

REPORT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy Holidays from the VCNP Board! We continue to remain busy working on our Legislative agenda and our Lobbyist, Richard Grossman has prepared a bill for us to move forward with our Full Practice Authority Legislation. The bill will be voted on in the January legislative session. We will keep our membership apprised of developments on our bill. The VCNP Election Ballot has been opened, be sure to respond and complete your ballot for submission. This year we have unopposed nominees for the Executive Board positions. Unfortunately we do not always receive nominations to provide more than one nominee for each position. It is important for each member to do their part in supporting the VCNP by volunteering for Regional and State Board positions.

The VCNP is preparing for our Annual Conference in March 8-11 2018 in Reston, Virginia. Registration is open so be sure to register early to ensure you are able to attend all of the courses you prefer. Our Conference Committee Chair, Denis Chernitzer, and the Conference Committee has been working all year to provide a great conference to Nurse Practitioners in Virginia. This year's Conference promises to deliver great preconference workshops and courses that are highly desirable. We will have the VCNP 101 course again this year. This is a workshop for all VCNP Regional and State Board members to attend to become familiar with the workings of the VCNP. Members that are interested in becoming a Board member are also encouraged to attend.

The VCNP Board of Directors will meet in January for the next Board meeting at the Boars Head Inn in Charlottesville. The VCNP leadership at the Regional and State level are all volunteers. We employ and Executive Director, a Lobbyist, and a Public Relations firm to assist us in our endeavors. Without the support of the members at every level, we are not able to achieve our goals. Please ask your Regional President how you can volunteer today.

Plan to attend the VCNP Conference in March 2018!! We have a great Conference planned.

Chris Daley, MSN, APN
President

The Official Newsletter of the
Virginia Council of
Nurse Practitioners



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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS REPORT

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Denise Chernitzer

Nominations & Awards

Becky Compton

Elections are over, however uncertainty still reigns in the House of Delegates. As of now, the Republicans hold a 51-49 lead in the House of Delegates. Why is this important? Because party control will affect committee assignments and leadership. While the election has improved our chances of getting our bill out of the House subcommittee, we continue to face opposition in both the Senate and House.

Proposed legislation has been drafted by VCNP and is currently in legislative services awaiting bill number assignment. Our bill patron is Delegate Roxann Robinson. Delegate Robinson has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and commitment to our issue by facilitating stakeholder group meetings between the VCNP, the Medical Society of Virginia (MSV) and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA) over a 6-month time period. Our purpose was to build consensus around removal of practice barriers created by the collaborative practice agreement requirement. Regrettably, consensus building was thwarted due to the opposition's desire to maintain the status quo.

Salient points of our proposed bill are highlighted below.

- Removal of the collaborative practice agreement following 1040 hours post licensure practice period
- Broadened collaborating provider list to include NPs in addition to MD/DO during the required collaborative period
- Removal of references to "team care"
- APRN titling protection

The proposed bill language has been discussed with the AANP. While they cannot openly support our approach due to retention of regulation by the Joint Boards, they acknowledge understanding of what we are up against in Virginia.

Keep in mind that our legislative approach has been influenced by the political landscape, which necessitates that we take an incremental approach to removal of practice barriers. While the proposed bill retains the Joint Boards, please understand that this is only because the political environment will not support passage of a Full Practice Authority bill at this juncture.

As the 2018 General Assembly session is approaching, we are running short on time to meet with legislators in the district. Legislator meetings are essential to develop relationships and share your patient care personal stories. A strong grass roots campaign is necessary to ensure success and we need your help to identify potential legislators sympathetic to our issue.

What do you need to do?

- Visit the Care for Virginia website <http://www.careforva.com/>
- Educate yourself and others about the issue
- Visit your legislators before the 2018 General Assembly session
- Engage physician colleagues and consumers requesting their support with letter writing to legislators
- Look for VCNP communication and Action Alerts
- Contact VCNP with any questions at <https://www.vcnp.net/> or Cindy Fagan at cindyfaganl@gmail.com

