



CONNAPA NEWS
*A Publication of The Connecticut Academy of
Physician Assistants*

2008 Spring Edition

May 1, 2008

21st Annual Charter Oak Conference Sees Many Changes

By Jonathan Pinto, PA-C and Jeanine Ondrof, PA-C

The 21st Annual Charter Oak Conference has come and gone and was a huge success. There were over 200 attendees, 16 sponsors, and 41 exhibitors. The event took place at the Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa, located in Groton, CT. The conference planning committee worked very hard to organize and arrange yet another successful and well-attended event and plans are already in motion for next year. As with conferences in the past, the conference was filled with a variety of CME lectures and topics geared towards the education of all PAs. As the pharmaceutical industry continues to tighten their grip on grant money and sponsorship opportunities, the committee had to seek other venues for monetary support.

One of those avenues was through the use of the AAPA's sponsored product theater lectures. Much like at the national conference, these product theater lectures offer another avenue for the pharmaceutical industry to directly market to it's future prescribers, and this year's lectures fo-

cused on soon to be released diabetes management and hypertension management drugs. While these lectures only count towards category II CME credits, ConnAPA saw this as another opportunity to provide additional education on those treatments still on the horizon.

On Sunday evening, attendees enjoyed a welcome reception with cocktails, a buffet, and hand-passed hors d'oeuvres. The food and atmosphere proved very welcoming and provided a wonderful setting for which to network with friends and colleagues.

Another avenue utilized this year was the expansion of the exhibit hall. These vendors seek time to expose their products and services to those providers who utilize them the most, and from discussion with some of these vendors, the one-on-one time offered during this lunchtime event was a tremendous opportunity. We hope to offer even more exhibitors next year and will plan on developing incentives for the attendees to visit each exhibitor. We also realized there was a lack of a book sales representative

this year and we are already working to incorporate this into next year's event.

Monday's Annual Business Luncheon included a report of the recent changes and success that the Academy has undergone recently, as well as an overview of the many legislative accomplishments that have occurred over the past year. President Tricia Marriott also thanked the many ConnAPA members who are actively involved in the AAPA and recognized their contribution to the advancement of the PA profession on a national level. Connecticut Physician Assistant Foundation (CPAF) President, Brian Landry gave an overview of the CPAF's scholarship program's overwhelming success in recent years, and thanked members for their generous contributions. Scholarships were awarded to, Jason Prevelige, JoHanna Chelcun, Lauren Swisher, Andrew Turczak, and Kyla Giannelli. ConnAPA also held a book drive to support the AAPA's Health Literacy Project in the Host City

Continued on page 4

Inside This Issue

Message From the President	2
New Honorary Member	3
Charter Oak Conference Pictures	4
Adventures In Lobbying	6
Yale PA Program Update	8
Quinnipiac PA Program Update	9
Legislative News	10
CT Physician Assistant Foundation News	11
Membership Dues Increase	11



Message From The President

By Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MPAS



ConnAPA News is published quarterly, as the seasons change. Thus, the President's message is invariably full of images of the season. I've no doubt that I will again rely on that formula. However, this time I find I am focusing on the word "change" itself, rather than the season.

ConnAPA's mission is to represent and promote the interests of Physician Assistants in the State of Connecticut. That will never change. Some change, however, is inevitable, and is underway at ConnAPA.

ConnAPA's Charter Oak Conference, held March 29-April 2, was different (shorter by 1 day), yet hugely successful, thanks mostly to the hard work of our Conference Planning Committee (new) and our Executive Management Team (new). Our newsletter looks different. The ConnAPA Board has many new faces, and many more members are participating in committee work. For the first time in

many years, we may actually fill all 5 Regional Director seats on the Board in the 2008-2009 leadership year. Things are looking up. The energy and excitement is palpable.

