

WVAPA Bulletin

The Newsletter of the West Virginia Association of Physician Assistants

August 2011

Volume III • Number 2

Guilty by Association

-- By Greg Selasky, MS, PA-C

As President of the WVAPA, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that the WVAPA is working on building a better association. We need to examine the importance of our association and the ways in which it can be made stronger. This will be accomplished by making an effort to build our membership as this is what will carry us into the future.

Membership is very important because it is representation for YOUR career. The WVAPA is your career advocate in state legislative matters. It is the

WVAPA that watches for legislative challenges that could infringe upon your current scope of practice; and it is the WVAPA that works to enhance your scope of practice. In order for the WVAPA to continue its work, we not only need your financial commitment through membership, but we need your voice. So become an active volunteer for the WVAPA and ask your Physician Assistant colleagues to join the association, become a committee member or board member as well.

During the next few months, I will be calling on Physician

Assistants in West Virginia to ascertain their ideas for building a stronger association. Without YOU through WVAPA membership, we cannot advance our profession. We will strive to attain the ideal Physician Assistant practice environment here in West Virginia and nationally. This is one time You want to be *guilty by association* and be part of the WVAPA.



Any ideas, comments or issues can be submitted on our website at www.mywvapa.org.

Inside This Issue

WVAPA 2011 Winter Conference.....	2
a Success	
Additional Gains for PAs in Laws.....	2
Outside of the Medical Practice Act	
Investing in the Future.....	3
Workplace Stress and the	4
Healthcare Provider	
WVAPA Membership Application	5
Immediate Past President's Report.....	6

WVAPA 2011 - 2012 Board of Directors

President Greg Selasky, PA-C selaskygp@battlers.ab.edu	Vice President Jennifer Pack, PA-C jpack@mountainstate.edu	Directors At Large Melissa Lilly, PA-C mdlilly@mountainstate.edu AND Victoria 'Tori' Mullins, PA-C tori2152@gmail.com
President Elect Nick Vance, PA-C vancenc@battlers.ab.edu	Secretary Sarah Kindler, PA-C tenizgal@yahoo.com	WVAPA Website: www.mywvapa.org WVAPA Email: mywvapamail@gmail.com
Immediate Past President Christa Hodges, PA-C PoohBea543@aol.com	Treasurer Chad Hill, PA-C cchpa08@yahoo.com	

WVAPA 2011 Winter Conference a Success

-- By Chad Hill, PA-C

Physician Assistants from West Virginia and surrounding states made their way to Snowshoe Mountain for the 2011 WVAPA Winter Conference on Friday, March 11th. Though conditions may not have been the greatest for driving, WVAPA conference attendees enjoyed what most call a "Powder Day." Not only were the conditions great for skiing, WVAPA Winter Conference experienced an amazing turnout of attendees for the conference. Even with the unfavorable driving conditions, we had a total of eighty-four attendees including several on-site registrants. The lecturers provided very informative and well received presentations. Minus a few brief moments of computer / projector difficulties, the conference went off without a hitch.

This year, the WVAPA gained thirty-five new members as applications came in on a weekly basis. In the months and years to come, the WVAPA plans to remain in the forefront of representing Physician Assistants in West Virginia, providing them with the best continuing medical education available. The WVAPA Winter Conference coordinators and board members would like to say "Thanks" to all that attended the conference and those who joined WVAPA this year!

Thank You!

Additional Gains for PAs in Laws Outside of the Medical Practice Act

-- Submitted by Nick Vance, MPAS, PA-C

[Reprinted from the 5/5/11 edition of the PA Advocate]

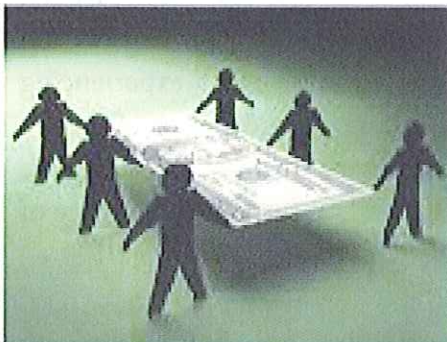
Similar to their colleagues in Virginia, PAs in West Virginia have also made legislative strides in provisions outside of the medical practice act that governs the profession. Due to the enactment of Senate Bill 488, http://www.legis.state.wv.us/bill_status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=SB488%20SUB2%20ENR.htm&yr=2011&sesstype=RS&i=488, the state's HIV testing statute has been amended to conform with the most recent recommendations from the CDC. As a result, effective June 10, 2011, PAs will be allowed to request for targeted HIV testing of a patient when there is: (1) cause to believe that the test could be positive because the patient engages in high risk behavior; or (2) cause to believe that the test could provide information important in the care of the patient; or (3) cause to believe that the results of HIV-testing of samples of blood or body fluids from a source patient could provide information important in the care of medical or emergency responders or other identified persons provided that the source patient whose blood or body fluids is being testing pursuant to this section must have come into contact with a medical or emergency responder or other person in such a way that a significant exposure has occurred; or (4) no record of any HIV-related testing during pregnancy and the woman presents for labor and delivery.

