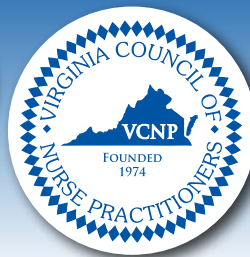


REPORT



The Official Newsletter of the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners

A Message from the President

Dear VCNP Members,

Winds of change have created an opportunity for NPs with the passage of the federal health care reform law, formation of the Virginia Health Reform Initiative (HRI) Advisory Council and the recent release of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report on The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health. VCNP has taken advantage of this window of opportunity to highlight the pivotal role that NPs can play in meeting health care gaps as the Virginia Medicaid rolls are expected to increase to 270,000-425,000 in the setting of a shortage of primary-care physicians.



the outcome of negotiations on consensus language with MSV. Regardless of the outcomes, we have confidence that the labor of our advocacy efforts has laid a firm foundation for recognition of the vital role of NPs in the health care infrastructure and will facilitate movement towards positive change in the future. As

NPs, we must keep our collective compass set on transforming the health care system to provide seamless, affordable and high quality care that is accessible to all citizens of the Commonwealth.

Our efforts have focused on increasing awareness of the need for statutory change to remove a number of practice barriers that prevent us from practicing to the full extent of our education and training. Our public relations activities have been aligned with the legislative agenda to educate the public and legislators about the high quality, cost-effective and safe health care services that NPs provide and the barriers with current statutory regulations. We thank members who have responded to the call to identify barriers in their practice settings. These barriers have been shared with legislators, the HRI Capacity Taskforce and the public through media articles. We have rallied support from physician colleagues to support our efforts with a letter writing campaign. We have worked to solidify relationships with other nursing organizations and allied health care coalitions. We have engaged the Medical Society of Virginia (MSV) in dialogue to attempt to reach consensus on legislative language removing practice barriers to increase access to care.

Our 2011 Annual Conference program will be held March 30 - April 2, 2011 at the Hotel Roanoke. Another quality conference program has been developed by our education committee to address clinical and professional issues that impact our practice. Click on the following link to view the program and for online registration. http://www.vcnp.net/meetings/2011annual/conference_main.php

Take advantage of the opportunity to earn 1.5 hours of continuing education by viewing Barbara Safriet's video: Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice and Regulatory Issues on our website. Barbara's message is fundamental to our legislative initiative and is a must see for all nurse practitioners. A post test is required to earn CE credit. To view the video and take the post test, go to <http://www.vcnp.net/members/safriet.php>.

VCNP anticipates becoming an Approved Provider for Continuing Education which will allow flexibility with regional program planning and accreditation and increase our opportunity to offer continuing education for our membership. +

At this time, we await the final recommendations of the HRI Advisory Council and their significance for NPs and

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

VCNP 2010 STATE BUDGET

Revenue



Expenses



IN THIS ISSUE—Winter 2010

VCNP Contacts	2
From the Membership Chair	3
New Member Update.....	3
Legislation 2011	4
Government Relations Committee	4
VCNP Welcomes New GR Chair	5
From the Education Chair	5
Public Relations: To Borrow from a Recent Popular Slogan: Yes We Can!	6
Shenandoah Conference Save the Date	6
Tidewater NPs Participate in Walk	7
Peninsula Chapter Celebrates Student Members.....	7
Center Awarded Susan G. Komen Grant	7
Noteworthy.....	7



VCNP Officers

President	Cindy Fagan
President Elect	Phyllis Everett
Past President/ Policy & Operations	Diane Walker
Secretary	Denise Chernitzer
Treasurer	HoChong Gilles
Interim Government Relations	Diane Walker
Membership	Carola Bruflat
Bylaws & Resolutions	Maribeth Capuno
Public Relations	Stephanie Alexander
Education	Maureen Flattery
Nominations & Awards	Kali Shah
Historian	Ann Bennett

Blue Ridge Region

President	Elizabeth Guilfoyle
Past President	Maribeth Capuno
President-Elect	Katie Katz
Secretary	Judy Hill
Treasurer	Cynthia Talton
Legislative Representative	Nancy Wilson
Membership	Sally Strauss
Public Relations	Debbie Cline
Education/Programs	Laurie Buchwald
	Nancy Harvey
Nominations & Awards	Debbie Cline
Conference Chair	Susan Donckers

