



25-26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we move into the holiday season, I hope this newsletter finds each of you enjoying a moment of rest, connection, and renewal with the people who matter most. The end of the year

naturally invites reflection, and with Thanksgiving upon us, it feels especially fitting to pause and acknowledge the many reasons ARAPA has to be grateful. 2025 has been a year of progress for PAs in Arkansas, and as we look back on these accomplishments, we also look forward with anticipation to the year ahead. Join me in celebrating our successes and setting our sights on what 2026 will bring.

One of the highlights of 2025 was our outstanding CME conference in Little Rock this March. Thanks to the tireless work of our CME committee, we offered 23 high-quality CME credits and brought together PAs, PA students, and pre-PA students from across the region. The sessions spanned the breadth of PA practice and created a rich environment for learning, networking, and professional growth. Plans are already underway for an equally strong 2026 conference, which will take place in Bentonville on March 13-14. Early-bird registration is now open, and I encourage you to make plans to join us for what promises to be another exceptional event.

Our legislative committee also delivered a record-setting year. Three major advancements for PA practice were signed into law in 2025—an achievement made possible by the dedication of our legislative team, our partners at Universal Strategies, and the House and Senate sponsors who championed each bill. We continue to work closely with the Arkansas Medicaid office on the implementation of Act 303 and Act 482, with both slated to take effect in 2026. We are also eagerly preparing for Arkansas's

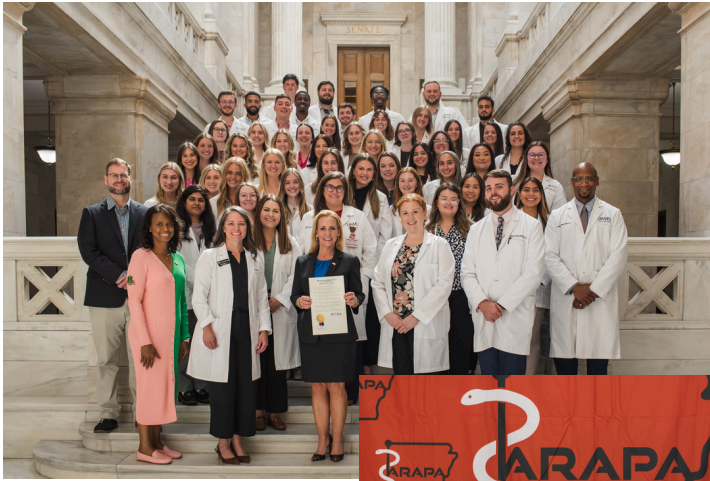
participation in the national PA Licensure Compact. By becoming only the 14th state to join the compact this year—Arkansas helped pave the way for greater practice mobility and professional opportunity for PAs across state lines.

Several of our ARAPA leaders attended the AAPA Leadership and Advocacy Summit in September, where they represented Arkansas with pride and purpose. Their commitment ensures that our state remains engaged in conversations that shape the future of our profession. On page 3, you can learn more about their experience. Meanwhile, our AAPA House of Delegates representatives have already begun preparations for the 2026 meeting in New Orleans at the AAPA annual conference in May. Another proud moment this fall was our PA Day at the Capitol, hosted by our legislative committee. This event celebrated the growth and strength of the PA profession in Arkansas and highlighted the legislative victories achieved this year. More than fifty PAs and PA students attended, alongside several key legislative sponsors. Local news outlets covered the event, and we were honored to be greeted by Lieutenant Governor Leslie Rutledge, who recognized and thanked Arkansas PAs for our service to the state.

Finally, I want to extend heartfelt gratitude to every member who participated in our summer Membership Survey. Your feedback provided invaluable insight into the needs, priorities, and hopes of PAs across Arkansas. We are continuing to analyze the data, and your input will directly shape our work in the year ahead. In 2026, ARAPA will proudly celebrate 50 years of PA advocacy, advancement, and community. This milestone is possible because of you—your service, your leadership, and your commitment to your patients and communities. As you gather with loved ones this Thanksgiving, please know that we are profoundly thankful for each of you and the impact you make every day. I wish you all a safe, joyful holiday season and look forward to everything we will accomplish together for Arkansas PAs in the coming year.

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

PA Day at the Capitol 2025



Left: Harding University PA program faculty



Left: Group photo with Lt. Gov. Rutledge, Rep. Springer, and Rep. Gramlich

Right: President Wilson and Past-President Woodall with Gov. Sanders' proclamation of PA Week in Arkansas



Right: UAMS PA students



CME CONFERENCE 2026

ARAPA is heading back to **Northwest Arkansas** for its 2026 CME conference in the spring! The conference will be at the **DoubleTree by Hilton in Bentonville, AR, on March 13-14**. [Click here to register](#).

Register by January 17 for an early bird discount. Contact CMEchair@arkansaspa.org with any questions. We look forward to seeing you at this exciting annual event!



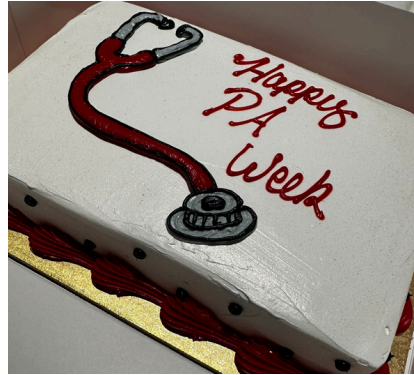
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



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 in the coming months! Contact LegislativeChair@arkansaspa.org for any questions.



PA Happenings Across the state (and nation!)



October 9th- PAs in the Northwest region met at Wood Stone Craft Pizza in Fayetteville to enjoy a meal sponsored by ARAPA. It was a great time of connecting with fellow PAs to celebrate PA Week 2025! A big thanks to the Northwest region director-at-large, Amber Acord for planning this event.

PA Week 2025-
UAMS didactic PA students celebrated the week with fun dress-up themed days and meals



October 4th- The 12th Annual Heroes Against Hunger 5K took place in Little Rock with 114 participants and raised much needed funds for the Arkansas Food Bank.



September 18th- President-elect Lachan Siebenmorgen and PA students Payton Grice and Grace Ann Dickey met with the offices of Congressman French Hill, Senator Tom Cotton, and Senator John Boozman to advocate for key legislation supporting the PA profession as part of the AAPA Leadership and Advocacy Summit



Upcoming Dates

**Friday, March 13- Saturday,
March 14, 2026
ARAPA CME Conference**

Join ARAPA in Bentonville for our annual conference! Contact CMEchair@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, December 2nd at 8:00 PM
2026 CME Conference Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 13th at 8:00 PM
Legislative Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 20th at 8:00 PM
Communications Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 27th at 8pm
Board of Directors Meeting (quarterly)



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Legislative Committee

- 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
- Contact: legislativechair@arkansaspa.org

CME Committee

- Develop yearly Continuing Medical Education (CME) Conference and engage PAs across the state through two day Conference
- Contact: CMEchair@arkansaspa.org

Communications & Outreach Committee

- 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
- Contact: communications@arkansaspa.org