

**ANPA 2019
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CANDIDATES**

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT ELECT

CHARLES GRINDER

Charles Grinder has been a nurse practitioner since 2016. Charles began his career as a paramedic, completing nursing school in 2001 and in 2016 completed his MSN family nurse practitioner. Charles is a charter member of our Association and currently serves a District 6 Representative for the Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association. Charles will work to progress our profession through education and legislative changes to improve patient access to quality healthcare.

Please provide three statements for why you should be elected to the ANPA Board of Directors:

- I have a heart for the future of our profession
- My experience severing with community boards well help me understand how to approach problems and develop a plan to reach our goal
- I am able to look at a problem from many angles and think outside the box.



CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT ELECT

JULIE WYLIE

My name is Julie Wylie and I am an Adult Nurse Practitioner in El Dorado Arkansas. I am currently serving ANPA as member at large. I have also been a District Four Representative for two years prior to current role. My goal is to unite NP's across the state and improve communication and networking while facilitating an educational component to my fellow NP's. Currently I am chair of membership of ANPA and am excited to see we are growing.

As my term comes to an end, I would like to continue serving the ANPA Board as President Elect. I feel my years of experience on the board can be an asset. I want to continue to see growth of ANPA by increasing membership and networking, continuing to offer up to date information on clinical practice, facilitate the start of a scholarship fund by ANPA, and working towards full practice authority for NP's in Arkansas.

I currently work in Nephrology but have a background in Cardiology. I am active in the South Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association which is a part of District Four ANPA. I would be honored to continue to serve you on the ANPA.

Please provide three statements for why you should be elected to the ANPA Board of Directors:

- Active ANPA board experience with process and goals for the future
- Excellent networking skills
- Striving to grow ANPA and achieve FPA in the years to come.



CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY

NYCOLE OLIVER

I am a dual-certified Family and Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. I graduated from the University of South Alabama's Emergency Nurse Practitioner program with both Master's and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees in 2015.

As an APRN, I have practiced as a Hospitalist and Emergency Department NP. I continue to practice in both positions, as well as work in a Primary Care clinic. I started teaching APRN students at the University of South Alabama in 2016. I have been a speaker and keynote speaker at local, state, regional, national, and international nursing and NP conferences. I am also on state and national committees and have authored in nursing textbooks and peer-reviewed journals. I have been honored with numerous awards throughout my career as an NP.

I have been functioning as the Secretary for ANPA for the past 2 years and would love to continue to serve in this capacity.

Please provide three statements for why you should be elected to the ANPA Board of Directors:

- I have been on the Board for the past 2 years and am familiar with the Association
- I am involved in local, state, and national nursing and NP organizations.
- I have been recognized at state and national levels for my work as an NP.

CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 1 REPRESENTATIVE

EMMA MURRAY

I am an Advanced Practice Nurse, licensed in Arkansas and Tennessee. My specialty is in acute care with an emphasis on neurology, cardiovascular diseases, and the elderly. I earned my Associate of Applied Science degree in nursing from East Arkansas Community College, a Bachelor of Science Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing from The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. In 2001, I earned my Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Texas Christian University

I am an Assistant Professor at UTHSC, teaching in the Adult Gerontology and Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program. For the last four years I have been the Leadership and Health Policy Faculty of Record. I maintain an active private consultative nursing practice in Arkansas. I am active in the Arkansas legislative and regularly attend legislative sessions in Arkansas and DC.

Dr. Murray is an active member of the; American Nurses Association (ANA), Arkansas Nurses Association (ARNA), Tennessee Nursing Association (TNA), and Greater Memphis Area Advanced Practice Nurses Associations (GMAAPN). I have taught at East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City, AR well as adjunct faculty for the BSN program at UAMS while earning my Master's degree.

Please provide three statements for why you should be elected to the ANPA Board of Directors:

- I will work to promote the mission and philosophy of ANPA.
- I own a small business in St. Francis County, AR.
- I am active on the state and federal level as an advocate for patients, nursing, and advanced practice nursing.

CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 3 REPRESENTATIVE

WANDA LUSK

I have 41 years of experience in the medical field, working in a hospital laboratory before beginning nursing school. I graduated from Harding University in 1997 with a BSN and from UAMS in 2010 with an MNSc in Adult Acute Care. I was employed at Little Rock Cardiology Clinic by an interventional cardiologist from 2001 until 2010. I have been employed by St. Vincent Infirmary since 2010, assisting with post-operative care of spinal and orthopedic patients. At SVI, I have served on the Nursing Congress and the Nursing Research Council. I am co-chair of the system-wide Advanced Practice Council and have served on the Orthopedic CQI Committee I am a member of the AANP and ANPA. I served as an Interim Board member of the ANPA and have served on the conference committee for two years. I have served on the Advisory Board for the Adult/Gerontology Acute Nurse Practitioner specialty at UAMS.

