



Message from your Board President

The end of 2016 is drawing near, and my term as President of the Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center Board of Directors is nearly completed. The board and national office staff have accomplished much.

The periodic role delineation studies for ACHPN and CHPN certification programs were completed. From this information, a new detailed content outline developed and will be incorporated into the respective exams beginning with first testing window of March 2017. The role delineation study is one means of keeping a certification examination current and relevant to practice.

Earn it. Keep it. You have worked hard to achieve your certification credential. You devoted hours studying, attending review courses, reading books, manuals and the core curriculum, and participating in study groups. All with the goal of passing the examination. You have demonstrated your passion and commitment to advancing expert care to those with serious illness. Your certification credential is part of your professional identity. Once you have earned your credential, your next step is to keep it.

HPCC has worked on enhancements to many processes to make recertification easier. The online LearningBuilder platform has assisted the ACHPNs and CHPNs with a more efficient method to report professional development activities and submit their Hospice and Palliative Accrual for Recertification (HPAR). If you are required or you choose to use the HPAR process, you may start to accrue recertification points as soon as you successfully certify. You should not wait until the year your certification expires.

The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) provides many education opportunities. All online continuing education courses are free with membership. The journals and the communities that are also free with membership provide other means of education as well as networking opportunities.

There are certification and recertification scholarships available from Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation (HPNF) to reimburse certificants who pay for certification costs themselves. Every year there are certification scholarships which are not awarded because of lack of applicants. Apply for a scholarship and your credential is free!

HPCC has collaborated with HPNA and HPNF to develop Employer Partner Programs which support certification. More and more employers are investigating participation. Many of these programs provide membership in HPNA and support for staff to achieve HPCC credentials. Employers are recognizing that a knowledgeable, competent staff is good business.

After several years of discussion, business development efforts, and data collection, the HPCC Board of Directors made the decision to discontinue the CHPCA (Administrator) and CHPLN (Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse) examinations. The last dates offering those exams will be in the December

2017 testing window. Those certificants who hold this credential can continue to recertify and use the credential. Recertification will be done through the Hospice and Palliative Accrual for Recertification (HPAR) method. Those affected will receive specific information from the HPCC Office staff.

I am thankful to have the collaboration and support of the HPCC Board of Directors. Julia Aucoin and Stephen McGowan completed their term of office in 2016. Todd Hultman, Kevin Yarrow and Mark Bertler will be joining the Board in 2017. Returning Directors include Kathleen Broglio, Cath Glennon, Amy Beasley, Stacy Smith and 2017 President Joyce Palmieri. Our certification programs are in good hands.

Each of us work to advance expert care in serious illness in our professional work. Our personal circle relies on our guidance. As an HPCC certificant, you have the knowledge and expertise to impact lives.

For 2017, I wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan M. Koff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" being more legible than the middle initial "M" and the last name "Koff".

Susan Koff, MSN, ARNP, GNP-BC, ACHPN®, CRRN

President, Board of Directors, 2016