert Hayes. He was instrumental in getting the PA profession started in this state. He was a great advocate for our profession and helped with the Legislation we have in place today. The statute we have is about twenty years old.

We know how quickly advances have come in our profession. Our current Practice Act is in need of some updating. To this end we have, over the past year, reviewed with our state and national organization our current Practice Act. We have taken suggestions from the AAPA Government Affairs people, and tailored the language for South Dakota.

If this sounds good to you, Great! You say, "Okay guys just go ahead and do that". I wish it were that simple.

We will be hiring a Lobbyist to help us with this process. The National Legislative Action Center and people dealing with State Government Affairs will also help. The problem is they can't get this Legislation through without **YOUR HELP**.

WHAT CAN I DO? YOU ASK!

- 1. Know what UPDATES we will be proposing.**
- 2. Talk with your fellow providers about this modernization of the Practice Act in a positive way.**
- 3. Point out to your Doctors, Administrators, etc. what an improvement this will be for you and them.**
- 4. Get to know the Legislators from your area. Talk with them about the need to UPDATE the current Practice Act.**
- 5. Come to the Legislative Reception during Session and talk with your Legislator. They will remember your issues better if they talk to you in person.**

We can have assistance from Legislative experts both in State and Nationally, but no one can do this without **YOU!**

Many states have struggled with legislative issues. Each one credits their success or failure to how involved their membership is in the process. If you would like to have our Practice Act reflect how you practice today you must get involved.

We hope to go to the Legislature with these proposed updates in the 2006-2007 Session. We plan to have our ground work laid out so success is our reward

**We need every PA in this State to help in this effort.
This will affect your job and your future!**

FALL CME CONFERENCE

By Todd Nelson – PA-C

The Fall CME Conference has come and gone once again. Many thanks are due to all of you who were involved in organizing, speaking and attending. It takes all of you to make our conferences the success they are.

We had 97 attendees this year, and a number of speakers that were new to our conference. We are still compiling your input from the comment sheets, but I was glad to hear so many positive comments from the attendees.

We will have a change for the conference next September. Due to space constraints at the Holiday Inn, we will hold the September conference at the Sioux Falls Best Western Ramkota. Also note that there will be a change in the date of the conference. We will be holding the conference one week later, September 14-16. This was necessary due to the availability of the conference space, but it will also give us the opportunity to evaluate this weekend as requested by many of our members.

Thank you all again for making our conference a success. See you in Rapid City March 2-4!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another September meeting has come and gone. I want to thank everyone who has participated in our committee meeting lunches on the Thursdays of our conferences. Some of the committees are getting more members and I am seeing several new faces getting involved. This is something we plan to continue into the future.

As Vice President, one of my jobs is to oversee the Election Committee and assist with the elections. We have not had an Election Committee Chairperson for several years. Due to the change in the Vice President's position to Vice President/President Elect, I feel for ethical reasons it is now necessary to get back to having an Election Committee Chairperson. If anyone is interested please let me know. And please also realize that this is not a job that you will be doing by yourself, the Board members and the Past Presidents are always there to help..

The ballot will be published in the January newsletter. If you want to get involved you still have an opportunity to do so. The offices up for election this year include Vice President/President-Elect, Treasurer, Board of Directors, and Delegate. Remember this is the first election after the by-law changes so the Vice President/President-Elect will automatically become the President after 2 years. The Delegates to the AAPA will also follow in succession, so the delegate we will vote on this election will be the Alternate Delegate in Philadelphia, and then the next year, the Delegate, and the year following, the Chief Delegate.

Please e-mail me at "<mailto:kristi.stemsrud@brownclinic.org>" if you would like to volunteer for any of the above opportunities or committees.

Kristi J. Stemsrud PA-C
SDAPA Vice President

Changes in the Job Description for Vice President/President-Elect:

SDAPA POSITION DESCRIPTION:

Title: Vice President/President-Elect

Term of Office: 2 years, elected in even numbered year.

Duties of Position: *The SDAPA By-Laws state: The Vice President/President-Elect shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence. The Vice President/President-Elect will organize and conduct, with the assistance of the Election Committee, all elections. The Vice President/President-Elect must be present at three quarters of all officially designated meetings or forfeit the position. The position of Vice President/President-Elect may be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors with confirmation of a majority of the members through a special ballot. The Vice President/ President-Elect succeeds to the Presidency July 1 at the conclusion of the President’s second year.*

Participate in Board of Directors and general membership meetings. Work with the President and the Executive Secretary to coordinate and complete scheduled activities. Assist the President in identifying pertinent issues, gather information on the issues for presentation to the Board for action. Work with the President in developing collaborative relationship with the Board of Directors to determine direction of Academy through strategic planning.

Calendar: Quarterly Board meetings; March and September during the CME conference; November and May by teleconference. General membership meetings in March and September.

