



25-26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 [Get to Know Us](#)



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been a very exciting year for PAs in Arkansas. Here's a look at all that's happened so far - and what's next! Last month, we had our first board meeting with our 2025-2026 Board of Directors.

This awesome team of PAs from across the state is already working on several great initiatives for the next year including our Membership survey (see page 3) and ways to celebrate ARAPA's 50th Anniversary in 2026. Get to know the board by clicking on the link to the left, and please reach out to me or your local Director-at-Large if you have a need we can help with!

As you may be aware, ARAPA had a very successful legislative session in 2025! Three bills were signed into law that will modernize PA practice in our state. [SB99](#) will expand PAs' delegation authority to medical staff such as MAs, emergency techs, and paramedics. [SB100](#) will allow PAs to serve as primary care providers (PCPs) with Medicaid, which will expand access to care for Arkansans. Finally, [SB101](#) made Arkansas the 14th state to join the national PA Licensure Compact.

While Medicaid enrollment changes made possible by Act 303 (2023) are still on pause due to an audit from CMS, ARAPA continues to have regular communications with DHS, and we are very hopeful that by the end of this year, Medicaid enrollment will begin for PAs. This means you will be able to enroll as a rendering/billing provider and as a primary care provider. Stay tuned for updates as these measures are enacted - ARAPA will be closely following their implementation and alert members when changes are active.

We also hope you'll join us on Thursday, October 16th for our annual PA Day at the Capitol from 1:00- 4:00 pm! This will be a great

opportunity to continue advocating for the PA profession by sharing about the PA role in healthcare and by thanking our state lawmakers for their role in expanding PA practice. For practice concerns or to volunteer, please email Chairs Edward Williams and Carol Trana at LegislativeChair@arkansaspa.org.

ARAPA is also proud to announce the awarding of scholarships to four outstanding PA students from the two PA programs in our state! Jada Mack (UAMS) and Natalie Panella (Harding) each received \$1,000 scholarships in support of their PA education. They will be serving as active members of ARAPA committees this year and receive mentorship from an ARAPA BOD member. Additionally, Grace Ann Dickey (UAMS) and Payton Grice (UAMS) were selected to receive scholarships to attend the upcoming AAPA Leadership and Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C., where they will further develop their skills in advocating for the PA profession. Please join me in congratulating these future leaders on their well-deserved accomplishments!

Lastly, we are continuing to feature outstanding Arkansas PAs on our social media accounts - if you know a PA that should be highlighted, please [submit their name here](#). If you would be interested in having pre-PA students shadow you, please let us know by completing [this form](#). If you are interested in helping with outreach or joining the committee, please email Chairs Abby Rainwater and Hillary Mayberry at communications@arkansaspa.org. Continue reading through this newsletter to learn more about all the exciting events and opportunities we have coming up this fall, and consider how you can get involved! ARAPA is tremendously fortunate to have such an active membership, and we can't wait to see how we continue to grow over the next few years. We appreciate all your support and engagement and are here to help with your needs as PAs in whatever ways possible.



@ArkansasAcademy_of_PAs
@ArkansasAcademyofPAs

Sincerely,
Audra Wilson, DMS, MS, PA-C
president@arkansaspa.org

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



The ARAPA legislative team is continuing to work with Arkansas Medicaid on PA enrollment and expects **full enrollment** to be active for all Arkansas PAs by the end of 2025! Contact LegislativeChair@arkansaspa.org for any questions.



ARAPA Merch Sale Monday, August 4- Friday, August 15

Reach out to Aaron Woodall
(pastpresident@arkansaspa.org) to purchase.

T Shirts (short sleeve): \$25
Sweatshirts: \$40
T Shirt/Sweatshirt Bundle: \$60



CME CONFERENCE 2026

ARAPA is heading back to **Northwest Arkansas** for its 2026 CME conference in the spring!

Planning is well underway, so be on the lookout for more information coming soon. See page 4 to learn more about the committee and consider joining the team to help plan this exciting annual event!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025 TWO RIVERS PARK, LITTLE ROCK



The KRT Fellowship for UAMS PA students, in collaboration with AMDPA, are preparing for their 12th annual **Heroes Against Hunger 5k**. Since the first race in 2014, this fundraiser benefiting the Arkansas Food Bank Food for Kids Program has raised over \$96,000 to provide much-needed food for children in Arkansas. Follow [this link](#) to learn more and sign up!

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Take the 2025 ARAPA Membership Survey

Over the last few years, ARAPA has worked hard to accomplish legislative victories, plan outreach activities, and host the annual CME conference. Now it's time to hear from YOU about what you'd like to see ARAPA work on for the next few years! We're asking all members to complete the membership survey this month to help guide our priorities as we look to the future. The survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete, and as a "thank you," ARAPA is sending each member who completes the survey a **\$10 gift card**! Members can access the survey through the ARAPA website (make sure you're logged in). Please direct any questions to Aaron Woodall (pastpresident@arkansaspa.org). The survey closes August 17th, so don't delay in making your voice heard!



Upcoming Dates

Thursday October 16, 2025

PA Day at the Capitol

1:00 - 4:00

Join ARAPA at the State Capitol building for an exciting opportunity to speak to legislators about the PA profession! Contact legislativechair@arkansaspa.org for more info.

May 15-19, 2026

AAPA Conference in New Orleans

AAPA is headed to the Big Easy! If you're planning to attend, be on the lookout for more information about an Arkansas PA meet up!

Tuesday, August 5th at 8:00 PM

2026 CME Conference Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 5th at 8:00 PM

Legislative Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 19th at 8:00 PM

Communications Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 28th at 8pm

Board of Directors Meeting (quarterly)



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Legislative Committee

a. Monitor the AR legislative session for opportunities to further PAs ability to deliver care in addition to participating in PA Day at the Capitol. Communicate with our national organization, the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA). Interdisciplinary communication with other providers (MDs, DOs, APNs, etc) throughout Arkansas

b. Contact: legislativechair@arkansaspa.org

CME Committee

a. Develop yearly Continuing Medical Education (CME) Conference and engage PAs across the state through two day Conference

b. Contact: CMEchair@arkansaspa.org

Communications & Outreach Committee

a. Ensure communication about events, various committee engagements and legislative updates through social media and the website. Develop marketing items to distribute to ARAPA Members and to supporters of ARAPA. Organize social mixers for PAs within the 5 regions of the state

b. Contact: communications@arkansaspa.org



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