

REPORT



The Official Newsletter of the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners

A Message from the President

Dear VCNP Members,

What a wonderful time to be a nurse practitioner! With passage of the Health Care Reform Bill, we have an opportunity to be agents of change, to lead and work in collaboration with allied health care professionals to be a part of the solution for improving health care access in Virginia and beyond. VCNP is committed to be a vehicle of change and is working to implement media relations, legislative relations, member communication and stakeholder education and to stand as a unified voice for all nurse practitioners in the Commonwealth. This voice will allow the organization, members and others to advocate for removal of barriers to practice and for nurse practitioners to be recognized as leaders to address solutions to access to care for the nearly 30 million American's who will have health insurance in 2014.

Multiple tactics have been employed over the past several months to increase awareness of nurse practitioners, to educate key stakeholders and position nurse practitioners as a part of the solution in bridging the gap in access to health care as a greater patient population will be seeking health care while the numbers of primary care physicians continues to decrease.

- We have published op/ed columns or letters to the editor in the Richmond Times Dispatch, Roanoke Times and the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star to educate the public and other stakeholders about the role of nurse practitioners and the high quality care that we provide.
- Letters to legislators have been sent to highlight the skill and experience of nurse practitioners as both providers



and leaders in health care delivery and to educate about supervision barriers that limit access to care for citizens of the Commonwealth.

- We have worked to provide statewide communications to our membership to keep you apprised of our activities.
- Our website has been

updated to include an In the News tab so that you can view local media stories about nurse practitioners and organizational responses.

- We have put forth nominations of nurse practitioners for policy arenas to offer guidance and support with health care reform in the current administration.

To be successful in our efforts to remove supervision barriers and improve access to health care, we need you, the membership to be engaged as there is power in numbers. You are asked to make legislator visits, attend the legislative receptions that are planned throughout the state and to engage physician colleagues in conversation so that they can become ambassadors for us, providing a voice of support for the high quality care that we provide our patients. We also need your stories to strengthen the effort. Lastly, we need to be prepared for factions in the health care system that want to limit our role.

I look forward to this opportunity to lead the organization toward change. Please bear in mind that you, our membership are the true source of organizational power and influence and this effort will not be successful without a united approach. +

Respectfully,
Cindy Fagan, RN, MS, FNP-BC
President, VCNP

**Plan Now for Our
2011 Annual Conference!**
March 30 - April 2, 2011
Hotel Roanoke
Roanoke, VA

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Nominations & Awards	Lisa Riha

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	Heather Hallberg
Historian	Ann Bennett
By-Laws	Chris Sauer
Nominations & Awards	Margie Garcia-Garrett
Conference	Tammy Maloney
Membership	Beth Wolfinger
	Christi Fowler

Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners
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434/977-3716 • Fax 434/979-2439 • www.vcnp.net

From the Membership Chair—Fall 2010

The Membership Committee met by conference call in July to review the Goals for 2010-11 developed at the June Leadership meeting and to plan our activities for the year. At the Regional level, those Boards are always looking for enthusiastic committee members, so the work of VCNP can move forward. Consider becoming active on a Committee or involved in a short-term project. We need your help!

The Member Benefits have been updated and will be on the web soon so look for them under the Members Only section. New benefits include:

- New Professional Liability Insurance at 2M/6M aggregate offered by Marsh
- New Eligibility for *VCNP Nurse Practitioner Educational Scholarship Award*

The Committee will also look at developing a Career Center which will offer assistance in resume writing, abstract writing and other professional development issues.

The “Find a NP” Directory is a place where you can “toot your own horn”. This directory will allow the public and other

nurse practitioners to locate you by specialty. You will need your UserName and Password to access and enter your practice information. If you have forgotten your UserName and Password, contact Christina Meyer at 434/977-3716.

Free Member Dues

Anyone who refers 5 or more new or past (lapsed) VCNP members within a member year will receive their next year’s dues free. Person referred cannot have been a member in the last year. Remember to have the new member include your name on their application.

Online Member Renewal Cards

Changed your password? Moved to a different region? Members may now obtain a renewal card through the Members Section of our website The card is linked to member



data in our system, so changes are immediate. Simply choose the link for your renewal card and print!

The Fall membership cycle is underway. You may go on-line to renew (credit card only) or print the membership application on line (checks preferred).