SCHOOL OF WELLNESS NOW OFFERING PROGRAMS TO THE PUBLIC

The School of Wellness now has offerings open to the public for Nurses, NPs, patients and any member of the public wanting high level wellness. The School of Wellness is devoted to promoting the practice of extreme self-care. Its core mission is to apply the science of human flourishing to help attendees avoid hosting preventable chronic illness and all of the limitations it brings. This school is committed to using evidence and self-awareness to promote wellness and address issues such as how to differentiate self-care from selfishness, how to not be enslaved by stress and all of the consequences of it, how to locate ones North Star, how to set clear and firm boundaries, how to use the science of habit formation and achieve mastery over the regulation of the self, and how better to deploy the evidence on what it takes to undergo long term intentional change and flourish as a human being. NPs can refer patients who are wanting to make lifestyle changes but are unable to achieve their goals. Or the programs are helpful for anybody experiencing overwhelm, or feel that they are not in charge of their lives.

The School of Wellness offers workshops designed to give you hands on experience with tools that build the motivation and resilience you need to flourish. Transformative and highly interactive, they will help you grow what matters most to you and achieve high level wellness. You will be presented interesting theories, ideas, frameworks, research and ancient wisdom, applicable to our modern life. The classes focus on the core areas which impact our health and are taught by Eileen O'Grady and other carefully curated expert facilitators. The School of Wellness offers a curriculum which encourages us to step back and think intelligently about the central priorities in our lives, why we are here, the path are we on and where we want to go. You will never be cornered by dogma, but will be offered ideas that will exercise, stimulate and expand your mind. You will meet other curious, sociable and open-minded people in an atmosphere of exploration and enjoyment.

The School Of Wellness is run by VCNP member Dr. Eileen O'Grady. Check out the offerings: <https://www.eileenogrady.net/school-of-wellness/>



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DOMINION ENERGY DONATES TO HEALTH WAGON

The Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Dominion Energy, has presented a \$25,000 donation to the Health Wagon, the region's only free clinic which serves Lee, Wise, Scott, Dickenson, Buchanan and Russell Counties and Norton City.

The gift was presented to Dr. Teresa Gardner Tyson, Executive Director.

"The Dominion Foundation is truly a good neighbor. The past and continued support from The Foundation helps to provide health care, at no cost to, to over 6,000 uninsured, underinsured and underserved patients", Tyson said.

"Dominion is pleased to be able to continue its support for the Health Wagon," said Mark Kuhn, station director at Dominion Energy Virginia's Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center at St. Paul. Dominion also contributed \$25,000 to the Health Wagon in 2016.

Dominion Energy (NYSE: D), headquartered in Richmond, is one of the nation's largest producers and transporters of energy. The Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation is dedicated to improving the physical, social and economic well-being of the communities served by Dominion Energy. The Foundation supports nonprofit causes that meet basic human needs, protect the environment, promote education and encourage community vitality. For more information, visit the company's website at www.dominionenergy.com.

Halley Meade, RN, BSN

Donate at the 2018 VCNP Annual Conference! VCNP FEEDS THE "CORNERSTONES" OF VIRGINIA

Cornerstones exists so that individuals and families in the Dulles Corridor who are homeless, living in poverty or facing other needs can access resources that offer stability, empowerment and hope for healthy and connected lives.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

National Nurse Practitioner Week; November 13-20, 2017 showcased itself in various forms around Virginia. Featured are Southside, Richmond and NOVA! The VCNP was featured on the AANP Proclamation Map with Governor McAuliffe's Proclamation.

We built our coalition of legislator letters of congratulations within the regions. Charly Harris, PR Chair for Southside kicked off NP week with the mailed letter and vinyl decal as a present to all of our current members. On Saturday, November 18th, we celebrated NP Week with a group walk on the River Walk Trail in Danville, VA followed by a beer tasting at Ballard Brewery. Sentara Hospital system sponsored a nice article in the local paper in support of NP week. Members received gifts of appreciation from employers, coworkers, patients and even pharmacists!

Christine Wilson, PR Chair, Richmond Region was instrumental in having a three-month long advertisement, feature here starting November 10 and running through December 7 at the Byrd, Regal Cinemas Short Pump and Bowtie Movieland in Scott's Addition. Each ad ran before every movie at each theater for the entire month. The ads feature the importance of Nurse Practitioners, recognizing our week and encouraging individuals to visit careforva.com.