Central Region

President	Marilyn Phillips-Grossman
Secretary	Laura Mann
Treasurer	Lydia (Kay) Shelton
Immediate Past President	Phyllis C. Everett
Legislative Chair	Debbie Erickson
Education/Programs Chair	VACANT
Nominations & Awards	Laura Mann
Public Relations	Rosie Taylor
Membership	Vickie Moore

Fredericksburg Region

President	Leanora W. Fisher
Past President	Isabelle Amann
President-Elect	VACANT
Treasurer	Tiffany Simons
Secretary	Piper Schlessner-Foresman
Programs	Victoria Gantz
Membership	Karen Hlywa
Legislature	open
Public Relations	Carol Dodson

Northern Shenandoah Valley Region

President	Rose Jannuzzi
Past President	Marty Morrow
President-Elect	Miriam Birmiel
Secretary	Sallie Grundman
Treasurer	Ruth Holmaas
Education	Marty Morrow
Membership	Marie Jackson
Legislative	Jeanmarie Bechtle
Public Relations	Patti Krauskopf
Conference	Cheryl Kenney
Nominations & Awards	Sally Grundman

Northern Virginia Region

President	Kathy Mares
Past President	Nicole Sofranko
President Elect	Louise Ritz
Treasurer	Marie Fugitt
Secretary	Cynthia Hersh
Conference	Carola Bruflat
Legislative	Connie Henry
	Lynn Poole
Membership	Kelly Sanderson
	Heidi Wilson
	Katie Colcher
	Julie Spencer
Program	Dorothy Gresham
Public Relations	Margaret Light
Nominations & Awards	

Peninsula Region

President	Marge Stuppy
President-Elect	Jean Rilee
Past President	Chris Daley
Secretary	Cheryl Lombard
Treasurer	Joan Benton
Membership	Janice Porter
Conference:	Patrice Malena
Government Relations	Gloria Engelberger
Public Relations	Lisa Riha
Nominations & Awards	Lisa Riha

Piedmont Region

President	Charlene (Charlie) Exline
Vice President/ President Elect	Rebekah (Becky) Compton
Secretary	Mary Deivert
Treasurer	Gerald (Joe) Montoya
Legislative	Carol Lynn
	Maxwell-Thompson
	VACANT
	VACANT
Education	Nancy Lutz
Bylaws	Nancy Lutz
Conference	Nancy Lutz
Membership	Mitzi Thompson

Richmond Region

President	Marie Gerardo
President-Elect	Alison Ryan
Past President	Maureen Flattery
Secretary	Katy Grubbs
Treasurer	Brenda Sawyer
Legislative Representative	Elaine Ferrary
Education/Programs	Maureen Flattery
Membership	Angela Starkweather
Nominations & Awards	Stephanie Alexander
Public Relations	Mary Baker

Shenandoah Region

President	Margaret Upton
President Elect	Donna Schminkey
Past President	Sue Klassen
Secretary	Marion Sharp
Treasurer	Nancy Brubaker
Legislative	Paige French
Membership	Susan Becker
Education/Programs	Donna Schminkey
Conference	Amy Cannon
Public Relations	Susan Conaty-Buck
Historian	Trish Philon

Southwest Region

President	Joan Mullins
Past President	Linda Davidson
President-Elect	open
Secretary	Misty Bendall
Treasurer	Deborah Ball
Nominating Committee	Donna Davis
Legislative	Rebecca Mullins
Conference	Angela Harrison
Membership	Emalene Cook

Tidewater Region

President	Frances Allan-Martinez
Past-President	Michele Smith
President-Elect	Sharon Bodtke
Secretary	Mona Estes
Treasurer	Shari Wingate
Legislative	Mark Coles
Education/Programs	Sharon Bodtke
Public Relations	Brandy D'Antonio
	Heather Hallberg
Historian	Ann Bennett
By-Laws	Chris Sauer
Nominations & Awards	Margie Garcia-Garrett
Conference	Tammy Maloney
Membership	Beth Wolfinger
	Christi Fowler

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From the Membership Chair

At the September Board meeting, the Board voted to eliminate the affiliate member category. The Membership categories are now LNP (licensed NP), Retired NP and NP Student. All current affiliate memberships will be honored until the membership expires. It was the determination of the Board that as a membership organization that we should limit our members to active, retired and student nurse practitioners.

I hope that you will look at the Member Benefits section of the website (www.vcnp.net) for the updated description of our benefits, such as our government relations/advocacy work, and the Member's Only section which has something of interest for everyone.

