

# Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United

April, 1998

## ARNPs United

by Patti Varley

What does our name mean? That we always agree??? Absolutely not!!! Here we sit, licking our wounds after an incredible battle around the issue of Prescriptive Authority. This particular battle on the issue was brought upon us by others, not initiated by us. We had come up with a plan prior to the legislative session we had hoped to follow, but suddenly we were asked to respond to the unexpected. While we intended to be low-key and use this as a year to build our strength, our Senate Bill from 1997 was still technically "alive." No one was more surprised than we were when the Senate scheduled the legislation for a hearing; one that we didn't request. As a result, we had to act quickly.

There has been a great deal of controversy around how we, ARNPs United, responded to this situation. I would like to take a few moments to discuss this here.

Several major choices and decisions had to be made and made quickly once this bill was brought up (again, not by us). Do we respond to it or not, and if so, how. Hind-sight always being 20/20, and being in the trenches provides a view much different than the sidelines, I believe your Board, Legislative Committees, Lobbyists and several active ARNP leaders and individuals did what we believed to be best. These decisions were made with numerous agonizing hours of phone calls, conference calls, emails, face-to-face discussions and many a sleepless night. This is not to say every individual ARNP should be in agreement with our decisions, but should understand and appreciate the process we went through.

Fortunately, although incredibly nerve racking, I believe we came through this legislative session in a "better position." We do not have a bill in place that has no nursing control, and we had an opportunity which we took advantage of to educate. Once again pointing out clearly that this issue is not one of **clinical competencies or public safety**, but of control and politics. That we want and believe we should be allowed to control and be **responsible** for our own profession. We also came across as flexible, invested in consumer access to care and invested in the need to make sure ARNPs are allowed to practice legally.

This issue raises a lot of emotions and differences of opinions. I fear however that **if we let it divide us, the enemy has won if not the war at least the battle.** Let's not let that happen. **We** have a lot of healing to do before the next legislative session. (Remember the

next one is a long one.) **We** need all of us to do it and do it well.

If any of you would like more information or details on the process of how this was handled, please feel free to contact myself or any of the Board.

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## ACNP Concludes

### 1998 National Nurse Practitioner Summit

The American College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) held its 1998 National Nurse Practitioner Summit in Washington, DC, February 20-23, 1998.

Sunday's business sessions saw the approval of ACNP's 1998 operating budget, the organization's bylaw revisions, and the 1998 legislative agenda by the ACNP membership. ACNP's legislative policy priorities for 1998:

- ☐ Ensure proper implementation of the Balanced Budget Act - Direct Medicare Reimbursement
- ☐ Passage of the PARCA bill
- ☐ Institute Direct Medicaid Coverage for NPs
- ☐ Ensure the quality of NP education

Kate Malliarakis, CNP, ANP, MSN, now with the Specific Drugs Branch Chief White House Drug Policy Office, and Debra Walker, RN, FNP, who is now the Legislative Assistant for Health to US Senator Jeff Bingaman, addressed ACNP's membership during the 1998 Summit Dinner.

ACNP's "changing of the guard" takes place each year at the National Summit. Donna G. Nativio, PhD, CRNP, PNP, FAAN, stepped down from her successful 1997 term as ACNP President and Jean Johnson, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANP, began her new role as President. Dr. Johnson foresees 1998 as "a year of unprecedented growth and development for the College."

Monday was host to ACNP's Capitol Hill Day. ACNP participants were briefed on legislative issues and how to effectively lobby their members of Congress then went up to the Hill to meet with their Member's staff. The Summit concluded with a lunch at the Capitol.

ACNP was proud to present this year's Sharp Cutting Edge Award to Harriet L. Hellman, CPNP, MSN, for her outstanding contributions and achievements "above and beyond the call of duty" on behalf of the nurse practitioner community. Past recipients have included Dr. Susan Sparks, of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), and Margie Koehler, ACNP Grassroots Coordinator.

**Legislative Update**

by Larry Kerschner, ARNP and  
Gail Toraason McGaffick, JD

With the legislative session having ended on time on March 12, it seems like a good time to revisit ARNPs United legislative agenda, and what happened to each of the agenda items. FYI, the Governor has until April 4 to decide which bills to sign or veto, and unlike last year, there are very few vetoes recorded as of April 1, 1998. If you'd like to know the Governor's action on a particular bill of interest to you that may not be listed here, simply call the Legislative Bill Room at 360-786-7573.