The Northern Virginia Region, Outreach/ PR Chair, Kori Lapham, worked diligently with the state to get a 15 second Nurse Practitioner Video Ad into five local theaters, where it ran with previews during NP week. The NOVA board also raffled off presents for our members at our November dinner meeting, where we also honored our veterans. Their Facebook page is up and running. Search in "groups" using "VCNP-Northern Virginia Region" then request to "friend."

*Lisa C. Riha, DNP, FNP-BC
Secretary*

Thank you

to our legislative leaders for their support of National Nurse Practitioners Week.



- Del. Lee Ware
- Sen. Tim Kaine
- Sen. Amanda Chase
- Sen. Mammie Locke
- Sen. Jennifer McClellan
- Del. Manoli Loupassi
- Del. Michael Mullin
- Sen. Frank Raiff
- Sen. Glen Startsevank
- Gov. Terry McAuliffe
- Sen. Siobhan Duznavant
- Del. John O'Bannon
- Sen. Mark Warner
- Del. Kelly DeLuca



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EDUCATION REPORT

The VCNP Education Committee has been hard at work planning the 2018 Annual Conference. The Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Reston, Virginia from March 8 -11. The committee has put together a timely and exciting agenda. The usual tracks will be offered including Women's Health, Pediatrics, Mental Health, Acute, and this year we will offer Geriatrics. Pre-conference workshops will be held on Wednesday March 8th. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to obtain up to 21 CE units.

Early Bird registration is now open. Be sure to register soon as some sessions will fill early. A block of rooms has been specially priced for conference attendees until February 14 or until rooms are gone. Make your reservations early, as this hotel tends to fill up quickly.

VCNP Northern Virginia Region, the host region for the conference, has scheduled a bus tour of Washington DC and the spectacular monuments with a professional tour guide on Saturday night from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. for \$35. Attendees and their families are welcome to register. Space is limited. There will be an opportunity to see some sights up close so dress accordingly. Registration for this event can be done through the 2018 VCNP Annual Conference registration page.

Be on the lookout for more conference updates, tips, and information on events. We look forward to seeing you all at the 2018 VCNP Annual Conference!

Denise H. Chernitzer
VCNP Education Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Important Updates About Renewing Your Annual VCNP Membership!

Most of our VCNP members renew annual membership each August, and a smaller number of our members renew their annual membership each February. VCNP is making the annual September 1 – August 31 membership the norm for all of our members. This transition will help streamline effort and costs associated with our membership processes and reduce confusion about membership renewals that sometimes occurs with registering for the annual conference each winter.

For members who renew each August, nothing changes! Thank you for continuing to renew your membership at our rate of \$150 per year! Please renew each year before September 1 to insure there is no interruption to your membership!

For members who renew in February each year, your renewal this year will be slightly different. This February, your renewal will be for 18 months instead of one year, moving your next membership renewal to August of 2019. Instead of the annual \$150 annual membership rate, renewal in February will be prorated at \$225 on a one-time basis for the extended 18 month membership. In August 2019, your annual membership dues revert back to the standard annual rate of \$150 per year. While there is no difference in the overall annual rate, your membership with VCNP will be for 18 months, lasting from February 2018 through August of 2019.

As always, VCNP welcomes all nurse practitioners into membership at any time! Please spread the word about all of the terrific benefits of membership in the VCNP, our voice for NPs Commonwealth of Virginia! Many thanks to each of the regional membership chairs who do so much to help bring the VCNPs membership benefits to your region!

Want to know more about NPs in Virginia? The Virginia Department of Health Professionals compiles a workforce analysis each year. You can check out the 2016 report at: <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/findings.htm#NP>. Check it out!

Best regards,
Kathryn B. Reid, PhD, RN, FNP-C
State Membership Chair



VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS AWARDS CINDY FAGAN \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP

VCNP has awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to Cindy Fagan, DNPc, RN, FNP-BC, on Saturday, November 4 during the Virginia Nurses Foundation Gala at The Omni Homestead Resort.

Fagan earned her BSN and MSN degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University and is currently a Doctorate of Nursing Practice candidate at the University of Virginia. Her anticipated graduation date is May 2018. Fagan's nursing career spans 31 years, with 18 of those years spent in the nurse practitioner role.

"Cindy's commitment to the veterans she works with and to her position here at VCNP are inspiring," said Christine Daley, MN, RN, ANP, president of VCNP. "We look forward to seeing her continue to grow within this profession and this organization."

