



The Advocate

NURSE PRACTITIONERS OF NEW YORK

WWW.NPNY.NET

WINTER 2011

From the President's Desk...

With a fond heart for NPNY, I write this last president's letter. Due to unexpected time commitments, I will be relinquishing the duties of the presidency to our very capable colleague and past president, Susan Moscou. Susan will be taking the helm in January 2011. I am extremely grateful for her willingness to re-enter the role. Susan will be assisted by our President-Elect, Wendy Kong, who will take the Presidential seat in May 2011. Thank you, Susan and Wendy!

MORE IMPRESSIVE

Over the past three years of volunteering with NPNY, I have seen the organization blossom tremendously. An already strong professional organization, NPNY has become only more impressive in my opinion.

Membership has grown and new energy has been brought to our committees. Juliette Blount has been instrumental in securing our new meeting space (PACC in Union Square) and ensuring that the facility meets our needs. Jordana Cotton has invested a tremendous amount of time in orchestrating our monthly programs and ordering the food for our meetings. Krysti Buchanan has taken on secretarial responsibilities and continues to help us generate great ideas for the organization. Rachael Lerner is advancing our tech presence by debuting our organization on Meetup.com and LinkedIn.com; these social media tools will surely advance our name and help recruit new members. Irene Van Slyke and Helen Ruddy continue to work tirelessly for NPNY and constitute the backbone of who we are.

APPRECIATE CAMARADERIE

The entire board also deserves so much thanks and I applaud each and every one of you for your contributions to helping NPNY flourish. You have made my tenure as President a pleasure and I've appreciated all your camaraderie.

I wish you all a delightful holiday season and all best wishes for 2011!

—Amanda Brei, RN, MSN, ANP

Working to Change the Status Quo: It's Our Turn!

"The need is great. The country will wait no longer. It's your turn now. This is your day," said Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, MBA (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation President and CEO) in her speech at the National Summit on Advancing Health through Nursing. She was talking to us. It is, indeed, "our turn," "our day"—but it is up to us to make it so.

SHAKE UP THE STATUS QUO

More than 500 diverse leaders met in late fall at the National Summit in Washington, DC, to discuss implementing The Institute of Medicine's (IOM) recommendations in its report *The Future of Nursing* (iom.edu/Reports/2010/The-Future-of-Nursing-Leading-Change-Advancing-Health.aspx). Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey referenced Clara Barton's "courage, conviction and stamina to shake up the status quo." Her entire speech is available at www.rwjf.org; and it is definitely worth the read. After decades of bemoaning the failure of the powers that be to recognize our contributions, we as NPs now have the Robert Wood

Johnson Foundation, the Institute of Medicine, and AARP New York—powerful people and organizations—all telling us: "It's your turn."

TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE

"Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States," according to the IOM report. Five states are participating in the regional action committees to implement IOM recommendations, and New York is one. So new that it is not yet up, the web site (Initiative on the Future of Nursing Regional Action Coalition-New York) announces "coming soon...information and resources for transforming health care for all New Yorkers," but e-mailing (info@ifnracny.org) is an option.

NPNY's February 17th Educational Meeting will provide a Policy Update; see Calendar for details. Be sure to bring your Blackberrys, laptops, ... as Rachael Lerner will demonstrate how simple it is to access the information needed to get involved. —Helen Ruddy, FNP

NPNY Nurses Share Holiday Cheer in December



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NPNY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE OPPORTUNITIES!

NPNY is incorporated as a not-for-profit professional organization in New York State. As such, you can deduct your membership dues as a business expense. And if you opt to donate money beyond your professional dues—let's say you add \$35 to your \$65 dues to make a \$100 check—the \$35 is deductible as well as a contribution to support professional education. In either case, you need to keep a record, such as your cancelled check.

NP NY CALENDAR: Earn CEs for Each Program

Everybody welcome. Free for members; \$20 for nonmembers; \$5 for nonmember NP students.