I have served as the District 3 representative for two years. I have developed relationships with drug representatives who have sponsored our dinner meetings. Our district has made the Arkansas Foodbank our project and we have been collecting money and food for donation at each meeting.

Please provide three statements for why you should be elected to the ANPA Board of Directors:

- I currently serve as the District 3 representative and would like to continue projects that I have started
- I live and work in Pulaski county and have a large network of friends and colleagues in Little Rock.
- I have been an APRN for 18 years with a variety of experiences.



CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 3 REPRESENTATIVE

HOLLY BUNN

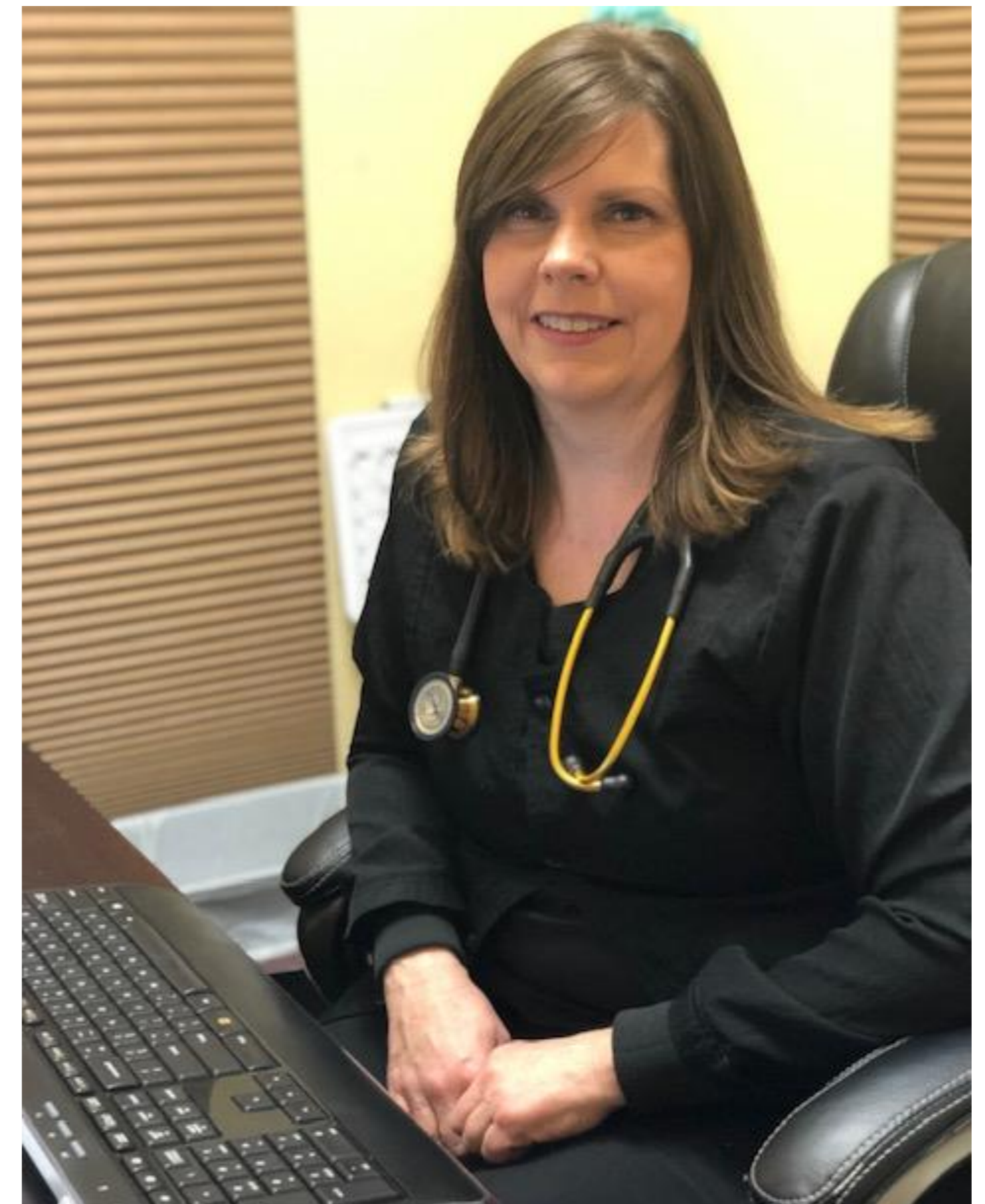
Hi everyone, I am Holly Bunn an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) certified and licensed as an Adult Geriatric Clinical Nurse Specialists (AG-CNS). I treat most all medical illness' plus offer medication assisted therapy for opioid use disorder with Suboxone and treatment for alcohol dependence with Vivitrol injections. I own and operate my own clinic called Compassionate Care Clinic, LLC in Searcy, Arkansas. I have unique knowledge regarding Veterans and illness' that affect them especially veterans of Vietnam Era, Korea, Gulf War, and Persian Gulf War. In my clinic, I seek to provide excellent care and serve as a hub in my community for people to gain knowledge of other resources available to them.

