



NP NEWS

Empowering Florida Nurse Practitioners as Leaders in Healthcare

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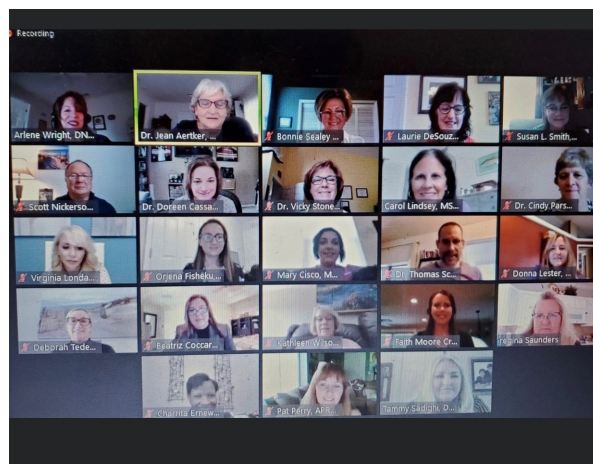
President's Message

Welcome to the FNPN

summer/Fall Newsletter!



2020 has been year for the record books! Amidst the challenges that the pandemic has presented, the FNPN BOD and conference committee members decided to transition our live annual educational conference into a virtual membership meeting that was held Saturday, 8/22/20.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our attendees, our rapid fire presenters, our committee members and the board for their support in making this a virtual event a huge success! Despite the cancellations and less than normalcy, we wanted a means to share the state of the state happenings with our members as well as make all aware of upcoming FNPN events. This was also our forum to recognize, honor and celebrate our colleagues.

This year, in lieu of our annual NP of the year award, we opted for a unique President's Humanitarian Award to honor all APRN's who have gone above and beyond during this COVID-19 war

and demonstrated that APRN's are resilient, resourceful and revered. The **NP of the Year Award** will be held and **announced for NP WEEK for November 8-14th 2020**. During our conference we also launched our **new PAC campaign** and are excited for the many ideas that will help build our PAC. We also awarded our 1st ever proclamation to our long time lobbyist, Mrs. Allison Carvajal by establishing the first day of NP week each November as the Allison Sellers Carvajal Day! This officially launches NP advocacy united whereby every NP stops and writes, calls or sends social media messages to promote our legislative agenda or send messages about practice issues. Just image the impact of 35 thousand messages going out the same day!

Our special guest, **Representative Cary Pigman**, our Champion NP Advocate since 2012. His taped message is on the FNP Website for members. We presented him with a The FNP Lifetime Appreciation Award for his Continuous Advocacy. The **Scholarship and Awards Committee** bestowed the **1st Dr. Loretta C. Ford Legacy Award to Dr. Jean Aertker** for her years of NP advocacy near and far! Congratulations Dr Aertker on this much deserved award and recognition! The **DNP Scholarship Award offering \$1000.00 was presented to Dr. Charitta Enerwein**, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, SANE for her research in the UCF PHD program. We also presented awards to Dr. Lauren Fleck for her PAC chair volunteerism and also a special video tribute to thank Dr. Doreen Cassarino for her eleven years of dedication and advocacy to FNP.

FNP also held our 2nd annual **APP Directors Virtual Conference on 8/21/2020**. This is a growing group of statewide APP directors (Hospital based and out-patient clinics) whose purpose is to define and expand this emerging leadership position giving advanced providers another seat at the healthcare table. We are excited about this group and look forward to great progress and networking. All APP Directors invited to join.

The majority of this newsletter will focus on our virtual conference **Rapid Fire Presentations** providing more depth to their robust scholarly works. One of the motivating factors in our decision to move ahead with a virtual meeting was the work that these presenters and the committee had done and the need to showcase this extraordinary talent we have within our state. We look forward to opening up our call for abstracts for 2021 in the near future!

Our conference tradition is to adopt an organization or cause and request contributions from our attendees. This year we have provided a link to the statewide **Harry Chapin Food Bank** in an effort to provide much needed resources to those in need especially during this pandemic crisis. Thanks to all who donated, it's a great help!

New in this edition, is a section we are calling the **NP Caring Corner** where will share stories from our members that bring us joy, purpose and pride! We look forward to sharing!

On behalf of the board of directors, we thank you all for everything you do each and every day and we wish all good health and wellness. Stay Safe, and as Dr. Ford says, **"Wear the mask!"**.

Arlene Wright DNP, APRN, FNP-C, FAAP

Dr. Arlene Wright, President



Dr. Loretta Ford

Executive Director's News - Jean Aertker, DNP, APRN



We warmly welcome you, our loyal members and interested NPs to our Fall Newsletter. While we follow the precautions for Covid-19, FNPN has been very active and ready to serve. Currently, we are updating policy and procedures and adding more engagement opportunities that members can enjoy. Realize in just two short years, we celebrate 20 years together so we are now at work collection our history and hope our founding members want to join our history committee for that 2022 celebration. On August 21st, we held our 2nd APP Director Network

meeting virtual. If you know an APP Director send their name so we can invite them to our state wide group to meet and share with other APP leadership-so let us know !