With roles in primary care, hospitalist, endocrine and infectious disease, Fagan has varied experience. She is currently settled in the Veterans Health

Administration, having spent the past 12 years serving our nation's veterans at the Hunter Holmes McGuire Medical Center. Fagan also serves as the government relations chairperson for VCNP and has also served as past-president of the statewide organization. Her responsibilities within that role are to advance VCNP's mission and goals in terms of legislative initiatives including policy development, strategies and tactics, engaging member participation in advocacy activities, garnering stakeholder support, coalition building and coordination of legislative efforts throughout the state.

VCNP's scholarship, which was awarded for the first time in 2010, honors nurse practitioners and their passion for quality health care. To date, VCNP has granted \$9,000 in total to scholarship winners. The scholarship is funded through the generous membership participation of the basket raffle that occurs each year at the annual conference. Scholarship applicants must be members of VCNP who are enrolled in a doctoral program in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Applicants also must have completed 50 percent of the required hours of graduate study and exhibit academic excellence and a commitment to advanced practice nursing with strong clinical and leadership abilities.



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PROMETHEAN GROUP CLINIC



Dr. Ameantha Blanco-Knezovich, DNP, FNP-C in coordination with Dr. Jessica Parrott, DNP, CPNP, CNE have formed Promethean Group: a 501(c)(3) non-profit mobile family practice clinic that is student and volunteer run for the homeless and underserved populations in Hampton Roads. Both have acquired their MSN and nurse practitioner degrees from Old Dominion University. Additionally, both graduated from the inaugural DNP class of 2010 at Old Dominion University. Professionally, they and both current faculty members for the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at South University's Virginia Beach Campus.

Dr. A. Blanco-Knezovich is the current Executive Director and Dr. J. Parrott is the current Clinical Director for Promethean Group. Since its establishment in June of 2017, it has held numerous clinics for the homeless and underserved populations. The Promethean Group mobile medical clinic travels to different homeless shelters, churches, and coordinated events to provide primary medical care to populations in need. Promethean Group sees patients of all ages to conduct family practice medical care on children and adults at no cost to patients.

Promethean Group emphasizes intercollaboration within all fields to provide competent, comprehensive care for their patients. We collaborate with other community professionals and university programs onsite at our clinics to deliver the following: medications, mental health counseling, haircuts, occupational therapy, chiropractic care, physical therapy, and individuals to assist in applying for insurance, substance abuse treatment, and transitional housing. Through this collaboration, clinics have serviced an average of 30 people for acute and chronic medical care issues and prescribed medications within a four-hour time frame at Beach Fellowship and Judeo-Christian Outreach Center.

Dr. A. Blanco-Knezovich, synchronizes the medical clinic and event participants, and Dr. J. Parrott orchestrates student/faculty participants, emphasizing educational outcomes of students and ensuring consistent patient flow. Collaboration includes multiple professionals working in solidarity to provide competent and compassionate care. Volunteers include clinic set up and breakdown by Navy volunteers, and students and faculty from respective programs and fields of study. A legal studies program registers, reviews clinic duties, and consents with volunteers. Healthcare management program students' aide in patient registration, patient consent, and chart movement throughout the clinic. Undergraduate nursing students complete patient intakes, obtain vitals, and review discharge instructions. MSN-FNP students conduct evaluations, initiate treatments, and prescribe medications for patient's acute and chronic medical issues. Occupational therapy assistance (OTA) students dispense hygiene kits they created from their hygiene drive efforts on campus, and work in conjunction with chiropractic care volunteers to review back stretches for back pain due to patients sleeping on the ground. The physical therapy assistant program conducts foot checks/assessments to monitor for neuropathy in patients due to inappropriate footwear, a problematic occurrence with chronically displaced individuals. The mental health counseling program conducts miniature cognitive exams during intake due to the higher incidence of mental illness within this population. During this event students also have had the opportunity to work with multiple organizations from the community to provide an all-inclusive experi-