If you receive an invoice, please renew so we can count on you to help us move Virginia NP practice forward. We look forward to serving you, our members. +

Warm regards,
Carola Bruflat, Membership Chair
cbruflat@cox.net

We Would Like to Welcome Our New Members

NEW CENTRAL REGION MEMBERS

Barbara Barry RN, BSN
Bethany Coyne RN/CPNP
Deborah Baker
Jaime Markham

NEW NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGION MEMBERS

Kristine Brook
Doreen Grzelak

NEW PENINSULA REGION MEMBERS

Cheryl Reeser
Martha Jones

NEW PIEDMONT REGION MEMBERS
Diane Drame CPNP-AC, CPNP-PC

NEW RICHMOND REGION MEMBERS

Meghann Pierce RN
Kimberly Dawn Williams BS, RN, BSN
Samantha Murray

NEW SHENANDOAH REGION MEMBERS

Mary Danley Catlett BSN, RN

NEW TIDEWATER REGION MEMBERS

Andrea Montgomery RN/BSN
Jennifer Melillo

OTHER NEW MEMBERS

Anne Elizabeth Nelson, BS

Legislation 2011

The Government Relations committee is working with our lobbyist to solidify the 2011 legislative strategy to remove statutory barriers to NP practice and increase access to care in Virginia. Many factors impact our decisions, including the momentum of federal healthcare reform initiatives, which positions nurse practitioners well as key providers of healthcare. In Virginia, we face a new Administration and changing dynamics in the General Assembly. There are now four physician legislators in the Virginia General Assembly and the both the Secretary of Health & Human Resources and Director of the Department of Health Professions are physicians. We are in discussions with the Administration and key legislators to reach a compromise.

Virginia remains in the minority of states mandating physician supervision (12 states) and Joint Board of Nursing & Board of Medicine oversight (7 states). These requirements limit patient choice, decrease

access to care, and create unnecessary barriers for NPs. We know that the realities of NP practice are more collegial than supervisory and want the statutes to reflect contemporary practice. Please see summary of current barriers below.

While we work at the state level to determine the specific direction for 2011,

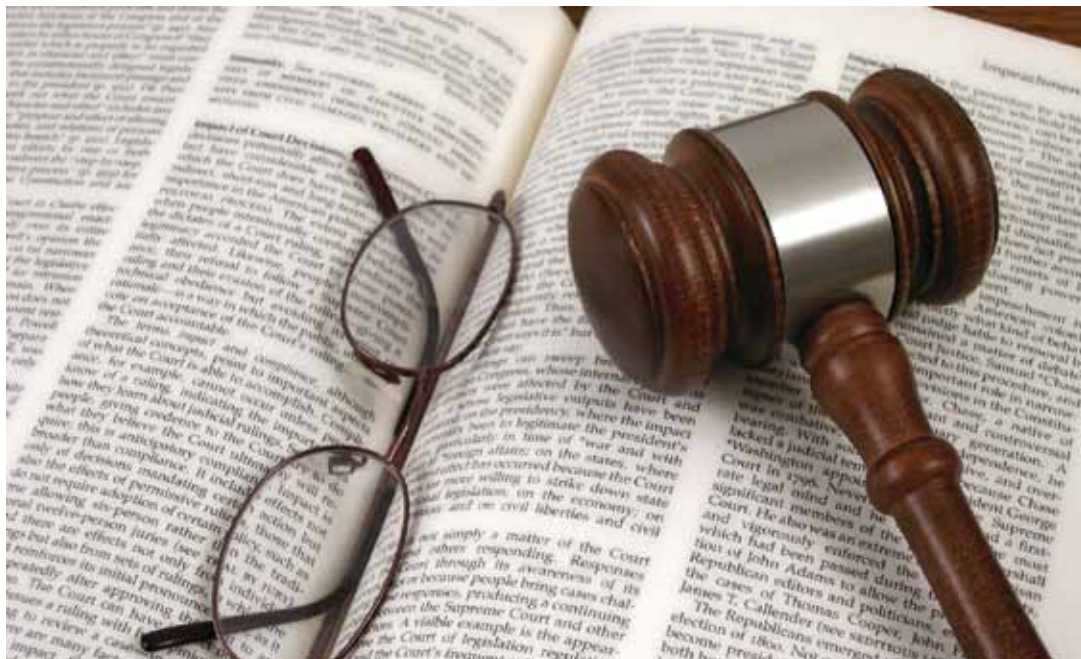
it becomes even more important for you to get involved. The most important thing you can do is to sit down with your state legislators and discuss your practice. We need to educate legislators about what we do and how the barriers impede access to care. Your state Delegate & Senator need to know how you provide high quality, patient centered care to their constituents.