While I'm not traveling much for FNPN, I did attend the July grand opening of Dr. Ed Neuzil's Asthma, Allergy and Sinus Practice in The Villages with Stacia Hays and Dr. Ford. So now FNPN will add a page on our site October 1st, 2020 that makes it easier to find Florida NPs and NP Business Owners. If you hold an EIN then you are that Business Owner we want to be sure highlight. Some are consultants, others practice owners. It's hard to find us on the Internet and phone books are passé , so let get the word out. AANP has a great site, [NP FINDER](#) , AANP SPG ENTREPRENEUR and ENP NETWORK, but lit limited, Lets find a way to promote our soon to APRN-IP move away from supervision and shown our ability to better serve Floridians. In 2021 expect more programs, virtual and hopefully live,, showcasing NPs around the state and doing what we do best- NETWORKING! A membership survey will be send out soon in the Fall so please reply-. I also serve as Co-Chair of the Florida APRN Coalition. We held Advocacy Updates in July and August with New Talking points on FNPN Website -ADVOCACY PAGE and [FLCANP.ORG](#) website

Florida Legislative Update - 1st VP Vicky Stone-Gale



I am excited to begin my new role as the First Vice President of Legislation for the Florida Nurse Practitioner Network. I have been involved with Florida APRN legislation for over 27 years and am looking forward to working with our lobbyist, Allison Carvajal and all members of the FNPN

board and other APRNs across the state to continue to advance our practice forward. As we begin to think ahead to the 2021 legislative session, we will be working with the Florida Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses, and individual APRN groups and their members to decide on our legislative priorities. There are 120 Florida House seats and 20 Florida Senate seats up for election. In the Senate there were no incumbents defeated in the Primary election August 18th, and there were eight open seats where the incumbent did not file for re-election due to retiring or term limits. In the House there were three defeated incumbents (1 Republican, 2 Democrats) and there were 32 open seats where the incumbent did not file for re-election. We need to be working very closely with current legislators and these newly

elected legislators coming into office after the General Election on November 3rd to educate them on our APRN role and our legislative priorities. Preparing for the next legislative session will take all APRNs in the state to become involved by visiting your legislators at the local level and when needed in Tallahassee at the Capitol. Everyone's voice is needed, and we need to be visible during session. As one large voice we can make a difference. As a member of the Council on Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Autonomous Practice, my goal is to work with other council members (two of whom are FNP members) to make recommendations to the Board of Nursing as we move forward with implementing HB 609.

Dr. Vicky Stone-Gale, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP

THANKS TO DOREEN CASSARINO FOR 11 YEARS OF SERVICE

A special note of thanks to Doreen for all you did and especially putting your image out there on posters placed around the capital during the Legislative Session to promote the bill for Autonomous Practice. Being a Leader takes courage and the will to create change. Doreen we are proud of your efforts for all Florida APRNs! Continued success as Region 11 Director at AANP!



Dr. Doreen Cassarino

The new Council on APRN Autonomous Practice has been appointed and the first meeting on August 28, 2020 was virtual webinar with 92 participants logged on. The agenda and minutes are posted on the BON website. Watch for more updates on FNP website member pages!

NEXT MEETING IN OCT.

FNP "Caring Corner"

Mom & Daughter(s) APRNs are Super Role Models!

It's a family Affair! There is no prouder moment than when your children follow in your footsteps! After practicing for 17 years, **Dr. Vicky Stone-Gale, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP** contemplated grad school for the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree (DNP). As she was discussing this with her daughter, Dr. Jennifer Stone, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, they both thought it would be fun to pursue this degree together, so they began to research schools, chose two schools and picked University of Alabama at Birmingham for its excellent reputation. They began classes in 2009 and completed the program together in May 2011 and were the first mother-daughter graduates in the history of UAB School of Nursing. Dr. Stone-Gale is an Associate Professor in the Family Nurse Practitioner program at Frontier Nursing University and also practices in primary care at Broward Medical Associates in Plantation, FL. Dr. Stone is the NP Practicum Coordinator for all NP programs at Walden University and also practices in primary care at Healthstone Primary Care in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.