ence for patients, while instilling interprofessional collaboration. Promethean Group provides supplies the medical equipment and has established an electronic medical record for charting and electronic prescription that the students utilize. The students must adhere to the Wal-Mart Pharmacy's medication formulary that provided \$4 and \$9 prescriptions, as Promethean Group has secured external funding for these medications. Impact Mental Health attends and allows students to refer patients to behavioral health services, transitional housing, application for accessible insurances, and substance abuse support. Dynamic Chiropractic Care is onsite to educate on back stretches, and the staff of Virginia Beach Beauty and Barber Academy attend to provide haircuts for both men and women. Promethean Group has also had the privilege in participating in the Buffalo Family and Friends Back to school event to provide free student school physicals for Title One Chesapeake, South Norfolk Public School students. BSN students acquired vitals and vision screenings while FNP students completed school entrance exams. This event was also collaborated with the Chesapeake Health Department who were present to provide free vaccinations for students.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive by students of the university programs, and has allowed the students to start giving back in their field of study and interest. Many of the MSN FNP students who have previously participated and recently graduated have continued to volunteer after graduation. The Promethean Group experience allows new graduate nurse practitioners and experienced nurse practitioners the opportunity to give back within their area of specialty. Feedback from the homeless patients served has been overwhelmingly, and consistently positive. Attendees have stated that they are: "eager to share the wonderful and caring experience with family and friends, who know we are in need of such services".

Promethean Group is a nurse practitioner led group that is compliant with Virginia regulations, and has a practice agreement with a local collaborating physician. The current regulations in Virginia for advanced practice nursing has been limiting to the growth that the clinic could potentially achieve. Drs. A. Blanco-Knezovich, and Dr. J. Parrott recognize this and have met with State Senator Bill DeSteph, Congressman Scott Taylor and the health advising staff of Senator Tim Kaine to lobby for full practice authority. Full practice authority for advanced practice nurse practitioners is a necessity for the needs of our current healthcare system, and particularly for the needs of vulnerable populations.

Dr. Jessica Parrott, DNP, CPNP, CNE



Heidi Wilson is heading up the plans for events at the March state conference. Join the fun on our Conference host committee which plans a bus tour, a yoga session and more! To help even in a small way the day of the conference contact wilson.heidi@gmail.com.

Our November member meeting was sponsored by MEDTRONIX. Dr. Simon Fishman, Neurologist was very well received for his talk Moving Beyond Opioids for Pain Medicine. Attendees were treated to a gift of a VCNP northern region bumper magnet and a surprise gift raffle of items donated by the board. We have an educational presentation planned for Jan 18th ,2018. Epi-genomics is presenting on early detection of colon cancer by genetic testing via a blood sample. Please note this is one week later than usual.

Our Board has a brief survey (only four questions) for member input to our meeting formats. Please give us your preferences at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HM3LRCH>

Our Government relations committee had an amazingly successful Legislative reception with increased attendance of both nurses and legislators along with more understanding of our roles and support for FPA movement than ever!

Our Outreach Chair Kori Lapham worked diligently with the state to get a 15-second NP video ad into several local theaters, where it ran with previews during NP week. Also, she started a Facebook page for our region. Search in “groups” using “VCNP-Northern Virginia region” then request to “friend”.

We are very proud of our regional newsletter, which is gorgeous. Karen Budd, Newsletter Chair has been appointed the recipient of the AANP Advocate Award for her ongoing efforts!

Respectfully,
Valerie Wrobel, MSN, RN, AGNP-BC



**NORTHERN
VIRGINIA
REGION**

The Fall has been a busy time for the Richmond Region. Our Pharmacology Symposium was held on October 14th and was well attended. Wonderful topics, speakers, and venue made for an enjoyable educational experience! Topics included: Under Pressure: Pharmacologic Management of Hypertension; Medication Strategies for the Treatment of Seizures and Migraines; Pharmacological Management of Obstructive Lung Disease; Taking the Sting out of Opioid Prescribing; SAD: Successfully Addressing Depression; and Beyond the Scale: Exploring pharmacologic weight loss approaches. A huge THANK YOU to the speakers, attendees, and planning committee for helping to make this event a success!

We co-hosted our Legislative Reception on October 17 at Old City Bar. Sponsorship was provided in conjunction with the VNA, Va CNS, VANA, CRNA and VCNP. This event was well attended by legislators, the nursing profession and constituents alike. We thank all those who attended and assisted with planning this event and making it a success!