Changes in the Constitution: Articles VI & VIII

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be South Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants, hereinafter referred to as the SDAPA.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE OF SOUTH DAKOTA ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

The purposes of SDAPA are to promote loyal and honest service through individual and professional relationships in the delivery of physician directed health care to the public, to develop and provide continuing educational programs for physician assistants, and to promote the physician assistant profession through the education of other professionals and the public. (Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4 – Constitution Changes)

ARTICLE III: RELATIONSHIP TO THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

SDAPA is organized as a chartered constituent chapter of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

ARTICLE IV: DEFINITIONS

A Physician Assistant is an individual who is a graduate of a CAHEA or (CAAHEP) accredited program, has been certified by the National Commission on Physician Assistants, or meets criteria for licensure by the South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners.

ARTICLE V: COMPOSITION OF SDAPA

SDAPA shall consist of Fellow, Affiliate, Associate, Student, and Honorary members as provided in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Director's duties are executive and judicial, shall have charge of all property and all financial affairs of SDAPA, and shall perform such other duties as are prescribed in the By-Laws. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice President/President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, three Directors at Large, two Student Members, Student Advisor, and the Immediate Past President.

ARTICLE VII: CONVENTIONS AND MEETINGS

SDAPA shall conduct two continuing medical education conferences annually. The Board of Directors and the membership business meetings shall be held at these conferences.

ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS

The Officers of the SDAPA shall be President, Vice President/President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by two-thirds of those Fellow members voting on the amendment.

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PA WEEK

PA Week will run every year October 6 – 12. This year ads for PA Week ran in over 52 radio stations, and display ads were published in the following newspapers.

Aberdeen American News – Aberdeen * Argus Leader – Sioux Falls

Plain Talk – Vermillion * Pierre Capital Journal – Pierre

Rapid City Journal – Rapid City

Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Quality health care is an important concern of the citizens of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Affordable and accessible medical care is essential for the well-being of all citizens; and,

Whereas, Physician assistants are medically trained professionals who provide comprehensive health care services and quality medical care to millions of Americans throughout this great country; and,

Whereas, Physician assistants nationwide have been recognized by the U.S. Surgeon General as national proponents of preventive health care, and can improve patient access to health care services; and,

Whereas, Physician assistants care for patients of all ages in rural towns, urban communities, and in the uniformed services; and,

Whereas, The physician assistant profession continues to grow in number and in public respect; and,

Whereas, Physician assistants increasingly are being recognized as important members of the health care delivery team, working closely with their supervising physicians to enhance the quality of medical care in the United States and abroad; and,

Whereas, Physician assistants in South Dakota deserve our heartfelt thanks for the medical care they provide to patients throughout the year:

Now Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 6-12, 2005, as

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT WEEK

in South Dakota, and extend my sincere thanks to the physician assistant profession for its dedication to this great state, and my best wishes for many more years of outstanding service.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twentieth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.



M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

NEW EXPERIENCE – NEW BEGINNING

In February 2005 I was approached to continue a medical clinic in Martin, South Dakota that the physician was leaving to go to the VA. He carried a large population of elderly people who did not want to travel for their health care and had always gone to Dr. Knetch's Clinic. So after a very short thought process I made the decision to leap into purchasing the clinic. The beginning of many sleepless nights!

First I contacted the South Dakota Department of Health to be designated as a Health Care Shortage area, next it is the 855A Medicare Form, and then the State Department of Health's inspection, repairs, forms, policy books, manuals, more repairs and sleepless nights and the final inspection. Then you wait again to get Medicare and Medicaid numbers. Now it is July 11th and we are finally a Rural Health Clinic. The numbers are into the system on August 10th and the billing now begins. Another month passes as they decline insurance forms and inform us everything that we are doing wrong.

October 1, 2005, going into our eighth month and life is now settling into a routine and no major road blocks are in the future. Would I do it again? Yes, in a heartbeat. The patient load is growing everyday and the old patients are such awesome people. It is my pleasure to work each day and be able to care for patients who really appreciate my being here. The staff I have is also very dedicated and a great pleasure to work with. They have all stepped up to the plate during the last eight months and worked very hard to meet the deadlines and complete the tasks. I couldn't have done it without the support of my family and staff.

With No Regrets!!

Weber Medical Services, P.C.

Db a Main Street Medical Clinic

Diane Weber PA-C



SDAPA General Session Meeting

Sioux Falls Holiday Inn

September 09, 2005

President Diane Weber called the SDAPA general meeting to order at 12:00 in the Holiday Inn in Sioux Falls.

The minutes of the last meeting was approved as published in the SDAPA Newsletter.

The Treasurer's report, available at the registration desk, was approved as written.

