

# Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

Volume 9, Number 1

Official Newsletter of ARNPs United

January, 1998

## Election Results Are In

The results are in for the 1998 election of representatives to the ARNPs United Board of Directors. The winners are:

Ted Ritter FNP Representative  
Susie Wilson CNM Representative  
Patti Varley PMHNP Representative

The election for the 1999 representatives will take place in the fall of this year. Representatives due for election are Adult Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

## President's Corner

by Patti Varley, ARNP,  
President ARNPs United

**Taking Advantage of Every Opportunity: Working Towards Completion of Prescriptive Authority for ARNPs.** The annual ARNPs United meeting in October at the Washington State Convention Center was a very inspiring evening for me. An issue discussed that evening, "Completion of Prescriptive Authority", is one that is very near and dear to my heart. I have been asked to write about what I said that evening. Unfortunately, I find myself to be a much better speaker than writer, but here it goes...

I believe that it is the responsibility of each and every ARNP to take advantage of every opportunity to educate, inform, and clarify to those around them who we are, what we do, and how the limitation of prescriptive authority is illogical, inconvenient, and just plain silly. This process should be done with our friends and family, clients, their families, support systems such as daycares, clubs, PCPs, other ARNPs, and colleagues in our own discipline and in other disciplines. As you have conversations you will be amazed at the amount of misinformation and lack of understanding that is out there. Everytime one more person more clearly understands our situation it is one more step towards support for change. Although there are committees, hearings, and all kinds of legislative energy being put into this effort, it can't replace what each of you do on a day to day basis. I believe it is the one on one contact and exchange of information that will ultimately allow this issue to reach appropriate closure.

As an ARNP you will encounter multiple opportunities to inform and influence those around you. As some examples, making sure people understand that the scheduling of medications is based on "abusability" not on "safety". ARNPs are currently allowed to prescribe several medications that require much more in the way of medical assessment and monitoring than those on Schedule II-IV and our records reflect that we do this

quite well. When a patient has to wait to access medication because of its schedule type, inform the patient of the current legal restrictions and ask for their support in writing if possible to get the law changed. They know you as a provider, quite often it is confusing to them why you can write prescriptions for some medications and not for others. They can be your biggest allies, because they know your practice, and they are the consumer. Quite often ARNPs are asked by colleagues about what medications they should use or how to give it, this happens quite often with medications ARNPs may be more knowledgeable than others but are limited to prescribe. What a wonderful educational opportunity! If you are the primary clinician for a patient, but a physician needs to be involved because of the need for a schedule medication, use this as an opportunity to explain how you'd rather accept total responsibility for your patient and utilize the expertise and knowledge of your colleague in other ways. **This is crucial.** We need to show our colleagues how our ability to practice within our scope of expertise does not threaten their usefulness. Also ARNPs have much more rigorous limitations in prescribing than our colleagues. Once a physician is licensed they can prescribe for any specialty. ARNPs are only licensed to prescribe within our specialty. There are many examples where patients are harmed when prescribed inappropriate medications, especially when prescribed by those who don't have the appropriate training or expertise. Again, use these examples to point out how our prescribing is different.

I challenge each of you to take an active role in completion of prescriptive authority. Hopefully this can give you some simple but powerful thoughts on how to do it without much extra time or energy, but with incredible influence. Together we can make this happen, but it will take all of us.

## Legislative Update

by Larry Kerschner, ARNP, and  
Gail Toraason McGaffick, JD

By the time you receive this newsletter, the 1998 legislative session will be well underway. As a way of organizing itself, the Legislature sets certain deadlines throughout the session. At these critical junctures, if a bill has not progressed beyond a certain point, it's considered "dead" for the year. For example, the first cut-off is February 6. By that date, bills originating in either the House or the Senate must be voted out of committee, or they're dead. In this short session beginning on January 12th, there are only four weeks of hearings for the Legislature to decide which of the hundreds of bills before them will move forward. This tight timeline makes for a very fast-paced session.

