



Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Physician Assistant History Society

Message from the President

Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD

The PA History Society has begun preparations for a pair of traveling exhibits that will be displayed in academic libraries and at other special events for five years beginning in 2017. This is a great opportunity to increase the profession’s visibility to new audiences, including students making their own career choices. Funded by a grant from NCCPA, these exhibits are being developed in collaboration with our colleagues from the National Library of Medicine (NLM). The exhibits will feature a series of six banners, which will highlight key events in our profession’s history, and present brief stories about exemplary PAs who represent a diversity of background and accomplishments. We will send you details about this project as they emerge over the coming months. To see other exhibits of this kind staged by the NLM, please visit their website at:<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/about/exhibition/bo oktraveling.html>

Unfortunately, the Citizen’s Advisory Committee to the US Postmaster General did not accept our proposal for a commemorative stamp honoring the profession’s official 50th anniversary in 2017. While we hoped for a different outcome, we knew the odds were very long; they accept about 25 out of 40,000 applications each year. Thanks to the “PA stamp committee” who put together an excellent proposal.

During each week in February we featured two notable African American PAs on our pahx.org home page, and in March we featured two notable women PAs each week (done in concert with Black History Month and Women’s History Month respectively). We plan to do this annually.

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San Francisco Bound: AAPA Conference 2015



We hope to see you at the **AAPA Conference** next month in San Francisco! **The PAHx booth will be located in the conference registration area – the PA Hub in Hall B.** We know there will be many things competing for your time and attention there, but put visiting our booth at the top of your list: the first 40 people who visit the Society’s booth *each day* will receive a coveted PAHx water bottle!

(AAPA Conference continued on page 2)

(President's Message continued from page 1)

Our Educational Toolkit has been available to Associate members of the History Society since February and has been very well received. We encourage all PA Programs to become Associate members of the Society to receive the full benefits of what we have produced. Please visit our website for more details at: <http://www.pahx.org/become-associate>

We continue to expand our collection of biographies of those who have made important contributions to the profession. There are now 100 biographies on the Society's website, but we know that there are many more who should join them. Please visit our biography page if you have a candidate in mind: <http://www.pahx.org/bio.html>

Witness to History: Role of the AAPA House of Delegates in PA History

Marilyn H. Fitzgerald, Honorary PA

In 1787, the U.S. Constitution was drafted at a Convention of delegates in Philadelphia. It was followed by the *Federalist Papers*, defining the roles of executive vs. legislative authority.

Upon its founding in 1968, the Board of Directors of the AAPA served both functions framing policy and defining roles, and the implementation process. Then in 1977 the AAPA created a House of Delegates (HOD) to serve as an independent legislative body that would guide policy. The delegates debated and voted on resolutions submitted by AAPA leaders, and its newly chartered constituent chapters. Over the following 38 years, the House has debated more than 1,500 resolutions and adopted numerous AAPA position papers and policies that are the foundation of the *AAPA Policy Manual*.

Most of the HOD's first 35 resolutions focused on important internal issues: PA education, certification, practice privileges, and membership services. There was only one externally focused

Resolved that the AAPA concentrate its monies and lobbying toward the goal of obtaining Federal reimbursement to physicians for services performed by PAs, and be it further resolved that these lobbying efforts be intensive, and a primary concern of the AAPA until such task is completed.

After rigorous lobbying by AAPA leadership, within the year, a major step toward achieving the goal occurred when President Carter signed the Rural Health Clinic Services Act (PL95-210) in late 1977. The new law provided Medicare reimbursement for PA and nurse practitioner services in rural clinics – a milestone in the history of the PA profession.