In addition, effective June 10, 2011 as a result of the enactment of Senate Bill 570, http://www.legis.state.wv.us/bill_status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=sb570%20sub1%20ENR.htm&yr=2011&sesstype=RS&i=570, West Virginia PAs rendering services in connection with events or programs offered by a nonprofit youth organization will be exempt from obtaining authorization to practice from the board of medicine or board of osteopathy while providing services within the limits of their authorization to practice, provided that they obtain a nonprofit volunteer permit. For more state advocacy information, visit AAPA online, <http://www.aapa.org/advocacy-and-practice-resources/state-advocacy/state-advocacy-faq>.

Investing in the Future

-- Penny Gaillard, CAE, Southeast Region Director -
American Academy of Physician Assistants

In society today, we often hear words like “renewable”, “recyclable” and “green” in terms of the resources we consume. We are focused on continually renewing by reinvesting in items that are important to us in our personal lives. The same is true for our professional lives. The West Virginia Academy of Physician Assistants (WVAPA) needs your ongoing investment through membership, leadership and engagement.



The WVAPA is the only chapter representing the voice of West Virginia Physician Assistants at the state and local levels. As a constituent chapter of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), we are united in our commitment to represent the Physician Assistant profession.

*When you believe in
the mission,
you'll see it happen;
When you see the
mission happen,
you'll believe it.*

-- Author Unknown

I recently had the pleasure of attending a WVAPA meeting in Snowshoe Mountain, West Virginia where West Virginia PAs and others from surrounding states met for continuing medical education and networking activities at the exhibit hall, general membership meeting, and social event. Through the dedication of a handful of volunteer leaders, this event was provided in the local area making this educational and networking opportunity available to you. But are opportunities like this sustainable? Events and chapter initiatives require many volunteer resources that are committed to the mission and vision of the chapter.

The 2011-12 Board of Directors took office on July 1, and will need the

assistance of many individuals to serve as committee members or committee chairs.



Service on a committee is an excellent role to begin a leadership experience under the guidance of the Board of Directors. If you have an interest in chapter governance, event planning, newsletter development, legislation, or any other area, please contact President, Greg Selasky, PA-C at www.mywvapa.org and express your interest.

If you are not currently a member, please download an application at www.mywvapa.org. As your AAPA Southeast Region Director, I am also available to you at pgaillard@aapa.org or 571-319-4434. I look forward to continuing to work with WVAPA chapter leaders and meeting many new leaders in the future.

Workplace Stress and the Healthcare Provider

By Pam Moyers Scott, MPAS, PA-C

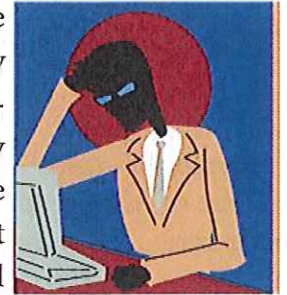
The healthcare delivery system has undergone dramatic organizational changes over the past several years. As a result, healthcare providers (HCPs) are frequently required to provide more services within more stringent time constraints while receiving less compensation. This combined with other potential workplace difficulties (e.g., ambiguous job descriptions, limitations in advancement opportunities, complex managerial practices, inadequate staffing, shift work, and potential exposure to incurable infectious diseases) and/or personal problems (e.g., financial difficulties, intrapersonal conflicts, and an inability to achieve a satisfactory balance between career and family responsibilities) places HCPs at risk for stress related illnesses including



major depressive disorder, dysthymic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

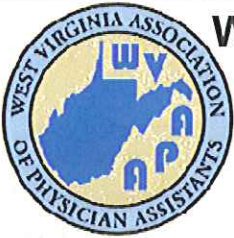
Signs, symptoms, and behaviors possibly indicative of a HCP suffering from workplace stress can involve psychological (e.g., irritability, anhedonia, depressed mood, sleep disturbances, memory problems, inability to concentrate, feeling overwhelmed, isolation, agitation, anxiety), physical (e.g., fatigue, appetite changes, pyrosis, other digestive problems, headache, other painful conditions, palpitations, and elevated blood pressure), performance (e.g., frequent absenteeism, changes in performance, procrastinating, and 'freezing under pressure'), and/or substance abuse (e.g., excessive alcohol consumption, increased tobacco usage, and self-medicating) complaints.

