

# *CAPNI NEWS*

*Spring, 2007*

## *Message from the President*

It has been wonderful to be part of an active nursing group such as CAPNI—and to now represent all of you as President.

As you may have surmised from previous e-mails, this has begun as a very active legislative year for APNs in Indiana. I feel confident that with our Legislative Chair, Dee Swanson, and our lobbyists, Doug Kinser and Julie Halbig we will be well cared for. If any of you have any news regarding this area, please do not hesitate to forward this to Dee.

Our Administrative Assistant, Rhonda Scher, has been busy trying to get the data bases in order—but we need to know if you are not receiving our notices—most of which have been sent by e-mail. It is very important to let Rhonda know if you have a change in address.

One goal I have for the year is to try and reach more Clinical Nurse Specialists and Nurse Midwives—I know that CAPNI has a large number of NPs in the membership, but we have not forgotten the other APNs. If any of you have suggestions on how we can better meet your needs please contact your Region Rep.

And—please don't forget that the AANP is having its convention in Indianapolis this year. This will be a tremendous opportunity for all of us to attend right in our back yard. For more information got to [www.aanp.org](http://www.aanp.org). You can download the brochure there.

Thank you all for your continued support and trust.

Helen

## *Region Reports*

### *Region 1*

Region 1 meets monthly but will be taking the summer months off. Meetings are scheduled through December, 2007. Check the website for meeting information each month. Please try to join us for upcoming dinners. Any suggestions that members have for presenters are welcome.

Ursula McCormick, Region 1 [ursulam@the-center.org](mailto:ursulam@the-center.org)

### *Region 2*

Region 2 continues to have meetings. For information contact Taru Bhaidasna at [tbhaidasna@gmail.com](mailto:tbhaidasna@gmail.com)

### *Region 3*

Hello to Region 3! Hope this finds you all well. Unfortunately, I don't have spring meeting dates finalized as of the deadline for this newsletter. So be sure to watch your emails for that and for regular updates. Also, speaking of email, please remember to update us with changes in email or any other demographics. I have been getting several "undeliverable" notices lately. On a different note, thanks to everyone who submitted fund raising ideas. Hopefully we'll be able to come up with a formal plan in the next few weeks. Please contact me with suggestions or if you'd like to help! And lastly, I am trying to put together a preceptor list so I can better assist NP students in our area. I get a lot of calls and emails asking for help finding a clinical preceptor and so I thought it would be a good idea to create a list of those who enjoy precepting so I can quickly match practice area and location with the students needs. So please let me know if you would like to be on the preceptor list.

Please contact Joyce Palmateer at [jmp@mchsi.com](mailto:jmp@mchsi.com). For more information.

### *Region 4*

Region 4 continues to have monthly meetings; dates are posted on the web page. If you are not receiving invitations by mail please contact Meg Pahnier at [bpahnier@comcast.net](mailto:bpahnier@comcast.net) or Julie Moss at [jmoss@sf.edu](mailto:jmoss@sf.edu).

Region 4 is also planning an all day CE offering on November 3, 2007 in Fort Wayne at the University of Saint Francis. Information will be posted on the CAPNI web page. Topics planned include: Dermatology, Depression, Obesity, Women's Health, and Complimentary/alternative medicine.

### *Region 5*

Region 5 will be electing a new region representative this year. Ballots will be coming out soon by e-mail blast.

## *Region 6*

After a month off in December, our bimonthly meetings resumed with CAPNI business updates and excellent talks on “Dementia” in February and “Hyperlipidemia” in April. Attendance was down a little in February but we were at full capacity (42 attendees plus a waiting list) in April. Unfortunately I had to turn away a few late registrants. Thanks to those who let me know they could not attend as I was able to notify those on the waiting list of last minute openings. We try not to limit our numbers, but sometimes are required to by the facility or the sponsor. So please, RSVP early to ensure your spot!

We have had several area NP students attend recently, and they have come away enthusiastic about our organization. Our next scheduled meeting is June 12<sup>th</sup>, with a talk on schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Watch you email for the place and speaker announcement. Again, RSVP early!