I invite any ConnAPA member who wishes to participate in any way, big or small, please contact the office at connapa@ssmgt.com. All of our committees have projects underway. Can you write? We need members to contribute articles to the newsletter. The Conference Planning Committee is already working on next year's conference. The Membership Committee is launching a new campaign. The 2009 Legislative session promises to be interesting for the Government Relations Committee. Join the fun!

As a verb, change can mean "to cause to be different" and "to undergo transformation or transition". As a noun, change can mean "alteration, modification, mutation, metamorphosis, transformation and transition". Change can be good or bad. It can be tough but exciting. While our mission remains the same, ConnAPA is in transition. As we modify the way we do things, we are mindful of those who have gone before us, and are engaging our former leaders for their insight and input. We are reaching out to members and asking for input. (Have you answered the survey on the web page? Go to www.connapa.org.)

We want to hear from our members. Have an idea? Send it our way. Have a criticism or complaint? Send it our way. Have a compliment? You know what to do. I look forward to hearing from you.

Happy Spring!

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DEADLINES FOR SPRING 2008

ISSUE

April 14, 2008

Please email editorial submissions to:

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Ed Hobday Named Honorary ConnAPA Member

By William Kohlhepp, DHSc, PA-C



At a recent meeting of the ConnAPA Board of Directors, Ed Hobday was approved as an Honorary Member. Having recently retired from an internal medicine practice in Cromwell, Ed will be leaving the state to enjoy time with his wife, Ann, split between Cape Cod and Florida. Ed has been practicing in Connecticut for almost 30 years, having come to the state after a 20 year career in the United States Navy.

Confident in his leadership skills accumulated as a Chief Warrant Officer (Retired), Ed immediately became active in ConnAPA. He served initially as a member, then Chair, of the Membership Committee. He then spent a number of years as a member of the Scholarship Committee (a committee that later

morphed into the Connecticut PA Foundation). He would later return to the philanthropic arm of the CT PAF as its Vice President.

He served on the Board as Treasurer from 1985 to 1987 and then served as President in 1989. Concurrently, he served on the Legislative Task Force. He also served as ConnAPA's Chief Delegate at the AAPA House of Delegates in 1990.

Ed is best known for his efforts in working with Bob Young and Rich Commaille in getting the Charter Oak Conference off the ground. He served from 1991 – 1999 as Program Manager, identifying topics and arranging for speakers. From 1997 to 1999 he was the overall Conference Manager for Charter Oak. In ad-

dition to his Charter Oak activities to educate ConnAPA members, Ed also served at the same time as Chairman of the Continuing Medical Education Committee. Ed's expertise in conference planning was recognized by the AAPA and he was appointed to the national Conference Planning Committee in 1995.

Ed's work on behalf of ConnAPA has not gone unrecognized by the organization. He is a multiple time recipient of the ConnAPA President's Award (1992, 1995, 1996). He has also received multiple citations from the Connecticut General Assembly due to his work for PAs and the citizens of the state. He received the Founders Award from the Quinnipiac PA Program.

Ed is a 1976 graduate of the Physician Assistant Program at the School of Health Care Sciences, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. He received a *Bachelor of Science*, Medical Science from the University of Nebraska Medical School.

In addition to his time in Internal Medicine with Dr. C. Brendan Montano, Ed has also worked in Orthopedic Surgery, Neurologic Surgery, General Surgery, and Occupational Medicine. With the knowledge amassed in these various committees, Ed has been a frequent presenter at Charter Oak, the AAPA Annual Conference, and in other settings.

21st Annual Charter Oak Conference

Continued from page 1

of San Antonio. We collected approximately 180 books and were also able to donate an additional \$250 so that the Host City may purchase more books according to their needs. Thank to everyone who contributed to the book drive for your generous support.

The committee works extremely hard year-round to plan this event and would love to hear from past Charter Oak attendees on ways we can even further expand and strengthen this event. We encourage all of you to contact connapa@ssmgt.com with any ideas and suggestions and look forward to any new committee members who would like to help in the planning of our 2009 conference back at the Mystic Marriott.