Unfortunately, workplace stress not only adversely affects the HCP, his or her co-workers, and his or her family members; it also has the potential to impact patient care. According to National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), these can include reduced patient satisfaction, misdiagnosis, and treatment errors. Therefore, it is essential that workplace stress be minimized as much as possible for HCPs to safely practice medicine by identifying the stressors, addressing underlying issues, and providing assistance and guidance. If the symptoms are severe, a comorbid psychological condition may develop, and/or the potential impact on patient care remains. The West Virginia Medical Professionals Health Program (WVMPHP) can assist the provider experiencing mental illness or substance use disorder to ensure he or she gets the necessary treatment, appropriate monitoring, and can safely return to the practice of medicine.



The WVMPHP activities are not limited to substance abuse. It also deals with mental illnesses including, but not limited to major depressive disorder, bipolar (I and II) disorders, generalized anxiety disorders (acute and chronic), post-traumatic stress disorder, attention deficit disorder, and other mood disorders.

If you feel you or a colleague has severe workplace stress related to mental illness or substance use disorder, contact WVMPHP's Executive Medical Director, P. Bradley Hall, MD, at 304-933-1030 (M-F, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm) for a confidential consultation.



West Virginia Association of Physician Assistants

Membership Application

Check one of the following:

- Fellow AAPA member practicing and/or residing in West Virginia. Dues: \$75/year
- Associate non-member of AAPA practicing or residing in West Virginia. Dues: \$50/year
- Affiliate PA not practicing or residing in West Virginia or other health professional. Dues: \$50/year
- Student students of an ARC-PA-approved physician assistant training program. Dues: \$10/one-time fee (expires June after graduation)

Full Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Work Address: _____

Home City, State, Zip: _____

Work City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Preferred mailing address: Home Work

Current Employer: _____

Area of Specialty: _____

Name of PA Program: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

May we publish your contact information in the annual WVAPA directory? Yes No

*e-mail addresses are not published except when directly authorized by the individual.

*personal information will NOT be given or sold to third parties!

Additional Areas of Support

I would like to serve WVAPA in the following capacity: (check one of the following)

CME Legislative Membership Nominations and Elections

Newsletter Rules & Regulations Impairment Support

Student Support Public Relations and Education

Speaker / Topic _____ Other _____

Payment Options

Check money order Please make out all checks or money orders to: **WVAPA.**

Signature: _____ Amount Paying: _____

Optional Scholarship Contribution Amount: \$ _____

Dues expire one year from join/renew date!

If mailing application, please send to the following address.

WVAPA
P.O. Box 3014
Wheeling, WV 26003-3014

Membership dues are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes. However, they may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expense or as an itemized miscellaneous deduction subject to restrictions imposed as a result of association lobbying activities. It is estimated that the nondeductible portion of your 2011 dues subject to lobby law is 93.25%.

Tax ID#55-0654090

Dun# 827635710

Revised 1/5/11

Immediate Past President's Report

-- By Christa Hodges, PA-C

Please allow me to express my appreciation for everyone who attended the WVAPA Conference in March. It was very nice to meet so many Physician Assistants from around our state. There were eighty-four attendees, and the conference was definitely considered a success. However, we have decided this will be our final year at Snowshoe for awhile as we are hoping to visit other destinations here in our state!

Concerning membership, I would like to communicate how much we need you as a member. We were very blessed this year with a successful conference which allowed us to collect enough funds to pay our lobbyist. We can't, however, depend on these conferences to keep our

organization afloat. We need members and we need volunteers. If you have ever thought about volunteering, then this is your opportunity. If serving as a board member is too great a commitment, then please consider joining a committee. There are several to choose from including legislative, membership, CME, and newsletter.

The final item I wish to mention is our new website. Please check it out. We are constantly updating the site and soon, we hope to make it possible for you to join and pay dues online! Thanks once again to everyone who contributed to or attended the conference and we look forward to seeing you again next year!



West Virginia Association of Physician Assistants
PO Box 3014
Wheeling, WV 26003