Adhoc subcommittee SDAPA members addressed the topic of modernizing the language of the physician assistant practice act. Model legislation from the AAPA has been obtained and review by committee members. The committee met Wednesday September 7, 2005 starting at 2:00pm in the Sioux Falls Holiday Inn, to revise the language modification changes suggested concerning SDCL Chapter 34-6 by the AAPA. This chapter is specific to the physician assistant practice act. After extensive discussion led by Past President Steve Williams, a motion made by Kristi Stemsrud, seconded by John Barnet, to continue with the practice act language modification was approved by the general membership attending the meeting to continue.

The adhoc subcommittee SDAPA members present at the Sioux Falls meeting consisted of: Diane Weber, Vicki Blake-Nafus, Jim Cody, Kristi Stemsrud, Steve Williams, Sheila Schweitzer, Meg Hansen, Todd Nelson and Wayne Washenberger. Address any questions and/or concerns to these committee members.

Dan Palmer reported on his attendance of the leadership meeting he attended in Washington DC. One item on the national discussion was a movement to go to a national licensure for physician assistants. This would help physician assistants responding to national

emergencies to be able to travel outside the state of licensure to provide medical care.

Mark your calendar for Legislative Day In Pierre, as always the last Wednesday of January. PA Day at the legislative is scheduled for January 25, 2006 at the Ramkota from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Let your legislators know you are going to attend and invite them to join our reception.

Margaret Hansen, a SDAPA member has begun employment as the Executive Director of the South Dakota Board of Medical Examiners. Congratulations Meg!

Rebekah Cradduck has resigned as our SDAPA Executive Secretary. Thank you Becky for all your hard work for the SDAPA the past several years. Good luck to you with future ventures.

Mary Nafus of Pierre has been hired as the SDAPA Executive Secretary to replace Becky. Welcome aboard!

Winter CME is scheduled at the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City, March 2-4, 2006. Mark your calendar.

A motion to adjourn by Marilyn Ruhlman, seconded by Wade Nilson, all approved. The next general meeting will be in Rapid City at the Winter CME.

Respectively submitted by Sheila Schweitzer, MPAS, PA-C

Wayne Washenberger won door prize from the Sioux Falls MRI, a \$50.00 gift certificate. And Kristi Stemsrud won a beautiful basket assortment from the South Dakota Foundation. You lucky SDAPA members!

ADVENTURES IN LOBBYING

AAPA Board of Directors invite you and all interested PAs and PA students to take part in the inaugural Adventures in Lobbying: A Day on Capitol Hill to be held on Monday, February 6, and Tuesday, February 7, 2006, in Washington, DC. Make plans now, no registration fee for this event. To learn more about Adventures in Lobbying and reserve a seat, visit the AAPA Web site at www.aapa.org/gandp/adventures.html.

AAPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Plan now for the AAPA Annual Conference in San Francisco. The Only National Conference for PAs in All Specialties! Saturday, May 27-Thursday, June 1, 2006. For more information about the conference visit web site www.aapa.org or call 703/ 836-2272.

NEW NORTH CENTRAL REGION LIAISON

AAPA's North Central Region has a new liaison, Clover Schultz, PA-C. Her role is to represent the constituent organizations in our region. Her contact information is: Olmsted Medical Center, 210 9th Street, SE, Rochester, MN 55904, telephone (w) 507/288-3443; (h)507/281-9363; (cell)507/273-2633; (e-mail) cloversnotes@hotmail.com

SEPTEMBER CME CONFERENCE WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS to our \$100.00 prize winners: Becky Henderson & Nancy Trimble

Nancy Trimble is an Instructor/Clinical Coordinator with USD and is donating the money she won to USD's Physician Assistant Studies Program.

AAPA AWARDS OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS

Since 1981, the Academy's awards programs have recognized outstanding members, constituent organizations, and student societies that have distinguished themselves in service to patients, the community, the profession, and the Academy. Now is the time to submit a nomination for a National PARagon Award, a Student Academy Award, or one of the constituent organization awards.

The Process is easy. The forms are on-line. All it takes is a few key strokes. To learn about the various AAPA awards, eligibility requirements, and how to submit a nomination, visit the Academy Awards page on the AAPA web site at: <http://www.aapa.org/membership/awards.html>

The deadline for PARagon and constituent organization awards is January 15. The deadline for Student Academy awards is December 1. For more information, e-mail awards@aapa.org.

NEWS FROM CMS – PASS IT ON

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has developed Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for the provider community to increase awareness of the new prescription drug coverage and the resources available to assist people with Medicare. There are two versions of the PSAs---the only difference between the two is the graphics and orientation (horizontal vs vertical). The PSAs are posted on www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/drugcoverage.asp under the heading, "Basic Information for Health Care Professionals."

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ACADEMY OF

Physician Assistants

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The South Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants newsletter is a publication of the SDAPA, edited and published by Mary B. Nafus, executive secretary.

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