



From Our President...

Barbara G. Rosato, MSN, ANP, CDE

As the leaves begin to turn with the colors of autumn, I reflect on the activity MCNP leadership and members have been engaged in for the past few months. Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge our Newsletter Editor, Lisa Arello, for the dedication and wonderful work she does putting together our newsletter.

We held our first Summit for the 2011–2012 year at Benjamin’s Restaurant in Taunton on September 17, 2011. I would like to thank all who attended, as we had representation from across the Commonwealth. In addition to committee updates, we had two guest lecturers. First, Gloria Craven of Policy Strategists led a presentation and discussion about the new payment structures proposed for Massachusetts and how the payment reform effort may effect reimbursement of NP services. Some themes heard from members included barriers to practice and poor reporting of NP data within the practice environment. Elizabeth Donahue led a brilliant presentation about Social Media, in light of launching our Facebook page. With the wonderful attendance and interaction with our members, we look forward to hosting upcoming Summits in other regions in the Commonwealth.

The Education Committee has been working diligently on the planning of the 2012 Northeast Regional Nurse Practitioner Conference. Using the feedback from the evaluations of last year’s conference, the committee has built a strong program to address clinical issues across the specialties. Brochures will be mailed after the holidays with more details. For now, please mark your calendars for May 2–4, 2012 in Manchester, New Hampshire.

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The Legislative Committee has been meeting monthly to review and develop strategies for many legislative and regulatory issues that affect NP practice in Massachusetts. We have testified on behalf of Nurse Practitioners practicing in Radiology to operate fluoroscopy. We continue to lobby our legislators on the significance of Nurse Practitioners’ global signatory authority, which is within our scope of practice and reduces unnecessary administrative burden. We continue to monitor the payment reform legislation to include Nurse Practitioners. We are connecting with the Division of Healthcare Finance and Policy on the All Payers Claims Database to capture the work we are doing in our practices and the positive impact we have on patient care. We are also working with insurance carriers and the Division of Insurance on streamlining credentialing practices.

The Membership Committee has been actively recruiting new members through exhibits at local conferences in addition to enticing existing members to renew with various prize incentives. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as it is important to support the work of your state NP organization...remember, there is strength in numbers.

President's Report from page 2

MCNP leadership is partnering with other advanced practice groups and other nursing organizations to find common ground and support initiatives that will advance the nursing professional in Massachusetts.

Cathy McKinnon, our Web Editor, launched the Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners Facebook page. Please make sure to "like" us for quick updates on MCNP news and events.

Lastly, I would like to recognize Pat White for her

years of service as the representative of the Metro South Region. Recently, Pat stepped down from this position due to academic obligations. I would like to thank her for her time and dedication to the region and MCNP. If you are interested in representing the Metro South region, please let me know.

As you can see, MCNP is involved in many activities and there is more work to be done. Your contributions and expertise are most welcome.

Wishing you a delightful autumn season!

MCNP CONGRATULATES A NURSING PIONEER

Dr. Loretta Ford, 90, was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame on October 8, 2011 in Seneca Falls, New York. Dr. Ford was the co-founder of the first NP education program in pediatrics in 1965 at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Nursing. She was the Founding Dean of the University of Rochester School of Nursing in 1972. Congratulations to Dr. Ford!

MCNP Annual Membership Drive Continues!

Karen Crowley, DNP- Chair

Catherine McKinnon, ANP

Elizabeth Donahue, FNP

Our annual MCNP membership renewal drive continues, and as of October 1st, 2011, more than 625 members have paid their dues. Although this number appears substantial, it is less than where we were at this point last year and represents less than 30% of our membership pool.

Our membership raffles have encouraged many to renew their memberships early in this renewal cycle, and we are pleased to announce Julie Wentworth as the winner of the MCNP Membership Raffle for a free 2 day tuition to the 2012 NE Regional NP Conference and Mary Collier as the winner of the MCNP Membership Raffle for a Kindle E-Reader. All members who have renewed their membership by October 15th will be entered into our next raffle for a 1-year subscription to *The Prescriber's Letter*.

We have several membership recruitment efforts in the works including a student membership drive through the local graduate schools, a workplace e-mail campaign, and a manned MCNP booth at the upcoming NPACE conference in Boston in October.

We have all heard countless times, "Oh, I keep meaning to renew my MCNP membership." Well now is the time! Renewing your membership online only takes a few minutes, and should you have any trouble retrieving your username and password, Administrative Assistant Peg Carlson at carlsonmcnp@comcast.net will be happy to assist you. For those who may be reluctant to pay their dues online and prefer to pay by check, a paper application is also available for download.

So if you have not already done so, do your part to support the MCNP, and go to our website at <http://mcnpweb.org/membership.php> and renew your MCNP membership today!

