

SOUTH DAKOTA ACADEMY OF *Physician Assistants*

"PARTNERS IN MEDICINE"
Volume 18, Issue 3 – July 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Lola Pollard, PA-C, MPAS

This is my first message to you as the President of the South Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants. It is a position I am proud to hold; yet one I never expected to be in. I do not consider myself any different than the majority of you. I became a Physician Assistant to practice medicine and had no particular political agenda. I started out just getting my feet wet as a member of the Public Relations Committee. Later I served on the Board and then was elected to the Vice President/President Elect position. Why am I telling you this? Because more of you need to do what I did, and am doing. We need more of you taking part in the Academy to represent the interests and issues of the practicing PA. We need new and fresh ideas to help the Academy move forward and continually strive to improve what we offer on our website, at our CME meetings and as your source of political influence on issues that affect our ability to practice.

Recently I received a letter from Dakotacare (as I am sure most of you did). That letter informed me that reimbursement for midlevel providers would be changed to 85% of physician reimbursement. I talked with my clinic manager to find out what our current level of reimbursement was, but it was our National

Academy of Physician Assistants that e-mailed me prior to the end of the day that until July 1st of this year our reimbursement had been 100% of the physician rate. We have a meeting scheduled to discuss and then take action on this proposal which would hurt reimbursement for our practices across the state. Do you realize when you go to work each day that there are people in the Academy who are looking out for your interests as you see your patients on a daily basis. That is why I believe membership in your South Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants and the American Academy of Physician Assistants is so vitally important no matter what field you practice in. Our efforts behind the scenes ensure you can continue to practice and be adequately and fairly compensated for your efforts.

Your grassroots efforts to meet your legislators and talk to them, be a face they can recognize and trust is very important. Take some of the suggestions Kitty makes in her article, also appearing in this issue. Try to attend our annual legislative reception in Pierre held each January. We need you to talk to your pharmaceutical representatives about sponsoring a booth or breakfast at our two CME meetings in Sioux Falls and Rapid City. Support your Academy at both the State and National level through your membership, encourage other practicing PA's to become members and take an active part in making sure you can continue to have a growing, thriving practice in the future.

I can hear you saying right now "but I'm just too busy". I can relate to that. I am married with two children ages 13 and 10. They are active in school and extra-curricular activities. During the

summer they are in swim team and we enjoy traveling and camping. I am the secretary for our Webster Swim Team and function as a swim team official. I am active in Kiwanis and serve as our club's gum and candy representative, which means all those machines with candy and gum in them are full because I keep them that way. And, I have learned to be a candy/gumball machine mechanic as well and I am passing that trade onto my son. I also help out whenever I can with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. My husband is a Careflight Paramedic and works in Aberdeen 50 miles away so is out of the picture at least half the time. I am a full-time working PA and take call in addition. We are all busy. But busy people are just the ones we are looking for as those are the people who get things done.

As your president I hope to serve you well in the Academy. I want to hear your thoughts, ideas and concerns for our profession as we move into the future. I look forward to meeting you and working with you. I think you will see as the invitations for the Fall CME go out that there are people in the Academy working hard to provide you with a cutting edge registration form with a new look and great opportunities for obtaining CME and networking with your colleagues. I am looking forward to seeing you in Sioux Falls in September.

Lola Pollard, President

**Have job opportunities? Want advertising for your Company? CALL FOR
ADVERTISING PRICES - SDAPA - NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE -Contact
MARY NAFUS (605)224-1203 www.sdapa.net**

FALL CME CONFERENCE UPDATE 2008

**By: Louise Papka, PA-C, PMAS, DFAAPA -
SDAPA CME Chair for Fall Conference.**

access. I anticipate that we will be paperless by the fall 2009 conference. The success of our conferences depend on your input Good day everyone. The upcoming SDAPA fall CME conference has shaped up to have a variety of speakers. Conference attendees have the potential to earn 19 CME credits for this conference. I would encourage all of you to speak with the Pharmaceutical representatives about exhibiting a booth at the conference and/or sponsoring one of the scheduled breaks or meals. "Carbs and Caffeine" are always appreciated at Conference. Each year on the

Conference evaluations, there is a request for Physician Assistants as presenters. We need your help to make this happen. Please refer those individuals to us or consider being a speaker yourself. Beginning this year, there will be a call for scientific Posters and abstracts in addition to the student Poster presentations. In the era of Evidence Based Medicine, this is a great opportunity to share your research. Also, planning is in the works for the addition of workshops to the 2009 Fall Conference. Once again, we need your help to make this happen. If you practice in a specialty field and wish to teach one of these sessions, please let us know. In the future you will see fewer and fewer paper handouts in the registration packets. This year all readily available presentations will once again be posted on our website for your and support. Presently the Fall CME conference committee is in need of 2-3 more

helpers. Lastly, there is a new look to a Postcard Registration and Brochure this year. Let us know what you think. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Fall conference in Sioux Falls, SD.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO NOMINATE
A PA OF THE YEAR AWARD or
DISTINGUISHED PERSON FOR
SERVICE AWARD – SEND YOUR
NOMINATIONS TO: SDAPA, 120 S.
MADISON AVE., PIERRE, SD 57501 OR
EMAIL: nafmb@dakota2k.net**

Get Politically Involved. ..Your Future Practice Depends On It!

