



ARKANSAS NURSE PRACTITIONER ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Newsletter



To Unite, Support, Educate, And Enhance The Professional Identity Of Nurse Practitioners



ARKANSAS NURSE PRACTITIONER ASSOCIATION



In this Issue

- A Message from Our President
- 2026 ANPA Annual Conference
- 2027 ANPA Annual Conference
- 2026 AANP Annual Conference
- Congratulations!
- 2026-2027 Board Member Nominations
- District Updates
- Health Policy Committee Report
- Get Involved- Volunteer with Us!
- Education Committee Report
- Loretta Ford Scholarship
- Webmaster Committee Report
- Member Spotlights
- Student Representative Report
- Unexxa Partnership
- UARK & UAMS Nursing Research Day
- NP Business Owners Monthly Meeting
- Upcoming Events & Ongoing Opportunities

A Message from the President



Dear ANPA Members and Colleagues,

What an incredible spring it has been for the Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association! I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who registered for and attended our 2026 Annual Conference in Hot Springs this past April. Your energy, engagement, and commitment to our profession made this event an overwhelming success.

This year's conference truly raised the bar. We welcomed over 200 attendees for the main conference and an additional 74 participants for the preconference sessions. Even more exciting, we set a new record with 72 vendor exhibit booths—the largest exhibit hall in ANPA history. The growth we are seeing is a direct reflection of the strength and momentum of nurse practitioners across Arkansas.

An event of this scale and quality does not happen without an extraordinary team behind the scenes. I would like to extend heartfelt appreciation to our Board of Directors, Conference Committee, Education Committee, and the many dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring this conference to life. Your efforts made a lasting impact and created an experience that will stay with attendees long after the event concluded.

As we move into summer, many of you are preparing to attend the AANP National Conference in June. While our state conference may be smaller in size, I firmly believe that the content, networking opportunities, and sense of community we foster here in Arkansas are on par with—and may even exceed—what is offered on the national stage. That is something we can all take pride in.

Summer also marks an important time for ANPA as we begin our call for nominations for leadership positions within the organization. This year, we will be accepting nominations for the following roles: President-Elect, Treasurer, even-numbered District Representatives, Student Representative, and three Member-at-Large positions. Additionally, we will be adding a special one-year term for a District 5 Representative. If you have been considering becoming more involved in ANPA, or if you know a colleague who would be a strong leader, I encourage you to submit a nomination. Your voice and leadership are vital to our continued growth and success.

Thank you again for your ongoing support, dedication, and passion for advancing nurse practitioner practice in Arkansas. I hope each of you enjoys a fun, safe, and relaxing summer.

Sincerely,
Rebekka Amick
MN, APRN, AGCNS-BC, AGPCNP-BC
ANPA President

2026 ANPA Annual Conference



The 2026 ANPA Annual Conference, "Game Changers: NPs Leading the Way to a Healthier Arkansas," was an outstanding success, bringing together nurse practitioners, healthcare leaders, educators, students, exhibitors, and advocates from across the state in Hot Springs, Arkansas on April 16-18. The conference featured two full days of engaging educational programming, inspiring keynote presentations, legislative and policy updates, hands-on clinical workshops, poster presentations, networking opportunities, and an expansive vendor expo showcasing innovation in healthcare.

Attendees participated in sessions covering entrepreneurship, coding and billing, antimicrobial stewardship, rural healthcare, mental health, menopause management, obesity treatment, opioid screening, point-of-care ultrasound, suturing workshops, and emerging clinical therapies. Conference highlights included presentations from national and state leaders, including Valerie Fuller, President of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, as well as advocacy-focused discussions designed to strengthen and advance NP practice throughout Arkansas.

The event welcomed 74 preconference registrations, 201 general conference attendees and 72 total vendors and exhibitors.

ANPA sincerely thanks all speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, poster presenters, volunteers, and attendees whose support and participation helped create a collaborative, educational, and memorable conference experience. We look forward to welcoming you all to the 2027 ANPA Annual Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, April 1–3, 2027, as we continue advancing nurse practitioner practice and improving healthcare across our state.