Our future meetings will be planned by two willing and accomplished members, Peg O’Grady ([peg01415@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peg01415@sbcglobal.net) or [maogrady@iupui.edu](mailto:maogrady@iupui.edu)) and Cora Hartwell ([cdhartwell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cdhartwell@sbcglobal.net)). Please contact either of them regarding any suggestions or ideas for future meetings or speakers.

As your Region 6 representative, I would love to hear from anyone regarding professional activities in our area and/or any ideas or suggestions to improve our membership and participation.

Thank you,  
Colleen Ciampa ([cciampa@idipsc.com](mailto:cciampa@idipsc.com) or [ciampas@hotmail.com](mailto:ciampas@hotmail.com))

## *Region 7*

Region 7 generally meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. Our format allows us time for networking and business, followed by dinner and a speaker. The pharmaceutical companies gratefully sponsor our meetings. Recent topics have included lipid management, smoking cessation, intensive diabetes management and medical and surgical weight loss management.

Region 7 is a large geographical area and the meeting location varies. We have met in Columbus, Seymour, and Scottsburg. This summer, we will have a meeting in the Greensburg or Batesville area and hope to see long-time members but new faces.

Upcoming meeting dates and topics:

June 28<sup>th</sup> (this is moved earlier d/t the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday)

Diabetes Management sponsored by Merck

August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Diabetes Management with the new product Exubera sponsored by Pfizer

September 6<sup>th</sup>

Pain Management sponsored by Endo

Also in the planning is an educational day in the fall. More to follow as plans develop.

Donna Lecher

Region 7 CAPNI rep

lecher@insightbb.com

### *Region 8*

Region 8 continues to explore better ways to network and have regular meetings. If you are interested in meeting with your APN colleagues, contact Melissa Hall, region 8 rep at [mhall@usi.edu](mailto:mhall@usi.edu)

### *Names in the News*

Becca Hollenbaugh is a FNP who works in Columbia City with Dr. Lisa Hatcher. She was recently featured in an article in the Fort Wayne News Sentinel (see link below). Becca has been diagnosed with stage 4 stomach cancer but continues to compete as a marathon runner. She just participated in the Indianapolis mini marathon with her husband.

<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/sports/17195133.htm>

Dee Swanson, legislative chair and region 1 member, has been elected to serve as President of AANP. She will be president elect for one year then take on the leadership role next year. Congratulations and best wishes from your colleagues in Indiana.

### *Calendar of Events*

Region 4 has a CAPNI Continuing Education Day planned for Saturday, Nov 3rd at the University of Saint Francis. We currently have sessions confirmed on primary care dermatology, obesity in the family, and updates on diabetes management. It will be an all day meeting with CE credit. We will again have vendors and door prizes.

### *Legislative Update*

Welcome to the 2007 Legislative session! We started with a bang with the introduction and filing of Senate bill 324. Many are aware that this bill would place many onerous restrictions on APN practice and create huge access to care issues for our patients.

We had a very good conversation with Sen Miller who authored the bill. She has agreed not to pursue the bill at this time. We continue to monitor the situation closely.

As many of you know, we are represented by Doug Kinser of Hall Render, a very well known health law firm. This year in addition to Doug, we also have Julie Halbig, also an attorney/lobbyist with Hall Render. We are very lucky to be represented by such well connected, respected and capable people. As you may recall, Doug was in the State House of Representatives for 11 yrs before becoming an attorney with Hall Render. Julie worked for the House Republican Caucus for several years before coming to Hall Render.

CAPNI has a legislative committee that is comprised by several members. They are as follows:

Dee Swanson NP Chair

Ursula McCormick CNS

Marsha Plant Jackson NP

Debbie Brock NP

Debbie Walsh RN, NP student

Catherine Kaufman NP ( new CAPNI member and new committee member)

We are excited to be able to represent the CAPNI membership and look forward to continuing to serve you all

Dee Swanson NP

CAPNI Legislative Chair

## *Happenings*

Elections for CAPNI are planned for June. There is still a need for candidates for President elect and region reps. The region reps are for 1, 3, and 5. This is a 2 year commitment and involves quarterly meetings, usually in Indianapolis.