- ◆ **THURSDAY, JAN. 20, 2011**
Program: Palliative Care: Its Place and Role (Earn 2 CEs)
Speaker: Phyllis Sutton APRN, ACHPN
- ◆ **THURSDAY, FEB. 17, 2011**
Program: Health care Policy Issues for Nurse Practitioners (Earn 2 CEs)
Speakers: Helen Ruddy, FNP; Rebecca Fry, FNP; and Rachael Lerner, WHNP. Bring your laptops for an interactive demonstration on how to lobby effectively.
- ◆ **THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2011**
Program: Health Psychology for Primary Care Clinicians (Earn 2 CEs)
Speaker: Maria Cintron, Psy.D, MS
- ◆ **THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2011**
Program: Lipids: Beyond LDL, HDL and Framingham Risk (Earn 2 CEs)
Speaker: Vanessa Milne, NP, MS; certified by the American Nurses

Credentialing Center as a Family Nurse Practitioner and Cardiac Vascular Nurse.

- ◆ **THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011**
Program: Preventative Care in Rheumatology Patients (Earn 2 CEs)
Speaker: Eileen Lydon, MA, ANP-BC

SCHEDULE FOR ALL PROGRAMS:

6 - 6:30 pm Networking & light dinner
6:30 - 7 pm News & announcements
7 - 8:30 pm Program

LOCATION: CE meetings take place at Beth Israel PACC (Phillips Ambulatory Care Center), in Conference Room #1, located at 10 Union Square East.

SUBWAY: Union Square station on the L, N, Q, R, W, 4, 5, 6.

DETAILS: For more information: check NP NY web site. These activities have been submitted to the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) for approval to award contact hours. NYSNA is accredited as an approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Mental Health Clinic Run by Nurse Practitioners

An NP NY member alerted us to this unique, independent community mental health clinic, managed by psychiatric nurse practitioners: St. Paul's Center of New York. Three years old, the clinic was founded by Jeannemarie Baker, MS, NP. She and others who run the facility are faculty and graduates of Columbia University School of Nursing.

MORE TIME FOR CLIENTS

Located inside a church, close to Penn Station, the clinic provides comprehensive and continuous mental health care—and helps divert homelessness and prevent needless hospitalization and incarceration: a tall order.

It took years for Baker to get the clinic up and running. Funding comes mostly from private sources, allowing NPs more time to give personal attention to clients and less to bureaucracy. Still, Baker experiences the limitation of NP practice in New York State, like not being able to refer clients for housing services without a physician's signature. However, she has contacted her State Senator Tom Duane, who has introduced a bill to allow NPs to refer without physicians.

REFERRALS ON WEB SITE

The telephone number for St. Paul's Center, 424 W. 34th St., in Manhattan, is 212/695.3444. Referral forms are available on the web site: www.stpaulscenter.org.



More holiday cheer! Celebrating another year at NP NY: from left to right, Amanda Brei, President; Helen Ruddy, Legislative Chair; Jordana Cotton, Program Chair; and Suzanne Rendeiro, former Program Chair.

Some of the Latest News on the New York State Level:

A Quick Summary

PENDING

The Patient Access and Advocacy Act, introduced by Senator Velmanette Montgomery and Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, would remove the mandatory collaborative agreement. We need to continue to work on this legislation; the IOM report provides clear support for removing regulatory obstacles to “nurses practicing to the full extent of education and training.”

PASSED AND ENACTED INTO LAW

Family Health Care Decisions Act (see www.nysba.org) allows “family” legally to sign for treatment for a patient who does not have capacity. Formerly only a proxy or surrogate, designated by court order, could sign. Now the order is: guardian; spouse or domestic partner (this is new and huge); son or daughter, 18 years old; parent; brother or sister, 18 years old; close friend.

New York Palliative Care Act “requires a health practitioner [note: the language does not say physician] to provide palliative care information and end of life options to a patient diagnosed with a terminal illness or condition.”

HIV Testing (www.nyhealth.gov/hivtestlaw@health.state.ny.us). No written consent for stat oral testing required; however, signed consent for blood is still needed, but no mandatory pre-test counseling.

Midwifery Modernization Act, unanimously passed, allows independent practice for nurse midwives. **The next logical step: NPs!**

Our time is now. If we don't step up to the plate, others will determine the future of nursing for us. — **Helen Ruddy, FNP, Chair of Legislative Committee**

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