By Kitty Kinsman,
President, The K Group
Public Policy Consultant
& SDAPA Lobbyist



Election season is upon us, and this is a great time to meet with candidates for public office, especially those individuals running in the districts in which you practice. If you don't have a relationship with lawmakers, this is a good time to develop one . . .BEFORE you need something from them. There is no better time than NOW to begin a dialogue and help them understand your practice and how public policies affect your practice, access to health care services, and the health of your patients and communities.

Here are some simple things you can do:

- Invite candidates to meet with you at your clinic. This could be done in conjunction with other PA and physician colleagues. It is an opportunity for them to see firsthand what you do and discuss priorities, both yours and theirs. Remember it is also a

time that they can meet other potential voters within your clinic setting, so take a moment to introduce them to others in your clinic.

- Invite candidates to have coffee, either one-on-one or with another colleague.
- Help with their campaign – contribute dollars, volunteer time, lend them your name support.
- Host a “meet & greet” at your home/office and invite others to attend. It could be as simple as a morning coffee or an early evening get-together.
- Attend and participate in local town forums. Make sure that you introduce yourself, what you do and briefly summarize your concerns.

When you meet with individuals who have been in the House or Senate during the past two years, make a point to thank them for their support of the legislation they passed in 2007 to update the Physician Assistant Practice Act. If you're visiting with a new candidate, take a moment to explain the importance of the legislation passed in 2007. Regardless of the candidate, ask them what their priorities if they are elected.

Below are a few topics that have been addressed by prior legislatures that are likely to be considered in the 2009 session that affect delivery of health care and the health status of South Dakotans that you may want to explore with them:

- Reimbursement rates for Medicaid services
- Proposals to expand coverage for uninsured and underinsured individuals
- Smokefree workplaces

Please take a moment to share the feedback and information you receive from any meetings with us so that we can follow-up as needed before and during the legislative session. You can forward any comments to: **Mary Nafus, SDAPA, 120 S. Madison Ave., Pierre, SD 57501 or nafmb@dakota2k.net.** The SDAPA

Legislative Policy Committee will be meeting in late August/early September to discuss our 2009 Policy Agenda and recommend policy positions to the Board of Directors.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Vicki Blake-Nafus, Chair of the Policy Committee at vickinafus@catholichealth.net or Kitty Kinsman at kkinsman@aol.com.

OTHER CME CONFERENCES

Aloha, October 27-31

20th Annual Aloha Medical Conference

Provider: Hawaii Academy of PAs

Location: Waikiki, Hawaii

Contact: Bob Null, 808/432-8334 or

OPA79@aol.com or www.hapahawaii.org

SDAPA WINTER/SPRING

CME CONFERENCE

March 12, 13 & 14, 2009

Best Western Ramkota Hotel

Rapid City, SD

(605) 343-8550



Dynamic team of 12 Orthopedic Surgeons, 2 Rheumatologists and 6 Physician Assistants has an immediate opening for an enthusiastic individual to join their comprehensive center for musculoskeletal care. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of one year of orthopedic surgical experience but we are willing to train. NCCPA certification and license or eligibility for licensure in the state of South Dakota is required.

Primary duties include first assistant in surgery, hospital rounds, clinical outpatient care and participation in call rotation with other physician assistants.

We are located in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota where our moderate year-round climate offers unlimited recreational activities.

We offer an excellent compensation and benefit package with exciting opportunities for growth.

For questions, contact Dan Palmer, PA-C: danpalmer@bhosc.com For consideration, send CV and cover letter to: Black Hills Orthopedic & Spine Center, Peggy Palmer, Human Resources Director, P.O. Box 6850, Rapid City, S.D. 57709

peggypalmer@bhosc.com

AAPA House of Delegates Annual Meeting 5/2008 Reference Committee A&B

First, I want to thank the Academy for allowing me to attend and participate in this year's House of Delegates. I had the privilege of attending along with Amiel Redfish, Sheila Schweitzer and Louise Papka. For detailed information regarding each of the reference committees I refer you to <http://www.aapa.org/members/dn/dn-vol12/june08.html>

Reference committee A initially met on Saturday May 24th. There were six resolutions. Two were placed on the consent agenda. The remaining four were:

1. Fellow Member Dues Increase – adopted as amended
 - o There was debate on the floor regarding the issue. The initial dues increase asked the house to consider a \$25 increase. This later was amended to a \$35 increase. Testimony was given from the AAPA treasurer regarding the

long-term financial picture. There has not been a dues increase in many years. Over this time the dues have not kept pace with inflation, financial support from pharmaceutical companies has declined significantly (as is the case everywhere). The cost of “doing business” has gone up, yet the revenue has not kept pace with this. The initial amount was amended as it was felt that this may not be sufficient.

