

President's Message

Hello Spring—and all the promise of new beginnings it brings.

As we welcome the month of May, I would also like to wish all of our members a Happy Nurses Week and a Happy Mother's Day to the many nurse practitioners balancing both professional and family responsibilities with compassion and dedication every day. This is also a season of celebration and milestones, and I want to extend congratulations to members who may be completing academic programs or celebrating graduations, weddings, and other special moments with loved ones. These achievements reflect the commitment, perseverance, and support that strengthen both our profession and our communities.

As the season changes, so does our organization, and I'm excited to welcome several new members to our Board. Each brings fresh perspective, energy, and a strong commitment to advancing the role of nurse practitioners across our state. I look forward to the ideas and momentum they will help generate as we continue our work in advocacy, education, and member engagement.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to our outgoing Board members for their dedication and service. A special thank you to our immediate Past President, Susan Apold, whose leadership, vision, and commitment have made a lasting impact on our organization. We are deeply appreciative of the time and effort all our outgoing leaders have given to support our mission and our members.

Thank you as well to everyone who attended our Joint Chapter Meeting on April 16. It was wonderful to connect with colleagues from across the state, share updates, and continue important conversations about the future of our profession. The engagement and collaboration among our members are what make this organization so strong.

Thank you for all that you do every day for your patients and for our profession. I'm looking forward to the growth, collaboration, and progress we'll continue to achieve together this season.

Warm regards,

Emmanuella Olaiya, DNP, APRN-CNP, WHNP-BC
President '26-'27

Past President's Message

I've always been a fan of the immune system. Having taught Pathophysiology to Graduate Nurse Practitioner students for almost 10 years, I enjoyed the challenge of teaching the beautiful concepts and learning how the body is a whole, despite the reductionistic way that we have been taught to view it. We don't really have the language or the teaching strategies to present this amazing being that is us as it should be. One totally integrated whole. No one cell, organ, or system can live without the other. An amazing mysterious thing.

But I had to land on something to be most fascinated with, and I landed on the immune system (fortuitous in this day and age of anti-science and misinformation about that very system, but I digress). And what fascinated me the most, and what drives me to organizational service is something called the Natural Killer Cell. NK cells. They are always there. They are always on patrol. Seeking, finding and destroying "other", danger to the whole. They spare the "self" and destroy what is dangerous. Now, I might be being a bit dramatic here when I compare these natural surveillance cells to a nursing organization but stick with me on this! But here goes:

Nursing organizations are easy to believe in when there is a crisis or an issue that threatens patients, nurses, nurse practitioners. And generally, nurses rise to the occasion. Take this year's attention on the abhorrent exclusion of higher degrees in nursing being excluded from the Department of Education's "professional degree" classification for federal loan purposes. (Let me pause and provide clarification: medicine, dentistry, law for example, are considered professional degrees, allowing students to borrow higher amounts under federal Direct Loan programs. Nursing has been omitted from this list and graduate nursing students are subject to the standard graduate loan limit of 20,500 annually and 100,000 lifetime vs. the higher professional degree limits (50,000 annually and 200,000 lifetime). Social media was replete with virulent objections to this de-classification of higher degrees in nursing as not "professional". At a recent meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, (AACN) it was reported that ALL nursing organizations across the nation, and nurse practitioner state and national organizations came together and presented to strenuously oppose this decision. Congress heard us, supported us and now we await the decision of the DOE. We came together and we acted.

But back to Natural Killer cells. What is not so easy to "sell" is the NK actions of nursing organizations. The surveillance that the DCNP is involved in on an almost daily basis. This time in our nation's history has shown us that no right or privilege is untouchable. We have an obligation to our patients and our profession to engage in surveillance. Nursing organizations at every level are the ML cells of our profession.

This year, the DCNP participated in discussions on two issues essential to the health of Delawareans and the health of our profession. And we came together in unity with our affiliate organization, the Delaware Nurses Association (DNA). DCNP was included in important conversations with the Governor's office to discuss the Delaware Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). Delaware received a 157 million federal award to "expand healthcare access, improve outcomes and strengthen the rural medical workforce." DCNP, represented by Susan Conaty-Buck and Susan Apold, sat at the table where we were asked how Delaware Nurse Practitioners could contribute to this initiative. DCNP, again through the work of the DNA, was

also invited to participate in a conversation with the Medical Society of Delaware to engage in a conversation regarding “Title Transparency”, an issue important to all health care providers and patients in the State. There are concerns that patients do not know and/or understand the credentials of the people taking care of them. Everyone wants transparency! We should all know the credentials of our caregivers, but/and those conversations need to happen at tables where ALL caregivers are present to protect patients and ourselves. I represented the DCNP at a collegial meeting with the DCNP, the DNA and the MSD to discuss what mattered to us all, and to make certain that nurses who hold advanced degrees are not disenfranchised by Title Transparency language.