The VCNP Membership Survey was sent out December 1st. The questions were developed by the Committee Chairs, with input from members of the Membership Committee, the Public Relations group,

and Christina Meyer, our web master from Easter Associates. Please take a very few minutes to let us know how we are doing as an organization.

The Membership Committee was tasked this year to develop a school contact list to assist our regional Presidents in welcoming and encouraging students to be active in VCNP. We are also reaching out to our school contacts – or school ambassadors, if you will – to develop collaborative relationships between VCNP and NP programs in the following areas:

- VCNP may assist in identifying and recruiting preceptors for students by serving as a bridge between the student, the regional leadership and the school.
- VCNP may assist each school in recruiting clinical faculty and clinical content experts who are interested in speaking or teaching.
- Assist NP faculty to encourage student

membership and participation in VCNP as part of their professional development and transition to practice.

- Encourage NP faculty to be actively involved in VCNP.

I hope that this will be the first of many discussions to develop a program that will be of mutual benefit and lead to greater collaboration between the NP programs and VCNP.

We are all hearing about our Annual Conference. Remember our *discounted member registration for the 2011 Annual Conference* in Roanoke, VA – the Star City. The conference schedule has something for every one, and our Blue Ridge colleagues are wonderful hosts. What a great Holiday gift for each of us to give ourselves - a little education, great networking and a wonderful hotel! ✦

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

Welcome Our Newest Members

BLUE RIDGE

Chrystal Bishop*
Angela Martin*
Gail Arrington*, RNC, BSN

CENTRAL

Jaime Markham*
Shirley Hudson*
Anne Bassuk, LNP, FNP-C
Ruth Robertson, LNP, FNP
Steven Eide*, RN,BSN, NP
Abena Ivey, LNP, CNP, CDE

FREDERICKSBURG

Pamela Arledge*, BSN, RN,
MSN, FNP

NORTHERN SHENANDOAH

Sandy Meisinger*
Jacqueline Post, RN, MSN,
FNP-BC, LNP
Kathleen Quarles*, RN, MSN

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Diane Hendel*, RN, MBA, DMP
Erica Lynn Schuman*, BSN,
RN, FNP
Thai Kelley*, RN, BSN
Christine Ibarguen, LNP, FNP
Kristine Brook*

Doreen Grzelak, LNP

Callie Pagano, LNP
Anne Bejian*
Janet Wurie, LNP
Rebecca Bates, LNP
Alex Welch*, BSN
Nancy Alsace, LNP, RN, MSN
C-ANP

Lorie Shora, LNP, FNP
Emily Davis, LNP
Laura Bishop*, RN
Tamara Morgan, LNP
Jessica Hamman*, RN, BSN,
CPN

Sinae Rhee
Eugenia Lyndon
Trish Crawford, BSN
Dana Yousef, RN
Alda O'Connor, FNP-BC
Senait Tewolde*
Katie Geaneas, LNP, MSN,
RN, FNP

PENINSULA

Eileen B. Vernon, LNP,
MSN/NP-C
Cheryl Reeser, LNP
Martha Jones, LNP, CPNP
Thea Lettley, LNP, FNP-BC
Kassy McBride, LNP, RN, MSN,

FNP-BC

Aerian Joyner*, RN, BS, FNP
Philip Alexander, LNP, NP-C

PIEDMONT

Barbara Barry*, RN, BSN
Bethany Coyne, LNP, RN/CPNP
Diane Drame, LNP, CPNP-AC,
CPNP-PC
Deborah Baker, LNP
Mary Jane Griffith, MSN, RN,
GNP-BC, CHPN, LNP
Charles Sauls, LNP
Bridget L. Moss, LNP
Suzanne Waters, LNP, MS,
FNP-BC
Jenny Furlow*, RN, FNP

RICHMOND

Meghann Pierce*, RN
Kimberly Dawn Williams*, BS,
RN, BSN
Samantha Murray*
Jessica Overcash*
Christina Marie Caffee*
Charmese Carter*
Nancy Fabian, LNP, RN, ACNP
Danielle Warren, LNP
Julie Spiro*
Jessica Hardy, LNP, FNP-BC

Michelle B. Kennedy*

Chadi Awad*, RN
Tracy Arthur*, RN, BSN
Kristin Strother, LNP, NP-BC
Suzanne Erickson*, RN
Julie Purisima*, RN
Courtney Vinik*, RN