- The amendment was adopted as amended
- New dues will increase by \$35 at a time to be determined by the AAPA staff (\$250 annually). This change has been implemented to go into effect September 1st 2008.
- To find out more go to http://www.aapa.org/dues_exp.html

2. Creation of a Retired Membership Category - Referred

- Debate centered on the sense that the current resolution would be exclusionary for some members and that retirement from employment does not mean retirement from the profession. Additionally, it was felt that the current membership categories already have this process in place. The resolution was amended in an attempt to be more inclusionary.
- The house voted to refer this back to the appropriate committee for further review and bring back to the 2009 House for further deliberation.

3. Challenging AAPA Elections - adopted as amended

- The 2007-2008 JAC charge was to review and update the handbook. The initial verbiage was stuck and updated to reflect the actual procedure to be used in

the event that an election was challenged. The initial resolution was amended to provide clarification.

- The amendment was adopted as amended

4. Government Affairs & Reimbursement Committee (GARC) Description - rejected

- This resolution was brought before the house with the intent on providing “suggestion” on the makeup of the GARC. There was initial concern that even though the federal government was the largest employer of PA’s there has been unfair representation on the committee (none or limited federally employed PA’s on the committee). Furthermore, it was felt that the Board should take into account federal employment status into consideration during the appointment of GARC members. Con testimony was heard that allocation of committee membership based on demographics would set a bad precedent and may limit committee chairs’ ability to select committee members based on the needs/goals of the committee and the Academy.
- The resolution was rejected

Reference Committee B initially met on Sunday, May 25th. There were six resolutions presented. Three of these were adopted on consent agenda. The remaining three were:

1. Dissolution of the Pathway II Recertification Examination - rejected

- The NCCPA has already elected to dissolve the Pathway II Recertification Examination.
- Some members of the house felt that the NCCPA did not allow for appropriate input from the members of the profession.
- Many members discussed the validity of

the examination rather than the actual resolution itself which was not germane to the issue at hand.

- Further testimony was heard that the NCCPA does not see the value in such a forum and that such examinations are not considered appropriate and have been dissolved by most, if not all, medically relevant recertification examinations from other medical bodies (AAFP, etc...)
 - The NCCPA is already discussing and reviewing recertification options in its entirety.
 - The resolution failed
2. Ten Year Recertification Cycle – adopted as amended
- This resolution asked that the AAPA support a ten-year recertification cycle.
 - Testimony was given that the majority of physician specialty certification is for ten years, and this resolution would put us on par with our medical cohorts.
 - Expert testimony this dramatically oversimplified the physician specialty certification process
 - The NCCPA informed the HOD that they are already discussing this internally and the timing of the resolution is inopportune. Additionally, a longer testing cycle would be contrary to some states' practice acts.
 - The resolution was amended to: The HOD charges the Speaker to communicate to the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants' (NCCPA) Board of Directors the House of Delegates' desire to re-evaluate support the NCCPA as they proceed with re-evaluation of the recertification process in its entirety.
 - The amendment was approved and adopted

pted.

3. Amend the policy on Continuing Education – rejected

- The sponsor asked that continuing education be required for PA licensure renewal
- Many spoke to the issue that this may have adverse effects on PA practice in some states and that this should be dealt with at the state level
- The resolution failed

This concludes my report on Reference Committees A & B. Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to represent the South Dakota Academy at the HOD. Don't hesitate to contact me should you have questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Wade Nilson, PA-C, MPAS, Delegate

San Antonio Conference Report House of Delegates

The 2008 AAPA House of Delegates (HOD) opened Saturday, May 25 2008, with nearly 250 registered delegates and attendees.

Catherine Judd, president of the Texas Academy of Physician Assistants gave the opening statements. She reminded PAs to educate their legislators about the profession as health care reform moves to the top of the political agenda, both nationally and in many states.

Joseph P. Annis, M.D., of the American Medical Association Board of Trustees, brought praise from Ronald Davis, the association's president, to our association. Dr. Annis would say, "we are so proud of you. We are part of a team, touching patients and healing patients." We are asked to educate out patients about the need for health care reform. "Our patients are our best allies," he said. "Always remember that our patients are our first priority."

This year marked the first time a representative from the American Osteopathic Association attended the HOD. Linda L. Lawrence, M.D. president of the American College of Emergency Physicians was also in attendance. Other guests included Kenneth Matthews, M.D., board member and district VII chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics; James King M.D.,

president of the American Academy of Family Physicians; PA Don Cui, co-chair of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology's Allied Health Professionals Assembly; Richard A. Smith, founder of the MEDEX PA Program in Washington; and Alan Klinger, president of the Renal Physician Association.

The HOD came to order Saturday afternoon and with the Committee Reports ready, the house went right to business. (See separate reports)

Wade Nilson, Amiel Redfish and myself, Sheila Schweitzer represented the SDAPA at the San Antonio Conference, Louise Papka was our alternate, she filled in this year when Amiel was busy with other commitments. I also had a few conflicting times that she was available to keep your seats filled.

This year was the first time in many years my husband, Val, could attend. It was nice to be able to be out on the streets later in the evenings without worrying about finding someone to partner in evenings.

Thank you for allowing me to represent the SDAPA in San Antonio. The Alamo was only a short distance from the conference center and many sites close to activities. If all works out, I will be in Sioux Falls to give this years report.