The DNP Movement– Expanding and Growing Nationally

Marion L. Beth Rowlands, DNP, GNP-BC
President, Greater Boston DNP Group

As 2015 quickly approaches, nursing leadership continues to send us updates on the progress of the advanced practice nursing profession to move towards the clinical doctorate as the new entry to practice. According to the AACN 2011 Fact Sheet released in August 2011:

- 153 DNP programs are currently enrolling students at schools of nursing nationwide, and an additional 106 DNP programs are in the planning stages.
- DNP programs are now available in 37 states plus the District of Columbia. States with the most programs (more than 5) include Florida,

Illinois, **Massachusetts**, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

- From 2009 to 2010, the number of students enrolled in DNP programs increased from 5,165 to 7,034. During that same period, the number of DNP graduates increased from 660 to 1,282.

The Greater Boston DNP Group continues to actively recruit all DNP and DNP students in Massachusetts and the surrounding area. Visit our web site for more information at www.bostondnp.org

News from the BORN

The Board of Registration in Nursing has changed the license renewal process. A reminder letter for renewal will be sent ninety days prior to the deadline and RN/APRNs will need to go online to submit their renewal. The web site is www.mass.gov/dph/boards.

What's New with the MCNP Website?

Catherine McKinnon, MCNP Web Editor
editor@mcnpweb.org

We continue to make updates to the website and to handle the volume of requests from the MA Board of Registration in Nursing and Department of Public Health, we have just added a *MA BORN and DPH News* page to the website. This allows us to post relevant news items while limiting the volume of emails to our membership. To review the latest postings, please visit: http://mcnpweb.org/dph_news.php

As always, our e-mail lists are invaluable and enable us to keep MCNP members informed about practice related news, legislation, regional offerings, and job opportunities. Unfortunately we continue to struggle with spam filtering and with every email we send out to the full MCNP

membership, we get an average of 40 to 50 rejection notices. While we do our best to limit our emails and structure our messages so as to avoid spam filtering, workplace/institutional email servers often still reject them. So that you can stay informed, we ask that you be on the lookout for any drop off in your MCNP emails, and be sure to check the MCNP website frequently as *EVERYTHING* that goes out on the email lists is updated on the MCNP News and Calendar pages. Also, please be sure to let us know if your email address has changed so that we can update your information in our database.

We welcome your feedback and any suggestions to make the website more useful or informative.

Treasurer's Report

Myra Cacace, GNP/ADM-BC, CDE

MCNP has a working balanced budget! The budgeting process ensures the healthy financial security of our organization. Our successful membership campaign provides needed funds to conduct the business of the organization, which is essential in order for nurse practitioners to remain a vital part of health care system in the Commonwealth. Since this is our main revenue source, I encourage you to invite other nurse practitioners to join our organization in order to ensure that the MCNP leadership team has the necessary resources to work on your behalf!

Connect with US on Facebook!

MCNP is happy to announce that it has just gone live with the MCNP Facebook Page. For those members who regularly use Facebook, this will help you stay connected and informed about MCNP news. Since we felt it was important to maintain a professional appearance and limit postings to relevant MCNP news, we have set the controls so that unscreened material cannot be posted. However, we are exploring the possibility of interest-driven Facebook groups so that members can exchange information and engage in online discussions. A link to the MCNP Facebook page can be found at the bottom of the left-hand toolbar on the MCNP website and now appears at the bottom of all MCNP generated emails.

One solution towards Administrative Simplification and Cost Control: Global Signatory Authority for NPs

Craven & Ober Policy Strategists, LLC

Containing health care costs while ensuring access to quality care is the major theme for multiple political conversations underway in Massachusetts. MCNP is involved in many of these discussions and on multiple fronts. One such discussion, however, needs the support and activity of the MCNP membership to catapult the idea into law.

MCNP's Board of Directors has understood the membership's expressed frustration when asked by a patient to sign a simple document relative to their care and well within your scope of practice to provide, that stipulates that the signature must be one of a physician. For numerous reasons, some as simple as history of physician and nurse practitioner (NP) roles, many simple documents become burdensome to patients, NPs, physicians and even those systems requesting the documentation.

For instance, despite your professional practice, have you ever been excluded from signing such simple forms as the following?

- work absence and return to work documentation;
- physical examinations for youth/students involved in sports;
- college health and examination requirements;
- wound care supply recommendations;
- utilization of sample drugs provided by manufacturers for patient's in need;
- school bus driver renewal applications;
- seeing eye dog applications;
- laboratory tests and other tests like mammograms, so that the results come back to the NP as the provider;

Please see *Global Signatory* on page 5

Congratulations to the First MCNP Membership Drive Raffle Winner!

Julie Wentworth of Cambridge, the first MCNP member to win the membership drive raffle, won 2 days registration at May 2012 NE Regional Conference.

Karen Crowley, Membership Chair, thanks Julie and all the raffle participants for their support and efforts to increase our organizations membership. Watch for other opportunities in the future to become a winner!

Congratulations also go to Julie Kastner, winner of the raffle for a one year free membership.

Global Signatory from page 4

- MA DPH Immunization Program Provider Enrollment Form; or
- certification of terminal illness forms.

If so, you will be interested in the MCNP solution to this dilemma entitled, **“An Act To Streamline Health Care Services By Allowing Nurse Practitioners To Verify Medical Papers and Records,”** otherwise known as global signatory authority.

