

APNO Monthly Newsletter

August 2011



Monthly Meeting Notice

DATE: Tuesday August 9, 2011

TIME: 6:00-6:30 Social Networking
6:30-7:00 Business Meeting
7:00-- Presentation

TOPIC: Alzheimer's update on the Exelon Patch

SPEAKER: Rikk Baker, NP

WHERE: Metropolitan Grill
2931 E Battlefield

RSVP: Novartis, Shannon Hartmayer
RSVP to 417-818-9242 (cell) by August 5th

APNO President's Corner

Wow! Is it hot!! I hope you all are enjoying your summer! Before we know it school will be starting and we will go from complaining about the heat to complaining about the cold! This year is flying by! One of the goals of the APNO executive board this year was to obtain our Approved Provider status from MONA. We started working on it earlier this year and I am proud to announce that we have been approved! After numerous re-writes, creating forms, changing those forms and countless copies of our past educational offerings it is done!! We will now start scheduling quarterly Saturday educational offerings to the membership. We have had a few members interested in speaking come forward and we will be contacting you soon to possibly schedule a session. Those of you who are interested in speaking please let

Wendy Murray or myself know so that we can start a database of interested speakers. We will get a session scheduled shortly for this summer and then another for the fall to round out this year. Each session will be good for 1.0 contact hours of CNE. There has been talk about doing a half day CNE session in the spring but this is something that is still in discussion, if this is an option that sounds good to you please let me know! The more interest we have then easier it is to validate scheduling and using APNO money to put the session together. I want to thank Janice Jones, Kim McGinn-Perryman and Wendy Murray for assisting in the application process either through writing, supplying information/copies or proof-reading!

I have to say that prior to becoming an officer in APNO I was not very involved in furthering the advanced practice nursing profession. I went to work, went home and had faith in those who were involved in making the right decisions for the profession. Becoming involved has changed this for me. I now know why it is so important to get involved at all levels. Get involved in local organizations such as APNO. Get involved on the state level with MONA. And get involved at the national level with organizations such as AANP and ACNP. I have learned so much in the past year and a half and have come to realize that it does not take much time to get involved. Come to a meeting, read the newsletter, drop an email to your state and federal legislators. Yes for some of us it is a part time job being involved by our choice but to make a difference you can get by with 10 minutes a month writing emails or 2 hours a month by coming to meetings. I was very impressed by an email I received earlier this month from a student at UMKC Cassidy White (yay student involvement!!). Cassidy wrote us to bring to attention a very important piece of federal legislation, the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act. We get so caught up on the state level that sometimes we forget about the big guys in DC! We need to make sure that we do not forget to write them as well and urge them to support legislation that is APRN friendly. At the time of the email our state legislators had not yet taken any action in support or opposition of this piece of legislation...which means they need to hear from us so that they know what their constituents are wanting. This bill would allow APRN's to sign for home healthcare services. Something that is very important and an integral part of our jobs! This bill would allow us to better serve our patients and is something that is within our scope of practice, yet currently we do not have this privilege. So thank you Cassidy for bringing it to my attention, and I urge everyone to contact your federal legislators in support of the bill and of advance practice nursing! *(See Cassidy's letter later in the newsletter to get inspired!)*

The executive board will have met on July 25th and at the time of this writing we have not yet met. I will pass on information that came out of the board meeting at the August meeting and in September's Newsletter. Another meeting taking place after this writing is the MONA APRN-SIG meeting and the MOCAP meeting. Again information from these meetings will be passed along either in a special networking newsletter and at the August meeting.

Your APNO Board

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Explore APNO's Website!

If you haven't visited APNO's website lately, we invite you to take a stroll through www.apno.net and see what's new. **Wondering where the next APNO meeting is?** You'll find it listed on our home page as soon as the information is available.

Interested in this year's conference? Click on the "Annual Conference Main" link in the header to learn all about this exciting offering. **Looking for a job?** Check out the Message Board to find new listings (and be sure to post any openings you know of!)

If you have questions or concerns about the website, please feel free to email me at Michelle.Dickens@coxhealth.com.

The Importance of Legislation

I encourage all APRNs to follow all bills that are passed by the Missouri Legislature every year. Often we tend to pay attention to only those bills that directly affect our practice. As concerned citizens and voters, we each need to be knowledgeable regarding other legislation. All legislation will affect each of us or our family in some way.

