

**Kathryn R. Martin, PA-C,
2005 - 2007**

Ms. Kitty Martin added her feminine touch to the PSPA as our 14th president. Kitty served with grace as she built life long relationships in Harrisburg and with our physician partner groups. Her nurturing personality was an asset as she mentored numerous young leaders who remain active today.

From your Perspective, what were the greatest challenges that the PSPA term in office as president?

During my term we were trying to get prescriptive privileges for PAs who worked for Osteopathic physicians but we came up against a lot of resistance from the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, the Osteopathic Board as well as government red tape. We eventually obtained these privileges last year with a big team effort from PSPA and its' members writing a lot of letters.

What were your greatest achievements for PSPA during your term?

We were able to attain a few goals on our "Wish List" by forming a relationship with the Governor's Office of Health Care Reform. We increased our PA to Physician ratio from 2:1 to 4:1. (We wanted unlimited but we could not get that to go through so this was a compromise position.) We also obtained the right to order physical therapy, occupational and durable medical goods.

What were your greatest disappointments?

My greatest personal disappointment is that the Osteopathic prescriptive regulations were not finalized during my term of office because that had been my major focus for my Presidency, but they went through soon afterwards and I am still proud of that achievement.

Tell us something that happened during your term as president that you think our members should know.

Members should know that PSPA is team oriented, The committees work together for common goals for the benefit of all PAs in Pennsylvania. We are not paid for our time but we feel that volunteering for the PSPA is important because this is our livelihood. We cannot sit back and hope that everything is OK. We have had to give our own time despite busy schedules to attain the practice rights that we all enjoy today. Everyone works really hard but Mark DeSantis stands out in my mind as a particularly dedicated volunteer. He has been there for the long haul as a Past President himself and then Government Affairs Chair for many years. He was with me every step of the way during my term as President. Of course he has his wife Susan DeSantis, our Board Administrator, around to help him look really smart.

Now that time has passed, was being president of the PSPA something that you are glad you tackled? Did it help your career?

I had to be talked into tackling the Presidency by past Presidents Bill Reynolds and Pat Ivory. I did not feel that I was ready to take on this role, and I was probably right, but PSPA has such good people in place and Susan DeSantis was there to help make me look smart so I wasn't able to do any damage with my relative inexperience as a leader. Everyone was patient with me as I learned the ropes and by the time my term was up, I was ready to lead. I don't think being President helped my career in any direct way, but I think I gained some confidence that can only be helpful in any situation. Perhaps having that on my resume will impress a prospective employer enough to give me an edge over another candidate, but that is not why I chose to take on this role.

Where did you get your PA education and when did you graduate?

I graduated from the Hahnemann University PA Program in 1984 with a BS degree.

In what specialties have you worked?

I have mainly worked in Family Medicine since graduation but I have also done some clinical research on the side, served as an office manager while still practicing clinically and recently worked a second part-time job in Pediatrics.

What are you doing now?

I am currently working in a new position in Family Medicine at Delaware Valley Medical and Wellness Center in Levittown, PA in Bucks County. I am also enrolled in Drexel University's Post Graduate PA Program to finally earn my Master's degree. I have a dual major with Complementary and Integrative Therapy as my focus.

What are your major interests in life?

Right now my free time is mostly taken up with homework, but I enjoy walking, biking, reading and socializing with family and friends.

Who are your significant others, family members?

I have been with my boyfriend Norman for the past four years. I live with my sweet, deaf cat named Priti in an apartment in Newtown, PA near Tyler State Park. I am the youngest of five sibling and I am “Aunt Kitty” to 7 nieces and nephews who are all grown now and one Grand Niece, Anya who is three years old and the apple of my eye.