

Cheryl Green, PA-C 1989-1991

Ms. Cheryl Green was our first woman president of the Society. She has always been a whirlwind of energy with a sunny outlook on life.

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

CG: The greatest challenges PSPA faced during my term of office were the continuing fight for promulgation of regulations for prescriptive privileges and the increase in what PAs were permitted to do. The Osteopathic Board, until fairly recently was an especially difficult group to make strides with. The Society at that time was generally working on better visibility for the profession, including more job opportunities. We were also still educating the legislature on just who we were.

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

CG: I believe it was during my term that development of the regulations to implement prescriptive privileges was pushed forward with the hard work of Dave Bissonette, Nate Alston, Steve Wilson, John Milliron and countless others who simply would not give up. Jobs became more plentiful and the legislature began to realize what we had to offer people in Pennsylvania regarding their health care.

PSPA News: What were your greatest disappointments?

CG: I think the greatest disappointments involved the Osteopathic Board not willing to be more open to the profession at that time.

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

CG: Members should know that before, during and after my term, other health care professionals pushed “turf war” issues. There were legislators that were wrongly informed. There were health professionals who did their best to discredit us and spread information that was wrong to try and sink our profession. PAs need to continue to be vigilant about what the public hears and sees PAs doing.

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

CG: I have always been happy and honored that I was able to serve as PSPA president, especially during the years when the profession was still fighting their way to acceptance as a health care profession. I don’t know that it helped in my career or hurt it. After my term with PSPA, I went on to do battle with the Veterans Administration, where I have worked the last 22 years. I became involved in getting the Chief Grade approved for PAs. I have always disliked bullies and have always been outspoken. I think sometimes it has hurt me in my personal career, but I don’t really care.

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

CG: My journey to the PA profession was a little different than most. In 1975, while a student at Penn State, my kidneys failed. The nephrologist in State College (still my doctor after 35 years) had done his fellowship in nephrology at Duke. When he came to State College, he brought Allen Lease a PA he had met with him. Allen was the first PA I had met and I was so impressed, I decided to enter the profession. I finished my degree in music performance/education, but while doing that, I took the prerequisites for PA school. I took a year to perform and teach and make money and then applied and was accepted into PA school. I was fortunate to receive a kidney from my mom in 1977 and still have it.

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

CG: I went to PA school at Penn State College of Medicine PA program in Hershey. It was a wonderful program that unfortunately closed in the late 1980’s. I graduated in February, 1983.

PSPA News: In what specialties have you worked?

CG: I have worked in a number of different areas; inpatient/outpatient psychiatry, family medicine, physical medicine and rehabilitation medicine, emergency medicine, geriatric medicine, inpatient hospitalist, hospice, internal medicine, women’s health and a few I’m probably forgetting.

PSPA News: What are you doing now?

CG: I work full time at the Lebanon VA hospital. The job is 50% clinical and 50% administrative. I do specialty exams which can include agent orange and Persian gulf registry, compensation and pension. I cover clinics when doctors, NPs or PAs are sick or on vacation. I do coverage on the inpatient psychiatry ward on weekends. I am the Vice President of the VA hospital's American Federation of Government Employees a AFL-CIO affiliate. In this position I work with management in partnership to make sure everyone is treated fairly. I also have a part time job in a family medicine practice in Lancaster, PA.

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

CG: I have lots of interests to keep me busy. I still do some professional singing. I have a home that keeps me busy and I enjoy gardening. I have been promoting organ and tissue donation for 35 years and have been on the Board of Directors of the Kidney Foundation of Central PA for much of that time. I do counseling and PR work. I love it! Last summer I got to dance with the Philly Phanatic at a Phillies game on organ donor awareness night through the GIFT of LIFE in Philadelphia, another organization I work with to promote organ donation. I also stay politically active in the PA profession,