Respectfully Submitted
 Sheila Schweitzer, PA-C, MPAS, Chief Delegate

**House of Delegate San Antonio 2008 Report
 Reference Committee C Resolutions**

2008-C-01-QCC Medical Home; Resolved AAPA supports the medical home concept as a means to improve the quality of patient care. Adopted as amended on the Consent agenda.

2008-C-02-QCC Quality of Care for patients: AAPA believes that every patient deserves cost effective, accessible quality health care; furthermore, the care that is safe, effective, patient-cantered, timely, efficient, and equitable.

Physician Assistants should take a role in ensuring that patient

care is evidence-based, coordinated, integrated, and interdisciplinary.

Physician Assistants should be active participants in promoting patient safety, as well as evaluating and improving the quality of care for patients. Adopted as amended.

2008-C-03-QCC Patient-and Family-centered Care position paper. Referred back to committee.

2008-C-04-PPC/CSAC HIV Prevention Position paper. Adopted as amended.

2008-C-05-PPCHIV. Rescinded policy. Adopted.

2008-C-06-PPC Needle/Syringe Access for Prevention of HIV and Hepatitis Transmission. Referred back to committee.

2008-C-07-CT Automated External Defibrillator Availability in Public Venues. Resolved Physician Assistants (a) advocate the appropriate placement of automated external defibrillators; (2) support increasing government and industry funding for the purchase of automated external defibrillator devices; (3) encourage the American public to become trained in CPR and the use of automated external defibrillators; and (4) advocate for legislation to be passed to provide immunity from liability for those who, in good faith, and without expectation of compensation, provide and use AEDs in emergency situations. Passed as amended.

2008-C-08-CSAC Veterans' Health. Resolved AAPA believes PAs should advocate and facilitate care for veterans of the uniformed forces of the United States and their families including the National

Guard and Reserve Forces. AAPA supports education for all PAs regarding the medical and psychological needs of all veterans and their families. AAPA encourages PAs to be aware of the services and resources in their communication to assist veterans and their families to obtain the most up to date care. Adopted unanimously.

2008-C-09-PPC Guidelines for Ethical Conduct for the Physician Assistant Profession. Resolved Amend the "Guidelines for Ethical Conduct for the Physician Assistant Profession". Passed as amended.

2008-C-10-APAOG Position Paper: Routine Vaccination for Human Papilloma Virus. Adopted.

2008-C-11-RI Medical Use of Marihuana. Referred back to committee. (Noted: 12 states have approved use in state law. This is in conflict with federal law as written.)

2008-C-12-RI Home Genetic Testing. Resolved AAPA believes that genetic testing for the presence of or susceptibility to disease should be available to the public only through the services of a qualified health care provider. Adopted.

2008-C-13-CSAC HIV Precautions. Resolved All Physician Assistants should use the standard and transmission based precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for preventing the spread of Infectious diseases. Adopted by Consent agenda.

2008-C-14-BOD Encourages Use of the Term Physician Assistant. Resolved The AAPA believes that,

whenever possible, PAs should be referred to as "physician assistants" and not combined with other providers in inclusive non-specific terms such as "midlevel practitioner", "advanced practice clinician", or "advanced practice provider" And be it further resolved; PAs should utilize, and encourage employers (e.g., hospitals, HMO's, clinics), third party payers, educators, researchers, and the government, to utilize, the term "physician assistant" or "PA" to reflect the unique position of PAs in the healthcare system. Adopted by Consent agenda.

2008-C-15-PPC Healthy Professionals: Promotion of PA Health. Resolved that resolution 2007-C-10 be rejected. Postponed Indefinitely.

This is the end of the report of 2008 Committee C.

Respectfully submitted by
Sheila Schweitzer, MPAS, PA-C

North Central Regional HOD Report Alternate Delegate

Good day everyone. The North Central Regional Meeting is an opportunity for representatives from constituent organizations of the Region to share information regarding important events related to Physician Assistants and Physician Assistant practice within their respective states. States in our region include: South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The group discussions yielded a great exchange of information and ideas. On the legislative front, several states shared legislative successes and ongoing challenges. The importance of developing long-term relationships with legislators within one's respective state was stressed. One state has experienced challenges with BlueCross-Blue Shield not accepting charges from P.A.s billing for their hospital services. They cautioned others on this occurrence and recommended to report

any such events to the AAPA. Other discussions were ideas for boosting constituent chapter memberships. A moving trend is the incorporation of Student Leaders as voting members into the State Chapters, as well as the extension of the student memberships until after graduation; thereby encouraging new and continued involvement in the state chapter. AAPA staff members were in attendance as well and presented information regarding leadership training opportunities and leadership support for constituent organizations.

Submitted by, Louise Papka, PA-C, PMAS, DFAAPA,
Alternate Delegate

Report on the 2008 AAPA National Convention By Amiel N. Redfish, PA-C, Delegate

Once again I completed my annual bike ride to the AAPA National Conventions, this makes over 10 years that I have made the trip by motorcycle. The trip to San Antonio was uneventful with good weather and a minimum of road construction, 20 hours of road time with a layover in Kansas, but the return trip was a little longer waiting for the weather and flooded roads in Kansas and Nebraska to clear.

