

**President-Elect: Truett Smith, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA**

Term: President-Elect (January 1, 2016-December 31, 2016); President (January 1, 2017-December 31, 2017), and Immediate Past President (January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018)



I first became involved with the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants as a Student Board Representative from the Wake Forest PA program. I have served several terms as NCAPA Regional Chapters Chair and two terms as NCAPA Vice-President. I currently serve on the NCAPA Public Relations/Communications Committee and as Vice-President of the Metrolina Association of PAs. I have been involved nationally as NCAPA Delegate or Alternate Delegate to the AAPA House of Delegates for many years.

I am married and reside in Davidson, North Carolina. I enjoy playing league soccer, competing in mud runs and hiking with my family. My clinical passion is Family Medicine and I currently serve as the Family Medicine ACP Fellowship Coordinator and Preceptor for Carolinas Healthcare System. I also serve as a student Preceptor to the Wake Forest, Wingate and Gardner Webb PA Programs. I have been a strong proponent for PAs and PA practice locally, at a state level and nationally for the past 25 years and hope to continue to educate students, Fellows and push for improved PA practice over the next 25 years.

**Treasurer: Paul Hendrix, MHS, PA-C**

Term: January 1, 2016-December 31, 2017



As a Charter Member of the NCAPA, it has been my privilege to have served North Carolina PAs as your President, Treasurer, Director, Continuing Education Committee (CEC) Chair, Finance Committee Chair, and Employment Committee Chair. I have also served as Liaison to the NC Medical Board; Consultant to the NCMS Science and Technology Committee; Editorial Board Member of the *NC Medical Journal*; and a member of the Advisory Council of the NC Medical Board. Nationally, I have represented North Carolina PAs in the AAPA House of Delegates, was Chair of the Editorial Board of *Physician Assistant* journal while it was the official journal of the AAPA, and was the founding Chair of the Editorial Board of *Clinician Reviews*. In addition, I have served as president of the Association of Postgraduate Physician Assistant Programs (APPAP).

During my tenure, our CME Conferences have evolved from local, to regional, to national events. As Chair of the CEC, I strive to expand and improve our annual conferences, which are a major source of pride as well as a fundraising source that has kept dues relatively low while NCAPA services and assets have expanded exponentially.

I stand for sound, conservative, financial principles. In particular, I advocate living within our budget, minimizing the need for dues increases by maximizing other fundraising and revenue-producing activities, judicious spending and prudent investments, all while providing the highest level of membership benefits of any PA state organization.

## **DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**

Terms: January 1, 2016-December 31, 2017

### **Chris Barry, PA-C**



I have been a PA for nearly 15 years, and I have held several leadership positions within AAPA. Through my work in these positions, I have gained valuable experience working on a Board of Directors and collaborating with other professional organizations

I recently completed a lengthy term on the national Society for PAs in Pediatrics Board, where I served as Secretary, President, and ex-officio Board Member. I also served as AAPA's Medical Liaison to the American Academy of Pediatrics from 2008-2014. Through my liaison position, I interacted frequently with the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to ensure that PAs were continued to be recognized as valuable parts of the health care team. I was instrumental in AAP's acceptance of PAs as National Affiliate members in 2011.

As a resident of North Carolina for nearly 20 years, and with much of my family in NC, I am deeply invested in our state, and I hope to do what I can to make a difference for PAs and our patients. Through my participation in "White Coat Wednesdays", sponsored by the North Carolina Pediatric Society and the North Carolina Medical Society, I've also become familiar with many of the issues affecting North Carolina's PAs and our patients. I have had face-to-face discussions with lawmakers about legislative issues affecting health care in NC, and I feel that our presence in the General Assembly makes a difference. I also have extensive experience in AAPA's House of Delegates, including serving as NCAPA's Alternate Delegate in the 2015 HOD.

### **Ashlyn Bruning, PA-C**



I have been a member of the NCAPA since graduation from Wake Forest University's Physician Assistant program in 2005. I have practiced clinically in both Orthopedic surgery as well as Urology and have recently transitioned into PA Education as the Director of Clinical Education at the newly established Physician Assistant program at High Point University. I also serve as President of the Piedmont Association of Physician Assistants. Having the opportunity to be a part of shaping the future of our profession and inspiring future PA leaders is invigorating!

As a NC native, born and raised in Guilford County, I am extremely proud to practice as a PA in my home state, the birthplace of our profession. NC is one of, if not the best, states to practice as a PA as we have consistently and continually made great strides in the promotion of our profession, garnering respect among our legislative representatives, community providers and the general public. I fully recognize that the respect and recognition for PA practice in North Carolina is directly attributable to the work achieved by member participation and representation within this organization.

**Rick Ulstad, PA-C**



I have been practicing as a Physician Assistant in North Carolina since 2001. I have been involved with the Academy on various levels throughout the past decade. As a dedicated clinician, I have cultivated broad, yet specific and targeted skills with private practices in Internal Medicine, Family Practice, Urgent Care, Orthopedics and Urology/Urologic Surgery.

Currently, I am the President of the Cape Fear Chapter of PA's in Southeastern North Carolina. I am also the President Elect for the National Urological Association of Physician Assistants.

I attended The Gilmour Academy in Ohio, The University of Rochester, in New York and Northeastern University, in Boston, Massachusetts. I was honored to be granted the National Health Service Core Scholarship in 2001. My wife is also a PA, who graduated from Wake Forest in the 1990s.

I have tremendous respect for this organization, which has a long-standing polished reputation as a leader for providers. I will provide all my efforts to help ensure continued success for the thousands of PA's, members of the Board, Students, and multiple PA Schools in the state. In addition, I will help formulate new goals via an attainable and cost effective means, and provide leadership to learn and grow as an Academy.

**Nominating Committee Member-at-Large**

Term: January 1, 2016-December 31, 2017

**Rick Edwards, PA-C**



Since first graduating from Duke University in 1999, I have worked in different areas of the state of North Carolina and become acquainted with a large number of Physician Assistants. Additionally, as Director of Clinical Education for the East Carolina University PA program, I interact on a daily basis with practicing physician assistants across the state.

I plan to use this network of contacts as a member of the Nominating Committee to help identify and recruit appropriate candidates to serve the NCAPA in leadership positions and to encourage their active participation in Academy activities.