

FEBRUARY 2026

# Winter-Spring Newsletter

## NPARI PAC EVENT - SAVE THE DATE!

The Government Affairs Committee of the *Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Rhode Island* works to stay current on legislation and regulations affecting nurse practitioner practice across the state.

We review policy, issue formal statements, and engage directly with the State House and the Department of Health to ensure the NP voice is heard where decisions are made. If we do not help shape the future of our profession, it will be defined for us by other stakeholders.

**Join us for our networking and fundraising event to support our Political Action Committee funds at 6:00 PM on March 10th at Track 15 in Providence—your presence truly matters.**



## Letter from the President

Dear NPARI Members,

As we turn the page on another year, I want to take a moment to reflect with gratitude and look ahead with excitement. This past year has been a testament to the strength, dedication, and professionalism of Nurse Practitioners across Rhode Island. Your commitment to providing high-quality, compassionate care continues to uplift our patients, their families, and our communities. You have shown resolve in protecting access to our care and professional practice.

In the year ahead, NPARI is dedicated to expanding opportunities for you to grow, connect, and thrive. We're excited to bring you Continuing Education (CEUs), an engaging educational and practice relevant healthcare conference, and ongoing support of our professional practice through advocacy. Together, we'll continue strengthening the role of Nurse Practitioners as leaders in healthcare and as vital voices for our patients and our profession.

Thank you for your ongoing support, engagement, and passion for advanced practice nursing in Rhode Island. Your work makes a meaningful difference every day.

On behalf of the NPARI Board, I wish you a bright, healthy, and fulfilling New Year. Here's to continued collaboration, learning, and progress in 2026!

Warm regards,  
Anne Neuville, DNP, APRN-CNP, FNP-BC  
NPARI President

# Announcements from AANP

From our Legislative Liaison: Olajumoke Adetunji, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

- **Applications for the 2026 AANP Communities Pilot Survey Program Open**

AANP Communities Pilot Survey Program is accepting applications. This is an opportunity for researchers and students to collect data from members of up to three AANP Communities. Applications close on Feb. 15, and AANP will send out acceptance notifications on March 31. While AANP cannot guarantee specific response rates or total completions, offering respondents \$5-\$10 is strongly recommended and recognized as a best practice to boost participation and honor their time. Link: <https://www.aanp.org/about/about-the-american-association-of-nurse-practitioners-aanp/partners/engage-with-nps/data-collection/guidelines-aanp-communities-pilot-survey-program>

- **Take the NP Nutrition Education Survey**

AANP is exploring a new nutrition program and invites NPs to share their interest and learning needs. Take this quick three-minute survey to tell us how nutrition fits into your practice and whether you'd like to participate in future program opportunities. Your feedback will help shape nutrition education and resources designed for NPs. Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T5SDCW7>

- **Submit Your Nominations for the 2026 AANP National Leadership Awards**

The AANP National Leadership Awards – the Sharp Cutting Edge Award and the Towers Pinnacle Award – recognize the achievements of individuals who have made a positive difference for NPs and their patients nationally or internationally. These awards spotlight the powerful impact of AANP members who shine a light on professional excellence and affirm the value of their contributions to the profession. Submit your nomination before March 3, 2026. Link: <https://www.aanp.org/news-feed/aanp-seeks-nominations-for-prestigious-2026-national-leadership-awards>

- **New Podcast Available from AANP: Delivering Solutions for Pharmacy Deserts.**

Family NP Hiva Kolondrubetz and Tess Carey, senior pharmacist and clinical advisor at Amazon Pharmacy, tackle the concerns NPs face when getting their patients to not only receive but also successfully take their prescribed medications. Link: <https://www.aanp.org/podcast>

## 2026 AANP HEALTH POLICY CONFERENCE

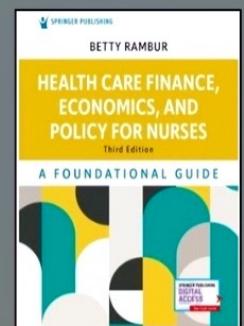
**Registration is still open for the National Health Policy conference:  
Feb. 8-10, 2026, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington D.C.  
CE: Approximately 16.5 CH of CE credit.**

Rhode Island brings a very special speaker to the conference session: Unleashing the Full Power of Nurse Practitioners: Navigating Payment Policy, Cost Containment, and Innovation in the US Health Care System—Now is Our Time! led by **Dr. Betty Rambur**. The presentation details the powerful moment NPs are in to shape health care financing, payment, and value—rather than simply reacting to it. The session will unpack why national health expenditures continue to grow, why traditional market forces have failed to improve outcomes or lower costs, and how waste, low-value care, and misaligned incentives drive both patient hardship and practitioner frustration. It will also highlight what is changing in Medicare payment models, rural health investments, prescription drug policy, and value-based initiatives, and why these shifts matter profoundly for nurse practitioners' daily practice and longterm influence.