This year was a little busier than usual, as I was a representative to the House of Delegates, the PA history organization, reimbursement, and working with the AAPA foundation.

The keynote speaker Dr. Carl Hammerschlag was one of my instructors during my training to be a PA, and I had not seen him in some years and had the opportunity to spend some time visiting and recalling ole times.

The other two representatives to the House of Delegates are reporting on the three sections of the house activities. My comments are we finished very early this year, as most of the work was updating already debated topics from years past, and the house is smoother and more refined from when I was there last. I think this is a sign that the profession has matured. Any topics that were in question were sent back to committee for further review and refinement.

Because I was in the house, I missed the meeting of the state historians, but was able to attend the Board of Directors meeting of the historians. I was able to talk to them and some old friends on the board and was able to be brought up to date on activities and have the folder of how and what needs to be done. I will be working on this and contacting SDAPA members to help in bringing South Dakota PA history together.

In reimbursement there were several items brought by other states as difficulties.

PA's in behavioral health are being excluded and this being worked on by the national office. The NPI number was brought up as in its original concept this was to be only assigned to individuals, as a method of tracking payments, but now has been corrupted as these numbers are being assigned to clinics, corporations so individual tracking is not being accomplished. Any problems in reimbursement that are being encountered by a state the national office help in bringing about a resolution. And, at the present time they are working on eliminating the Medicare rule of 1% ownership of another person in PA owned clinics. The problem most discussed and being encountered is the physician assistant reimbursement schedule being different from the physicians, this was not a problem in our state at the time, but it is now with DakotaCare initiating the PA schedule at 85% of the physician's rate.

I worked with the PA Foundation in organizing and helping in the running of the Silent Auction again this year and we were able to raise about \$6000.00.

I was also able to attend the First Nations Caucus again this year.

Overall it was again a fun trip, and a joy to see old friends and tell my lies and jokes once again, but was ready to come home by the end of the week.

Reports from USD Student SDAPA Society at AAPA San Antonio, TX Meeting, May 2008

AOR on SAAAPA activities: Heather Scribner, PA-S I (class of 2009)

The Assembly of Representatives of the SAAAPA debated and voted upon 28 different resolutions as well as elected a new Student Academy Board of Directors at the AAPA's 36th Annual PA Conference in San Antonio. As the AOR representative for the University of South Dakota, I had the opportunity to speak and vote on behalf of our program for or against each resolution. I also had the chance to hear speeches from the candidates for the Student Academy Board of Directors and vote on behalf of USD for each position.

Many of the resolutions resulted in heated debates from representatives of programs across the country and many were some of the same issues being discussed during the HOD. The AOR adopted the resolution to make efforts in developing relationships with student nurse

practitioner groups. They voted to support the AAPA's policy to oppose any psychiatric treatments intended to change sexual orientation. The AOR resolved to encourage the AAPA to develop a policy regarding the HPV vaccination in women and support continued investigation in the efficacy of the vaccine in men. They agreed upon the resolution that supports reserving the title of doctor for the physician in order to prevent confusion with patients and to preserve the standard that the health care team is a physician-led team. The resolution was adopted to oppose any effort to provide doctoral degrees as entry-level PA degrees. The Student Academy also agreed to support the American Association of Medical Colleges preliminary recommendation that all Academic Health Centers should ban all gifts from pharmaceutical industry representatives because they support the belief that bias information has no place in PA or medical education in order to offer the best treatment options to patients.

The following are the new SAAAPA Board of Directors for the 2008-2009 leadership year that were voted upon by the AOR:

President, Katie Callaway, South University
Vice President, Brandon Wolfenden, Le Moyne College
Chief Delegate, Amy McKee, Stony Brook University
Director of Internal Affairs, Joy Vonk, Baylor College of Medicine
Director of Diversity, Sabahat Ali, Marquette University
Special Projects Coordinator, Emily Nunley, Baylor College of Medicine
Director of External Affairs Junior, Betsy Severance, University of Oklahoma
Director of External Affairs Senior, Paul Snow, Eastern Virginia Medical School
Immediate Past President, Michael Simmons, South University

Appointed Leadership
PA Foundation Marketing/Communications Committee
Student Member, Jennifer Stein, University of Florida
PA Foundation Resource Development Committee Student
Member, Kathleen Swift, Quinnipiac University
Physician Assistant Education Association Student
Member at Large, Vickie Lisowski, Touro University
Nevada and Jessica Boudreaux-Milligan, St. Louis
University
Regional Chair-Northeast, Michael Heilbrunn, Stony Brook
University
Regional Chair-North Central, Stacy Reijmer, Wayne State
University
Regional Chair-South Central, Jodi Wernikoff, University
of St. Francis – Albuquerque
Regional Chair-Southeast, Kara Larson, Medical
University of South Carolina
Regional Chair-West, Rose Parsons, Midwestern
University – Glendale
AAPA Government Affairs and Reimbursement

Committee Student Intern, Hillary Snyder, Philadelphia
College of Osteopathic Medicine

To view the full version of the 2008 AOR
Resolutions, you can go to
<http://saaapa.aapa.org/aor/resolutions.htm>.

