

The Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants

Welcomes You!

Membership Dues:

\$30/year for Physician Assistant Program Students
\$50/ 2 years for Physician Assistant Students
\$75/ 3 years for Physician Assistant Students
\$90/year for New Graduate Fellow or Affiliate
\$180/year for Fellows (Graduate Practicing PAs)
\$75 for Sustaining membership (Non-practicing PA)

Membership Includes:

- **PSPA newsletters**
- **Job listing and employment information**
- **Discounted conference tuition rate**
- **Regional CME lectures and dinners for free**
- **Legislative alerts**
- **Updates on PA regulation and reimbursement**

Plus, Your Dues Support:

- PSPA lobbyist, representing the PA career in Pennsylvania
- Annual student scholarships of \$2000.00 each

The Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants

The Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants is a non-profit organization set up with the purpose of representing graduate and student physician assistants within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The primary objective of this organization is to provide quality medical care for the people of Pennsylvania through a process of continuing medical education both to the membership and to the public. The Society is also dedicated to promote professionalism among the membership, promote the physician assistant concept through education of professional and lay people, and to promote similar interests in the student societies.

The Society is a constituent chapter of the American Academy of Physician Associates. The Society is made up of the Board of Directors and its members, who are all Physician Assistants of Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is separated into eight regions. Each region has a representative responsible for organizing and holding regional meetings. The regional representative is the liaison between PSPA members and the PSPA board of directors. Regional meetings provide a setting for which important issues can be discussed, or announcements can be made. Furthermore, a CME lecture often follows which provides members with a chance to earn category 1 continuing medical education credit. The regional meetings are open to both graduate and student PSPA members, but because students cannot obtain CME credit until certified, these meetings may occasionally be limited to graduate members.

The Board of Directors and regional representatives meet quarterly, however, these meetings are open to all members. The date and time of each meeting is posted in each PSPA newsletter.

Currently there are 2500 members in the PSPA, but there are many new graduates and PA program students that are not. This booklet is designed to introduce the different aspects of the PSPA and what the organization can do for you. **As a member, you can add so much strength to the organization that works hard for you!**

The committee members are PSPA members that wish to volunteer their time toward making the PSPA more successful. The PSPA committees include: Governmental Affairs, Membership, Public Relations and Education, and Conference Planning committee. Furthermore, there exist the Awards, Financial, Newsletter, Elections, Student Affairs committees and Health Disparity Council. The committees function in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors. The amount of time required for each committee varies greatly and many of the committees are still open for new members. At times committees will meet, but most work is done via e-mail and telephone calls. The annual state CME conference is a good example of a committee's hard work. Currently, many co-chair positions are vacant.

As positions open, each regional representative position is filled by a vote by the board of directors. The regional representative is the direct communication between the members of his/her region and the board. If you already interact with many other PAs in your area, this could be the position for you!

More information about the election process for the Board of Directors can be obtained by contacting the PSPA office. You must be a graduate PA to run for a Board of Director position. However, students are welcome to be a part of the different committees as mentioned above. Becoming involved with the PSPA at a greater level is very rewarding for oneself, and the benefit to the PA career cannot be underestimated.

Help us be the best society we can.

The PSPA Board of Directors and Officer Positions:

Getting involved with a state PA chapter is a great opportunity to learn more about the PA profession. There are many ways to do so also! Many PAs across the state participate in PSPA committees. Others are part of the Board of Directors, while others represent one of the eight regions in the state. **Without the help of these volunteers, the PSPA would not be what it is today.**

The **Board of Directors** is responsible for the Society's administrative and financial management. The Board is made up of the President, Past President (or President-Elect), Secretary, Treasurer, four directors-at-large, and two student directors at large. The annual election of the Board of Directors is held during the month of May by mail ballot. In even numbered years two directors-at-large and the president-elect are elected. In odd numbered years, two other directors-at-large, the secretary and the treasurer are elected. There are two new student directors-at-large each year. The Board of Directors hold a meeting four times each year. One of the meetings is during the annual state CME conference.

The Newsletter

PSPA membership includes newsletters sent over the course of the membership year. The newsletter highlights Physician Assistant happenings, such as noteworthy PAs, PA students, and programs. Also, many newsletters include updates on board meeting decisions and business in progress. Updates on reimbursement and important PA legislation in Harrisburg are featured. . . and more!

