LAPA Newsletter

May 2022

President's Message

Greetings!

I hope this message finds you well as we embark on this next chapter of COVID. I am very happy to see our State's COVID numbers dwindling. We continue to enthusiastically strive to represent Louisiana PAs. Our recent CME conference was a huge success. We thank those of you who were able to attend. We look forward to planning next year's conference and will soon be polling our members on potential conference sites.

As you know, our legislative session has begun, and our practice Bill has been filed. We will be periodically updating our members on its progress. I strongly encourage each of you to engage your local lawmakers so that we can clearly articulate to them the value that Louisiana PAs provide the great citizens of Louisiana. Now more than ever, it is imperative that each of us resist the apathy that we are all so susceptible to in losing ourselves in the great work of providing exceptional care to our fellow Louisianans. While most communities are familiar with PAs and what we do, there are still many legislators who do not. It is up to us to educate them on both our extensive training and of the quality and cost-effective care that Louisiana PAs provide its residents.

There is strength in numbers! Please consider reaching out to your PA colleagues who are not current members of LAPA and encourage their membership. It is through members like you that we can responsibly represent our profession and address issues that are important to our practice.

Best,

Michael J. Hebert, M.S., PA-C

President

Committee Updates

Legislative/Advocacy Committee –Sarah Deyo, PA-C

Bill SB 158

Stay tuned for important updates to advocate for PAs in Louisiana!

Please click here to fill out the Legislative Key Contact Survey

Membership Committee – Brandie Henry, PA-C

We are working hard to increase our membership numbers. We recently offered $25 off our yearly $150 fee during March Madness. Thanks to those who joined for the first time or renewed during that membership drive.

Our focus now has shifted to recruiting our new PA graduates from our 4 in state schools. Members of the LAPA BOD and/or our local regional ambassadors plan to visit the schools prior to the new classes graduating. We will educate them on the importance of being a part of LAPA in the hopes they all join and remain members throughout their PA careers. The first LAPA school visit a success with FranU. Thanks to Steven Presley who zoomed with them. I will visit with the Xavier Program and Stephanie Eschete will visit with the LSU New Orleans program in May. We are working on setting up a visit with the LSU Shreveport program in August.

What can you do to help with membership??? Ask the PAs you work with if they are members. You will be surprised but many think they are, and they are not. You can email me at brandie.henry@cvtsc.com if needed and I can always check on someone's membership status.

JOIN LAPA TODAY!

Committee Updates

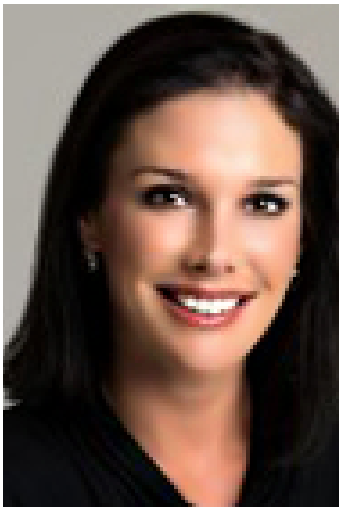
Conference Committee – Rebecca Clawson, PA-C

The 2022 LAPA Annual Conference in New Orleans was filled with engaging speakers, interesting vendors, fun events, and great opportunities for networking. It was wonderful to be back in person even though it was a smaller crowd than usual. LAPA made a small profit off the conference this year, and tentative plans place our next annual conference in the Fall of 2023. We hope to be back full-force with higher attendance, the student quiz bowl, and maybe even in a different location in another great Louisiana city – stay tuned!

If you know any companies that would like to sponsor a booth or talk, please send that information to **Monique Ochoa.**

Committee Updates

PAC Committee – Shelley Esnard, PA-C



The LAPA-PAC is hard at work serving LAPA members! We were thrilled to be in-person for LAPA Annual Meeting in New Orleans and host our first virtual online auction. With just 20 items we were able to raise over $2,000.00 bringing our PAC balance to $6,314.59. This funding helps support our legislators who are committed to Louisiana PAs and improving access to healthcare for our Louisiana residents.

We are planning several legislative events in the different regions of Louisiana with our most recent being a wine tasting in Baton Rouge and a dinner in New Orleans.