Student HOD representative: Brooke Bullerman, PA-SI I (class of 2008)

During the AAPA's 36th Annual PA Conference in San Antonio, the House of Delegates was busy discussing many important resolutions. Students were allowed to participate and vote as 10 student delegates from various programs sat on the house floor at all times. As the student HOD representative for the University of South Dakota, I was able to experience the actions that occurred in the HOD. The following highlights some of the debates that took place on the house floor.

One of the more lengthy debates focused on a resolution that called on the NCCPA to hold an open forum to re-evaluate its proposed elimination of the Pathway II Recertification Examination. In the end, delegates voted to defeat this resolution stating that the NCCPA did not see value in such a forum. Delegates also voted to adopt a resolution stating that the AAPA supports the NCCPA as they re-evaluate the certification process and determine whether to extend the 6-year recertification cycle to 10 years. Unanimously, delegates voted to increase the AAPA annual membership dues from \$215 to \$250 due to the increase in inflation.

A proposal to add to AAPA policy support for the classification of marijuana as a Schedule II controlled substance was referred to the appropriate committee for further study. Delegates also approved a policy aimed at improving healthcare for war veterans and their families, as there is an increasing burden on the healthcare system due to the current war situations. Finally, delegates voted in favor of amending AAPA's Guidelines for Ethical Conduct for the Physician Assistant Profession to include "Physician assistants are professionally and ethically committed to providing nondiscriminatory care to all patients." They also approved expiration of the policy that specifically addressed HIV/AIDS. Both of these actions were taken to avoid discrimination of patients with HIV/AIDS. To view a full report of all HOD actions taken, you can go to www.aapa.org/members/hod.html



The University of South Dakota.
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

We hope this program update finds all doing well and enjoying the summer. The program has been keeping busy teaching, arranging clinical rotations and preparing for the upcoming semester.

The class of 2008 has been keeping busy in the clinical phase. Some of the class did find time however to attend the AAPA Annual meeting in Texas. Brooke Bullerman attended the SAAAPA HOD and volunteered her time as a teller for the HOD. Half the class presented their masters projects at the March 2008 CME; the final half is actively working on finalizing their master's projects for the upcoming September CME.

The class of 2009 anxiously awaits the clinical phase. I do believe, as a whole, the class is ready to stop sitting and start doing. As last reported, the class has adopted the UPHILL Project (Understanding Prevention of HIV in India while Lengthening Life). They hosted a 5K (Run, Bike, Walk) on May 4th. I was told this was the first 5K in Vermillion that had an official start and finish line. Each participant received a T-shirt, a bag of goodies, and a water bottle. The event was very well organized. In fact, one participant that has been to multiple marathons remarked that this was the most organized event he had seen. I had the opportunity to do this as a walk with the kids – it was great fun and was fortunate to get the second to last prize. For more information on the UPHILL Project go to www.uphillproject.org

The class of 2010 is set to begin orientation on July 30th and start semester one officially on August 4th. The class is made up of 15 females and 5 males. Please help us in welcoming:

- Britanni Boehlke
- Beau Braun
- RYANNE Brockhaus
- Melissa Castillo
- Alex Dewar
- Lia Eastman
- Carey Engstrom
- Lindsay House
- Caroline Fuhrer
- Stephanie Gebhart
- Megan Henning
- Leslie Linden
- Cory Olson
- Nicole Pederson
- Molly Schooley
- Ryan Slaba
- Jennifer Thielen
- Jaclyn VanderLinden
- Holly Voigt
- Bryan Voracek

PA WEEK – OCTOBER 6 – 12

Although PA week seems months away, the week itself seems to always sneak up on us. Actually, PA week is only a little over 2 months from now. This is the time to be planning activities to recognize not only the profession as a whole, but to emphasize the important role we all play within our communities and our local health care systems.

Due to increased demands on our SDAPA budget this year in relation to our continued legislative efforts, we are asking for more involvement from PA's across the state to participate in their local communities. There are many ways that PA's can participate in PA week. Below is a list of a few ideas compiled from the AAPA website:

- Display the PA Week poster available from aapa.org
- Write an article to your local newspaper discussing an illness that impacts your local community, or an article that mentions the PA's role in delivering health care.
- Invite your local elected officials for a tour of your clinic/hospital setting.
- Participate locally with the Health Literacy Campaign:
 - Health literacy is a patient's ability to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions. According to the AMA, poor health literacy is "a stronger predictor of a person's health than age, income, employment status, education level, and race." (aapa.org).

(PA Week continued page 12)

(PA Week Continued)

- The Book Grant Program has been established through AAPA to provide appropriate books about health, nutrition, and the human body to teach to children and emphasize the basics of good healthcare.
- Visit the aapa.org for more information on how to get more involved with health literacy and to how to apply for the Book Grant Program.

Again, we are asking for each Physician Assistant's help in promoting PA week this year. Many resources are available on the AAPA website. Our budget is limited this year, but if you have a local project in mind that may need some financial assistance, contact me at jthurman@hotmail.com. Have a great PA week.