We are also in need of a nurse midwife and CNS representative who would be non voting board members. If you are interested or know someone who would be willing to participate please send a note to Helen Rossman at [helencpr@yahoo.com](mailto:helencpr@yahoo.com).

The AANP annual conference is being held in Indianapolis June 20-24. CAPNI will have an exhibit table in the exhibit hall on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Please come by and visit, get info on our organization, renew membership, and sign up for prizes.

CAPNI will also have a basket to be raffled at the PAC table. If you have any items you would like to donate to this, please leave those at the PAC table with a note that they are for the CAPNI basket. Rebecca Gump will be coordinating the donations prior to the raffle.

We are tentatively planning a dinner sponsored by Kyphon for Indiana APNs during the conference. Please watch the web page for more information and

check the CAPNI exhibit table during the conference. You may also receive a mailing directly from the company.

### *Other News*

America on the Move which can be accessed at [www.americaonthemove.org](http://www.americaonthemove.org) or at 800-807-0077 has a Healthcare Professional Toolkit (HCP Toolkit) that provides downloadable materials that will help patients understand the importance of energy balance, the link between obesity and health concerns, and the long-term benefits of making wise food and activity choices.

For those APNs doing sports physicals, remember IHSAA does not accept APNs signatures. This organization is not governed by state law but has its own rules. Marcia Plant-Jackson has met with them to request this rule be changed but the board of directors opted not to make any changes. If you know someone with any influence in this area, please ask them to contact Marcia at [mplantjackson@ecommunity.com](mailto:mplantjackson@ecommunity.com).

### **Indiana Patient's Compensation Fund (PCF)**

Many Indiana Advanced Practice Nurses have had questions about the Indiana Patient's Compensation Fund (PCF). Hopefully, the following information will be helpful to members in regard to malpractice insurance and the PCF. It is to your advantage to be a part of the PCF.

The PCF is administered by the Indiana Department of Insurance, and is funded by a surcharge on all health care providers' malpractice insurance premiums who are part of the fund. (IC 34-18-15). Participation in the fund is optional. The PCF and any income from the fund is held in trust, deposited in a segregated account, invested, and reinvested by the commissioner as authorized by IC 27-1-13 and does not become a part of the state general fund.

If a health care provider is sued for malpractice and is a member of the PCF, the PCF will pay the award owed that is not covered by the provider's malpractice insurance according to the following terms. Any health care provider who participates in the fund must be insured by a policy of malpractice liability insurance in the amount of at least two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) per occurrence and seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) in the annual aggregate. Thus, the provider is responsible for the first \$250,000 on each claim with a maximum of 3 claims per year (\$750,000). After the provider (or his/her malpractice insurance) has paid the first \$250,000, then the PCF would kick in for anything after the \$250,000 up to \$1,250,000.00 per claim. There is a limit for acts of malpractice, and the total amount recoverable by the claimant is One Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,250,000) IF

participating in the PCF. (IC 34-18-4-1). If the provider does not participate in the fund there is NO cap on the claimant's award.

The medical malpractice carrier or its authorized agent is responsible for completing and submitting all the paperwork involved to participate in the PCF. The medical malpractice insurance carrier charges the provider the appropriate surcharge fees to be submitted to the Indiana Patient's Compensation Fund according to the provider's specialty and class code. It is based on the published calculation for a hospital, or is One Hundred Percent (100%) of the premium for non-physicians or non-hospital providers. There is a minimum surcharge of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars for each year of coverage under the PCF. Quotes for malpractice insurance and participation in the PCF can be obtained from companies that handle malpractice insurance. You must ask to be a part of this fund and the malpractice fees will be higher if a provider chooses to participate in the PCF.

If you have items you would like to have published in the newsletter, please send it to Rebecca Gump at [becky.gump@med.va.gov](mailto:becky.gump@med.va.gov).