Members are encouraged to send in their news for publication. Entries should include a description of the event and the names of all the parties involved. Attach the name of the author and a phone number so that we may contact you with questions. Pictures are welcomed also. It is a great way to honor someone for work well done in the PA profession. Send submissions to pspa@pspa.net.

The P.A.C. and YOU!

PAC stands for Political Action Committee. The PAC is a committee sponsored by the PSPA to assist the organization in governmental affairs. The PA profession and scope of practice are undergoing enormous change, most of it for the better. The committee is focused on gaining a bigger, stronger voice in the Pennsylvania state legislature. The PAC does this by supporting legislators who can, and will, make changes that favor our position as PAs. Therefore, the PAC is responsible for raising money to contribute to candidates and other political groups interested in, if not sympathetic to, our causes as Physician Assistants.

Many other organizations like the PSPA have PACs. In general, PAC funds have proven to be quite successful. The DT Firm, the PSPA lobbyist, does an exceptional job, but the PSPA PAC needs PSPA members to get involved, by promoting the PAC at the regional meetings or discussing it in the PA classroom. Contact your local state representative and schedule an appointment to educate him or her on our profession. Finally, you can help raise money for the PAC fund. Monies for the PAC fund are raised by a variety of methods including raffles, special events, competitions, auctions and by simple donation. Remember, the PAC is only "sponsored" by the PSPA, therefore the PSPA as an entity cannot contribute to the PAC. PSPA membership dues **do not**, and cannot, go to the PAC fund. However, without the necessary funds, the PAC cannot continue to support those legislators who have faithfully served with our best interests in mind. This is why it is important to donate to the PAC fund.

Our lobbyist, the PAC chairman, and the PAC committee decide where the funds raised by the PAC are sent. The PAC committee is looking for individuals interested in joining the committee. So, if you like to write letters, attend political meetings, or just like to talk, the PSPA PAC would like to hear from you!

Take a look at the [PSPA's PAC web page](#) or contact the PAC chairperson for more information.

To send a donation:

Please make checks payable to: Physician Assistant PAC Fund
The DT Firm
909 Green St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102

Physician Assistant Day

On October 6th of each year, PAs around the country celebrate the graduation of the first PA class from Duke University in 1968. This date also marks the birthday of the founder of the PA program at Duke, Dr. Eugene Stead. This day is celebrated in a number of ways. The PSPA student directors at large challenge each PA program to celebrate PA day in a unique way. Some PA programs have educated their schools about the PA profession while others have handed out birthday cake! This is a great time to volunteer for a community service project, too!

Graduate PAs can remember this day, too. In celebration of the PA career, wear a PA day pin to work or bring in dessert for the office. One PSPA region made it a special day by inviting their congressman to the regional dinner meeting that week! Again, send us your news for publication in the newsletter and scrapbook.

Moreover, the PSPA Public Relations and Education Committee has many community service project ideas to share with you. Contact the [Committee Chairperson](#) for help!

The PSPA Annual CME Conference:

Each fall, the PSPA hosts an annual conference within Pennsylvania, much like the National PA Conference supported by the AAPA. Again, the focus of the conference is continuing medical education, offering approximately 27 hours of Category 1 credit each year. Additionally, workshops on suturing, heart sounds, EKG reading and more are offered during the week. But this does not stop us from having fun! The Welcome Reception held the first evening of the conference gives everyone a chance to meet or reunite with old PA pals. And as the conference winds up, the PSPA's awards luncheon is a great time to honor those PAs who have put forth extra effort through the years to make our profession a success. Most often, the conference location rotates to different parts of the state, giving each conference participant plenty to do in his spare time!

Students! Along with attending the regularly scheduled CME lectures, there is a student track program to discuss various topics, such as resume writing, job searching, state regulations, reimbursement, and student involvement with the PSPA. And finally, there are workshops such as suturing and heart sound review, although workshop topics will vary year to year.

One of the favorite parts of the annual conference is the exhibit hall. Over fifty pharmaceutical companies come each year with information on their products, but we all know what we *really* go visit them for! (tablets, magnets, mugs, candy...)

So look for your brochure in June and register early!