Please note that conference evaluation surveys have been emailed to all attendees and vendors. We encourage you to check both your inbox and spam folder for the survey link. If you are unable to locate the email, please contact us at director@anpassociation.org for assistance.

ANPA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our student volunteers who helped make the 2026 ANPA Annual Conference a success. Your time, energy, professionalism, and willingness to serve played an important role in creating a positive experience for our attendees, speakers, and vendors.



We truly appreciate your dedication and support. Thank you for being part of this event and for helping ANPA continue to grow and thrive.

2027 ANPA Annual Conference



Join us in Little Rock for ANPA 2027 Annual Conference

SAVE THE DATE
April 1 - 3, 2027



Scan the QR code to register

[Click Here to Register](#)

2026 AANP Annual Conference



June 23, 2026 – June 27, 2026 | Las Vegas, Nevada

CE: Approximately 32 CH of CE credit

AANP accreditation review to designate CH is underway.



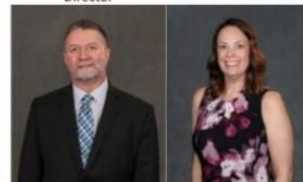
Are you attending the AANP National Conference? ANPA members are encouraged to connect with our AANP Liaison, Nycole Oliver, before the conference. By emailing aanpliaison@anpassociation.org, you can stay informed about any Arkansas state gatherings, networking opportunities, and events taking place throughout the conference. We look forward to connecting with fellow Arkansas nurse practitioners while at AANP!

Meet your colleagues in Las Vegas at the most impactful nurse practitioner conference of 2026!

Your Local AANP Officials

AANP Region 6
Director

Arkansas State Liaison



Robert Metzger, DNP,
MBA, APRN, FNP-BC

Nycole D. Oliver, DNP,
MBA, MSN, APRN,
RN, FNP-C,
ACNPC-AG, ENP-C,
CEN, FAEN

[2026 AANP National Conference Link](#)

Congratulations!

2026 Outstanding Nurse Practitioner

Ginger Holloway
DNP, APRN, FNP/ AGACNP-BC

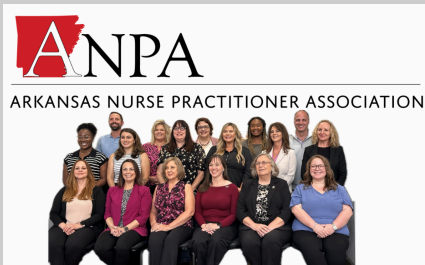


2026 Spring Educational Grant Recipient

Megan Reid



2026-2027 Board Member Nominations



Nominations to serve on the ANPA Board of Directors for the 2026–2027 term will open June 1, 2026, and remain open through June 30, 2026. If you are interested in serving on the ANPA Board of Directors or know someone who would be a great fit, we encourage you to submit a nomination during this time.

Open positions for this election cycle include:

- President-Elect
- Treasurer
- District 2 Representative
- District 4 Representative
- District 5 Representative (1-year term)
- District 6 Representative
- Member-at-Large (3 positions)
- Student Representative

Candidate Qualifications

- Must have been an active ANPA member in good standing for the past year.
- Please refer to the **ANPA Bylaws** for additional information regarding qualifications and responsibilities for specific positions.
- All required nomination materials and supporting documents must be submitted by June 30, 2026.

[Click Here: To Nominate Yourself](#)

[Click Here: To Nominate Another Individual](#)

District Updates



District 1 Representative:
Jessica Matthews
MSN, APRN, FNP-C

No upcoming events at this time.
Stay tuned for more information on future meetings, educational programs, and networking opportunities.



District 3 Representative:
Nan Means
MSN, APRN, FNP-BC

Upcoming Events:

June 11, 2026 | 6:30 PM | Samantha's Tap Room | Ubelvy Educational Program

July 9, 2026 | AMGEN Program | Details to be announced.

Tri-Lakes Nurse Practitioner Association (TLNPA) – Hot Springs:

June 10, 2026 | 6:00 PM | 501 Prime | Ubelvy Educational Program

July 16, 2026 | AMGEN Program | Details to be announced



District 2 Representative:
Katrena Wilson
MNSc, APRN, AGACNP-BC

No upcoming events at this time.
Stay tuned for more information on future meetings, educational programs, and networking opportunities.