On a final note, I would like to personally thank all of our conference planning committee members for their voluntary work and support of this event: Justin Champagne, Brian Major, Judy Nunes, Don Solomini, Heather Tomchik, and Danielle Tabaka. I would also like to thank our new management staff for their hard work as well, especially Mitch Sorenson, Michael Thompson, and Kirsten Longley. Our event was a great success, both as an educational opportunity and a financially strong event thanks to the hard work of all these committee members and executive team. Looking forward to an even bigger and better Charter Oak Conference in 2009.



21st Annual Charter Oak Conference

Continued from page 1



AAPA Hosts "Adventures in Lobbying" 2008 - CT PA Delegation Lobbies in Washington DC by Rick Pope, MPAS, PA-C



CT PA Students Join in Lobbying Effort-Back Row Left to Right: Kevin O'hara PA-S, Ryan Makuck PA-S. Front Row Left to Right: Lisa Erskine PA-S, Jocelyn Depathy PA-S, Keith Paul PA-S

PAs from across the country recently attended "Adventures in Lobbying" sponsored by the AAPA on February 25th, and 26th. The CT delegation was led by Tricia Marriott PA-C, Jennifer Madonia-Barr, AAPA president elect Cindy Lord PA-C, David Brissette PA-C, Jonathon Weber PA-C, Rosa Gonzalez-Colas PA-C, Rick Pope PA-C and several students from Yale and Quinnipiac PA programs. Several hundred PAs attended a two day session culminating in a full day of lobbying Congressman and Senators on Capitol Hill.

The thought of lobbying Congress on national health issues

sounds somewhat intimidating. However, the AAPA took the time and effort to educate PA participants on relevant bills important to PA practice. Bill numbers, "talking points", directions on how to get to and from the Capitol buildings, and many more specifics were reviewed by PA leaders. In addition, we had the benefit of a professional lobbyist who informed us that over 10,000 bills are initiated annually and of those only 4% are enacted. 33% of the 4% are dedicated to naming places such as post offices, bridges etc. However, these facts could not sway us from speaking to politicians representing our state. Facts such as

CT PAs seeing over 3,994,077 patients in 2007 provided us with an initial confidence boost to overcome some of our trepidation. We soon learned that impacting federal elected officials was an art and requires knowing not just about the bills in front of Congress, but about the individuals themselves. For example, knowing how a particular Congressman won his district against an incumbent could help to turn a listening ear to our concerns. Framing the discussion in a way that suits the politician's goals and objectives could be critical in enlisting support. Probably the most important factor in gaining trust of legislators was described by the lobbyist as, "persistence". This could entail meeting with the official in their district at a separate time to discuss the issue. I witnessed this point when Tricia Marriott was lobbying Congressman Chris Murphy with whom she had worked on previous PA legislation at the state level. Here, a familiar face, connected with a prior PA issue, clearly had favorable impact on the discussion.

All in all the experience was a clear plus, not only for the students but for many practicing PAs. Changing laws is a slow and painstaking process. However, I believe that most of us caught a glimpse into how our democracy actually works. I for one hope that many more PAs from our state attend the next "Adventures in Lobbying" in 2010.



Advertise Here!

Each issue of ConnAPA News is mailed to nearly 600 members.

Publication Date	Deadline	Type of Publication
August	July 15th	Summer 2008 Edition
November	October 15th	Fall 2008 Edition
February	January 15th	Winter 2009 Edition
May	April 15th	Spring 2009 Edition

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Please contact Justin Champagne at
Justin_champagne@hotmail.com for more information.

News From Yale

By Lauren Swisher, PA-S & Nicholas Bonomo, PA-S

The Class of 2009 started off the year by continuing involvement in many activities on campus and within the community. Volunteering at the Haven free clinic in New Haven was continued by many PA students during the spring semester, giving those involved an opportunity to practice their patient care skills as well as to give back to the community. In addition, students continued their involvement with a local high school science class by teaching on Fridays and providing those students with a tour of the Yale anatomy lab.