Finally, NP Week was, and continues to be, celebrated in the Richmond Region. NPs are in the spotlight until December 10 at the Byrd Theater, Regal Cinemas and Bow Tie Movieland, locally. Attend any movie, anytime and see a special message thanking and celebrating Nurse Practitioners for all they do! A special thank you to Christina Wilson and the Public Relations Committee for helping to facilitate this excellent publicity!

We continue discussions with legislators regarding FPA, and look forward to an exciting spring!

Happy Holidays to all!
Rachel Cloutier, MS, RN, ACNP-BC
President, Richmond Region



**RICHMOND
REGION**



**SOUTHSIDE
REGION**

Happy Holidays to all VCNP members! At the beginning of NP week, The Southside members received a decal for their car, home or other location developed by Charly Harris, our Public Relations representative. A group gathered on Saturday in Danville to walk the Riverwalk Trail and we socialized at Ballard Brewing Craft Brewery to network and enjoy each other's company.

Our region was represented by our President, Marilyn Grossman and our Treasurer, Kay Shelton at a local political event for one of our delegates, Les Adams. Late August several members attended event for Delegate Edmunds in Halifax. Our message was consistent that Nurse Practitioners provide excellent care to a full population of their constituents.

*Happy Holidays from the Southside Region
Marilyn Grossman, FNP-C
President, Southside Region*



VCNP members enjoy socializing at Ballard Brewing Craft Brewery.



During a local legislative event, VCNP Southside Region President, Marilyn Grossman, and Treasurer, Lydia Shelton pose with Delegate Adams.



**TIDEWATER
REGION**

The Tidewater Region has had a busy Fall and looking forward to the Winter months. We had several public relations activities, and a legislative reception that went well. All of these public relation and the legislative events provided us a platform to raise community awareness about Nurse Practitioners and help detail our roles as providers in the health care system.

Since the last newsletter, we participated in the Zoo Boo at the Norfolk Zoo. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Zoo. It provides a safe place for children and families to Trick or Treat while raising funds for the Zoo. We sponsored and decorated a table, Tidewater VCNP members dressed up in Halloween attire handed out candy to Trick or Treaters. We also have fliers to hand out to those that would like to know more about Nurse Practitioners as well as solicit for new members as you can see from the pictures below.

We had our monthly sponsored dinner lecture and general member meeting on November 8 at the Butchers Son Restaurant in Virginia Beach, sponsored by Lilly. During our meeting we celebrated two annual events. The first was "National Nurse Practitioner Week," Honoring all Nurse Practitioners and distributed special treats for all of the members. We also presented our "Outstanding Nurse Practitioner of the Tidewater Region" award to two of our Chapter members. The recipients were Mr. Mark Coles and Tammy Speerhas. Mark is pictured below with Margie Garcia-Garrett our Awards Chair, Tammy was unable to attend the function. The second event Celebrated was, Veterans Day, we recognized each of the veterans and current active duty members in attendance. We also raised \$200.00 for a local

foodbank, the chapter is matching that amount and will be presenting a check for \$400.00 to the Southeast Virginia Food Bank on Friday, December 1.

We are looking forward to continuing to prepare to support the legislative events planned for the next few months regarding the "Full Practice Authority." Happy Holidays from the Tidewater Region!

*John F. Lyons, APRN, FNP-C
President, Tidewater Region*



Photo courtesy of Heather Hallberg

Tidewater photos cont'd on p. 9 →

Photos from the Zoo Boo: Photo contributions from Sharon Rhoads, Nicole Ferenc and John Lyons.



TIDEWATER REGION

PMP SUSTAINABILITY DISCUSSION FINAL DECISION: NO ACTION FOR NOW

This year the General Assembly instructed Virginia's Joint Commission on Health Care to study the sustainability of the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) and identify potential funding sources for its future operation. Since 2007, the PMP has been funded solely by money from a court settlement with the Purdue Frederick Company, Inc., of \$20 million, and these funds are expected to run out sometime between 2027 and 2031.

Richard Grossman, our lobbyist and I were invited by the JCHC to participate in a stakeholder meeting in September to address the findings of their study and to offer a response VCNP. Several policy options were discussed at the meeting that were later presented to the Joint Commission. One option presented was to increase the licensing fees of health professions required to register with the PMP by up to \$30 annually. Other options included a point-of-sale tax on all controlled substances or an assessment on health insurance premiums.