SHENANDOAH

Mary Danley Catlett*, BSN, RN,
CMSRN
Jonathan Yoder*
Melody Mast, LNP, CNM,
WHCP
Jenny Crance, LNP, FNP
June Donna Anderson-Bendall*,
BSRN
Emily Stevens, LNP, FNP-BC

SOUTHWEST

James Emerson*, RN, BSN,
CCRN
Sherry Kathryn Eide*, MSN
April Stidham*, MSN, FNP
Kerri Jackson, LNP, FNP-C

TIDEWATER

Andrea Montgomery*, RN/BSN
Rebecca Capet*
Jennifer Melillo*

Nadirah Keith*

Barbara W. Giardin*, RN,
MSN, PhD.
Monique A. Gibbs*
Lee S. Orciga, LNP
Debra J. Aleck
Antonia Flores*
Pamela Blythe, LNP, ACNP-BC
Courtney Bass, LNP, FNP-BC
Kathleen Nelson*
Brooke McMillan*, MSN-FNP
Christen Talaiver*, BSN, RN
Yolanda Batiste*, RN, BS
Carol Keiser, LNP, MSCN, ANP

OTHER NEW MEMBERS

Anne Elizabeth
Emily K. Meuleman, LNP, MS,
FNP-BC
Camille Clark
Nickeea Chalmers-Scott*, RN,
NSN
Ruth Madden, LNP, FNP

*Student Member

Regional Government Relations Committees

BLUE RIDGE

Donna Warner
heartystone@verizon.net

CENTRAL

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FREDERICKSBURG

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NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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Joyce Thompson
jthompson@frontierhealth.org

TIDEWATER

Mark Coles
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Legislation 2011

VCNP has been closely monitoring the Virginia Health Reform Initiative (VHRI) meetings to inform our legislative strategy for 2011. This group, commissioned by Governor Bob McDonnell, was tasked with providing recommendations to the Governor towards a comprehensive strategy for implementing health reform in Virginia. Six task forces convened to make recommendations to the full VHRI Council. NPs were represented at the table at one of six task force meetings and recommended removal of barriers that prevent NPs from practicing to their full ability.

VCNP provided public comment at both Capacity task force meetings, supporting removal of physician supervision restrictions of NPs to increase access to care and bring the existing laws more in line with contemporary practice. With the strong support of Shirley Gibson, co-chair of the Capacity task force and President of the Virginia Nurses Association, recommendation were made to remove barriers in free clinics, community health centers, health departments and volunteer settings, as an incremental step towards a more collaborative practice.

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. See summary of statutory barriers in box below.

Although final recommendations from the task forces are not available at this writing it appears that they will likely concentrate on reorganizing healthcare delivery into team models as well as a study of such models to inform legislative changes to address scope of practice issues. VCNP has been in discussion with the Medical Society of Virginia to reach a compromise on possible legislation for 2011. It is unlikely that we will propose legislation in 2011, but instead will continue discussions and develop a strategy for 2012.

VCNP collaborated with the Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists and the Virginia Nurses Association and organized successful legislative receptions across the state, including Southwest Virginia, Northern Virginia, and Richmond. NPs had the opportunity to educate legislators regarding scope of practice issues and the important role NPs play in access to healthcare.

We will only be successful in passing legislation if we establish and promote relationships with our state legislators. 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. Visit www.vcnp.net to access many tools to help you prepare. Watch for information via VCNP blast e-mails and the web site. +

Mary Duggan, RN, MS, CCRN, ACNP,
maryduggan@verizon.net

CURRENT STATUTORY BARRIERS TO NP PRACTICE IN VIRGINIA

- NPs must be supervised by physicians – Virginia is one of only 12 states that require supervision
- NPs are regulated by the Committee of the Joint Board of Nursing & Medicine – Virginia is one of only 6 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 NP must have a protocol and practice agreement (if prescribing) for EACH practice setting

VCNP Welcomes New GR Chair

VCNP has experienced a change in leadership of the government relations committee. I would like to recognize and thank Mary Duggan for her leadership over the past five years as she has diligently worked to advance the legislative agenda of the organization.



Diane Walker, our immediate past president will serve as the interim government relations chair during a transition period as the new chair is introduced to the role and ensure a smooth transition during the general assembly session as we monitor bills that may adverse impact nurse practitioner practice.

Mark Coles, the government relations representative from the Tidewater region, has volunteered his leadership services to continue the forward movement of our legislative agenda. Mark brings years of service, experience and knowledge to the role and will present a strong voice and balanced leadership for the committee.

