August 2026

CAPNI Connect

A Newsletter for the Coalition of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Indiana



President's Update



Dear Fellow APRNs,
I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. It's hard to believe how quickly fall is approaching us—too quickly for me! As always, CAPNI has been busy this summer working to understand and respond to the needs of APRNs across Indiana.

We are excited to be gearing up for our annual Pharmacology Conference, hosted by Region 5, in South Bend on October 16. I hope to see many of you there! In addition to our in-person programming, CAPNI continues to offer rotating virtual CEU opportunities throughout the year, many of which are available free of charge to CAPNI members. Keep an eye out for our upcoming session highlighting recent legislative changes in Indiana that will be particularly helpful for APRNs who own or operate medical spas; an announcement will go out when it is available.

One of the initiatives we are especially excited about is our upcoming CAPNI PAC fundraiser starting in September. Our goal is to raise $5,000 in five weeks, which will be generously matched by a CAPNI member, bringing our total to $10,000! The CAPNI PAC has already been hard at work recognizing legislators who support APRN practice through PAC contributions. This fundraiser will help us continue building relationships and supporting the advocacy efforts that are so important to the future of APRN practice in Indiana.

Our regional meetings have also been flying off the shelves, and I hope you are taking advantage of the opportunity to connect with APRNs in your area. These local gatherings are a wonderful way to build relationships, share ideas, and stay engaged with what is happening across our profession.

Finally, please make sure you are following CAPNI on our social media platforms. We are continually sharing updates, advocacy news, educational opportunities, and other ways to stay connected. If you missed your opportunity to get one of our much-loved CAPNI stickers, check out some of our recent social media content and reach out to us!

As your CAPNI leadership team, we are always looking for new ways to engage our members and make sure CAPNI is meeting your needs. Your involvement, ideas, and support are what make this organization strong. Thank you for being part of CAPNI and for everything you do each day for the patients and communities you serve.

With appreciation,
Caitlin Krouse, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC
CAPNI President



By Darla Berry, MSN, CNM | Legislative Chair



From the Statehouse: The Work Starts Now

The 2027 Indiana General Assembly won't convene until January, but don't mistake a quiet Statehouse for a quiet political environment. **There is a lot happening.**

Leadership changes are underway in both chambers, including a coming change at the top of the Senate and new leadership ahead for the House Public Health Committee. Primary battles continue to reverberate through the legislature, and as recently as last week, a razor-thin Senate primary result was reversed following a recount. In short: there is a lot of jockeying for position, and the landscape we enter in January may look very different.

CAPNI isn't waiting for January.

Our Legislative and Grassroots Committees are already building relationships with legislators, engaging the Governor's office, and mobilizing the Hoosiers for Healthcare Access Coalition—bringing healthcare organizations, patient advocates, employers and community partners together around a common goal: improving access to high-quality healthcare and making Indiana a state where APRNs want to practice, build careers and stay.

We're also rebuilding the CAPNI PAC, including an exciting $5,000 matching campaign: every dollar contributed by members will be matched dollar-for-dollar, meaning $5,000 from CAPNI members becomes $10,000 to support legislative engagement. Every dollar counts - and we would love to count yours.

And we're preparing our 2027 legislative agenda. At the top of the list:

- Modernizing Indiana's APRN practice act
- Exploring opportunities to address non-compete agreements
- Advancing provider-neutral language in Indiana law
- Examining opportunities to improve APRN licensure

This is the year. The political landscape may be shifting, but our goal is not: modernizing Indiana law so Hoosiers have greater access to the high-quality care APRNs provide.

Stay tuned—there will be plenty of opportunities in the months ahead for every CAPNI member to get involved. And, as always, if you have questions about our legislative initiatives, concerns about issues affecting your practice as an APRN in Indiana, or connections that could help advance our efforts, please reach out.

Your experiences matter. Your relationships matter. Your voice matters. We need all three.

CAPNI Member Spotlight

Lydia Rodriguez, DNP, RN, WHNP



When Lydia Rodriguez retired from the U.S. Air Force after 20 years of service, coming home to Indiana marked both a return to her roots and the beginning of an entirely new chapter. An Indiana native, Lydia grew up in Monroe in Adams County.