(“Witness to History” continued on page 4)



Photo: *First elected officers of the House of Delegates (l to r): Maryann Ramos, Secretary; William Hughes, Speaker; Elaine Grant, Vice Speaker.*

(AAPA Conference continued from page 1)

Whether you're a PA “fossil,” or a relatively new PA, stop by any time to pick up one of our free PA History Society ribbons and hear about the latest Society projects, including the *“Educational Toolkit”* and the soon to be released *“Historian Toolkit”*. Our booth will be open on Friday, May 22, from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, May 23 thru Tuesday, May 26, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Board Welcomes New Trustees

Four new Trustees of the History Society have been appointed to begin three year terms.

Marilyn H. Fitzgerald is well known to every physician assistant leader who has ever served the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

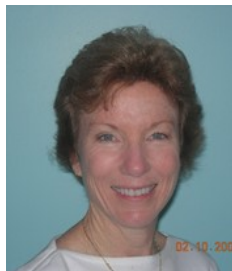


Recruited by Executive Director Donald Fisher in 1978, she served the Academy for 35 years, until her retirement in 2012. Over the years she worked closely with the House of Delegates, the Board of Directors, and volunteer

leadership. She managed membership, publications, and public education programs, retiring as senior vice president for governance and leadership development. In honor of that distinguished career, AAPA named her an Honorary Physician Assistant upon her retirement.

Deborah A. Gerbert is a pediatric physician assistant at Nemours Children's Clinic in Jacksonville, FL, and a former member of the faculty at Nova Southeastern University.

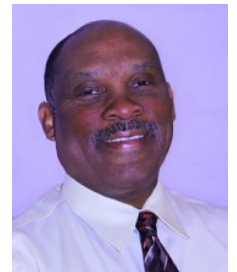
A graduate of the PA program at the University of Oklahoma, Debbie has been active within the profession throughout her career. She has represented the Florida Academy of Physician Assistants (FAPA) to the AAPA House of Delegates, and served as FAPA President in 1984-85. Within the AAPA, she was secretary of the House of Delegates, and then served as speaker of the house. She was elected President of the AAPA in 1994. She then represented the AAPA to the American Medical Association for six years. She has been chair of the Council on Physician Assistants of the Florida Board of Medicine, and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the PA Foundation.



Maryann F. Ramos was an early graduate of the PA Program at Touro College in New York (1974), and later obtained a Master's Degree in Public Health in occupational health from Columbia University. Working at the Lyons Veterans Administration Medical Center, as the only legally recognized PA in New Jersey, she founded the New Jersey State Society of Physician Assistants in 1976. Two years later she was elected secretary of the newly formed House of Delegates of the AAPA. She has been in leadership positions continuously ever since, having served as president of PAs for Latino Health, and PAs in Occupational Health. She has served at the Pentagon, and been on the faculties of Yale University, George Washington University, and Nova Southeastern University. Most recently she was the site manager for the Chatham University PA program in Puerto Rico.



Robert L. Wooten, Jr. is a 1981 graduate of the PA Program at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine. Working in emergency medicine in North Carolina for most of his career, he has been a member of the North Carolina Academy, chaired a number of committees, and served as its president in 1997. He had been a member of the AAPA House of Delegates when he was elected Secretary of the AAPA, serving from 2002 to 2006. He then served as president of the AAPA in 2011-2012. He has been a member of the North Carolina Medical Board Physician Assistant Advisory Committee, and a faculty member at Wake Forest School of Medicine. He has been a member of the African Heritage Caucus of the AAPA since 1992, and was its president in 1999-2000.



The Society looks forward to the contributions of these outstanding new Trustees.

("Witness to History" continued from page 2)

As a new AAPA staff member, I attended my first HOD meeting at the Las Vegas Annual PA Conference in 1978. The HOD elected its first leaders, and demonstrated the increasing professionalism of PAs. Resolutions addressed these topics:

- A code of professional conduct
- Legislative efforts in New Jersey, which did not yet allow PA practice
- A model PA practice act and model hospital bylaws
- Commissioning of military PAs
- Liaisons with nurse practitioner organizations
- PA employment in HMOs
- Cost effectiveness of Physician/ PA teams
- Independent vs. dependent practice
- A public and professional education campaign

Part two of "Witness to History: Role of the AAPA House of Delegates in PA History" will be featured in the next issue of Historical Happenings.