If you are interested in attending or hosting a LAPA legislative event, please reach out to me and I will help coordinate with your regional ambassador. We will continue to utilize the Auctria platform for virtual silent auctions and donations to reach our PAC goal of $10,000.00. If you are interested in donating an item for an upcoming auction, please contact me directly at shelly.esnard@gmail.com or (225) 229-5980.

The LAPA-PAC needs the support of EVERY LAPA member. Thank you for all you do for your communities. Your donation amplifies PAs voices in Louisiana!

In other news

BOD Elections

New BOD members will be notified in May and then will start their term on 7/1/2022.

Regional Ambassador Update

Please welcome our newest regional ambassadors. The new Baton Rouge ambassador is Jolie May Relle and the new Shreveport ambassador is Georgia Monk!

We still have vacancies in Houma and Monroe. If you want to get involved with LAPA and live in these areas, please contact Brandie Henry at brandie.henry@cvtsc.com.

If you have a drug rep wanting to sponsor a dinner, please reach out to your ambassador with their information.

Live in an area with a vacancy? Volunteer today!

In other news

Bylaws Update Work group

Be on the lookout for LAPA's proposed Bylaws revision. A few proposed changes include 2-year Board of Director tenures (instead of 1 year), clarification regarding voting members, streamlining the member voting process, and incorporating language that is in line with the PA profession's most recent name change. We are looking to establish a working group to ensure that our Bylaws adhere to AAPA Guidelines for Ethical Conduct for the PA Profession and to propose recommendations for modifications that will guide and govern our organization as we continue to move the profession forward. Working group meetings will be weekly via Zoom for about 1 month (or less) starting in May. If you are interested in being a part of the working group for the Bylaws revision, please contact Sabrina Weathersby at **Sabrina.weathersby@gmail.com**.

Legislative Dinners

PAs gathered in New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas to share and discuss recent legislative work and SB 158.

Student Corner

LSUHSC Shreveport – Allis Armato, PA-S

The graduating class of 2022 will be on our final rotation (#12) during the month of May. We will be taking finals and then starting 10-week preceptorships.

Attached is a description of our preceptorship from our PA website and handbook. "A clinical externship intended to be completed in the practice setting of a prospective physician employer. The preceptorship may be fulfilled in a discipline of the student's choosing after approval by the program. Duties may include extended clinical care hours, emergency and hospital call, and community responsibilities as deemed appropriate by the supervising physician."

Looking forward to graduation in August!!

Student Corner

LSUHSC New Orleans – Ross Clark, PA-S

Our second-year students are busy learning clinical skills before heading off to rotations in May. Recently, we have practiced starting IVs, suturing cadavers, and knot tying. In the next few weeks, we will be having a scrub simulation and taking finals to finish off our didactic year!

Our first-year students are completing their first semester of PA school and have learned so much! They are excited to begin working with cadavers in anatomy in a few weeks. This summer, they are also looking forward to learning how to perform a physical exam!

FranU – Natalie Brocato, PA-S

Congratulations to the class of 2022! They have completed clinicals and their final checkoffs. They are graduating on May 14th! The class of 2023 took their summative exam, and have now completed the entire didactic year. These students will begin their first clinical rotation on May 2nd. The class of 2024 have taken their first semester final exams! Their second semester starts on May 2nd, and they will be taking Foundations 1 and 2, Clinical Laboratory Medicine, and Pharmacology 1. The class of 2024 has also elected their new FranU Physician Assistant Student Organization (PASO) representatives to take over for the class of 2023! The new FranU LAPA Representative is Erinn Smith! The FranU PA program is proud of all of these students for how hard they work and wish them all good luck as they continue their journey to become a PA!

Class of 2023 White Coat Ceremony

Student Corner

Xavier University – Lanie Sansing, PA-S

Xavier Ochsner Physician Assistant Program held its 2nd annual White Coat Ceremony on January 29th, emphasizing the importance of compassionate patient care from the start of clinical training. During the event, 35 Class of 2023 physician assistants-in-training received their white coats in a ceremony held at XULA's University Center Ballroom. Dr. Abdul Khan, PA Program Medical Director and VPMA Ochsner Kenner/Pulmonary Critical Care served as the keynote speaker. Nine scholarships were awarded at the event totaling approximately $160,000.