Most importantly, the session is designed as a practical call to action. Concrete strategies will be shared for nurse practitioners to lead in value-based care, make their contributions visible in terms of outcomes and cost stewardship, and "invite themselves to the table" in policy and payment conversations where their voices are urgently needed. From chronic care and telehealth to institutional special needs plans and rural health transformation, nurse practitioners are uniquely positioned to translate value for patients, payers, and communities. This window of opportunity is too important to sit out.



Pictured Above: Betty Rambur, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Professor of Nursing URI and Routhier Endowed  
Chair for Practice  
Professor Emerita, University of Vermont  
Also Author of:  
*Health Care Finance, Economics and Policy for  
Nurses: A Foundational Guide*  
and  
*Mastering Healthcare Regulation: A  
Comprehensive Case Study Approach*



## NPARI Member Highlight



## Sarah Shaw, MSN, APRN-CNP, FNP-BC

Sarah Shaw is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner currently working in primary care with Care New England Medical Group. Her background includes years in the emergency department and serving as a Nursing Supervisor at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, experiences that shaped her practical, calm approach to patient care.

Sarah lives in West Warwick, Rhode Island, with her husband and their four children. She values honest conversations, preventive care, and making healthcare feel approachable, realistic, and patient-centered.

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE

from DENISE COPPA, PhD, APRN-CNP, FNP-C, FAAN

As we patiently wait for the legislative session to move forward, the committee met on January 6, to plan our agenda for the year. To date, here are the bills of interest to NPs:

1. H-7171 that would prohibit any provider from securing payment in any form from patients before they are seen.
2. H-7029 that would limit RNs from doing home based foot care without extra training. Plus they would need to be supervised by a provider (MD or NP) to perform the care.

- Most importantly the Dept of Health has issued regulations that would limit NPs from administering certain sedating medications without direct supervision. There will be public hearings on this and we will let you know.
- The Care Transformation Committee is determining whether the provider preceptor reimbursement budget item will be extended to a second year. We will keep you informed!
- Lastly, we have been toying with 2 ideas:
  - To float a payment reform bill that would equalize 3rd party payments among physicians, NPs and PAs
  - A bill that would garner state funds to establish nurse practitioner residences.

## RI DOH Appoints Terri Maine on the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Board

Terri has been appointed this new position. She is taking the place of Denise Coppa as she completes her term.

We appreciate all Dr. Coppa has done for the advisory board. We are looking forward to Terri's contributions with her extensive expertise and qualifications.





# NPARI Annual Symposium

## March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

### Emerging Trends in Healthcare for Advanced Practice

NPARI's Education Committee continues planning our annual conference, working to provide you with a day filled with dynamic presentations by seasoned specialists, great food, and the opportunity to meet a variety of vendors as you touch base with old friends and new colleagues. It brings together NPARI members (and non-members) to collaborate for a one day educational event.

*Emerging Trends in Healthcare for Advanced Practice* is designed to provide evidenced-based knowledge of the latest treatments, interventions, techniques, and drug updates related to improving clinical practice.

**CONFERENCE DATE: SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2026**

**TIME: FROM 7:00 A.M. (REGISTRATION) TO 4:30 P.M.**

**LOCATION: KIRKBRAE COUNTRY CLUB, 197 OLD RIVER ROAD, LINCOLN, RI.**

**CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS: 7.0 HOURS (PHARMACOLOGY CES PENDING AANP REVIEW).**

**REGISTRATION AND AGENDA: PLEASE VISIT THE NPARI WEBSITE FOR DETAILS. (EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DISCOUNT WILL BE AVAILABLE).**

Agenda topics:

- Drug Updates
- Diabetes and CKD
- Menopause
- Mens' Health
- Heart Failure Treatment (updated guidelines)
- The latest on Healthcare Policy and Reimbursement, Federal and State legislation as it affects us—nurse practitioners!

Join us starting at breakfast, through lunch, snacks and vendor engagement!

This event is our biggest and only fund raiser each year which supports our NPARI scholarships! Share a little bit of your time to support **YOUR ONLY LOCAL NP ADVANCED PRACTICE ORGANIZATION**.

**Ready to be on the Education Committee? Want to bring your ideas to the table?** The Education Committee needs more member help! We have monthly 1-hour Zoom meetings from Sept to June. Inquiries to email: [marycetn@aol.com](mailto:marycetn@aol.com) OR [npariassistant@gmail.com](mailto:npariassistant@gmail.com)

#### Additional Events and Meetings to date (followed by Summer Recess July-Sept)

*Further member dinner meetings, social events, PAC events, and PR/Communications meetings:*

TBD - see website

NPARI General Assembly Meetings	<b>3/2 and 5/4</b>	7 PM via Zoom
NPARI Education Committee Meetings	<b>2/4 and 2/18</b>	7 PM via Zoom
NPARI PAC Fundraiser - Social	<b>March 10th</b>	6 PM - Track 15, Providence
AANP National Conference 2026	<b>June 23-June 27, 2026</b>	Las Vegas, NV

**SUBSCRIBE TO EMAILS TO STAY TUNED FOR MORE EVENT DATES!**

  <a href="http://npari.enpnetwork.com">npari.enpnetwork.com</a>	 <b>@NPARIpage</b>
	 <b>@NP_alliance_RI</b>