In previous articles, we've talked about legislative priorities for ARNPs United, to include completion of prescriptive authority. As a reminder, we're reintroducing our legislation this year and it simply does one thing, it allows ARNPs to prescribe Schedules II through IV controlled substances. It remains important that you continue to educate legislators, as well as physicians that you work with, about this issue. We know that passage of this legislation in 1998 will be a long-shot given all the political realities, but the Legislative Committee and Board believe it's very important to keep a focus on this important issue for ARNP practice. In addition, we now have some more information about some other issues that the Legislature will focus attention on. In the health care arena, the following issues are expected to be the subject of legislation:

- ☐ Managed care standards, including network adequacy, information disclosure to consumers, confidentiality of medical records, grievance procedures, utilization review standards, and the liability of health plans for adverse medical outcomes (Wickline clauses).
- ☐ Legalization of medical marijuana for use in treatment of certain health conditions.
- ☐ Delivery of health care services in schools, with particular emphasis on the need for more nurses
- ☐ HIV status disclosure, as is currently done for certain diseases.
- ☐ Funding of the Basic Health Plan.
- ☐ Certificate of need elimination for hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers and kidney dialysis centers.
- ☐ Nurse delegation "clean-up".
- ☐ Tort reform to include dispute resolution which limits contingency fees, requirement of a certificate of merit for lawsuits against health care professionals, changes in the statute of limitations, etc.

This is just the "short list" of the several hundred bills that ARNPs United will monitor for their impact on ARNPs during this legislative session.

### ARNP Care

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As a reminder, if you have comments or concerns about ARNPs United legislative agenda, please contact Larry Kerschner via Email [larry@nurse.net](mailto:larry@nurse.net) or PO Box 397, Pe Ell WA, 98572. If you have questions about any of the

issues listed above or would like more information,

please contact Gail via phone 360.754.7266 or Email [mpwrmnt@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mpwrmnt@ix.netcom.com).

Source of information, Senate Committee Services, Health and Long-Term Care Committee document titled "Possible Priority Issues-1998 Session."

### Why You Should Join ACNP

Jerri Henry, ARNP

Did you realize ARNPs United is one of 20 American College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) State Affiliate Members? In addition to your affiliate membership that you have through your membership in ARNPs United you can get additional benefits by becoming an individual member.

Founded in 1993, the mission of the ACNP is "to unite, galvanize and represent, politically, NP's across the nation. These efforts are to ensure an appropriate, prevention based health care system with NP's as essential health care providers." A few ACNP accomplishments include the establishment of a national presence in Washington, DC; hiring lobbyists to monitor all legislative and regulatory activities on issues of concern to NP's; development of the National Grassroots Medicare Reimbursement Task Force that was instrumental in the passage of the law allowing direct Medicare reimbursement to NP's this Fall; collaborative relationship with ANA; endorsed multiple collaborative projects with nursing, PA and physician groups.

Benefits of membership in ACNP include:

- ☐ Political representation in Washington, DC
- ☐ The monthly newsletter NP Directions
- ☐ Special rates for certain educational offerings and the yearly ANCP Summit (held in February)
- ☐ Legislative alerts with Internet networking
- ☐ Assistance with professional job-related issues
- ☐ Discount on publications
- ☐ Job bank

An individual membership costs \$95.00/year. Contact ACNP by phone: 202.408.7050; fax: 202.408.0902; email: [ACNP@nurse.org](mailto:ACNP@nurse.org); or visit the home page at: <http://www.nurse.org/acnp>.

### Attention Neonatal Nurse Practitioners

There is currently no representation of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners on the Board of Directors of ARNPs United. You are invited to attend the next Board meeting, April 9, 1998, 12 pm-5 pm at Internet Wizards, 212 Railroad Ave N, Kent, WA 98032. ARNPs United represents all Nurse Practitioners recognized by the State of Washington. For further information, please contact ARNPs United at 253.852.9042 or speak with one of the members of the Board of Directors.

### Poster Display Board Needed

ARNPs United needs a poster display board to take to meetings. These boards cost around \$500. If you would

like to donate to a fund for this purpose, please send a check in any amount, clearly marked "Poster Board" to ARNPs United, 212 Railroad Ave N, Kent, WA 98032.

### WSNA Thank You

This is an official **Thank You to WSNA** for its support of ARNPs United. They have been appropriately forwarding ARNPs who call them to contact us. We greatly appreciate their support and are happy our affiliate agreement is in place.

### Classified Ads

#### Family Nurse Practitioner

Whidbey Island, WA seeking highly personable, experienced FNP to work with Board Certified Family Practitioner and close-knit staff in picturesque island setting one hour north of Seattle. Full or part-time if possible, experience and stability essential. Send resume or inquiry to Patty Willson, Office Manager, The Langley Clinic, PO Box 137, Langley, WA 98260, phone: 360.221.5272, fax: 360.221.4045.

#### Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner wanted for immediate opening in established multidisciplinary behavioral health clinic, with offices in Redmond and Woodinville. Our clinical staff consists of two psychiatrists, one nurse practitioner, six psychologists, and two social workers. Must have broad base of clinical skills in assessment, medication and psychotherapy services for adults and adolescents. Interest in working with managed care is required. Clinic works closely with many MCOs, PPOs, HMOs, EAPs and PCPs. We'll provide referrals, access to closed managed care panels, billing, office support, furnished office, voice mail/pager, etc. Ideal for new or relocating practice. Contact Greg Schimmel, PhD or Monica Bristow, PhD at 425.883.2623. Vitae and letters of interest can also be faxed to 425.883.6241 or mailed to 17530 NE Union Hill Road, Suite 210, Redmond, WA 98052.

#### Locum Tenens Program

The Washington State Locum Tenens Program seeks nurse practitioners interested in rural practice opportunities. Professionals who are interested in helping their rural colleagues while supplementing their incomes. Professionals in transition or who are just out of school. Professionals who just want to do clinical medicine and avoid the business side of the practice. Retired or semi-retired professionals who want to continue to practice intermittently. People who are starting a family and want to practice part-time. The requirements for NPs to participate in the Locum Tenens Program: 1. Have a current Washington license. 2. Be in good standing with the Washington State Nursing Board. If you are seeking short or long-term temporary work, the Washington Locum Tenens Program can help support you in your search and placement. For more information or to apply, contact: Locum Tenens Program, AHEC at WSU Spokane, 601 West First Avenue, Spokane, WA 99204-0399. Phone: 509.358.7640. Fax: 509.358.7647.

#### Planned Parenthood Bellevue

Planned Parenthood of Western WA is seeking an outstanding clinician to work part time in our Bellevue clinic. We are a progressive, non-profit organization with 17 clinics, one of the largest providers of reproductive health care in the state. Position requires current WA State RN & ARNP (WHNP, FNP, Adult NP or CNM) licenses and 1+ year women's health care experience. Mail CV/resume before 1/16/98 to PPWW/HR, 2211 E Madison, Seattle, WA 98112. EOE.

#### Family/Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Pediatric and Family ARNPs needed by growing clinic, should have ability to work alone at times and possess good diagnostic skills. Clinic is friendly, casual with competitive benefits. Flexible work hours. Full-time or part-time, permanent long term position. Clinic is open 9 am to 8 pm. Contact: Auburn Children's Clinic, 25 Second St NW, Auburn, WA 98001, phone: 206.939.6541 and ask for Cheryl McGill or Dr Thompson, may also fax resume to: 253.735.9427.

#### Clinical Nurse Specialist Psych/Mental Health

Full-time position for ARNP with prescriptive authority and five years behavioral health experience. Provide care and utilization management as liaison to hospitals for inpatients. Oversee outpatient network. Assist practitioners, patients/families with initial hospital process. Assure appropriate treatment planning for patients in need of acute and intensive behavioral health services through establishing an identification system, coordinating and leading treatment planning conferences and providing consultation to practitioners. Mail or fax resume citing job ref #97-02272 to: 206.448.5439, Group Health Cooperative, Employment Department, 521 Wall Street, PO Box 34586, Seattle, WA 98124 or call Mary Davis at 206.448.2740/800.848.4259. Visit our web site at <http://www.ghc.org>. EEO/AA.

#### Evaluation & Treatment Centers Director

Responsible for management of all human and financial resources in accordance with agency procedures mission, vision and strategic goals; coordination with professional community and RSN community to market and coordinate care; ensure that quality services are provided in an efficient and effective manner; and monitor quality of patient care and evaluate patient outcome. Requires thorough knowledge of clinical issues of involuntary treatment of adults and older adults; demonstrated expertise with Medicaid, Medicare and managed care systems; demonstrated administrative and supervisory skills and an ability to participate in and lead effective work teams. Min. qualifications: MN required, MN and ARNP preferred, WA State Certification, 5+ years post-graduate mental health professional exp. in mental health setting with supervisory and management exp., 5+ years clinical exp. with adults and older adults and exp. working in a team context. Annual salary: Midpoint \$55,000 DOE + benefits. Prefer resume by 12/26/97. Positions open until filled. Forward resume and cover letter stating position to: Compass Health, Human Resources Department, PO Box 3810, Everett, WA 98203.