District 4 Representative:
Christy Wust
APRN, FNP-C

No upcoming events at this time.
Stay tuned for more information on future meetings, educational programs, and networking opportunities.



District 6 Representative:
Mark Foster
DNP, APRN, NP

June 16, 2026 | 6:00 PM CT
Chow at One Eighteen
118 North Pruett Street
Paragould, AR 72450
ZAVZPRET® (zavegepant) Live Speaker Program
Migraine Management

District 5 Update:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our District 5 Representative, Mary Lunsford, has stepped down from her position on the ANPA Board of Directors. We extend our sincere gratitude to Mary for her dedication, service, and contributions to ANPA and Arkansas nurse practitioners.

District 5 events will continue as planned. Until the position is filled, board members will assist with District 5 activities and member support. If you need assistance, please contact Caitlin DeVore at director@anpassociation.org.

Upcoming Events:

June 10, 2026 | 6:00 PM| Abuelo's Mexican Restaurant – Rogers, AR

Informal roundtable discussion on asthma guidelines and current treatments hosted by Jay Huff. This will be a small group discussion (5–10 attendees).

Late June 2026 (Date TBD) | Northwest Arkansas| GeneSight Dinner Program

A dinner event is being coordinated with Brandi from GeneSight. Additional details, including the date and location, will be shared once finalized. **More information to come**

Health Policy Committee Report

The Health Policy Committee continues to work to finalize ANPA's legislative agenda for the 2027 legislative session. Our goal is to develop a focused, member-driven policy platform that strengthens access to care, supports APRN practice, and advances the health of Arkansans across the state.

We are also excited about the continued growth of the NP Ambassador Program and the valuable relationships that are being built between nurse practitioners and their legislators. These connections are critical to ensuring policymakers understand the important role NPs play in expanding access to high-quality healthcare, particularly in Arkansas's rural and underserved communities.

Since our last newsletter, ANPA has remained engaged in the regulatory process by submitting comments to the Arkansas Department of Education

regarding the recent professional degree rule changes, as well as to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing concerning proposed delegation rules.

These opportunities allow us to ensure that the voice of Arkansas nurse practitioners is represented whenever decisions affecting our profession are being considered.

We encourage all Arkansas NPs to become involved in health policy and advocacy. Meaningful change happens when healthcare professionals share their expertise and experiences with policymakers. If you are interested in joining the NP Ambassador Program or becoming part of the growing team of nurse practitioners working to connect with legislators and make a difference in Arkansas healthcare, please contact us at healthpolicy@anpassociation.org.

Together, we can strengthen the NP profession and help shape the future of healthcare in Arkansas.



Neil Langer, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CHC
Health Policy Committee Co-Chair



Karen Reynolds, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
Health Policy Committee Co-Chair

Get Involved– Volunteer with Us!

Looking for a way to make a difference? Join us to learn more about our volunteer opportunities! Whether you're looking for a small way to give back or want to dive into committee work, there's a place for you. The Health Policy Committee & Webmaster Committee are especially in need of volunteers — come find out how you can help support their important work!

Scan the QR Code or click the [link](#) to get involved!



Education Committee Report

Thank you to our outstanding conference speakers and poster presenters who generously shared their time, expertise, and knowledge at the 2026 ANPA Annual Conference. With so many engaging and informative topics offered, choosing which sessions to attend was no easy task. We also extend special appreciation to the presenters who recorded their breakout sessions, providing additional continuing education opportunities for attendees.

CE certificates were emailed to attendees over Memorial Day weekend for evaluations completed by May 20. Updated certificates will continue to be emailed approximately monthly as additional recorded sessions are viewed and evaluated. Please check your spam if you did not receive your CE certificate.

To complete evaluations in the ANPA App, click on the *Agenda*, select the session date and title, and complete the survey attached to the session.

Nine one-hour recorded breakout sessions are also available. These sessions are free for conference attendees and available to non-attendees for a reduced registration fee of \$50.

