

William Hunt, PA-C 1981-1983

Mr. William Hunt honed his early exemplary executive skills as the third president of the Society. Although he no longer works as a physician assistant, we are proud to claim him as one of our own.

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

WH: Still in a fledgling period following the passage of enabling legislation, the Society was faced with the enormous task and challenge of the development of regulations. We were also challenged to promote the PSPA as a voice for PAs throughout the state. The leadership played an important role in guiding the establishment of the PA's place in healthcare in Pennsylvania. This was a time when strong opposition, primarily from organized nursing, threatened to dampen our early success and the PSPA leadership was challenged to rally the support necessary to assure an effective future role for physician assistants.

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

WH: Our greatest achievements were establishing a strong presence with the State Medical Board, advising them on regulations and matters of administering the practice of PAs; continued growth in the PSPA membership; growing a core of outstanding leaders to assure the effective success of the PSPA in years to come.

PSPA News: What were your greatest disappointments?

WH: I don't recall a significant disappointment.

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

WH: During my term, after a long dispute over whether nurses could carry out the patient care orders written by a PA, we received a favorable opinion from the Pennsylvania Attorney General supporting our position that nurses can carry out orders written by a PA. This was an important turning point in establishing the PA's place in the healthcare team.

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

WH: It was a great experience. It was personally and professionally rewarding. It built friendships and relationships that I treasure and which have lasted a life-time.

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

WH: I served in the USAF and then worked as a medical laboratory technician.

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

WH: I trained at Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital (now Drexel University) and I graduated in 1976.

PSPA News: In what specialties have you worked?

WH: While practicing clinically, I worked in primary care and for a couple of years in emergency medicine. I also taught on the faculty of both the Hahnemann and King's College PA programs.

PSPA News: What are you doing now?

WH: I presently work in administration as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Catholic Healthcare West, the 4th largest non-profit hospital system in the US.

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

WH: Enjoying family...especially our four grandchildren and taking time to travel.

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

WH: Charlene and I have been married 37 years. We have two daughters, three granddaughters and one grandson.