She began her career as a labor and delivery nurse before earning her doctorate from the University of Utah, specializing in women's health. Her military career took her to Afghanistan and Turkey, while giving her the opportunity to care for patients in communities around the world.

After two decades of military life, Lydia wanted to be home giving her two children the opportunity to live closer to extended family.

This summer, Lydia, her two children, her mom and a few friends set out to bike across the United States. When CAPNI caught up with Lydia in June, the group had just crossed into Montana and was averaging around 60 miles of cycling per day. For Lydia, though, the trip is about much more than the miles.

"My kids are with me, and I missed out on a lot of time with them," Lydia shared. She described the trip as part of her own transition and recovery after military service. "It's really been a real blessing." There have been some memorable moments along the way, too. By the time we spoke, Lydia had encountered some of the wildlife that comes with crossing the West, including a moose and even a wolf.

When the journey brings Lydia back to Indiana, her next chapter will be centered in Region 10. Lydia is working as a provider at a free clinic to give back.





Statewide CAPNI Conferences







Getting Your Professional Credentials Right



DNP, APRN, FNP-C, RN or RN, APRN, FNP-C, DNP? With so many degrees, licenses, and certifications, it can be confusing to know what belongs after your name and in what order. Your professional signature should clearly communicate your education, licensure, and certification.

The American Nurses Association recommends listing credentials in this general order:
Highest earned degree → Licensure → State designation → National certification → Additional relevant credentials

For example:
Jane Smith, DNP, RN, APRN, FNP-C
John Doe, PhD, RN, APRN, AGCNS-BC, CCRN

You generally do not need to list every degree you have earned. If you have a DNP, for example, there is usually no need to also list your BSN and MSN. An exception may be an additional degree in a different field that provides meaningful professional context.

A Note for Indiana CNMs
Indiana's APRN licensure structure is unique. Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) are licensed by Indiana as advanced practice registered nurses in their specific APRN role, while Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists practice under their RN license (with or without prescriptive authority). Because the CNM holds a license specifically for their APRN role, "RN" does not need to be included in the professional signature solely to demonstrate licensure.
For example: Jane Brown, MSN, CNM

What About Specialty Certifications?
Additional specialty certifications, such as CCRN, CDE, FAAN, or other relevant credentials, may be included after your primary APRN certification. However, consider whether the credential is relevant to your current professional role before adding it to your signature. More credentials aren't necessarily better. The goal is to provide a clear, accurate picture of your professional qualifications.

What About "Dr."?
APRNs who have earned a doctoral degree may use the title Dr. in appropriate professional settings, however, make sure your APRN role is also clearly identified each time the title is used. This is a legal requirement in Indiana (IC 25-1-10.3 Health Care Provider Advertising).
For example: Dr. Jane Smith, DNP, APRN, FNP-C

CAPNI Tip: Take a quick look at your email signature, business cards, professional profiles, and presentation materials. Are you using your credentials consistently? When in doubt, keep it accurate, consistent, and easy to understand.

Get Them. Stick 'Em. Show Them Off
Let's see that APRN pride across Indiana!







Our new membership value video has reached nearly 3,000 views, as APRNs across Indiana discover what CAPNI membership makes possible. Now, we're turning that momentum into a little APRN pride! CAPNI's new stickers are making their way across Indiana, and we want to see where they land.

Already have your stickers? Show them off! Send us a photo of your CAPNI pride in action on your water bottle, laptop, notebook, or wherever your stickers have found a home. Email your photo to info@capni.org or tag CAPNI when you share it on social media.

Still need APRN stickers? Just drop at note to info@capni.org!

Have Something to Share with CAPNI?

Have news, an accomplishment, a photo, or something Indiana APRNs should know about? We'd love to hear from you! You can also recommend a fellow CAPNI member for a future Member Spotlight. Send your ideas, content, and recommendations to info@capni.org for consideration in an upcoming newsletter.

View email in browser

update your preferences or unsubscribe