2026 Fall Newsletter

President's Message

Dear DCNP Members and Colleagues,

There is something special about the arrival of fall. The days begin to shorten, the seasons change, and families settle back into the rhythm of a new school year. Backpacks are packed, calendars fill up, and there is a renewed sense of learning, new beginnings, and looking ahead.

For many of us as nurse practitioners, fall brings a similar opportunity for professional renewal. It is a time to reconnect with colleagues, expand our knowledge, reflect on the work we have accomplished, and consider how we can continue to grow as healthcare professionals and leaders.

This season, we also pause to remember two members of our professional community, **Evelyn "Lyn" Hays and Jessica Bradley**, whose loss has touched the DCNP family. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families, friends, and colleagues and honor the contributions they made to those around them. Please take a moment to read the special remembrance included in this issue.

As we honor our past, we also look toward the future.

I am excited to invite you to our DCNP Fall Conference on October 10, 2026, in Dover, Delaware. What better way to embrace this season of learning and renewal than by coming together as a professional community? Click HERE to get the full agenda and HERE to get to know our faculty.

The conference will provide an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge, earn continuing education, connect with colleagues, and engage in conversations that will help shape the future of our profession. I encourage you to make plans to attend, invite a colleague, and become engaged in the work of DCNP. Whether you are a longtime member, a newer nurse practitioner, a student, or someone looking for a way to become more involved, your voice and participation matter.

This fall, let us embrace both reflection and renewal—honoring the leaders who helped build the path we walk today while continuing to create new opportunities for those who will follow.

I look forward to seeing you on October 10 in Dover as we learn, connect, and continue moving the nurse practitioner profession forward together.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful start to the fall season and a successful new school and professional year.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Emmanuella Olaiya, DNP, APRN-CNP, WHNP-BC, PMH-C
President 2026-27
Delaware Coalition of Nurse Practitioners

Remembering Those Who Have Shaped Our Profession

As we welcome the fall season and look ahead to a new year of learning, growth, and professional connection, we also recognize that this summer brought profound loss to our nurse practitioner community.

We remember **Dr. Evelyn "Lyn" Hays** (*pictured left*), a founding member of the Delaware Coalition of Nurse Practitioners. Lyn was part of the foundation upon which DCNP was built, and her dedication to advancing the nurse practitioner profession helped shape the organization we have today. We are grateful for her leadership, service, and the lasting legacy she leaves within our profession.

We also remember our fellow nurse practitioner, **Jessica Bradley** *(pictured right)*, whose life was tragically cut short this summer. Her passing is a heartbreaking loss to her family, friends, colleagues, and the broader healthcare community.

During this season of transition, we hold both Lyn and Jessica in our thoughts and honor the impact they had on those around them. Their lives remind us that our professional community is more than a collection of colleagues—we are connected by the care we provide, the patients we serve, and the relationships we build along the way.

May we honor their memories by continuing to support one another, advocate for our profession, and make meaningful contributions to the communities we serve.

We extend our deepest condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of both Lyn and Jessica.

Legislative Update

2026 Delaware Legislation Impacting Healthcare Professionals

Purpose: A concise overview of selected 2026 Delaware legislation relevant to nurses, APRNs, nurse practitioners, CRNAs, physicians, other clinicians, patients, and health-care delivery. The update includes final gubernatorial action through September 17, 2026.

Please use this link to download the full table (also available under Legislative Tab on DCNP homepage).

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/24/26 6 PM DCNP Southern Chapter Dinner Meeting---Understanding ctDNA for Therapy Selection in Cancer Care | Rehoboth Beach| USE THIS LINK
Future events are listed on our Events Page

DCNP Fall CE Conference|10/10/26 8 AM – 5 PM| Bayhealth Hospital, Dover, DE|7.5 CE Expected| PLEASE Use this link to learn more and register.

DCNP Northern Chapter Save the Date| 10/21/26 6 PM| Chesapeake Inn Restaurant and Marina Chesapeake City, MD

Watch for emails regarding Holiday Celebration in December!

Nominate a Delaware Behavioral Health Champion

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Lt. Governor's Challenge Awards, recognizing individuals and organizations making a meaningful difference in behavioral health and well-being across Delaware.

This year's refreshed awards recognize work across youth mental health, community mental health, workplace well-being, recovery support, and maternal mental health and family wellness.

Anyone may submit a nomination, including a self-nomination. Eligible nominees include individuals, community organizations, schools, health care and behavioral health providers, businesses and employers, municipalities, State agencies and other groups serving Delaware communities.

Nominations close Friday, October 9, 2026.

Learn more about the five award categories and submit a nomination through de.gov/ltgovchallenge.

Get Involved

Looking for an opportunity to become involved? Consider joining a committee. Whether you are interested in helping with organizing dinner meetings, have a passion for advocacy or you would have a desire to mentor colleagues, we would love it if you joined us. Please send an email to delawarenpcoalition@gmail.com.