September 2026, Issue # 3

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
CA: ORANGE COUNTY

Fall Newsletter

Message from our President

Welcome to a new year with OC-NAPNAP!

I am excited about the opportunities ahead for our OC-NAPNAP chapter and our Pediatric Nurse Practitioner community. Our chapter is more than a professional organization; it is a place to connect, learn, share ideas, and support one another as we care for children and families. One of the best ways to strengthen our chapter is by inviting your friends and colleagues to join OC-NAPNAP. Membership provides opportunities to stay informed about the latest evidence-based pediatric health information, earn continuing education, build meaningful professional connections, and advocate for our patients and our profession.

Throughout the year, OC-NAPNAP will continue to provide opportunities for education, networking, professional development, and connection through dinner meetings and educational programs. We hope you will join us, bring a colleague, and help us continue to grow and strengthen our pediatric NP community.

We are especially excited to announce that OC-NAPNAP will be hosting the **Southern Regional Fall Conference** in collaboration with our Los Angeles and San Diego chapters on Saturday, November 7, 2026. This year's theme, Adolescent Health & Wellness: Bridging Evidence-Based Practice and Emerging Trends in Pediatrics, will bring pediatric and adolescent nurse practitioners together for a day of education, networking, and professional growth. We look forward to creating an engaging experience where NPs from across Southern California can learn from one another and connect as a community.

And there is even more to look forward to! California will host **NAPNAP's 48th National Conference on Pediatric Health Care from Sunday, March 21, through Wednesday, March 24, 2027**, in Sacramento, CA. Registration is expected to open in October. Having the national conference right here in California is an incredible opportunity, and I am excited to see our California NPs come together! I attended last year's conference in Pittsburgh, and the experience left a lasting impression. I was inspired by the passion, dedication, and impact NPs are making to improve the health and well-being of children and families across the nation. I hope many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to connect, learn, and be inspired alongside fellow pediatric NPs from across the country.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and celebrating all that we can accomplish together. Here's to a wonderful new year filled with learning, connection, advocacy, and professional growth!

Warmly,
Linda Mendoza, DNP, CPNP-PC, AE-C
OC-NAPNAP Chapter President

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CE Events

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
FALL REGIONAL CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026 8 AM-3 PM

ADOLESCENT HEALTH & WELLNESS

RADY CHILDREN'S HEALTH- ORANGE
(FORMERLY CHOC CHILDREN'S)
1201 W. LA VETA AVE. ORANGE CA 92868

https://ocnapnap.enpnetwork.com



https://www.napnap.org/specialty-symposium/

Social Media

Follow us and keep updated on all our events!

https:/www.facebook.com/NAPNAPOC

ca.napnap_oc_chapter

OC-NAPNAP 2026-2027 Board

President & Social Media Chair: Linda Mendoza
Immediate Past President: Teresa Vaughn-Davies
President-Elect: Sarah Heinonen
Treasurer (interim) & Past President: Judi Leonard
Secretary: Cathy Smith
Membership & Communications Chair: Linda Scott- Katz
Legislative Chair: Rebecca Sponberg
Continuing Education Chair: Anneke Sager

Are you interested in joining our board?

Future positions available:
Treasurer and Student Representative

Email: ocnapnap@gmail.com
or send DM via our Instagram

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



The Orange County Chapter of NAPNAP would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Margaret Brady, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC, for her many years of exceptional leadership, service, and dedication to pediatric nursing and our chapter.

Thank You, Dr. Margaret Brady!

Dr. Margaret Brady is a tenured professor and certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner whose distinguished career has been dedicated to advancing pediatric nursing through education, leadership, and mentorship. Since 2002, she has served as the Credential Director for the MSN Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and School Nurse Program at Azusa Pacific University, while also contributing to nursing education and leadership at California State University, Long Beach, since 1978.

Throughout her career, Dr. Brady has held numerous influential leadership positions, including:

- Past President of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
- Past President of the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)
- Past President of both the Los Angeles and Orange County Chapters of NAPNAP
- Fellow of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (FNAPNAP)
- Most recently, Treasurer of the Orange County NAPNAP Chapter

Dr. Brady's dedication to pediatric nursing extends far beyond her impressive credentials. Through her leadership, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to excellence, she has helped shape the careers of countless pediatric nurse practitioners and strengthened the Orange County NAPNAP Chapter. Her compassion, expertise, and advocacy have made a lasting impact on our profession and the children and families we serve.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Brady for her extraordinary service, visionary leadership, and steadfast commitment to the Orange County Chapter of NAPNAP and the pediatric nursing community. Her legacy of excellence and service will continue to inspire future generations of pediatric nurse practitioners.

💙 With heartfelt gratitude from your Orange County NAPNAP family.

“I was fortunate to learn how to become a pediatric nurse practitioner by three great women, Ruth Mullins, Bobby Crew Nelms, and the amazing Margaret Brady. Our program offered very in-depth child development, education, and a great overview of pediatric well health and acute ambulatory care. I felt very welcomed into the pediatric healthcare arena following my graduation from Cal State Long Beach, as I entered into the NAPNAP community here in Orange County.
Margaret has been instrumental in guiding our chapter, keeping us fiscally responsible, helping mentor leaders along the way, and has always been available to lend a hand in any of our activities.
I feel so privileged that I have been able to go from a student to a colleague working alongside her in meeting our Napnap goals. Margaret, your dedication to pediatric healthcare, education and leadership has been invaluable. Thank you for helping make Orange County NAPNAP, the professional home for so many. I appreciate you!!”

-Judi Leonard PNP

“I have had the pleasure of knowing and collaborating with Margaret for almost fifty years! First as a student attending the CSULB nurse practitioner program and then as a member of the LA Chapter of NAPNAP. Margaret was instrumental in not only the founding of OC Chapter of NAPNAP but has served as an on the officer on the board for most of those years. She has been a mentor and inspiration to 1000s of RN and PNP students. We have all benefited from the knowledge and wisdom she has shared with us.”

-Cathy Smith PNP

“I grew up on the East Coast & received my Bachelors and Masters degrees there. I therefore never had the opportunity to have Margaret as my professor. But I have had the opportunity--many, many times--of being in Margaret's company at a meeting while former students of hers approach and greet her with awe and respect. And each time, it's a joy to observe! Margaret is one of the 'old-timers' (myself included!) who is now leaving the Board--I suspect--for the last time. She has come & gone over the years, like most of us, filling in, in whatever position needed filling in order to keep this Chapter going. She's been a resource, an ally, and a steadfast member of Orange County NAPNAP--and one I will miss seeing at future Board meetings! Thank you, Margaret!”

-Linda Scott-Katz PNP