It is this time of year that bills passed by the Missouri House and Senate go to Governor Nixon for his approval or veto. How can each of us, as voters and concerned citizens, know exactly what bills Governor Nixon has signed or vetoed? Go to Governor Nixon's web site to view the Governor's actions on various bills:

<http://governor.mo.gov/actions/>

Sharon Giboney, AANP Missouri State Representative

Secretary's Update

Happy summer to everyone from the Secretary's Office. Hope you all are staying cool. So far, we have received six complete applications and three uncompleted applications. For all the students out there, there is still a few weeks left. All the documentation has to be received by July 31st. The scholarship committee plans to meet on August 3, 2011 to determine the winners. The winners will be notified by telephone call and will be presented the awards at the Annual Conference in October. The rest of the applicants will be notified by email or mail. Good luck to everyone who has applied.

Just a reminder to email your legislatures and get to know them. This will be crucial in the upcoming months. I want to encourage everyone to attend the MO-SIG meeting July 28, 2011 at the MONA office where "Barrier Free Practice" will be discussed and the different avenues to obtain this. Have a great rest of the summer!

Member Spotlight

My name is LaVonne Burrows, and I am a Clinical Nurse Specialist working with Springfield Nephrology Associates in Springfield, Missouri. I was asked to share some information about myself, how I became interested in nephrology and a bit about what my practice entails.

I went straight from high school to the University of Missouri in Columbia and got my BSN. At that point, I was so sick of school, I swore I would never go back! As a matter of fact, I decided there were three things I *never* wanted to do: go back for my master's degree, be in any kind of management position, or work with patients with chronic illness. Of course, I ended up doing all three of those things! (Never say never!)

I started out working on a surgical floor at the Veteran's Administration hospital in Columbia, and moved into the surgical ICU. There, I saw the hemodialysis nurses come to dialyze our post operative open heart patients who developed acute renal failure. The technology interested me, and I ended up working in hemodialysis. Then I met a nurse who was my mentor for many years to come. Her name was Barbara Prowant, and she was involved with the peritoneal dialysis at the University of Missouri. This was still a fairly new modality, and she was primarily involved in research. As a result of her influence, I became involved in some of the research with PD, and ended up in nephrology.

Eventually, I got my master's in nursing at the University of Kansas (a sin for a Mizzou Tiger grad). I worked in dialysis for most of my career, in outpatient clinics and inpatient acute settings. I did do some management for a while, but then started in my current role as an APRN with Springfield Nephrology Associates. I have been there for 10 years now.

My practice includes office, hospital, and outpatient dialysis clinic settings. I do work with chronically ill patients, and find it generally rewarding. There are those days, of course, like with any position.

I am certified through ANCC as an Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist. I am also certified through the Nephrology Nurses' Certification Commission as a Certified Nephrology Nurse.

I am involved with APNO as a member of the Conference Planning Committee, and really enjoy this. I encourage all of you APNO members, find your niche, and participate actively with APNO. It is very rewarding. And, remember, NEVER SAY NEVER!

Networking Update

Dear APNO Members,

The following letter was sent to me from Cassidy White, BSN, RN (MSN Student) and she shows an admirable initiative regarding this issue. She shows a passion for pursuing issues that require a certain amount of interaction with our elected officials. Many times, simple e-mails or phone calls can make a difference, if enough of us make a focused response.
Dave

RE: United States Bills, S.227/H.R. 2267

As a student nurse practitioner at MSSU/UMKC and new member of APNO, I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself and mention an important health care issue that relates to APNs. This legislation is extremely important as it relates to advanced practice nurses and home health patients across the country.

This bipartisan legislation will change the current Medicare verbiage to allow APNs to certify Medicare patients and sign for home health services. As you may know, a physician signature is still required for home health care initiation which causes a delay in care for many individuals. This is an especially prevalent problem in rural areas where access to a physician is limited. APNs should be permitted to practice within their full scope and recognized for the contributions they make to health care.

The Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act is currently pending in the Senate Finance Committee and in need of co-sponsors. Missouri's political leaders have not taken action in support of this legislation as of yet. I have already taken the liberty of contacting Representative Billy Long and Senators Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill to urge their support and co-sponsorship of this bill.

This legislation is endorsed by many organizations dedicated to the profession of APNs such as the American Nurses Association, American College of Nurse Practitioners, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, just to name a few. I was hoping you could mention this bill in your next APNO newsletter in an effort to rally support for APNs and home health patients. Thank you for your time and I look forward to becoming an active member of APNO!

Sincerely,

Cassidy White, BSN, RN