To get started, please go to <http://legis.state.va.us/> and click on "who is my legislator". Make an appointment to visit in their home district and educate them about NP practice. And please attend one of the legislative receptions.

Visit www.vcnp.net to access many tools to help you prepare. Watch for information via VCNP blast e-mails and the web site.

Your regional legislative representatives are available to help you. You may be contacted by them if you are a constituent of one of the legislators on the health committees where our legislation is initially considered. Please allow them to accompany you to your meeting. +

Mary Duggan, RN, MS, CCRN, ACNP,
Chair, Government Relations Committee
maryduggan@verizon.net



Virginia Health Reform Initiative

Governor Bob McDonnell has formed the Virginia Health Reform Initiative Advisory Council, chaired by the Secretary of Health & Human Resources in Virginia, William Hazel MD. This group will provide recommendations to the Governor towards a comprehensive strategy for implementing health reform in Virginia. The Advisory Council has established task forces in six key areas: Medicaid Reform, Insurance Market Reform, Delivery and Payment, Reform, Capacity, Technology, Purchasers Perspective. Nursing is represented by Shirley Gibson, President of the Virginia Nurses Association. VCNP is working closely with the VNA to inform the discussions and educate the Administration about nurse practitioners and their role in the solution to healthcare access and delivery. Mary Duggan has been appointed to the capacity task force and will speak for NPs in Virginia. +



Current Statutory Barriers to NP Practice in Virginia

- NPs must be supervised by physicians—Virginia is one of only twelve states that require supervision.
- NPs are regulated by the Committee of the Joint Board of Nursing & Medicine—Virginia is one of only six states that are joint board regulated.
- Specific requirements related to prescriptive authority.
 - ▶ Physicians are required to regularly practice in the same location as the NP.
 - ▶ Physicians may not supervise more than four NPs—4:1 ratio.
 - ▶ File a practice agreement with the Joint Boards that describes and directs the prescriptive authority of the nurse practitioner—the physician has authority to limit prescriptive authority.
- All NPs are required to have a protocol for each practice setting that directs and describes the procedures to be followed and the delegated medical acts appropriate to the specialty practice area.
- All NPs must have a protocol and a practice agreement (if prescribing) for EACH practice setting. +

Your VCNP Region Government Relations Committee

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2010 Regional Legislative Receptions

VCNP has collaborated with the Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists and the Virginia Nurses Association to plan legislative receptions across the state. This is your opportunity to have face to face time with your legislators and discuss NP barriers in Virginia. Your local Government Relations legislative representative (see *Government Relations Committee on this page*) will help you match up with your legislators and printed material will be available. Please RSVP to a reception in your area and take this opportunity to make your voice heard. The receptions will be held at the following locations:

Southwest Virginia

Roanoke Higher Education Center
Roanoke, VA
Friday, October 1st,
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Northern Virginia

George Mason University
Fairfax, VA
Wednesday October 6th,
6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Tidewater/Peninsula

Hilton Virginia Beach
Virginia Beach, VA
Saturday, October 16th,
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Richmond

Capitol City Grill
Richmond, VA
Thursday, October 28th

Visit the VCNP web site for more information at www.vcnp.net.

Recognition of Diane Hanna in the History of the VCNP

Diane Hanna is known to many who are nurse practitioners in Virginia, or to those with whom she has come in contact through her clinical, teaching, writing, leadership or other professional roles. Following graduation from the University of Delaware, where she received her BS in Nursing, Diane completed VCU/MCV's Master of Science in Community Health Nursing and Family Nurse Practitioner Programs. The year was 1982. Since then, she has remained in Richmond, very actively involved professionally, as well as with family and friends, hobbies, and occasional travel. This article is included to give recognition to Diane, a significant figure in the history of the VCNP.