It has been a challenging year for all of us. DCNP is a small, totally volunteer organization. We are a group of devoted (BUSY) NPs who want to see NPs and our patients continue to have voice, presence and power in health care in Delaware! Toward that end, we gathered for a Strategic Planning meeting in Dover where we identified 3 “doable” goals for 2026/2027: shoring up the DCNP infrastructure (by-laws, committees, officer responsibilities); increasing membership and having a greater Social Media presence for our members; and, holding another successful Annual Conference in October (stay tuned for details!). Your Board of Directors is enthusiastic about our future and confident that we can accomplish these goals!

It was my pleasure this year to meet some wonderful and devoted NPs here in Delaware. Every minute that these wonderful folks work with DCNP is a minute that they are not spending with family, friends or just seeking their own peace. We are fortunate to have them among us! We bid a fond farewell to our outgoing Immediate Past President, Roseann Velez. Roseann formally finishes her three-year term as DCNP’s President-Elect, President and Past-President. That’s three years of service to our profession. With goodbyes come hellos!

We welcome our new Board of Directors with some new faces and some faces who are moving into their new Board roles:

Emmanuella Olaiya, President

Seidatu Salis will be continuing in her role as Secretary extraordinaire

Alicia Vogelsson, Northern Chapter Coordinator

New Board Members:

LaTonya Mann, Southern Chapter Coordinator

Amanda Connoyer Treasurer

We are especially pleased to welcome Kristi Henshaw, former Southern Chapter Coordinator to her new role as President-Elect! Not only will Kristi be serving DCNP as President-Elect, but we are proud to announce that Kristi Henshaw is Delaware’s Woman of Impact. The Woman of Impact program is part of the American Heart Association’s broader **Go Red for Women** initiative, which focuses on increasing awareness about heart disease, the leading cause of death among women. This initiative encourages women to advocate for heart health and engage their communities in fundraising efforts to support research, education, and advocacy related to cardiovascular health. Kristi’s devotion to this project is prompted by her personal experiences with heart disease. Her father had his first heart attack when she was a newborn. He died at 52 years of age when Kristi was only 15. Her mother, too, succumbed to

heart disease just last year. Reach out to Kristi to help her expand her reach in awareness of heart disease. And let's be proud to have her among us!

The DCNP is poised for another year of great leadership!

Susan Apold, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, AGNP-B

Legislative Update

Delaware Preceptor Tax Credit

HB 385: AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO GRANTS FOR NURSE PRECEPTORS

Current Status: Passed the Health & Human Development Committee in House Assigned to Appropriations Committee in House. Susan Conaty-Buck, legislative committee chair, has been asked to testify.

Support: The Delaware Coalition of Nurse Practitioners (DCNP) urges support for this type of legislation to benefit RN and APRN preceptors.

This legislation is of particular importance to Delaware NPs and to DCNP. To read on other legislation we are tracking, please visit the Current Legislation here:

<https://dcpweb.enpnetwork.com/page/37901-current-legislation-2026>

or find it under the Legislation Info tab

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Northern Chapter Meeting

Topic: Chronic Venous Disease (and treatment) and Lymphedema

When: Thursday, May 21, 2026

Where: Two Stones Pub, 1203 Christiana Road, Newark, DE 19713

Register [HERE](#)

Southern Chapter Meeting

Topic: Migraine Disease State

When: Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 6:00pm ET

Where: Touch Of Italy Rehoboth ,19724 Coastal Highway, Rehoboth Beach, DE, 19971

Info & Register [HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE!!!

DCNP Fall CE Conference 10/10/26, Dover

Watch for registration to open soon

Announcements

Have you registered for the [AANP conference](#) happening June 23- 27, 2026 in Las Vegas Nevada? Join our AANP Rep, Janice James, and other DCNP members at our regional meet up.

Our Theme: "Neon Nights – Nurse Practitioners Shine Bright"

To celebrate our profession, our official theme is all about that **Classic Old Vegas Glitz**. We want to light up the Arts District, so you are encouraged to **wear your favorite sparkles, sequins, or rhinestones!** Let's show Las Vegas how much NPs truly shine.

Event Details

- **Location:** Johnny Coco's
- **Address:** [32 W Imperial Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89102](#)
- **Date & Time:** Wednesday, June 24 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- **Transportation:** This is an **off-site event**. Attendees will need to coordinate their own transportation via **Uber, Lyft, or taxi** to the Arts District (it's a short ride from the main strip!).
- **RSVP:** Let Janice know you are coming: jajamesnp@outlook.com