Both VCNP and MSV submitted comments to the Joint Commission regarding these options asking that no action be taken at this time because funding is sufficient for the foreseeable future. We suggested a stakeholder group be formed to determine the future needs and functionality of the PMP and that an educational campaign regarding the benefits of the PMP be initiated for healthcare professionals. At the November 21 meeting of the Joint Commission agreed to take no action for the time being but declined to continue the work of the study group.

Our comments to the Joint Commission are included below. The final report and their decision matrix is available on the Joint Commission website: <http://jchc.virginia.gov/meetings.asp>

VCNP COMMENTS TO THE JOINT COMMISSION ON HEALTH CARE ON PMP SUSTAINABILITY

The Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners (VCNP) is the statewide professional organization for all nurse practitioners licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Approximately 7,700 licensed nurse practitioners provide primary and specialized care to Virginians. We are registered nurses with advanced skills and clinical experience, prepared at the masters or doctoral educational level. We can assess, diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests, treat, prescribe and refer patients using evidence-based patient-centered care. We also provide a wide range of preventive and acute health care services. Nurse practitioners in Virginia are licensed jointly by the Boards of Nursing and Medicine.

The staff report, presented to the Joint Commission on September 19, states for PMP basic functionality, court settlement funds are anticipated to run out between 2027 and 2031. After reviewing the report and weighing all the options presented, VCNP feels that the need to act at this point is premature and not necessary.

Instead, VCNP recommends the following:

- The various stakeholders and the Joint Commission should take additional time to identify the future needs and functionality of the PMP, including integration into other health data systems (electronic prescribing, electronic health records, etc.) to better estimate future costs and needs.
- The Department of Health Professions should work with the various stakeholders and licensing boards to educate the public on the need, goals and cost of the PMP to garner additional support for future funding efforts.
- Increased functionality and integration comes with significant costs to Nurse Practitioners who are also facing substantial mandated costs by the state in terms of multiple licensing fees, practice agreement fees, and technology upgrades for electronic prescribing.

On another issue, VCNP was asked to participate in an E-Prescribing Workgroup to determine how the requirement for e-prescribing for all providers by 2020 (which passed in the 2016 session) will be implemented. As it stands now, everyone will be required to e-prescribe opiates by 2020. The interim progress report of this workgroup can be found here: <https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2017/RD431/PDF>

*Carola Bruflat MSN WHNP-BC/FNP-BC
Member of the PMP, 2008 – 2017*

*Richard Grossman
Vector Corporation*

HEALTH WAGON'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AWARDED 2017 VIRGINIA NURSES FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD



The Health Wagon's Executive Director, Dr. Teresa Tyson, DNP, FAANP was awarded the 2017 Virginia Nurses Foundation Leadership Excellence Award for Nurse Manager/Director. This award recognizes outstanding nurses throughout the Commonwealth in the areas of administration, education, entrepreneurship, research, and advocacy, as well as staff nurses and nurse generalists. Dr. Tyson was one of 29 nominees selected for this award category.

Dr. Tyson leads her clinic in promoting the mission of providing quality, affordable, accessible care to all with an emphasis on serving the underserved. Her leadership in the healthcare sector has garnered notable recognition. Dr. Tyson is most proud of her coordination of the Remote Area Medical (RAM) Health Expedition in Wise County, which is the largest health care outreach in United States, for past 18 years.

The Health Wagon is a nurse practitioner managed clinic that has been in existence for over thirty years, providing free health care in Dickenson, Buchanan, Lee, Russell, Scott, and Wise counties. For more information about the Health Wagon please call 276-328-8850 or visit www.thehealthwagon.org.

The UVA vascular team just published an article on "*Vascular Graft Infection: Incidence and Potential Risk Factors*" in the *Journal of Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing* 2017

Nov/Dec;44(6):524-527. doi: 10.1097/WON.0000000000000376.

The article identifies factors that increase the risk of vascular graft infections (VGI) in patients following abdominal or lower extremity revascularization surgery which is an important paper for those facilities wanting to prevent vascular graft infections.

Congratulations to Catherine Ratliff for being elected to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing* as a section editor for Ostomy!

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