We are pleased to welcome Mark! +

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

From the Education Chair

The Education Committee has been extremely busy. The committee has met bi-weekly via teleconference to plan the 2011 Annual Conference which takes place March 30-April 2, 2011 in Roanoke, VA. The agenda is set, the "Save the Date" postcards are in the mail and the brochure will soon follow.

The conference will maintain the format that has worked so well in the past: pre-conference workshops, plenary sessions and breakout sessions. Workshop speakers include Barbara Bancroft RN, MSN, PNP who will speak on Pharmacology, R. Mimi Secor, MS, MEd, FNP-BC, FAANP will offer insight into Gynecological Exam pearls, and Wendy Wright, MS, RN, APRN, FNP, FAANP will speak on Lab Interpretation.

The General Sessions will begin on Thursday, March 31, 2011 with a keynote address by the Honorable Dianne Reynolds-Cane, MD, Director of the Virginia Board of Health Professionals, who will discuss the impact of reform on the Virginia Healthcare Workforce: Capacity Reform.

The Leslie Roher Herdigan Memorial Session will feature Tay Kopanos, DNP, Director of AANP Health Policy/State Government Affairs who will address

Climate Change: Health Care Reform is really Heating Up.

We are pleased to offer general sessions on a variety of timely topics. These include Jackie Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN who will

address Intimate Partner Violence, Linda Hancock FNP, PhD who will offer insight on Tobacco: New Products to Addict, New Medication Strategies to Quit and Zachary Bush, MD who will present on diabetes management strategies in Sugar, Drugs, and other Half-Truths in Diabetes Management. Topics for breakout sessions include Acute Coronary Syndrome, Injury Prevention in Childhood, Pediatric Pain Management, and Clinical Pearls in Gerontology. There will also be many opportunities for networking with friends and colleagues. We hope to see you there!

The second task this fall of the Education Committee was to apply to VNA to become an approved provider for continuing education. Earlier this summer VNA changed its method of approving continuing education which gave VCNP the opportunity to become an approved provider. Once approved, we will be responsible for approving all state and regional continuing education programs. Stay tuned for more details! +

Maureen Flattery, RN, MS, ANP
Chair, Education Committee

To Borrow from a Recent Popular Slogan: Yes We Can!

Yes we as Nurse Practitioners can play a major role in the strategy to improve America health care system. The VCNP has responded to this charge by launching an ambitious PR campaign to educate legislators, educators, and the general public on the vital role NPs represent within the complex healthcare system. Spear headed by our new stellar PR agents Brian Chandler and Alissa Poole, the campaign has taken off like wild fire.

The PR campaign strategies are the result of many meetings with the invigorated PR committee and the PR agents. Our main deliverable was the development and implementation of a motivational communication plan to direct the efforts of the VCNP. The plan includes message development, involvement of all media and to increase communication to membership. Having this tool in place was very timely as there has been a tremendous amount of media exposure discussing NP practice. Thus far we have achieved newspaper coverage in the form of articles and editorial responses in many of our regions including Richmond, Roanoke, Hampton Roads, Central, Fredericksburg, and Peninsula (all links are in the "In the News" tab on VCNP's website). VCNP members Lee Lee Fisher and Michelle Earnest had an opportunity to speak on Fredericksburg's radio station WFVA. There has been active discussion with the TV series "60 Minutes" regarding an NP storyline. The PR committee participated in media training



and message development in preparation for the recent media blitz. This training has been invaluable as the media has turned to the VCNP for information and commentary.

Additionally, the efforts to inform the general public and specialty groups about NP practice also extended to the VCNP membership. The PR committee has attempted to strengthen communication by changing the design of our webpage to increase its utility. We have placed many tools such as access to legislative information, practice tips and message talking points on our website to further empower our membership. We have also launched our Facebook page that has many of the sites and stories of interest to our group and the general public. The Facebook page also announced current events such as our Annual Conference and book drive for NP week. Please visit our Facebook fan page and revitalized website often!

During NP week (November 7- 13) the VCNP PR committee had our first statewide service project that was a resounding success!

We participated in Reach Out and Read Virginia. This organization is striving to increase literacy rates in Virginia. Each region was asked to donate new children's books to local underserved clinics via an online book drive or new or gently used books via direct donation. These books were to be distributed during well child check-ups. In one week we were able to collect over \$1200 and more than 200 books. Many regions members including Richmond and Peninsula also read to the

children during their visit to the clinics. The PR committee was very pleased with the participation of the membership and thanks everyone for their support. We hope that this can become a VCNP honored annual tradition.