From left to right you will find: **Janessa M. Suarez**, MSN, APRN, ACNP-BC (DNP Student), **Maria A. Suarez**, DNP, MSN, APRN, ACNP-BC, **Stephanie A. Oprandi**, BSN, RN, (APRN student)



Maria A. Suarez graduated from Miami Dade Community College in 1993, BSN -Florida International University in 2001, MSN in 2006 - Barry University – Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program, and DNP 2015 from Nova SE University. Maria started her career at Baptist Hospital Miami as a LPN in 1991 and has worked in various capacities at BHSF during the last 30 years. Currently, Maria is working at Miami Cancer



Institute as Assistant VP of Nursing and Chair of BHSF Advanced Clinical Practice Council and is the Chair-Elect for Nursing Consortium of the South Florida. **Janessa M. Fuentes** (oldest daughter), is a graduate from Miami Dade College in 2005, BSN from Florida International University in 2006, MSN in 2010 from Barry University – Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program, and is currently a DNP student at Grand Canyon University. Janessa started her career at Baptist Hospital of Miami as a high school volunteer, and was hired in 2003 as a nursing assistant while attending nursing school. Janessa has worked as a Critical Care NP, Neuro Surgery NP, and currently is working at Miami Cancer Institute as a NP in the Express Symptom Management Clinic. **Stephanie A. Oprandi** (youngest daughter), is a graduate from Nova Southeastern University in 2015, and is currently an MSN student at Barry University in the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program. Stephanie is currently working as a Registered Nurse at Baptist Hospital of Miami in the Critical Care Unit. **Have stories to share? FNP can feature you too!**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: August 2020 Cindy Parsons

This is my final message to you as FNP Membership Director. I have enjoyed the last 4 years and working with a fabulous Board of Directors. I will continue to be involved and look forward to helping develop our new leadership. Thank you all for the support you give to FNP. 2020 has been a memorable year. We made some real gains towards Full Practice Authority and will continue to monitor the Florida Board of Nursing as it creates the APRN-IP application, qualifications and standards of practice. Covid-19 continues to be unpredictable and prevalent, but nurses and APNs are working hard and learning how to provide the best care possible while maintaining the best infection control possible.

Below I want to highlight the activities of some of the NP councils around the state:

South Florida Council of Advanced Practice Nurses provided community support to 2 very special organizations during the Covid pandemic. The Council donated funds to The Pantry of Broward and the JFS Essential Needs Fund for Covid 19 by providing cash donations and Publix gift cards to those families in need. We are honored to have members that support these efforts so we are able to help those in need.

Tampa Bay Advanced Practice Nurses Council provided community support to 2 very special organizations (Feeding Tampa Bay and Metropolitan Ministries) through

cash donations during the Covid pandemic. We were also able to provide financial assistance to some members who were significantly impacted economically.

Nurse Practitioners of Lee County were very active with food drives for the Harry Chapin Food Bank and a recent school supply drive.

Tallahassee Area Council of APNS: On 5/27, 5/28, and 5/29, CAPN will be providing baskets to nurses on the front-line at TMH to show our gratitude for their hard work now and always. Early May -Super excited to share that CAPN provided 143 meals from Tally Mac Shack to Capital Regional Medical Center last night. We are very grateful for all of our frontline healthcare workers during this pandemic and always. Included was environmental services, respiratory therapy and imaging.

Everyone plays a role in patient care!

FNPN membership continues strong and thank you to our long term members who continue to support and renew membership annually. Your membership has benefits and please visit the website to check out some of our new CE offerings. This year will be an interesting legislative year, we made some very good gains in 2020 but we still have long way to go. Your membership supports our legislative and advocacy efforts. Thank each and everyone of you for the efforts you are making on the front line of this pandemic. Take care of yourself as we need each one of you.

The link below has some very good resources for you and your mental health.

<https://afsp.org/taking-care-of-your-mental-health-in-the-face-of-uncertainty/>

REGION NEWS: It's all about Our Members!

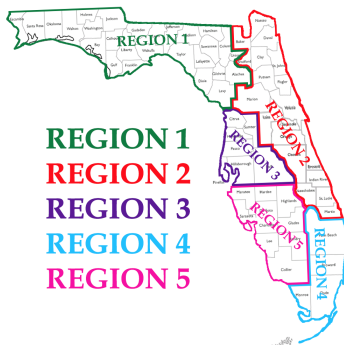
Around the State: Region Directors

What Region am I assigned to? Click Here!

Be sure to click here for the FNPN calendar of upcoming events.

Current NP groups: Resources that are available to you from FNPN:

1. Are you in need of meeting ideas or sponsors?
2. Growing your groups board or recruiting people to fill your board positions.
3. Ideas for community outreach to enhance APRN's viability
4. Creating speaker panel available for media outlets to contact for experts opinions.
5. Group promotional merchandise resources
6. Political involvement how FNPN can help your group get involved.
7. Leadership resources



Region 1 Director: Kathleen Wilson

Tallahassee: Dr. Deb Danforth, DNP, ANP, FAANP to serve as the 1st NP President of the Florida Geriatric Society beginning August 29, 2020. The Florida Geriatric Society is a nonprofit (501c6) organization devoted to improving the quality of life and advancing the

health care of older adults through education, research, networking and improving public awareness of professionals involved with caring for the elderly living in Florida. Members represent an array of healthcare professionals including, MD's, DO's, DNP's, APRN's, PharmD's, RN's, PA's & LCSW's. Members are affiliated with independent, private practices, hospitals, group practices, and many facilities. Another "first" honor for Deb!

floridageriatricssociety.org

Gainesville: Congratulations to Dr. Stacia Hays on your election as Treasurer to the National NAPNAP BOD and Welcome to the FAANP!

