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Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners

RICHMOND REGION NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS FOR 2005-2006

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President's Message

Congratulations! Nurse Practitioners have much to celebrate! Senate Bill 456, which expands prescriptive authority to include schedule II drugs has passed both the senate and delegate houses and will be signed into law in June 2006. We also need to celebrate the role that the VCNP played in passage of this bill. We have a strong and influential professional organization working throughout the state for nurse practitioners. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each member that contacted their senator or delegate or garnered letters of support from their physicians to support passage of SB456. My practice as well as the practice of many NP's will be impacted by this legislation and patient care will also be enhanced. Please take time to reflect on the importance of your membership and involvement in the VCNP. Elaine Ferrary, our legislative chairman worked tirelessly to rally Richmond members to action to contact their legislators or show up at meetings. Please take time to thank Elaine for her tireless efforts.

We would like to capitalize on the enthusiasm and momentum from the legislative success and request your participation in the organization. There are many opportunities available to get involved. Two board positions will be vacated in May 2006 and we need interested volunteers to step forward for the president-elect, treasurer or committee level positions.

It is time to start thinking about recognizing our peers with the outstanding NP Award and outstanding NP Student Award. We have many outstanding NP's in our organization. Please take the time to write a brief synopsis of their contributions to the profession. Allison Hopson is Honors and Awards chairman and she will provide more information.

The membership committee continues to work aggressively to recruit and retain members. We continue to offer reduced membership of 50% to students. We will extend this courtesy to retired nurse practitioners. It is anticipated that this action will affect a small number of NP's.

It is not too late to sign up for the Annual State Conference in Williamsburg. Look forward to seeing many of you at the conference.

Cindy Fagan
President

Treasure's Note

The unanimous vote at the board meeting on Jan 18 2006 has made Richmond Region VCNP the proud owner of a money market account. Because our checking account is so robust the new account was created with a \$5000.00 transfer deposit (minimum is \$2500.00). Our checking account balance continues to be very healthy!

Barbara Mancil
Treasurer

Legislative Committee

A proud day in the history of VCNP and nurse practitioners in the state of Virginia was made when SB456 was voted unanimously out of the House of Delegates. A great deal of work and effort has brought this legislative initiative to fruition and a number of thanks are in order. Much gratitude is owed to Leslie Herdegen, our friend, advocate, and lobbyist for at least a year of hard work and strategic planning that prepared us to launch this campaign. Many thanks to Lee Stephens and Spotts Fain Consulting for continuing Leslie's work in her absence. Untold hours have been contributed by regional representatives and we are indebted to them as well. Please also remember to send a thank you to your delegate.

And special thanks to you, the members, without whom this success could not have been realized. Lee Stephens shared the following summary of comments he received from a delegate;

"Nurse practitioners are esteemed because of their professionalism. They have earned our respect by the way they have comported themselves in their practice. Their arduous courses of study, years beyond RN, would only be pursued by

self-disciplined people. Five years ago I would not have supported such drugs being prescribed by NPs. Now I do. They have earned it."

Lee went on to say;

"Congratulations. The esteem factor is something no lobbying effort can impart. It is not just your legislative urgency, but your day-in day-out practice of caring medicine that won the day. The bar has been set ...and is high. Entreat your members to keep up their outstanding performance every day. Keep the sterling reputation of the nurse practitioner profession shining bright."

As we prepare to take on this new level of prescribing responsibility let us keep these words in mind. Once the Governor has signed our bill it will become effective July 1, 2006.

It has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of this process. I sincerely hope this legislation will not only make a difference for you in your practice, but most importantly in the lives of the patients we serve.

Patricia Williams, MSN. FNP
VCNP Government Relations Chairperson

It's Time for Awards!

Don't forget to nominate your Favorite NP or NP Student!

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.vcnp.net

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Upcoming Meetings

VCNP Meeting Schedule (date subject to change):

Topics to be announced.

No March meeting- State Conference

April 20, 2006

May 16, 2006

June 22, 2006

RSVP: hochong.gilles@med.va.gov

**IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE!
REGISTER ON SITE!**

The VCNP's 32nd Annual Conference "A Revolutionary Bridge for Virginia Healthcare" will be held March 29-April 1, 2006 at the Williamsburg Marriott in Williamsburg, VA.

Each general session will offer a topic of interest that appeals to women's health, pediatrics, acute care as well as general practice. We hope to see a great Richmond Region presence!

See you at the conference!

All information will be available on VCNP's website
www.vcnp.net