I graduated from ASU-Jonesboro with my master's in nursing in 2016. Prior to this I obtained by BSN from Jonesboro and worked for 18 years as a RN in acute care in the hospital setting. I have worked in orthopedics and pediatrics.

I am mother to 6 children (sometimes more!) and grandmother of 3 precious grand-babies. I enjoy working with women broken by addiction and freed by grace.

Please provide three statements for why you should be elected to the ANPA Board of Directors:

- I desire the best for NPs in Arkansas and am willing to do my part
- I believe collaboration with other NPs is key to all NPs success.
- I enjoy learning; I'm thankful for education activities happening in Arkansas and want to help.



CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 5 REPRESENTATIVE

DEBRA WALKER

I currently live and work in Fayetteville AR. I moved to Arkansas from Texas in 2015. I was an active member in the Texas Nurse Practitioners (TNP) Association and a founding member of the Texhoma Nurse Practitioners, which was the North Texas district for TNP.

I received my BSN from Midwestern State University in 1991 and my MSN from University of Texas at Arlington in 1996. I completed my DNP at University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis TN in 2008.

My background is emergency nursing and family practice. After many years of working for private physicians and clinics, I opened my own clinic, Quality Express Clinic in Wichita Falls. I have taught in family nurse practitioner programs since 1998 and was the Graduate Coordinator for Midwestern State University Nursing Department from 2008 – 2015.

I would love to continue to be actively involved in the Arkansas Nurse Practitioners Association and my goal is to organize the APRNs in District 5. There is so much to be done, and fun to be had, when we all come together as one voice for Arkansas.

Please provide three statements for why you should be elected to the ANPA Board of Directors:

- Currently serving as District 5 Representative and want to finish the work I started
- There are so many NP's in District 5 that are not aware of our organization or the benefits
- I believe I bring experience in recruitment and organization skills that would enhance ANPA District 5

CANDIDATE FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

JAMES BRAXTON YEAGER

I come to nursing as a second career. I completed my second bachelor's degree in the subject of nursing at the University of Arkansas to fulfill my lifelong desire to help others. I have worked for the Veterans Healthcare System of the Ozarks since the summer of 2015 where I began my career in health care. Working with our veterans has been a wonderfully rewarding, challenging, and enriching experience. My four years of working in surgery combined with my business background provide me with a unique perspective. I have held leadership roles in both my career as a nurse and in the business world. Whether in my nursing or business career I have had to be adaptable to meet the needs of accomplishing the task at hand. Being born and raised in a rural and medically underserved area in southern Arkansas, I understand firsthand how critically important it is to increase the of access to care for our fellow Arkansans. I will complete my family nurse practitioner program through Georgetown this December. I believe the advanced practice role will allow me to help address our state's needs.

Please provide three statements for why you should be elected to the ANPA Board of Directors:

- I am a hard-working flexible family nurse practitioner student with good communication and problem-solving skills.
- I have a great appreciation for the importance of nursing advocacy and desire to take a more active role.
- I have held leadership roles in both my career as a nurse and in the business world.

CANDIDATE FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

APRIL VEST

My Name is April Vest. I am currently enrolled in the MSN program FNP track at Henderson State University. I have been nominated by Dr. Kimberly Hill for the Student Representative ANPA position. I am greatly honored for this nomination. In 2019, I served as a student volunteer for the 4th Annual ANPA Spring Conference. I graduated from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Nursing in 2011 with a Bachelor's Degree in the Science of Nursing. I received my Associate of Science Degree from Pulaski Technical College. I have worked at Arkansas Children's Hospital since 2010 in many roles. I started off as a patient care technician, advanced to a Registered Nurse, and in the fall of 2018 began the journey to advance my career as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

I ask for your election into this prestigious position. I will invest my time, energy, strength, and knowledge to fulfill all duties required by the Student Representative. With my history of serving as a volunteer in the past, I am confident I can achieve excellence in this position. I am passionate about ANPA and supporting the organization.

Please provide three statements for why you should be elected to the ANPA Board of Directors:

- I would like to be a part of the “voice” for Arkansas APRNs to promote networking, health policy, and professional leadership
- I support the importance and endless need of continuing education opportunities for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.
- I believe in the importance of collaborating across divergent perspectives in the service of maximizing the ANPA organization and its mission. I am confident my volunteer experience makes me an excellent candidate for the Student Representative.



CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

JENNIFER SHULER

Jennifer Shuler is an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner with 8 years of APRN experience. She graduated from Arkansas State University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. After working in critical care for two years, she enrolled in UAMS College of Nursing in 2007 seeking a Master of Nursing Science. She graduated in 2010. She achieved national board certification as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner in March of 2011. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, as well as the Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association. With 15 years of clinical experience in various practice settings, Jennifer has worked as a nurse technician, LPN, RN, and APRN in direct patient care. In 2019, she transitioned to administration working at Adult, and Behavioral Health Services with the Treatment Team under the Arkansas Drug Director, Kirk Lane. With her provider status and varied background, she hopes to encourage other providers to become DEA waivered and provide office based opioid treatment to better the lives of Arkansans.

Please provide three statements for why you should be elected to the ANPA Board of Directors:

- After years of clinical practice without the ability to become involved, I have now been encouraged to be involved by my workplace who fully support me
- I have been trained as a member of the Junior League of Little Rock in board dynamics, leadership, and event planning.
- I deeply desire to assist in any way possible for APRNs to practice at the top of their license and provide services to those that the medical community chooses not to serve, such as substance abuse and rural patients.

CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

KAREN REYNOLDS

Karen Reynolds began her career in health care when she was only 14 years old as a junior volunteer. Since that time, she has logged nearly 30 years of experience in various areas of patient care. She even ran her own rural clinic in Elkins, Arkansas.

Karen received the American Association of Nurse Practitioners State award of excellence in 2013. In 2014 She was named, by Leslie Rutledge as the Arkansas Small Business Woman of the year, in 2015 She received Community banks Hero award, and in 2015 she was named to the top 40 Women in Business by First Security Bank. She has also received many other numerous nursing award nominations. She is also a member of Sigma Theta Tau a nursing Honor society.

Karen observed how many nurse practitioners in Arkansas did not have a professional's organization. So, in 2014 she created a team to establish the Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association. In 2016 In order to elect more Nurse practitioner friendly legislators she helped to establish the Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association PAC. This past year as legislative chair she coordinated and facilitated legislative efforts and successfully paired one nurse for every legislator.

Please provide three statements for why you should be elected to the ANPA Board of Directors:

- I am a founding member of the organization
- I have made significant contributions to the organization
- I love the Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association

CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

LEONIE DECLERK

I have been a family nurse practitioner for 20 years, and a faculty member at UAMS for 11 years. My practice has centered on the underserved and uninsured. I currently volunteer one evening a week at charitable clinic. I have served on the conference and education committees since becoming a member of Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association. In 2017, I was elected for my first term as a member-at-large, and I would be honored to serve a second term. On a state level, I also serve as co-chair of the Arkansas Nurses Association Health Policy Committee and the Arkansas Nursing Policy Round Table. During the 2019 legislative session, I was able to spend many mornings at the Capitol advocating for nursing and nurse practitioner issues. Although we were not able to obtain full practice authority this session and were subjected to inaccurate and demeaning vitriol from some opponents, we educated our legislators and got closer to the goal than we have ever been. Nationally, I co-chair the Health Policy Special Interest Group and am a member of the Faculty and Preceptor Development Committee for the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties. I am proud to be a nurse practitioner in Arkansas.

Please provide three statements for why you should be elected to the ANPA Board of Directors:

- I have a proven record of service to the nurse practitioner community in Arkansas
- I want to practice in a full practice authority state before I retire, and I believe if we work together it will be Arkansas.
- I would like to mentor other nurse practitioners to help them reach their professional goals.

CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

SARA DAMRON

Greetings fellow APRNs! I graduated with my bachelor's degree from Arkansas State University in 2011. I worked as a registered nurse in ICU, surgery, PACU, and floated to cardiac, surgical, and rehab floors. I attended the University of Tennessee where I received my Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree in 2017. I am an adult gerontology – acute care nurse practitioner currently working in a hospitalist position.

Becoming a Member- at- Large would be an honor for me because I am passionate about our profession and its growth. Our profession is forever evolving and striving for the greater good for our patients. By becoming a Member-at-large I will be involved with the Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association in any way that is needed. I have been a member of ANPA since I was a nurse practitioner student and have attended all four of the spring conferences. I was also a speaker at the 4th annual spring conference which I thoroughly enjoyed.

I hope you will consider me for one of the Member-at-Large positions. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns: nursesara.d@gmail.com

Please provide three statements for why you should be elected to the ANPA Board of Directors:

- I am passionate about our profession and believe in its continued growth.
- I have been a member of ANPA since I was a student and will continue to support my state's organization throughout my career.
- I thoroughly enjoyed being a speaker at the 4th annual spring conference, and I would like to be more involved.