**1998 ARNPs United Legislative Agenda**

**Support:**

- ☐ **Completion of ARNP prescriptive authority** — see previous articles
- ☐ **WSNA clinical sovereignty legislation** — WSNA deferred this legislation
- ☐ **Mental health parity** — Senate Bill 6566 was introduced. It is scheduled to undergo a sunrise review by the Department of Health...perhaps this summer
- ☐ **WSNA violence prevention legislation** — This legislation never got off the ground this year. It died in Senate Rules, where it started.
- ☐ **Elimination of Wickline clauses** — this legislation got a hearing, but with big business opposed, it was a longshot, and it didn't make it.
- ☐ **Clean-up of '97 DOH complaint/confidentiality legislation** — this legislation never got off the ground.
- ☐ **Repeal of certificate of need for ambulatory surgery centers (ASC) and licensure of ASCs (CRNA's position)** — we monitored this legislation. In a surprise turn of events, no legislation was passed. Certificate of need (c of n) was completely locked up in the House when the House Republicans didn't have 50 votes for passage. Licensure of ASCs was tied to c of n. C of n will be studied by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee this interim. It's a bipartisan group of 16 legislators.
- ☐ **Retention of Basic Health Plan (BHP) benefit package** — finally, something really positive to say. We're cautiously optimistic that we've turned the corner in keeping mental health in the BHP.

The State Health Care Authority which administers the BHP, has finally acknowledged existence of cost offset.

**Oppose:**

- ☐ **Repeal of any category of provider** — this didn't come up on the radar screen
- ☐ **Any changes**

**to I-673, if approved by voters in November** — this initiative failed and therefore was not considered.

- ☐ **Repeal of ARNP/MD insurance parity** — didn't come up
- ☐ **Physician regulation/oversight/supervision of ARNPs** — didn't come up except as it relates to our completion of prescriptive authority legislation

**Monitor:** (may shift to support or oppose depending on specific legislation)

- ☐ **Health care reform legislation, such as regulation of managed care, individual health insurance market, disclosure, utilization review** — we reviewed all legislation that would have regulated managed care. None moved forward. This was even true of a bill to establish standard grievance procedures for health carriers. Testifying in favor were both consumer and carrier reps, but it failed because ALL the carriers weren't comfortable.
- ☐ **NCQAC rules, particularly ARNP Roundtable recommendations** — this is still a work in progress. In talking with NCQAC staff, we believe that some rules will be recommended, but we are waiting for specifics.
- ☐ **WSNA's legislative agenda to include nurse delegation, self-directed care, health care worker id badges, surgical technologists, etc** — legislation to "clean-up" nurse delegation and make it more workable (2SSB 6544), passed; no action on self-directed care, but there was some broadening and standardization of medication assistance (SHB 2452); health care worker id badges died in Senate Rules; and surgical technologists died on the Senate Floor due to last minute concerns.
- ☐ **State budget, to include Basic Health Plan funding** — additional funding was approved for BHP slots, but no funding was approved for the Children's Health Insurance Program which would have allowed Washington State to get a match for providing services to kids when their families were between 200-250% of poverty.
- ☐ **Complete repeal of corporate practice of medicine doctrine** — this didn't happen. WSMA did not come to terms with the auto insurers who are still using this doctrine as a way to stop health insurance fraud rings...run by non-health care professionals. We are so lucky last session we convinced the Governor not to veto the whole bill...because ARNPs can now form businesses with almost all other health care providers. (For those who live in border areas and may want to form a professional service corporation or a limited liability company with practitioners in another state, you may want to review SSB 6182.)
- ☐ **Department of Health issues that impact providers, such as continuation of SHB 2151** — new bill SHB 2364 allows DOH to have standardized procedures for licensure renewal, and other administrative procedures.
- ☐ **Legislation abolishing genetic discrimination** — didn't make it on the radar screen
- ☐ **Background checks (FBI fingerprint) for health care professionals** — after much confusion legislation requiring this was sent to Ways and Means, where it died.
- ☐ **Long-term care issues** — lots in this area (2SSB 6544). There was considerable focus on whether boarding homes should continue to be regulated by the Department of Health. In the end, they're being transferred to DSHS. ARNPs United intervened to insure that health care assessments could be performed by ARNPs, not simply physicians. This is

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a typical language "challenge" that we're always on the lookout for.

### New Issues:

☐ **Drug affected mothers and their babies** — One topic we spent a lot of time with, in thankful consultation with Ann Darlington, was legislation dealing with drug affected moms and their babies. After hours, and we mean hours of work, the legislation that was passed includes ARNPs, both as pediatric providers and as obstetrical providers. While the requirements of the bill are a bit onerous, we believed it was important to have ARNPs included. (See SHB 2556) See also HB 3103 which directs the Department of Health to develop screening criteria for use in identifying pregnant or lactating women addicted to drugs or alcohol. DOH is directed to develop training protocols for "medical" professionals. Unfortunately, this horse got out of the barn before we caught it, and the prime sponsor didn't want any changes, but DOH has assured us that "medical" means "health care." Late breaking news: the Governor has vetoed the testing requirements for drug-affected babies contained in SHB 2556.

☐ **Certification of chemical dependency counselors** — See SSB 6550. This bill contains some limited "grandparenting" language for ARNPs.

☐ **Electronic transfer of prescription information** — All prescribing ARNPs will want to review ESHB 1769.