The Yale PA students' big fundraising activity for the spring semester was the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. The event was held on the Yale University campus on April 12th, and "Team PA" was comprised of faculty and students from the classes of 2008 and 2009. The team was able to raise \$3,160 for the American Cancer Society, far surpassing the initial goal of \$2,000. In addition, Team PA was one of the only

teams represented throughout the relay, with team members walking continuously from 4pm to 4am.

One of the other major events for the class of 2009 was the Service of Gratitude for the Anatomy lab donors. The PA students joined the medical students to organize this service, which is a special ceremony dedicated to remembering and honoring those who donated their bodies for educational purposes. Students participated through musical performances, original poetry, and recitations in order to thank their donors for their gift.

In addition to these other events, many first year Yale PA students attended the Charter Oak Conference on Monday, March 31st. Students attended the lectures throughout the day and were also present during the business lunch.

Finally, two students from the class of 2009 have been selected

for the Downs' Fellowship through the Yale School of Medicine. Students selected for these fellowships are funded to perform research for three months in an underserved area of the world. These students must submit a proposal outlining their entire research process in order to be selected for the fellowship. Gabe Rocha will be performing research on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Israel and Megan Dieterich will be performing research on HIV nutrition in South Africa in the winter of 2009.

GRADUATES
BE SURE TO
TELL
CONNAPA
YOUR NEW
CONTACT INFO



Quinnipiac University Report

By Emily Pally, PA-S

On April 12th, 2008, the Quinnipiac University Physician Assistant Student Society held the 9th Annual Cow Chip Bingo, 10th Annual 5K Run For Your Life Road Race, and 2nd Annual Kid's Fun Run to benefit the AAPA Host City Prevention Campaign for the Children's Shelter in San Antonio, TX to promote childhood literacy. The Children Shelter provides programs such as emergency shelters, foster care, adoption, residential treatment care, child abuse prevention, and teen pregnancy pro-

grams. One hundred and fifty one runners came through the Quinnipiac University campus with many spectators and cows cheering them on as they all ran, walk and even pushed strollers for the 3.1 miles. The overall race winners were Joe Otto from Amherst, MA with a time of 17 minutes and 45 seconds and Lisa Tangredi from New Haven, CT with a time of 21 minutes and 24 seconds. Among the race winners was one of our own graduates, Kristin Marcous. After the race, it was off to Alumni Field

for the Cow Chip Bingo to cheer on three cows to help raise more money. With the help of PAs across the country and the attendees of the Charter Oak Conference, we were able to raise \$10,000 for the cause through the sale of Cow Chip Bingo and raffle basket tickets. The Cow Chip Bingo winners this year included Janice Dadio, Wendy Pally, and NCCPA President Janet Lathrop. We would like to thank everyone for their support in making our event such a huge success.



New Newsletter Editor Needed!

After eight years of dedicated service as ConnAPA's Newsletter Editor, Alison Hall has decided to step down. We look forward to her helping serve ConnAPA and Connecticut's PAs in some other capacity; but, in the meantime, we are in need of a new Newsletter Editor. The Newsletter is ConnAPA's vehicle for communication of information and ideas of importance to our members. Responsibilities include accumulating and editing of articles for the quarterly newsletter; recruiting articles and photos from members and Committee Chairs; writing articles as appropriate; submitting the articles to ConnAPA staff for final formatting for the newsletter.

Anybody interested in serving in this capacity should contact me via email at justin_champagne@hotmail.com. For more information, please visit the following website: http://www.connapa.org/about/desc_nleditor.shtml. Or to navigate to this page from the main ConnAPA website, click on "About ConnAPA", then click on "Description of officers", then click on "Newsletter Editor." We look forward to meeting with any and all candidates for the Newsletter Editor!

Sincerely,
Justin Champagne, MHS, PA-C



Legislative Report

By Tricia Marriott, PA-C

REGULATORY MILESTONE for PAs

In February 2008, the Department of Social Services released its revised Medicaid Payment Policy. ConnAPA successfully negotiated the removal of the "5 minute rule" from the Medicaid Policy. Previously, Connecticut Medicaid policy required a physician to be available onsite within 5 minutes if a PA was providing patient care/seeing patients.