Diane's contributions to the development and organization of NP's in Virginia have been through various and numerous efforts, in which she has held leadership positions or was in a position to be influential as a representative of NP's. She was the first president of the VCNP when its relationship within the VNA changed from a Professional Practice Group to a Council. Continuing from that particular point in her career, she has made contributions at local, regional, state, and national levels, in key organizations that have guided legislation, policy, and practice guidelines, and which have increased public awareness and acceptance of NP's. Examples include, but are by no means limited to:

- Practice and research roles at VCU/MCV in the Division of Cardiology.
- Publishing and editing in NP or AP professional literature, primarily focusing on clinical, practice, and regulatory issues.
- Coalition of Virginia Nurses in Advanced Practice, member and chair. Composed of representatives from the nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, and nurse anesthetist groups, CoVNAP was able to promote legislation and regulatory changes supportive of advanced practice nurses in the 1980's.
- Participation in efforts to initially gain prescriptive authority for Virginia NP's, and to revise MD:NP supervisory ratios. (See article by Diane Hanna and Judy



Diane and Terry in Australia, April 2010

- Collins in VCNP's website history)
- National Alliance of NP's (a consensus building predecessor to the American College of NP's), member and chair.
- Advisory Committee to the Committee of the Virginia Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine, 12 years tenure.
- Member, U.S. Preventive Services Coordinating Committee; Member, the Council of Graduate Medical Education and National Advisory Council of Nursing Education and Practice Joint Workgroup on Primary Care Workforce Projections.

Beyond those contributions highlighted above, and more extensively in her CV, other roles in the state deserve special recognition. Beginning with gubernatorial appointment to membership on the Virginia State Board of Health, she grew in recognition and status. During her eight years on the Board she was subsequently elected Vice-Chairwoman, then Chairwoman of the Board of Health, becoming the first nurse in the state to serve in that capacity. Her continued involvement for over a decade in the Virginia organization CHIP (Comprehensive Health Investment

Project) serving low income children and their families is also worthy of mention.

In March of 2007, Diane was recognized by being the recipient of the VCNP's Founder's Award. The information presented here in this article can be considered only highlights of her many accomplishments. There are many more! All of them describe Diane as a most worthy recipient. And, this award adds to her impressive honors and awards list.

In addition to her contributions to the profession, she maintains a full and interesting personal life. Family includes her husband, Dr. Terry Taylor, who is a veterinarian, also heavily involved in professional activities, and two sons, the youngest now in college, creating an empty nest. Her parents, who have relocated to the Richmond area, and quilting, a hobby she shares with her mother, have filled any space that might have existed in the nest. Also, the attached photo, taken in Australia a few months ago, attests to her pleasure in travel. +

Article submitted by Ann Bennett, Historian, VCNP, based in part on interview with Diane Hanna.

VCNP Awarded First NP Scholarship

Anne Boston Parish, MSN, RN, CS, FNP-BC has been chosen for this first NP scholarship out of two very qualified applicants. Applicants must be members of VCNP, has to be enrolled in a doctoral program in Virginia, has completed 50 percent of the required hours of graduate study and exhibits academic excellence and a commitment to advanced practice nursing with strong clinical and leadership abilities. The committee selected Anne after careful reviewing of her CV, essay and recommendation letter. She has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship towards her tuition at Marymount University for her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program which she expects to complete by July 2011.



Scholarship recipient Anne Boston Parish.

Anne is the founder and owner of the Queen Street Clinic in Alexandria, VA. The clinic is a low-cost family practice clinic for the medically uninsured, providing affordable healthcare for all ages and illnesses. In April she was honored by the Alexandria

Commission of Public Health Services and Alexandria Public Health Department with the 2010 Flora Krause Casey Public Health Service Award, the highest annual public health service recognition awarded by the organizations.

Cindy Fagan, our president, will present the scholarship to Anne Parish during the Virginia Nurses Foundation Gala on Sept. 18 in Richmond. The scholarship is provided in part by the Virginia Nurses Foundation which honors nurse practitioners and their passion for quality health care. Anne is very proud to be the first recipient of this scholarship.

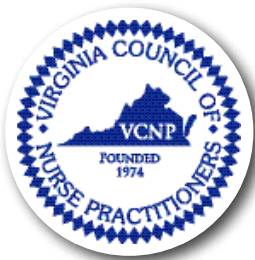
There will be a news release about this. Stay tuned.

Our committee is also working on revising awards criteria and NP scholarship criteria.