Justin Thurman PA-C, Public Relations Committee

Class of 2009 recipients



Kari Blair



Devi Chettiar



Jill Whitbeck



Gabriel Gehrke



Nguyen-Ngoc Pham

Faithe Family Scholarship Recipients

The University of South Dakota PA faculty would like to acknowledge the recipients of the Faithe family Scholarship. This scholarship was established by a generous gift from the Faithe family. The gift provides scholarship funds to undergraduate and graduate students in Medical and Health Sciences fields. Preference is given to students who show some financial need, have outstanding accomplishments and have aspirations to serve the health care delivery system in the medical or health science fields. It is important that this award be meaningful, therefore, the scholarship is arranged to follow the student from award to graduation, for a total award of \$5000. We were able to select five students this year. The student applications are reviewed by each faculty member against:

- Prerequisite GPA
- Program GPA
- Professionalism
- Essay Question
- > Financial need

Class of 2008 recipients



Anthony Burbach



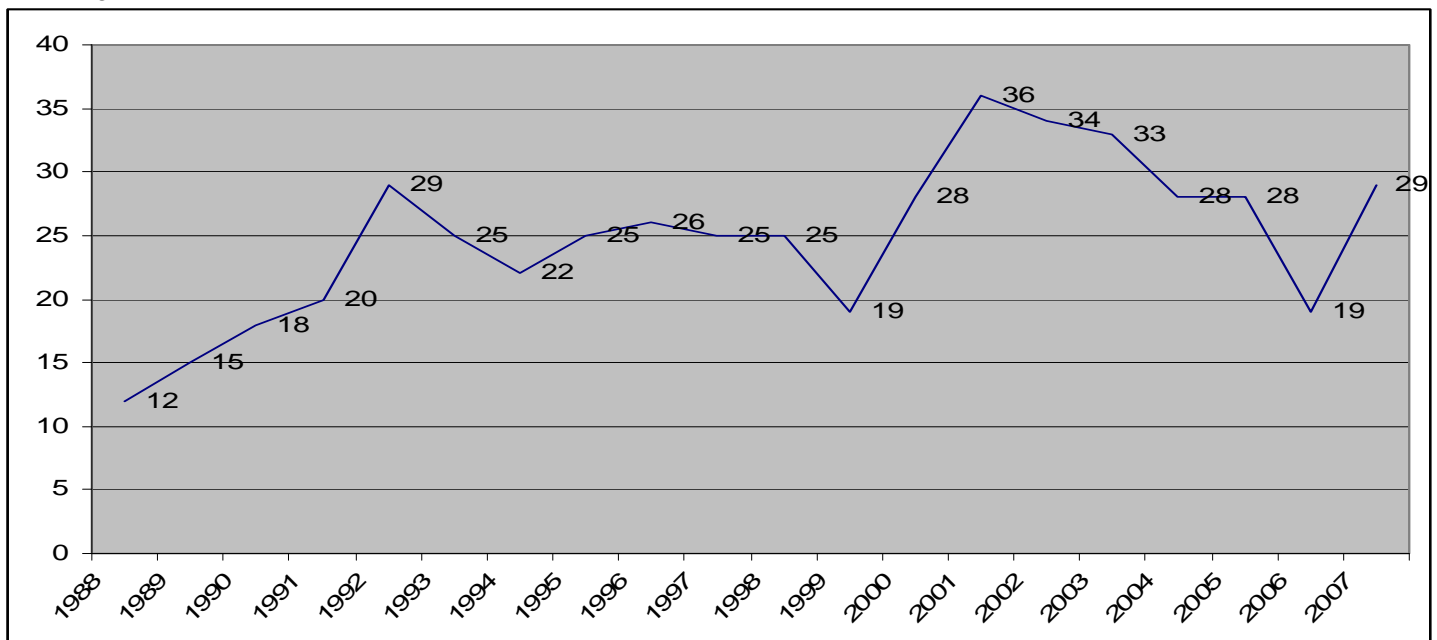
Sadie Johnson

Physician Assistant License Issuance 1988-2007

The data below shows the number of Physician Assistant licenses issued and how many of those licenses are still active for each corresponding year from 1998 to 2007 (10 years).

Year	Licenses Issued	Still Licensed
1988	12	3
1989	15	3
1990	18	4
1991	20	13
1992	29	11
1993	25	11
1994	22	12
1995	25	14
1996	26	10
1997	25	18
1998	25	19
1999	19	11
2000	28	18
2001	36	30
2002	34	29
2003	33	28
2004	28	23
2005	28	26
2006	19	18
2007	29	29
20 Year Total	496	301

The total number of active physician assistant licenses as of March 28, 2008 was 378. The average number of PA licenses issued between 1988 and 1997 was 22. The average number of licenses issued between 1998 and 2007 is 28. 301 of the 378 currently active licenses were issued within the last 20 years. Only around 1 additional new license is issued per year on average.



