

## **Stephen Wilson, PA-C 1987-1989**

Mr. Wilson became the Society's fifth president in 1987. He started his involvement with the Society as soon as he moved to Pennsylvania and continued to serve the Society in the role of Government Affairs chairman until he moved out of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**PSPA News:** From your perspective, what were the greatest challenges that the PSPA and its leadership faced during your term in office as president?

**SW:** After the enactment of enabling legislation, the development of new regulations to implement the law became the central focus. The prescribing regulations were the most onerous. What we thought would be completed in 2 years was delayed for several years after my presidency until my tenure as chairman of the Government Affairs Committee. It was a time consuming process. Another challenge was seeking the appointment of a physician assistant to the Allied Health seat of the State Medical Board. We also had to answer the challenge by the State Medical Board when it tried to rule that PAs could not write orders in the hospital setting.

**PSPA News:** What were the greatest achievements for PSPA during your term?

**SW:** Recognition of the PSPA by the State Medical Board as a reference for PA activity and as a "player" in the health care landscape was a key achievement. Hiring of an executive secretary to take care of day-to-day organizational duties was a good step for the Society.

**PSPA News:** What were your greatest disappointments?

**SW:** My greatest disappointment was that the prescribing regulations were not completed during my tenure as president.

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

**SW:** The PSPA answering machine was removed from my bedroom. The PSPA was one of the first PA organizations to have an executive secretary. This not only gave us a support system that was necessary for growth but it also gave us credibility among members, non-members and outside agencies. We became more responsive.

**PSPA News:** Now that time has passed, was being president of the PSPA something that you are glad you tackled?

**SW:** Absolutely! The friends and professional contacts I made then continue to be a part of my life today and have had influence in my career. The skills and knowledge I developed by "being under fire" have allowed me to be more effective in the business and political world of medicine.

**PSPA News:** What did you do prior to becoming a PA?

**SW:** I was a high school graduate with pimples.

**PSPA News:** Where did you get your PA education and when did you graduate?

**SW:** I attended Alderson-Broadus College PA program and graduated in 1974. It was the first four year program in the country. It was a good thing it was four years. It allowed me to mature. I feel I was challenged and pulled through by the Viet Nam era ex-corpsmen that made up a large percentage of my class.

**PSPA News:** In what specialties have you worked?

**SW:** Trauma, general surgery and cardiovascular surgery.

**PSPA News:** What are you doing now?

**SW:** I am still working and pulling night call. I am also manger of Cardiovascular Non-Physician Practitioners.

**PSPA News:** What are your major interests in life, i.e., passions or hobbies?

**SW:** It was once said, "Golf is not a matter of life and death. It's much more important than that." I also enjoy landscaping/gardening and being in the woods bird watching.

**PSPA News:** Who are your significant others, family members?

**SW:** My wife Pat of 32 years held the fort down while I went to meetings. Our children, Marissa and Jared are now happily married. We are currently awaiting the arrival of our first grandchild