### Continuing Education

#### Spectrums of Healing Integrative Health Care

March 9, 10, 11, 1998 at Meaney Tower, Seattle, WA. An annual continuing education program for nurse practitioners that offers 22 CEUs (8 Pharmacy CEUs). Presented by the Gerontological Nurse Practitioners of Puget Sound. For more information or to request a brochure call 360.298.1768.

#### Clinical Pharmacology Series 1998

March 11, 1998, **Pediatric Drug Therapy**

March 14, 1998, **Neonatal Drug Therapy**

April 15, 1998, **Geriatric Drug Therapy**

May 5, 1998, **Adult Drug Therapy**

May 19, 1998, **Women's Health Drug Therapy**

June 12, 1998, **Neuropsychotropic Drug Therapy**

This series of six one-day courses (8 contact hours each session) is designed as a pharmacology update for nurse practitioners working in a variety of specialties. Sponsor: University of Washington School of Nursing. Location: University of Washington, Rotunda (Neonatal Drug Therapy only), Shoreline Conference Center (all other courses), Seattle, Washington. Contact: Continuing Nursing Education, University of Washington, Box 357260, Seattle, WA 98195-7260, phone: 206.543.1047, [www.son.washington.edu/~cne/](http://www.son.washington.edu/~cne/).

#### Alzheimer's Care: Moving Toward an Integrative Approach

April 20, 1998, 8 am - 4:30 pm. Shoreline Conference Center, Seattle, WA. The focus of this day-long program, designed to improve health outcomes for Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers, is to create a dialogue and build collaboration among practitioners and researchers in the fields of complementary, alternative, and conventional medicine. Cosponsors include Bastyr University, Aging & Adult Services, DSHS, Alzheimer's Association of Western and Central Washington, and the University of Washington's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and Northwest Geriatric Education Center. Cost: \$55 for professionals, \$25 for family members. CEUs for various disciplines available for an additional fee. To receive a brochure, contact: NW Geriatric Education Center, phone: 206.685.7478, fax: 206.685.3436, Email: [patann@u.washington.edu](mailto:patann@u.washington.edu).

**Pacific Northwest 21st Annual  
Conference for Primary Care Practitioners**

September 17-19, 1998. Location: Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, Washington. Sponsors: University of Washington School of Nursing, Planned Parenthood of Western Washington, ARNPs United, WWAHEC, Washington Academy of Physician Assistants. CE Hours: 7.2 to 23.2 contact hours (maximum of 12.0 contact hours in Pharmacology). Application has been made for Category I CEC for PAs. Contact: Continuing Nursing Education, University of Washington, Box 357260, Seattle, WA 98195-7260, phone: 206.543.1047, [www.son.washington.edu/~cne/](http://www.son.washington.edu/~cne/).

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**Herbal Medicine and Phytotherapy Home Study**

Bastyr University, located in the greater Seattle, Washington area has received approval from the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) for three home study programs focusing on the clinical applications of herbal medicine. WSNA is accredited as an approver of continuing education in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Commission on Accreditation. These continuing education programs

may also be applied toward pharmacology CE requirements. Programs range in cost from \$15-20 each and grant 1.5 to 2.0 hours of continuing education credit. Call 425.602.3152 for more information or to order, or see our web site at [www.bastyr.edu](http://www.bastyr.edu), under Continuing Education.

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**Ad Information**

**Copy deadline is the second Tuesday of the month prior to publication.** Ads may be accepted later than this on a space available basis. Position Available Ads & Continuing Education Announcements of less than 66 words are \$45, of 66 to 130 words are \$75 and greater than 130 words are \$105. Position Available Ads are priced per insertion. Continuing Education Announcements are per offering for up to three (3) consecutive insertions. New Product Announcements per product for one insertion of 130 words or less are \$75. Ad Inserts are \$540 for one issue. All ads are subject to space limitations and editing. Call for detailed rate information. Mail copy to *ARNP Care*, 212 Railroad Ave N, Kent, WA 98032. Phone 253.852.9042. Fax 253.480.0002. Email [care@nurse.net](mailto:care@nurse.net)

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