- **Conference attendees: Access recordings through the *Recorded Sessions* icon in the ANPA App. After viewing each session, please complete the attached evaluation in the app or use the evaluation link provided next to the recording.**
- **Recorded sessions only registrants: You will receive a document containing links to the recordings and evaluations.**

Coming soon: online opioid continuing education opportunities. Watch your email and ANPA social media channels for additional details.

We welcome your feedback and ideas for future educational offerings. If you have recommendations for topics, speakers, or ways to enhance the educational experience at the 2027 ANPA Annual Conference, please email education@anpassociation.org.

Leonie DeClerk PhD, DNP, APRN,
FNP-BC, FAANP
Immediate Past-President
ANPA Education Chair



Loretta Ford Scholarship

EMPOWER THE NEXT GENERATION OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Dr. Loretta Ford Scholarship Fund

Honoring Dr. Loretta Ford's legacy of leadership, compassion, and excellence in nursing.

Your gift helps future nurse practitioners achieve their dreams and make a difference in the lives of others.

GIVE TODAY
Invest in their future.
CHANGE LIVES.

Scan to Give!

INSPIRE | EDUCATE | EMPOWER

ANPA
ARKANSAS NURSE PRACTITIONER ASSOCIATION

As we continue supporting the future of the nurse practitioner profession, we encourage our members to consider giving to the Dr. Loretta Ford Scholarship Fund. This scholarship honors the legacy of Dr. Loretta Ford, co-founder of the nurse practitioner role, and helps support future NPs as they pursue their education and leadership goals. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps invest in the next generation of nurse practitioners and strengthens the future of healthcare in Arkansas and beyond. Donations to the fund are also tax deductible.

[Click Here to Give](#)

Webmaster Committee Report

Webmaster Member Update

As we continue supporting Arkansas nurse practitioners through every stage of professional practice, the Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association (ANPA) website remains one of the most valuable tools for information and communication.

Ongoing ASBN Anonymous Q&A

Our Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) Anonymous Q&A continues to be a valuable resource for members seeking clarification on practice questions, licensure requirements, scope concerns, and regulatory guidance. We are grateful for Dr. Shannon McKinney's support and ongoing commitment to this great resource. Questions may be submitted anonymously, and responses are posted weekly to help all members benefit from shared information and common concerns. When contact information is provided, responses are shared directly with the individual submitting the question.

We encourage members to review the latest questions and responses available on our website. If you have a question, please submit it via this link: [Submit an Anonymous Q&A Question](#)

Member Spotlights

We are proud to continue featuring outstanding ANPA members from across Arkansas through our Member Spotlight series. These highlight professional accomplishments, leadership, innovation, community service, and mentorship within our community.

Spotlights include:

- [ANPA NP Business Owner Members](#)
- [ANPA Members](#)
- [ANPA NP Student Members](#)

To nominate a colleague or submit a spotlight feature, please visit the links above.

Updated Website Resources

From feedback received at the Annual Conference, the ANPA website has been updated to improve navigation and access to frequently requested ASBN forms and guidance documents related to advanced practice and Full Independent Practice.

For convenience, members can easily access some of the commonly requested ASBN information links such as APRN licensure application checklist, independent practice requirements, and regulatory resources via the Arkansas State Board of Nursing on Advanced Practice section of the ANPA website. Some of the links include

- [Initial APRN licensure checklist](#)
- [Independent Practice Hours Affidavit](#)
- [Advanced Practice Rules and regulations](#)
- [Continuing education requirements](#)
- [Prescriptive Authority | Collaborative practice guidance](#)

We encourage all members to periodically review the website for updates, guidelines/links, new guidance documents, and important announcements.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the nursing profession and for serving the citizens of Arkansas with excellence.

Julia Ponder, DNP, AGACNP-BC,
FNP-C, CEN
ANPA Webmaster Chair



Member Spotlights

ANPA ARKANSAS NURSE PRACTITIONER ASSOCIATION
NOMINATIONS *Are Open!*

Do you know a deserving nurse practitioner, nurse practitioner business owner, or nurse practitioner student who deserve recognition?
Scan the appropriate QR code below or [click the link](#) to recognize them.