Welcome New NP Businesses - Grand Openings Announced!

Dr. Ed Neuzil, PhD, APRN, owner of Allergy, Sinus and Asthma, announced the opening of his second office at 2793 Brownwood The Villages Florida. Ed held a "soft opening" in July for his brand new location with **Dr. Shannon Messer, DNP, APRN FNP-C** as the provider with a staff ready for local patients and new referrals. **Dr. Loretta Ford, co-founder of NPs celebrated the grand opening ceremony with Ed by cutting the ribbon** and is pleased to see successful NP practice in her community!



Monica Barfield, APRN, MSN, AGACNP-BC opened a new clinic in Port St Joe called "New Horizon Primary Care". Her grand opening made the Tallahassee news in the Florida House Of Representatives on July 6th. Opening day was filled with emotion as Monica's dream came true to be a NP owner and hopefully soon an Independent NP to serve her community but also a sense of relief that she was able to rebuild following the devastation from H.Michael she and her family faced in 2017. **Congratulations! You did it!**

Region 2 Director: Susan Smith

Thanks to all for presenting your rapid fire presentations during our virtual conference. It was a pleasure to work with such great leaders. We wanted to make sure all had an opportunity to see the work of our members who presented in "8" minute sessions their great work so you can contact them if any questions or gather more information about the topics. The Program Committee included: Dr. Susan Smith, Dr. Cindy Parsons, Dr. Donna Lester, and Dr. Vicky Stone-Gale

CLICK HERE FOR RAPID FIRE PRESENTATIONS

1. Faith More Cruz, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, ENP C Fam08c@my.fsu.edu “A quality improvement project to improve screening for victims of Human Trafficking in the Emergency Department”
2. Tammy Sadighi, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, MBA tsadighi@fgcu.edu and Virginia Londahl Ramsey DNAP, CRNA, ARNP, CHSE. “ What are we missing? Perioperative Clearance in the Primary Care Setting”
3. Deborah Tedesco, DNP. APRN, ANP-BC, AP-PMN, CWS, CWCN-AP Debtedesco17@yahoo.com “Limiting opioid prescriptions while managing surgical pain”
4. Laurie DeSouza, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC ldmd@comcast.net “Preventing readmissions: Utilizing a Nurse Practitioner led transitional educational tool in Medicare patients in a primary care setting”
5. Carol Lindsey, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP carollindsey@gmail.com “Climate change: Implications for Nurse Practitioners”
6. Beatriz Coccoaro-Word, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, CWS beacoccoaro@gmail.com “Reducing facility acquired pressure injuries at Skilled Nursing Facilities”
7. Orejana Fisheku, DNP, APRN, FNPBC ofishek@eagle.fgcu.edu “ Obstructive sleep apnea: Quality improvement project to identify patients in the Primary Care”
8. Bonnie Sealey, MSN, APRN, ACNP-BC, AACC, FHRS bsealey1@comcast.net “PACE: Program of all- inclusive care of the elderly

REGION 3: Donna Lester

All local NP groups in Region 3 remain on COvid Precautions and not meeting live. 13th Annual Polk County Advanced Practice Education Symposium goes VIRTUAL too schedule for September 18! Tampa Bay Advanced Practice Nurse Council has two scholarships left for 2020 (1 MS, 1 DNP/Ph.D.) so please apply by the new deadline of **October 16, 2020.**

REGION 4 DIRECTOR: Jennifer Kuretski

President Mark Foneca and members of the Nurse Practitioner Council of Miami-Dade found a great way to interview political candidates for local and state offices. Alex Penelas is running for Miami-Dade County Mayor for this 2020 election and was invited on a ZOOM meeting held 8/15/20 for discussing his platform with a Q&A for NPs. Great idea Miami NPs! Mr. Penelas was introduced to the NP team at Sylvester Cancer and He valued the time they spent with him and his family members. NPs make these personal connections every day...let folks know what NPs need in this State. You may find new supporters for our mission this way as we all increase our NP NETWORK!

REGION 5 DIRECTOR: Bonnie Sealey

Lee County NPS continue to seep the Food Banks and local Charities, Its time to give back to our communities and help those who are hit hardest by Covid. Most groups have not meet live, let us know when your groups will resume monthly meetings with masks on of course!