IONIZING RADIATION AN ISSUE FOR CONNECTICUT PAs

The use of ionizing radiation is regulated by statute in most states. Across the country, the lack of inclusion of PAs in the statute has become increasingly troublesome for PAs, especially those using fluoroscopy in Interventional Radiology, Vascular Surgery, and Orthopaedics. Connecticut is one of those states.

According to Chapter 370 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Sec 20-12, the physician theoretically could delegate the use fluoroscopy to the PA. However, in Chapter 376e, the statutes clearly identify who is authorized to use ionizing radiation. Physician assistants are not included.

Thus, the inclusion of PAs in the Ionizing Radiation statutes will be on the ConnAPA's legislative agenda for 2009. All PAs should ensure that they have updated their e-mail address with the ConnAPA Management Office, connapa@ssmgt.com, as we will be using e-mail communications to provide timely information as this issue evolves.

Any PA that is currently experiencing

difficulties at their place of employment as a result of this issue should please contact Tricia Marriott at MarriottTBonz@sbcglobal.net.

ConnAPA Tracks Legislative Bills Important to PAs

****HB 5701, "AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO STATUTES PERTAINING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH"***, with our substitute language included in Sections 14 and 15.

Section 14, Line 379, allows physician assistants to prescribe and approve the use of durable medical equipment, and

Section 15, Line 407, adds physician assistants to the list of providers who may certify a patient's disability and then sign for disabled windshield parking placards.

****S.B. No. 507, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMISSIBILITY OF REPORTS PREPARED BY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES"***

To allow reports of physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to be admissible in evidence as business entries.

****S.B. No. 470 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHORTAGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS"***.

To establish initiatives that successfully develop, recruit and retain qualified faculty members, and support expansion of classroom and laboratory resources, with the goal of accommodating admission of all interested and qualified candidates to nursing and allied health programs; to

support acquisition of patient lifting equipment essential to patient safety, prevention of injury and retention of older health care workers; and to provide funding for a scholarship program for nursing and emergency medical technician education.

****H.B. No. 5503 "AN ACT REQUIRING AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN HEALTH CLUBS"***

To require health clubs to provide and maintain automatic external defibrillators on premises.

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CT Physician Assistant Foundation Update

By Brian Landry, President

The Connecticut Physician Assistant Foundation (CT PAF) is the non-profit philanthropic arm of the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants (ConnAPA). Since 1980, we have awarded over \$80,000 in scholarships to deserving PA students. Each year, applications are sent to all Physician Assistant programs in the country. Both Connecticut residents attending out of state programs and all Connecticut program attendees are allowed to apply. The applications are reviewed by the scholarship committee and are judged on community service, quality of narrative, and resume. Scholarship winners are announced at the annual ConnAPA business luncheon meeting at the annual Charter Oak Conference (COC). This year we awarded three \$1,000.00 and two \$750.00 scholarships.

This years scholarship recipients were:
Jason Prevelige from the Quinnipiac University Physician Assistant Program. He was awarded a

\$1,000.00 scholarship in memory of Representative Richard Belden.

The recipient of the \$1,000.00 J. Jeffrey Heinrich scholarship was Johanna Chelcun. Johanna is a member of the Quinnipiac University Physician Assistant Program.

The third \$1,000.00 scholarship went to Lauren Swisher, who attends the Yale University Physician Assistant Program.

The first recipient of a \$750 scholarship went to Andrew Turczak from the Quinnipiac University Physician Assistant Program.

Kyla Giannelli, who is currently a student at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, was the recipient of a \$750 scholarship.