Educational Toolkit Available For PAHx Associates

An educational toolkit consisting of five self-directed learning modules and an instructor's manual was made available to Associates in February. The five learning modules can be downloaded as PC or Mac-friendly files with or

without audio. Before their release, the modules were evaluated by faculty who provided valuable feedback about content, clarity and ease of navigation. The feedback was used to guide a focus group discussion held in conjunction with the 2014 PAEA Educational Forum in Philadelphia, PA. Revisions were made and sent to the Society's Board of Directors for final review and approval. PAHx Associates can download the education toolkit by logging into the Associates Only Page on the Society's website at <http://www.pahx.org/pa-program-associates>.

PAHx Hires New Archivist

In February, Cory Faulkner joined the PA History Society as archivist. He will oversee the Society's archival, library and museum (ALM) Collection and provide general archivist and office support.

"I'm excited to help steward the documentary heritage of such an important profession, and I look forward to cultivating the historical narratives the Society exists to preserve and share," said Faulkner.

Faulkner has a Master of Library and Information Sciences degree, with a concentration in Archives Management, from Louisiana State University. He started working in libraries during college, and has over 12 years of experience in various library and archival settings. Most recently, Faulkner served as a digitization consultant at the Georgia Department of Transportation.



Faulkner will work in the PAHx office two days a week.

History Society Trustees and Staff

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PAHx Executive Director & Historian Emeritus Visit The Stead Center

Last month, Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PA-C (NCCPA CEO & PAHx executive director) and Reginald Carter, PhD, PA (PAHx historian emeritus) visited **The Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Center for Physician Assistants**, located on the Duke University campus. During their visit they met with Cathie Feild, executive director, and Carin Head, director of conferences & CME, from the North Carolina Academy of PAs (NCAPA).



Photo: (l to r): Dawn Morton-Rias, Reg Carter, Cathie Field, Carin Head

The History Society owns the collection on display at **The Stead Center**, which includes a replica of Dr. Stead's office from his lake house and a variety of artifacts from Dr. Stead and the PA profession.



There is a wall exhibit sponsored by the PA Veterans Caucus and a Veterans Memorial Garden featuring a life-size combat medic bronze statue titled "*life savers then, care givers now.*"



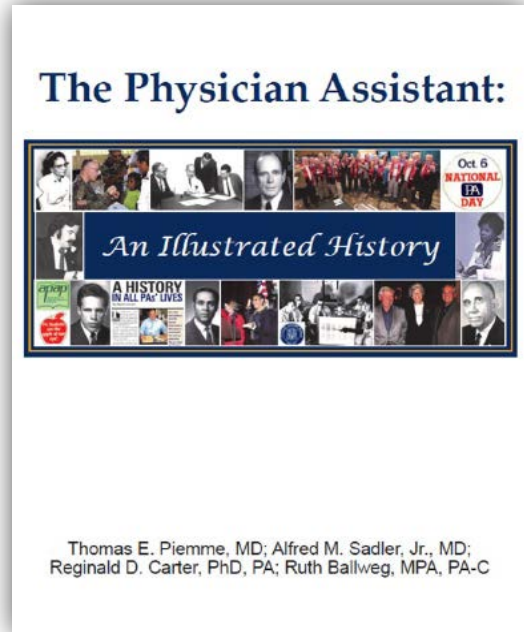
The Physician Assistant: *An Illustrated History*

A concise history of the people, places, and events that have propelled the concept of the PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT from its inception at Duke University in 1965 to its position as a major force in American medicine today.

Special Pricing for PA Programs, PAs and Constituent Organizations:

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Extra Donation to Society: _____

Shipping Information

Payment type: Check Credit Card

**Credit Card Payments can be made via
PayPal on the PAHx website at:
<http://www.pahx.org/pa-history-book>**

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