NP BUSINESS OWNER SPOTLIGHT Calling all NP business owners! ANPA wants to spotlight your business and the impact you're making in Arkansas. PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS CONNECT WITH NPS GAIN VISIBILITY Scan me!	MEMBER SPOTLIGHT We're celebrating our members! Share your story and help inspire fellow nurse practitioners across Arkansas. SHARE YOUR JOURNEY INSPIRE FELLOW NPS CELEBRATE OUR PROFESSION Scan me!	STUDENT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Calling all ANPA student members! Let us spotlight you and the bright future you're building in healthcare. SHARE YOUR JOURNEY INSPIRE FUTURE NPS BUILD YOUR NETWORK Scan me!
---	---	--

Your Story. Your Impact. Let's Spotlight It!
TOGETHER, WE CELEBRATE THE POWER OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN ARKANSAS!

[NP Business Owner Nomination](#)

[Link](#)

[Member Spotlight Nomination](#)

[Link](#)

[Student Member Spotlight Nomination](#)

[Link](#)

Student Representative Report

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all enjoying the end of the spring semester and getting a little rest before classes begin again!

First, congratulations to all of our graduates! Your hard work, countless hours of dedication, and commitment have paid off. You are entering a noble profession that is proud to welcome you. This is an incredible accomplishment, and you should be very proud of yourselves.

If you need assistance navigating the certification and licensure process, please visit the student membership page on the ANPA website under "ANPA Membership/Volunteer Information." This section has recently been updated with helpful tips, recommendations for choosing between AANP and ANCC certification, and guidance to help you prepare for the process.

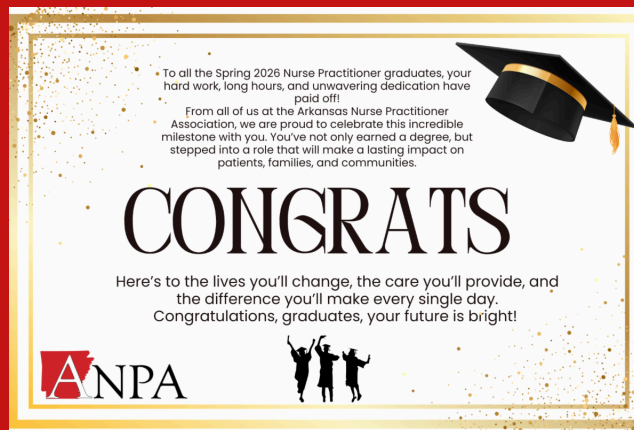
For students who are still in school, be sure to check out the discounts section for resources on study materials and opportunities for free educational materials.

I would love to hear from you all regarding your needs, concerns, and ways I can better support you as your ANPA Student Representative. Please feel free to send any questions or comments to studentrep@anpassociation.org.

Lastly, I encourage anyone interested in serving as the next ANPA Student Representative to watch for nomination and application openings coming this summer. It is a wonderful opportunity to become more involved with ANPA, advocate for fellow students, and help create a welcoming and positive culture for our student members. I have truly loved serving as Student Representative and helping NP students navigate school, life, and the journey toward becoming a nurse practitioner.

Warm regards,

Ally Davis, DNP, BSN, RN
ANPA Student Representative



ANPA x Unexxa Partnership

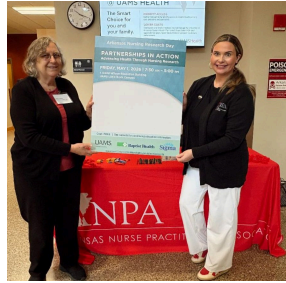
UNEXA LLC offers ANPA members 25% off storewide using the exclusive code: APRNARK25 for online use. It applies to all available collections.

UNEXA is a nurse and engineer-founded medical apparel brand designed to deliver elevated, high-performance uniforms that prioritize comfort, functionality, and professional presence. Our mission is to support healthcare professionals with apparel that works as hard as they do.