In summary, the VCNP PR committee continues to work diligently to respond and capitalize on media interest in NP practice and in the VCNP. We are working on strengthening relationships with other nursing organizations as well as lay groups and increasing awareness of who we are as providers. The VCNP PR committee will continue to deliver the strong message that NPs are vital members of the healthcare delivery system.

Let the message go throughout the healthcare land:

"Nurse Practitioners are Safe, Effective Healthcare Providers!" +

Happy Holidays!

*Stephanie Alexander, MSN, ANP
Public Relations Chair*

SAVE THE DATE!

*Shenandoah Region
VCNP Spring Conference*

Friday, May 13, 2011

**MORE DETAILS COMING SOON -
VISIT WWW.VCNP.NET FOR UPDATES!**



**It is that time again
to recognize your
NP colleagues!**

**Be sure to submit your
nomination package
by January 15th.**

Tidewater NPs Participate in Walk



The Tidewater Chapter of VCNP participated in the Susan G. Komen Walk on October 16, 2010. The day was celebrated with a fellow NP who is a breast cancer survivor. Left to right: Todd D'Antonio, Brandy D'Antonio, Eda Moreno, Sue Doss, Katie Doss, Zachary Doss, Christy Fowler, Donald Fowler and Lorri Howard.

Peninsula Chapter Celebrates Student Members

At its November meeting, the Peninsula Chapter of VCNP paid tribute to its longest standing student member. Julia Grancia was presented the Hampton City Proclamation. Grancia graduates from Old Dominion University in Norfolk this December and will then be joining the staff of a local pediatric group. +



Center Awarded Susan G. Komen Grant



The Health and Wellness Department at Community Memorial Healthcenter in South Hill, VA has been awarded another \$50,000 grant from the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Central Virginia Affiliate, formerly the Richmond Virginia Affiliate. These funds will allow the center to continue their Pink Power Program for the 8th consecutive year, which is a Nurse

Practitioner-led breast cancer early detection program for women who are uninsured and reside in Mecklenburg, Brunswick or Lunenburg counties. Carol Clay, FNP has been the project director for this program for the past 7 years, and has written the grants to support the women in her community.

The Pink Power Program provides free Clinical Breast Exams, Mammograms, Breast Ultrasounds, and transportation to appointments, on a limited basis. The center's goal is to serve 100 women aged 40-64 that are uninsured with free breast health services.

This brings the eight year total to \$345,000 in grants to support the women in these communities! +

NOTEWORTHY

RICHMOND REGION NEWS

The Annual Pharmacology Symposium was held on October 9, 2010 at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens Conference Center and hosted more than 180 participants... **Kevin Brigle** and **Elaine Ferrary** coordinated a regional legislative reception that was held on October 28th at City Bar in Richmond. It involved five nursing organizations and had 80 people in attendance. Legislators interacted with many participants. The Richmond Region looks forward to promoting the legislative agenda and encourages members to visit their legislators.

CENTRAL REGION NEWS

For Nurse Practitioner Week, the Central Region was supported by four different proclamations. One was presented by Amherst City Council with **Rosie Taylor-Lewis** accepting. Another was presented by Lynchburg City Council with **Laura Mann, Kali Shah, Phyllis Everett, Sue Johnston, Nancy Downey, Sherry Swint, Bill Eide** and **Rosie Taylor-Lewis** accepting. The southern locale of our region was supported with Martinsville City Council presenting to **Marilyn Grossman** and the Danville City Council presented to **Kay Shelton, Kim Grossman, Danielle Merricks** and **Marilyn Grossman**... **Rosie Taylor-Lewis** also has met with two Virginia Senators, **Stephen Martin** and **Frank Ruff**, to share the proclamations and promote awareness of Nurse Practitioners and the goals of VCNP.

AUTHOR NOTES

Catherine Bishop, DNP, NP, AOCNP has an article featured online. You can read the article at <http://www.theoncologynurse.com/article/doctor-nursing-practice-oncology-nurse-practitioner%E2%80%99s-journey> ... Member Eileen T. O'Grady PhD, RN, NP has just published a policy commentary titled "Unleashing the Nations NPs" in the *Journal of Rural Health*. +