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Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners

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RICHMOND REGION NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

It has been an excellent year! Thanks to all who called their legislative representatives, which led to the passage of SB456. Because of your continued involvement and commitment to the organization, our region has surpassed the Northern Virginia region with membership.

I want to sincerely thank Kevin Brigle, Cindy Fagan and Barbara Mancil for their dedication and service to our organization. Cindy is now the past-president and will continue to guide the board and organization into the new membership year. Stephanie Alexander is continuing her second year as our secretary. Kevin is now the treasurer at the state level. Robin Hills joins the board as our new treasurer.

Please welcome Martha Purvis as the new president-elect. She will be responsible for arranging the monthly CME. If you know of any speakers or potential sponsors, please forward her the contact information. I encountered numerous challenges in organizing these events this past year. It is becoming increasingly difficult to get the large amounts required for each event. It usually costs sponsors anywhere from \$4,000 to \$ 6,000 per event. The NOVA region often had to pay out of pocket for their meetings because of sponsor and venue challenges. In addition, there are additional restrictions with the new pharma rules. Our organization's attendance averages around 50-70 per event. Participants were limited due to venue space and sponsor budget. But, here is the dilemma. Expensive venues had high attendance rates. Many restaurants cannot accommodate our large group. Some members questioned the value of their membership when placed on the wait list. On average, approximately 10-15% would cancel just prior to each event. On the other hand, events at a larger venue have very poor attendance rates. For example, our May meeting was held at the Sheraton. It was held there to accommodate more members because of elections. We had 24 participants

and a no-show rate of 47%. Please be courteous to fellow members and our sponsors when notifying us of your attendance. Because of these limitations, we held additional meetings and notified the region of additional educational opportunities. On October 14th, our 3rd annual pharmacology symposium will be held at Lewis Ginter for additional pharmacy CMEs. It will be free again for members. If you have any suggestions, please forward your concerns to the board. We want to hear from you.

Lastly, I want thank the state and local legislative levels again for the successful passage of SB456. This expanded our prescriptive authority to include schedule II drugs that becomes effective July 1, 2006. You will need to update your individual practice acts, update practice agreements at the board of nursing, and update with the DEA to prescribe schedule II drugs.

I hope everyone will renew their membership because this organization will continue to advance NPs issues. There are many benefits of membership, which include collegial support, networking, job announcements, and educational opportunities (such as the pharmacology symposium and monthly meetings). Thank you all again for your support this past year and I look forward to serving the Richmond region in the upcoming year.

Ho Chong Gilles
President

Treasure's Note

Message from the Incoming Treasurer

It is an honor and privilege to be VCNP Richmond Chapter's newly-elected treasurer. I appreciate your confidence in me to assume the management of the chapter's robust finances. I joined VCNP in my senior year as an NP student and I found it to be a valuable resource for networking and



employment opportunities. I would also like to focus on expanding the NP student membership, in addition to my duties as treasurer, and VCU faculty. I am asking for your continued assistance in creating an atmosphere that is warm and welcoming. Again, thank you and I look forward to my two years of service.

Robin Hills
Treasurer

Past President's Note

As we embark on a new membership year, it is important to take the time to reflect on the many accomplishments made by our organization during the past year.

1. The board strived to meet the regional goals set for the year. The goals were as follows:
 - Improve communication with membership by including general business meeting at every other monthly CEU meeting
 - Increase NP visibility through involvement in community service projects
 - Historian to maintain year to year organizational history with photographs
 - Increase recruitment and retention of members
 2. Our president-elect worked tirelessly to coordinate quality monthly CE meetings despite growing difficulties with sponsorship and funding sources due to changing pharmaceutical guidelines. These meetings not only provide education but also offer networking opportunities.
 3. Our membership committee exceeded our goal to increase our regional membership. The Richmond Region has the largest membership in the state with 293 members. We can also boast that student membership has increased due to active recruitment and reduced membership rates and we hope that our students will become active lifelong members in our organization.
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- 4. The organization became involved in several community outreach activities including the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund, Pan Can Fund, Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund and the Bainbridge Carnival and Health Fair.**
- 5. The organization sponsored the second Annual Fall Pharmacology Symposium which offered CEU's and was free of charge to our membership.**
- 6. The organization continues to publish a quarterly electronic newsletter to communicate with membership. The electronic communication greatly impacts the budget and saves the organization a significant amount of money that would otherwise be spent on postage.**
- 7. The Public Relations committee has been involved in promoting the profession in the community. We now have VCNP brochures and a banner available for events.**
- 8. Most significantly, the organization was successful in its legislative efforts for passage of SB456, which expands prescriptive authority to include Schedule II drugs. This greatly impacts many nurse practitioners in our region as well as throughout the state.**

We have a strong professional organization both at the regional and state level that is actively involved in nurse practitioner issues. I would like to urge each member to consider getting involved in the organization and I also thank you for your support during the past year. Without our members none of these accomplishments could have been achieved.

**Cindy Fagan
Past- President**



We're on the Web!

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Upcoming Meetings

VCNP Meeting Schedule (date subject to change):

Topics to be announced.

August 24, 2006

September 14, 2006

October 24, 2006

November 16, 2006

RSVP: mcpurvis@comcast.net

The VCNP Richmond Region's 3rd Annual Pharmacology Symposium will be held Oct 14, 2006 at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Richmond, VA from 7:30 am – 2 pm

Mark your calendars now! Remember seating is limited!

Note from President-Elect.

We look forward to providing educational opportunities for Richmond area members of the VCNP.

Topics for each dinner event will be forwarded a few weeks prior to the meeting and RSVPs are strongly requested. Seating maybe limited in a few of the monthly meetings due to venue size. We ask that you only RSVP if you plan to attend. If your plans change and you cannot attend, please contact me by email or phone so that members on the waiting list have an opportunity to participate. High meeting absence can tarnish our reputation and increase the difficulty in planning and scheduling future events.

If you have topics, speakers or sponsors to recommend, please forward the information.

Martha Purvis RN FNP

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Awards and Honors

The Donna Campanella Outstanding Nurse Practitioner Award was given to **Judy Parker Falzoi**. Judy works in underserved areas including clinical director for the Irvin Gammon Craig Health Center. She has served as a conference representative for the VCNP. She has co-authored 2 chapters in a book on women's health that has been a required text for 54 nurse practitioner programs nationally and on the AJN's Nurse Practitioner book of the year list. Congratulations Judy, we wish you much success in your new endeavors at the Daily Planet.

The Outstanding Nurse Practitioner Student Award was given to **Veronica Buckovich**. Veronica is in the Family Practice tract and has left a positive impression with several of her preceptors. She is known for her complete preparation and thorough work in her clinical practicums and in the classroom. She exhibits clinical excellence and compassion in her practice and is well respected among her peers and the faculty.

Congratulations to both as they represent Nurse Practitioners in such a positive light.

Allison Ryan
Chairman