During the 21st Annual COC the CT PAF received \$1,640.00 in donations. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, allow me to offer you our sincere gratitude for your do-

nation. I would also like to thank those ConnAPA members who made a donation to the CT PAF on the ConnAPA dues renewal form. For those of you who have not yet made a donation I am asking for your help in securing a donation for the 2008-2009 CT PAF Scholarship Campaign. All donations of any amount are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated! Donations can be sent to Terry O'Donnell, CT PAF, 69 North Stone Street, West Suffield, CT 06093.

I would also encourage anyone interested in becoming part of the Connecticut PAF board of trustees to contact me at BLANDRY15@cox.net. I would be more than happy to speak with you about the Foundation and your possible involvement in our organization.

Thank you again for all of your support and dedication to our profession.

Dues Increase Needed To Support Continued Services

By Bill Kohlhepp, DHSc, PA-C

At the request of the ConnAPA President, the Membership Committee discussed the possibility of increasing the ConnAPA dues in order to provide the resources needed by ConnAPA to accomplish its goals. Accounting for over three-fourths of ConnAPA's expenses, these needed resources include two key contacted services: our management firm and our lobbyist, as well as other ex-

penses of running the organization (accountant fees, insurance, office operations like printing and telephone).

In response to member suggestions, ConnAPA contracted with association management staff located in Connecticut. Prior to hiring S&S Management of Bloomfield, ConnAPA conducted a thorough search process during which

they identified the services needed for an effective state PA organization. They realized it was no longer feasible to rely on having many of those services provided by member PAs who were finding themselves increasingly busy in their practices. Thus, when we moved our association management services we looked for a more full service operation. We were fortunate to have found S&S who has now been

working with us for close to a year and they are making a huge difference in establishing a more visible presence for PAs in the state. Our other major expense is our lobbyist. As you have read in ConnAPA News, Kowalski Group has been integral to the progress we have made year after year to improve the practice and reimbursement environment for PAs in the state.

Two sources of income make up almost the entire total income budget. In past years, the amount coming from member dues exceeded that coming from Charter Oak Conference proceeds by a small amount. As it has become more and more difficult to get pharmaceutical support for speakers and other events at the conference, we have come to rely more heavily on dues dollars to support ConnAPA. Knowing that a little less than half the PAs in the state were the ones joining and supporting ConnAPA, we continued to

put off dues increases as we hoped for growth in membership numbers. To date, our growth in the membership ranks has been steady but slow while our expenditures continued to grow. At the present time, the Board faces a struggle to balance the budget and has at times needed to dip into reserves to meet expenses. It is clearly time for a dues increase.

Our last dues increase took effect five years ago (July, 2003) and before that it was another four years without an increase (January, 1999). To assure itself that ConnAPA's dues would not be out of line if increased, the committee reviewed statistics compiled by the Chair that showed the membership dues charged by other PA constituent chapters. A quick review of the webpages of other chapters shows dues ranging from \$55 to \$175. Chapters most similar in size to ConnAPA (as measured by having similar num-

ber of delegates in AAPA House of Delegates) charge from \$60 to \$150. It was agreed that a reasonable level of dues today is between \$100 and \$125. The committee recommended that the dues be raised by \$20 to \$115 effective July, 2008. However, if ConnAPA does not see increases in the number of members and we cannot draw needed revenues from Charter Oak, we may need to increase dues again in the coming years.

Thus, the Membership Committee has embarked on an Each One, Reach One campaign. We will soon be announcing details of a promotional effort that will depend on current members encouraging non-member colleagues to join. The names of those PAs who successfully recruit new members will be entered into a drawing for free registration to Charter Oak Conference. Additionally, ConnAPA logo t-shirts will be given to those PAs who recruit a number of new members. Details will be shared via e-mail so make sure ConnAPA has your e-mail address on file.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Wednesday, June 4, 2008 - Board of Directors Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport, CT

Monday, June 16, 2008 - CME Dinner

"Dermatologic Diseases Every PA Should Know"

Presented By: Jeremy Moss, MD

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Fairfield, CT

Details To Follow

Friday, June 27, 2008 - ConnAPA Annual Meeting

Details to Follow