To contribute to the VCNP Nurse Practitioner Scholarship fund, please go to VCNP website and select VCNP Scholarship then follow the instructions. Please join me and congratulate our first ever NP scholarship recipient- Anne Boston Parish. +

*Kalyani (Kali) Shab, FNP
Chair, Awards and Nomination Committee*

Donating to the VCNP Nurse Practitioner Scholarship



The VCNP Nurse Practitioner Scholarship was established to assist with educational scholarships for VCNP members who are furthering their education. The scholarship is housed in the Virginia Nurses Foundation (VNF). This is a 501 (c) 3 that was established by the Virginia Nurses Association for the purpose of continuing programs of support and innovation for nursing in the Commonwealth.

There are several ways that you as an individual or your region can donate to this scholarship. First, join us at the annual VNF Gala! It is a wonderful event that recognizes those outstanding individuals in nursing who are making a difference. You can purchase individual tickets, or purchase a table. Perhaps your region or your business would like to purchase a table. Please designate your donation for the VCNP Nurse Practitioner scholarship award. VCNP has purchased a table for the past two years with the proceeds going for the VCNP scholarship. The Gala this year was held on September 18, where we honored our first scholarship recipient, Anne Boston Parrish.

Another way to donate to the VCNP Nurse Practitioner scholarship is to click on the link on our website. Go to www.vcnp.net. On the left hand side of the opening page, click on NP Scholarship. Then, follow the instructions for donating. Please make sure to denote that you wish your donation to go to the VCNP Nurse Practitioner Scholarship.

Donations by mail can be addressed to:
Virginia Nurses Association
c/o VCNP Nurse Practitioner Scholarship
7113 Three Chopt Road
Richmond, Virginia 23226

To view an interesting slide show on how the Virginia Nurses Foundation began, click on the following link: <http://www.virginiannurses.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=9>. Then, go to Trustees and Organization.

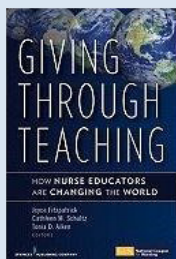
Thank you for your support of the VCNP Nurse Practitioner Scholarship! +

Diane Walker RN, MSN, FNP-BC

NOTEWORTHY

Shenandoah University graduated its first class of DNP students in May 2010 including VCNP-NSVR members **Elizabeth Courts, FNP** and **Cheryl Blanche** ...

... The Wound Healing Centers at Chippenham Hospital and Retreat Doctors' Hospital, both under the direction of **Joseph V. Boykin Jr. MD FACS** and **Mary C. Crossland BSN, RN, CWCN**, are currently conducting clinical research studies targeting diabetic foot ulcers. To learn more about our clinical research studies, or to refer a patient for evaluation, you may contact **Lisa Shawler, RN CCRC**, clinical research coordinator at 804/228-6732 or **Gina Middlebrook, MSN, FNP** at 804/327-4045 ...



... VCNP member and immediate NSVR Past President, **Martha J. Morrow Ph.D., FNP-BC, CNE** has been published in a new 2010 textbook, *Giving Through Teaching: How Nurse Educators are Changing the World*. The book editors are **Joyce Fitzpatrick, Cathleen Shultz** and **Tonia Aiken**. Dr. Morrow's contribution is in Chapter 11 on her experience with mission trips in Latin America ...

... The **Richmond Region's Annual Pharmacology Symposium** is scheduled for October 9, 2010 at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens Conference Center in Richmond from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please visit the website for details of the agenda and how to register ...

... Save the date for the **VCNP Shenandoah Region Spring Conference** on Friday, May 13, 2011. Details to come. +

VCNP Member Named to Taskforce of Virginia Health Reform Initiative

Congratulations to Mary Duggan, MS, RN, CCRN, ACNP-BC, on her appointment to the Capacity taskforce, one of six taskforces working in coordination with the Virginia Health Reform Initiative Advisory Council. Taskforce members were appointed by Governor Bob McDonnell and will work to bring recommendations and information to the Advisory Council, which will then provide recommendations to the Governor towards a comprehensive strategy for implementing health reform in Virginia. Like the Advisory Council, the work of the taskforces will go beyond federal health reform and recommend other innovative health care solutions that meet the needs of Virginia's citizens and government.