As you can see from reading this summary, a legislative agenda, at best, is only a guidepost for what we think will be happening. If you have any questions concerning this legislation or other issues, please contact Larry Kerschner via e-mail at [larry@nurse.net](mailto:larry@nurse.net) or P.O. Box 397, PeEll, WA 98572.

## Classified Ads

### Family Nurse Practitioner

Providence Seattle Sleep Disorders Center is recruiting an ARNP to work with our health care team. Qualified candidate needs to have a master's degree in nursing from approved FNP program, licensure by WSBN as an ARNP, certification as a FNP by the ANA and state licensure for prescriptive authority. One year post graduate experience requested, with attention given to internal medicine or family practice. Call 206.320.2601.

### Family Nurse Practitioner

Position available for experienced Family NP for maternity leave coverage 3-4 days per week May through August with possibility for extended part-time position. WA ARNP license with prescriptive authority required. Salary DOE. Forward CV to Brian Brenner at PFMC, 4700 Pt Fosdick Dr NW, Suite 202, Gig Harbor, WA 98335.

### Mental Health Contract ARNP

Northwest Counseling Institute has an immediate opening for a contract ARNP with prescriptive authority for adults and children specializing in mental health. The position is at the Auburn and Federal Way offices. A position will also be available in Tacoma by April 5th. The current need is 12 hours a week and will expand to 18 hours. Please contact the Director, Mark Bethune at 253.939.8525 and fax a resume to 253.931.8193.

### 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.

### Dermatology Nurse Practitioner

Washington, Seattle - Experienced ARNP wanted for busy 8-physician dermatology clinic in Edmonds, WA. Dermatology experience a plus, however we will provide extensive training. You will work closely with John Headley, MD, Mohs surgeon and cosmetic dermatologist, to develop your practice in our modern clinic and surgical facility. Please mail or fax resume to: Jonathan Greene, Administrator, Northwest Dermatology & Skin Cancer Clinic, 21600 Highway 99, Suite 100, Edmonds, WA 98026, phone: 425.774.2663, fax: 425.774.2660.

### Women's Health Nurse Practitioner

FT/PT Women's Health NP position available - immediate start to add to current 9 physician, 3 midwife and 1 PA OB/Gyn office in historic seacoast area of Southeastern Massachusetts. Comprehensive benefit and vacation package. Please fax resume to 508.999.9442.

## Continuing Education

### Clinical Pharmacology Series 1998

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/).

### Sport Medicine for Primary Care Physicians

May 21, 1998, 4:00 - 9:00 pm. Location: Lindsay M. Gould Auditorium, Northwest Hospital, Seattle, Washington. Four hour of Category I credit. Cost: \$50 for physicians and \$40 for non-physicians. For further information, contact Educational Services of Northwest Hospital at 206.368.1623.

### 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/).

### Women's Health in the Perimenopause '98

November 20-22, 1998. Location: Los Angeles, CA. Announcing the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals' (ARHP) fourth biennial clinical conference, Women's Health in the Perimenopause '98...the meeting will be held November 20-22, 1998 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Los Angeles, CA. The method will be lecture style. Sessions focus on sexuality, hot flashes, incontinence, mood changes, dermatology, cosmetic surgery, weight and health in clinical care, alternative therapies, the biology of menopause and ovaries after menopause. Faculty includes Dr Kirtly Parker Jones, Ms Sharon Schnare, Dr Donna Shoupe, Ms Barbara Kass-Anesse, Dr Anita Nelson and Dr Niall Galloway. ARHP is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. The credit hours earned will be in Category One of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. All sessions are also approved by ACNM and CNM for accreditation. Contact Amy McCormick for more information at 202.466.3825.

### Reproductive Health '98

December 3-5, 1998. Location: St Louis, MO. Announcing the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals' (ARHP) 35th annual meeting, Reproductive Health '98. The meeting will be held in conjunction

with Planned Parenthood Federation of American and cosponsored by the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Reproductive Health on December 3-5, 1998 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St Louis, MO. The method will be lecture style. Sessions focus on contraception, dermatology, abortion, STDs and other issues related to reproductive health. Faculty includes Dr Marilynne McKay, Dr Dan Mishell, Ms Louise Bateman and Dr David Grimes. The Alan Guttmacher Lecture and Luncheon will be on Saturday, December 5. This year's Alan Guttmacher Lecturer will be Dr Elizabeth Connell from Emory University School of Medicine. ARHP is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. The credit hours earned will be in Category One of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. All sessions are also approved by ACNM and CNM for accreditation. Contact Amy McCormick for more information at 202.466.3825.

**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 con-

tinuing 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.

**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)

**ARNPs United**

The ARNPs United office now has a direct phone number with voice mail. Members can reach us at 253.480.1035. Individual memberships are \$150 per year. Lifetime memberships are \$1000. Student currently enrolled in a ARNP program may join for \$50 per year. Make your check out to ARNPs United and mail it to: ARNPs United, 212 Railroad Ave N, Kent WA 98032.

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