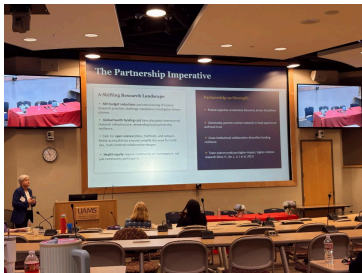


[Shop the Collection](#)

UARK & UAMS Nursing Research Day



On April 30, ANPA was proud to attend the UARK Research Day, followed by the UAMS College of Nursing Research Day on May 1. These events provided wonderful opportunities to connect with nursing students, faculty, researchers, and healthcare partners from across Arkansas. We enjoyed engaging with attendees, learning more about ongoing research initiatives, and sharing information about ANPA and the nurse practitioner profession. ANPA appreciates the opportunity to support and encourage the next generation of nurse leaders and looks forward to continuing these valuable collaborations across the state.



NP Business Owners Monthly Meeting

 **Join Us Every 2nd Thursday** of the month @ 7PM - 8PM

 **Where:** meet.google.com/vbp-dtzq-rkp

Join us at the next ANPA Business Owners Group's virtual meeting on **Thursday, June 11**. This Group is designed for nurse practitioner business owners and aspiring business owners to connect, share insights, and explore critical topics from staffing efficiency and profitability to regulatory updates and growth strategies. Whether you're establishing your practice, scaling operations, or fine-tuning your business model, Angela and Bill guide the conversation with practical advice and peer-driven discussion. To participate, simply join via Google Meet with the link above. If you're interested in the group or would like more information, please email director@anpassociation.org

Angela Simmons, APRN, FNP-BC & Bill Wells, APRN, FNP-BC
ANPA NP Business Owners Group Co-Chairs



UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

June–July 2026

DISTRICT 3

Representative: Nan Means,
MSN, APRN, FNP-BC

JUNE 11, 2026 | 6:30 PM
Samantha's Tap Room
Ubrevely Educational Program

JULY 9, 2026
AMGEN Program
Details to be announced.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

JUNE 10, 2026 | 5:30 PM
Table 28
Phlebolymphe'dema
Educational Dinner

JUNE 10, 2026 | 6:00 PM
501 Prime
Ubrevely Educational Program
Tri-Lakes Nurse Practitioner
Association (TLNPA) – Hot Springs

JULY 16, 2026
AMGEN Program
Details to be announced.
Tri-Lakes Nurse Practitioner
Association (TLNPA) – Hot Springs

DISTRICT 5

Upcoming Events

JUNE 10, 2026 | 6:00 PM
Abuelo's Mexican Restaurant
– Rogers, AR

ASTHMA GUIDELINES & CURRENT TREATMENTS ROUNDTABLE

Hosted by Jay Huff
Small group discussion
(5–10 attendees)

INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS
CAN TEXT THEIR NAME AND
EMAIL ADDRESS TO:
501-779-1460

LATE JUNE 2026 (DATE TBD)
Northwest Arkansas
GENESIGHT DINNER PROGRAM

A dinner event is being coordinated with Brandi from GeneSight. Additional details, including the date and location, will be shared once finalized.
More information to come.

DISTRICT 6

Representative: Mark Foster,
DNP, APRN, NP

JUNE 16, 2026 | 6:00 PM CT
Chow at One Eighteen
118 North Pruett Street
Paragould, AR 72450

ZAVZPRET® (zavegepant) LIVE SPEAKER PROGRAM MIGRAINE MANAGEMENT

When registering, please provide your full name, degree, specialty, state, and email address.

Please reference **Meeting ID# INT-0095222** when submitting your RSVP.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

★ *Be a leader. Make a difference.* ★

OPEN
JUNE 1, 2026
CLOSE
JUNE 30, 2026

Save the Date!
ANPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
★ **APRIL 1-3, 2027** ★

STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER
LITTLE ROCK, AR
More information coming soon!

ONGOING ANPA OPPORTUNITIES

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS
Submit your Member, Student, or NP Business Owner nominations for upcoming features.

ASBN ANONYMOUS Q&A
Submit your anonymous questions for the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

DR. LORETTA FORD MEMORIAL FUND
Goal: **\$25,000**
Support future nurse practitioner students. All donations are tax-deductible.

[Home](#)

[About](#)

[Donate](#)

[Email](#)

ARKANSAS
NURSE PRACTITIONER
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 7887
Little Rock, AR 72217

[Contact Us](#)





Try email & social marketing for free!