Mary Duggan, MS, RN, CCRN, ACNP-BC

Mary is one of 12 members of the Capacity taskforce, which is being led by co-chairs Shirley Gibson, RN, Interim Vice President of Nursing Operations, VCU Health System, and Dixie Tooke-Rawlins, D.O., Dean and Executive Vice President, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. Mary, chair of VCNP's Government Relations Committee, is the only nurse practitioner on the taskforce. +

VCNP Welcomes New Management Team



Cynthia Fagan with Membership Services Coordinator, Christina Sandridge and Marci Malinowski, Communications Coordinator. At right, VCNP Executive Director, Doug Easter with Laura Patterson, Comptroller.

The Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners Board of Directors met in Charlottesville, Virginia on Saturday, September 11, 2010. Doug Easter, Executive Director, and the Easter Associates staff were available for introductions and questions. Betsy Crowell has joined the Easter Associates team and will continue to work with VCNP. We are pleased to welcome the new association management company. Members of the Easter staff include:

- Doug Easter, *Executive Director*
- Laura Patterson, *Vice President and Comptroller*
- Christina Sandridge, *Members Services Coordinator*
- Amy Shaw, *Director, Meeting and Convention Services*
- Marci Malinowski, *Communications Coordinator*
- Christina Meyer, *Web Applications Manager*

The transition is going smoothly. If members have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Easter Associates headquarters. Easter Associates Inc., 600 Peter Jefferson Parkway, Suite 300, Charlottesville, VA 22911, 434/977-3716, Fax: 434/979-2439. +

Mason’s School of Nursing Partners with Free Clinic to Improve Access to Primary Health Care

To help alleviate the growing challenges that the uninsured with chronic illness experience in Northern Virginia, George Mason University’s School of Nursing has received a \$1.6 million grant (to be funded over five years) from the Health Resources and Services Administration to establish the Mason Partners for Access to Health Care (PATH) program.



Partnering with the Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic (JSFC) in Herndon, Va., Mason PATH will help improve access to quality primary and behavioral health care for low-income patients in Fairfax County who lack health insurance and suffer from diabetes and hypertension. In addition, JSFC patients will have access to mental health screening for depression and anxiety

and management of behavioral health issues. Clinical services will be provided by Mason faculty who are family nurse practitioners and psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioners. Kathy Dickman, director of the PATH program and assistant professor in the School of Nursing, plans for the clinic to serve as an applied lab for Mason nursing students who will work directly with faculty members to gain experience in areas of nursing administration, clinical specialist and education. +

Pregnancy Program Wins March of Dimes Grant

Shenandoah Women’s HealthCare in Harrisonburg, VA, received a March of Dimes Program Services Grant in March 2010 to expand their Centering Pregnancy Program. Centering Pregnancy moves prenatal care from the exam room into a group setting. Eight to ten women with similar due dates meet for ten sessions, combining their prenatal health assessments, health education and the opportunity to socialize and have fun with other expectant parents! Published studies have shown that women who participate in Centering Pregnancy have lower rates of preterm births, their babies are born weighing more and they breastfeed longer than babies born to women receiving traditional care.

The Centering Pregnancy Pilot program at Shenandoah Women’s HealthCare began in December 2008. Since then twelve cohorts of women have completed the Centering program. Thanks to the March of Dimes grant, five nurse-midwives and four physicians, along with nine members of the office staff are trained to offer Centering Pregnancy to pregnant women and their partners in the Shenandoah Valley. +

Margaret Upton, President of the VCNP-Shenandoah region

VCNP to Recognize National NP Week

National NP Week is November 8-15, and VCNP is planning to recognize the good work done by NPs and our members each day. The theme for the week is “Everyday Heroes—Nurse Practitioners,” and we’ll be working to share our message with members of the media, students, legislative partners, health care colleagues and others across the Commonwealth.

This year during NP Week, VCNP will be conducting a statewide book drive for Reach Out and Read, a nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy and school readiness in pediatric exam rooms by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud. This national organization is excited to work with VCNP to reach the more than 150 pediatric offices and clinics in Virginia that participate in this program. We will be sending additional information about book drives, specific book needs and other ways you can help in October.

Watch your email or the VCNP web site for more information, or contact Stephanie Alexander at lolanp@aol.com with questions. +

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please email your newsletter articles and photos to marci.malinowski@easterassociates.com or mail to VCNP

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