LAPA and all its members would like to congratulate all the students for finishing finals. We also would like to wish the best of luck to the students who have finals coming up. And finally, we wish the graduating classes all the best in their future endeavors and that we hope to see them continue to remain involved and active with LAPA!

PA Spotlight

Laura Knight, PA-C

This quarter's LAPA spotlight shines on Laura Knight. Laura earned her master's degree from the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University after obtaining her undergraduate at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA. During that time, she worked for several years at the Crisis Intervention Center of Louisiana and was involved in suicide prevention, crisis counseling, and traumatic loss outreach.

She has worked for three years in Critical Care and Pulmonology at Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge, LA. She has a CAQ in Hospital Medicine due to extensive clinical experience and proficiency in procedural skills, medical therapies, and diagnostics. She is also certified in advanced cardiac, advanced trauma, and international trauma life support.

She is also commissioned as a Medical Officer with the 159th Fighter Wing in the Louisiana Air National Guard, Air Combat Command and has practiced disaster medicine related to recent hurricanes in the southern part of our state.

She is a member of the Louisiana Academy of PAs (LAPA) and the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) and will represent Louisiana as one of the House of Delegates members for the AAPA annual meeting this year

If you know of an amazing PA who should be spotlighted in our next newsletter, please email Rebecca Clawson at rebecca.clawson@lsuhs.edu.

Welcome to LAPA

We would like to welcome & thank the following people for joining LAPA

Karra Aymond, Olivia Bell, Kimberly Bonvillian, Genevieve Brill, Myma Brunson, Martin Castillo, Connor Chamberlain, Sonya Coleman, Tyus Early, Madeline Edwards, Ann Fauchuex, Nicole Francois, Hanna Frisella, Alisa Hamner, Courtney Hancock, Haley Hoffer, Alyssa Johnson, Michelle Kimberly, Allison Liddle, Mark Logan, Lynne Lundsgaard, Chloe Mohr, Bailey Murry, Rachel Padgett, Katie Patterson, Sarah Redemann, Jolie Relle, Carlita Rollins, Jane Seley, Amalia Skalos, Ashley Smith, Maggie Struble, Kaitlyn Warren, Alaina Wilson, Stephen Yancovich, Alice Yeh, and Kayla Zumo.

Happy Birthday

We are wishing the following members a very Happy Birthday!

March – Joseph Abel, Morgan Angelle, Sarah Babin, Teresa Bigler, Jordan Cage, Mark Carbo, Amanda Centanni, Rebecca Clawson, Jacquelyn Dolan, Michael Falba, Cassie Guidry, Jonathon Hardy, Hayden Hartley, Aubrey Hurley, Elizabeth Karlsson, Marley Katz, Joseph Kent, Lara Lauter, Kamryn Leeper, Rachel Leonard, Alan Nguyen, Kristene Olinde, Ernesto Pena, Colin Rader, Randi Seneca, Nicolette Shafto, Jillian Strickland, Courtney Sylvest, Tyisha Thomas, Emilie Thornhill Davis, Kelly White, and Bailey Woodward

April – Tony Acosta, Rachael Arend, Sarah Brooks, Tess Cooley, Emily Cotton, Connor Donaldson, Tyus Early, Alexis Griffin, Haley Hoffer, Stephen Kay, David Kesterson, Charvi Khurana, Timothy Kwan, Mary Manuel, Emily Menefee, Layne Nalty, Lance Nelson, Ryan O'Banion, Anna Ortego, Kathryn Smith, Madeline Taylor, and Lindy Troullier

May – Haley Baudoin-Willem, Alexis Bell-Pierce, Michael Benoit, Andrew Bragagnini, Terry Braud, Ellen Briley, Sarah Davidson, Benjamin Erwin, Thea Fontenot, Hannah Frisella, Alexis Griffin, Luis Guerrero, Brandie Henry, Alexis Hepting, Sara Hutchinson, Amanda Kuber, Wendy Langley, Alexandra Lemaire, Sydnee McCall, Maria Nazar, Tu-Anh Nguyen, Gabriela Ordoyne, Robbie Pitre, Micah Poole, Kaitlyn Reine, Ashely Romero, Katie Rushing, Kellee Swider, Kayley Terminie, Kylie Tolar, Katie Tso, and Amanda Wolsefer

Upcoming Events

View events here!