Multiple states have global signatory authority, which simply allows NPs to sign and document clinical determinations that are within the scope of their practice. Global signatory authority eliminates a duplicative, administratively costly and clinically unnecessary step. This is not an expansion of the NP’s scope of practice. It does not change the obligation for a NP and a physician to sign mutually agreed to guidelines for prescriptive practice. It does, however, make economic, access and quality of care sense.

The legislation was filed by Representative Paul Donato (D–Medford) and is supported and included in another bill filed by Representative Jeffrey Sanchez (D–Boston), who is the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health.

What you can do now...

The Legislature is considering many policy changes to the payment for the delivery of health care services this year. Our legislation is simple. It doesn’t cost a dime, yet it will produce real savings. **As MCNP members, please commit to contacting your State Representative and State Senator today** and ask them for their help in passing this legislation. This is easy, and it’s important. So, if you don’t know who your State Representative and State Senator are, you can check by zip code by going to www.malegislature.gov. Once you have those two names, go to the MCNP web site at www.mcnpweb.org and you will find a sample letter that you can personalize and send. Once you have done so, kindly send an e–mail to MCNP c/o Peg Carlson to let her know, so the MCNP can get a sense of the level of activity occurring and plan on how to best use this momentum to follow up with your legislators. Peg’s e–mail is: carlsonmcnp@comcast.net.

MCNP’s legislative success is furthered by actions from individual members. Collectively MCNP then advances and protects NP practice. Be part of this and take these simple steps today!

Craven & Ober Policy Strategists, LLC is a full service Massachusetts-based government relations firm dedicated to credible, assertive advocacy and to the dissemination of reliable public policy information.

Sample Letter

Date:

The Honorable Representative/Senator_____

State House, Room_____

Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Representative/Senator:

I am a constituent and a nurse practitioner (NP). NPs are nurses with advanced education and authorization by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing as an Advanced Practice Nurse. NPs work in many settings, providing primary care, school health, occupational health, mental health, women's health and more. State laws (M.G.L. Chapter 176R) also recognizes NPs as primary care providers that beneficiaries of health plans can choose. I'm reaching out to you to ask for your active assistance in helping to pass SECTION 16 of H. 3614, which is known as **"An Act To Streamline Health Care Services By Allowing Nurse Practitioners To Verify Medical Papers and Records,"** otherwise known as global signatory authority and filed by the Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners (MCNP).

Massachusetts is examining all measures designed to enhance administrative simplicity in an effort to save money in the delivery of health care. State based regulatory and business or institutional policy requirements often mandate a physician signature or co-signature. When examinations and services are appropriately provided by an NP, they should be the provider of record. Requiring a physician signature can result in repeat visits, exams and services and is a duplicative task which results in delays in patient care, burdens physicians' time unnecessarily and increases costs.

The intent of this section is simply to streamline this administrative task. Examples of patient care instances that would be simplified include signing forms for work absence and return to work documentation; physical examinations for youth/students involved in sports; college health and examination requirements; school bus driver renewal applications; and Seeing Eye Dog applications. In my practice, this would most affect patient forms I complete related to _____.

This bill is budget neutral, but will produce cost savings in the health care delivery system. Please speak with the leadership and let them know of your support. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or MCNP's legislative agents, Craven & Ober Policy Strategists at 617-523-6501. Thank you for your response.

Best Regards,

Your name and contact information

Regional Reports

Pioneer Valley

Jeanne Allen, Pioneer Valley Regional Rep
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“Congratulations go to Jean Rogers, recipient of the AANP State Award for Excellence (Mass.) 2011. This honor was announced at the AANP Annual Meeting in June. Well done, Jean—you’re a role model for us all!”

We’ve had one program so far this fall, an overview of what’s available through Interventional Radiology—quite fascinating! There is another on flu vaccine coming up. Turn-out has been small, however. Members, please let us know what you want from us locally!

Again, we invite all MCNP members to participate in our health brigade to Honduras this spring. Some Spanish ability is needed, but doesn’t need to be fluent, as we will have some students who can help translate in the clinics. As a reminder, we live with local families and they or neighbors generally provide our meals. We provide health checks and episodic care in barrios & programs where we have developed relationships over time, and are coordinated by our liaison in El Progreso. We also have the opportunity to see some of the health care system locally. This year there will be 2 brigades—the week of Feb. school break, and the week of college vacation (March 17 - 24). Do let me know soon (e-mail is better)!

The Berkshires

Martha Klay RN, MSN, APRN
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The Berkshire NPs met in September for a dinner lecture on the Flu vaccine. Other plans include a potluck dinner meeting on coding and billing and an October dinner meeting on Parkinson’s disease. Please join us!

Submissions to the newsletter are open to all members and are edited and included at the discretion of the editor and executive board. Information and opinions included in the newsletter reflect those of the independent authors and do not represent the MCNP as an organization.

Please send any questions or comments to the editor at lisak70@msn.com.