**South Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants (SDAPA)
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2008**

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Business Name and Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County/District # _____

Work Phone _____ Fax _____ Social Security # _____

LICENSURE INFORMATION: South Dakota License Number _____

NCCPA Certified Yes No Certificate Number _____

AAPA Member Yes No Membership Number _____

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS (please indicate requested membership type):

- SDAPA Fellow Membership - \$125.00:** member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, whose dues are current and application for SDAPA membership has been approved. Fellow members shall have access to the floor, voting privileges, and may serve as an officer or director of the SDAPA.
- SDAPA Affiliate Membership - \$125.00:** physician assistants or nurse practitioners who are not Fellow members of the AAPA, whose dues are current, and application for SDAPA membership has been approved. Affiliate members shall have access to the floor and voting privileges on state issues, but not issues concerning AAPA. Affiliate members may serve as an SDAPA director, but may not serve as an officer.
- SDAPA Associate Membership - \$75.00:** shall be other individuals interested in SDAPA whose dues are current, and application for membership has been approved. Associate members shall have access to the floor but may not vote, or serve as an officer or director.
- SDAPA Student Membership – FREE:** shall be students attending a physician assistant or nurse practitioner educational program in SD whose dues are current, and application for SDAPA membership has been approved. Student members shall have access to the floor, voting privileges on state issues, but not issues concerning AAPA. A student member may not hold office but may serve as the SDAPA's student director.
- New Fellow or Affiliate must pay \$5.00 credentialing fee:** Must send copies of certificates of program completion, certificates from Medical Examiners Board, and NCCPA certificates (if held). Payment of required fees includes \$75.00 annual dues and \$5.00- credentialing fee (first time application only).

Dues to SDAPA are deductible as a necessary business expense. 20% of your 2008 dues assessed are non-deductible for federal income tax purposes under Sec. 162(e)(2) because they are allocable to lobbying activities.

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the above information is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that withholding information requested or giving false information may make me ineligible for admission, and if information is found false after enrollment, I may be dismissed from the Academy.

____ I grant permission to include my name/address in a membership listing to be distributed to other SDAPA members.

____ I grant permission to be listed on SDAPA website membership list. **Please include your picture.**

Signature _____ **Date** _____

PLEASE RETURN TO: Mary B. Nafus, Executive Secretary
South Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants
120 South Madison Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-3536

Phone: (605) 224-1203
Fax: (605) 224-8221
E-mail: nafmb@dakota2k.net
Website: www.sdapa.net

FALL CME REGISTRATION

September 18, 19 & 20, 2008

(Pre-registration)

Please submit by September 10, 2008

Best Western Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center

3200 W. Maple Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57107

Room Reservations made before August 18, 2008 for the SDAPA Group (605) 336-0650



Name _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Home) Phone _____ (Wk) Phone _____

Email: _____

Tuition: (Check One)

- All three days (SDAPA members) \$150.00
- All three days (SDAPA non-member) \$190.00
- PA Students __ \$15 per day __ \$40 All three days
- Per day (Thursday Friday Saturday) \$85.00
- (Add a \$10.00 fee after the September 10, 2008 deadline)

Return registration and payment to:

South Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants

Mary B. Nafus, Executive Secretary

120 S. Madison Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: (605) 224-1203 – Fax: (605) 224-8221 email: nafmb@dakota2k.net

SOUTH DAKOTA
ACADEMY OF
Physician Assistants

120 S. Madison Ave., Pierre, SD 57501-3536

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 26
PIERRE, SD

South Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants
OFFICERS & CONTACTS

President

Lola Pollard, MPAS, PA-C
(605) 588-0026

Vice Pres./Pres.-Elect

Diane Weber, MPAS, PA-C
(605) 685-1315

Secretary

Marilyn Ruhlman, PA-C
(605) 692-1463

Treasurer

Marvel Buhler, PA-C
(605) 258-2792

Delegates

Wade Nilson, MPAS, PA-C

(605) 677-5128

Clint Perman, PA-C

(605) 649-7684

Lisa Wurnig-Johnson, PA-C

(605) 720-5373

Alternate Delegate

Louise Papka, PA-C

(605) 677-6568

Membership Coordinator

Diane Weber, PA-C
(605) 685-1315

Legislative Policy Coordinator

Vicki Blake-Nafus, PA-C
(605) 224-7143

Reimbursement Coordinator

Amiel Redfish, PA-C
(605) 983-3283

Public Relations Coordinator

Justin Thurman, PA-C
(605) 347-6393

CME Coordinators

Dan Palmer-West River

(605) 348-7957

Louise Papka-East River

(605) 677-6568

Past President/Communications

Dan Palmer, PA-C

(605) 348-7957

Executive Secretary

Mary B. Nafus

(605) 224-1203

Ethics Committee

Peggy Hubbard, PA-C
(605) 269-2322

Board of Directors

Sheila Schweitzer, PA-C
(605) 865-3162

Kristi J. Stemsrud, PA-C

(605) 271-6613

Justin Thurman, PA-C

(605) 347-6393

PAAC

Vicki Blake-Nafus, PA-C

(605) 224-7143

Rod King, PA-C

(605) 627-5750

Jan Hines, PA-C

(605) 720-2020

Chapter Student Representatives

David Schmitt, PA-S

SDAPA Consultant/Lobbyist

Kitty Kinsman

(605) 715-7590

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

Please address inquiries to: South Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants, 120 South Madison Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-3536.
(605) 224-1203
Fax (605) 224-8221
www.sdapa.net

Volume 18
Issue 3
July 2008