

**David Bissonette, PA-C
1983-1987**

Mr. David Bissonette was the fourth president of PSPA and he served two consecutive terms. In order to prevent being elected to a third term he pushed for a change in our by-laws. That is why we now always have a president-elect during the second year of the president's term.

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

DB: Passage of effective regulations to implement the PA enabling legislation was our greatest challenge.

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

DB: Our greatest achievements were acquisition of an effective lobbyist and amending the Medical Practice Act to allow prescribing privileges for PAs.

PSPA News: What were your greatest disappointments?

DB: My greatest disappointment was our inability to grow the PSPA membership.

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

DB: Fewer than 25 committed PAs pushed through major legislative change and advanced PSPA organizational effectiveness after spending personal resources to achieve goals on behalf of the organization and profession.

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

DB: I am proud to have served and proud to see ever more creative and energetic successors. Although no direct career advancement can be tied to the experience of being PSPA president, I earned considerable respect from physician supervisors.

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

DB: I milked cows as a boy, went to high school in a seminary and worked my way through college and surgeon's assistant program.

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

DB: I graduated in 1975 from the University of Alabama in Birmingham Surgeons' Assistant Program

PSPA News: In what specialties have you worked?

DB: Neurosurgery

PSPA News: What are you doing now?

DB: I am Executive Administrator of the Department of Neurosurgery, University of Pittsburgh.

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

DB: Playing poker, reading, chasing retirement.

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

DB: Kathy is my life partner of 26 years and fellow PA. We met through our involvement with the Society. Betsy is our oldest and a doctor of physical therapy and currently in Texas as a "NIT" (nun-in-training). Jackie, our youngest, is an undeclared freshman at the University of Pittsburgh.