



# Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Physician Assistant History Society



## Message from the President

*Karen Mulitalo, MPAS, PA-C*

As the summer months roll on, the PA History Society certainly isn't taking a break! We are continuing our efforts to commemorate the hard work of many individuals who have made our profession successful. I'm happy to update you on what's been happening since our last communication in April.

In May, the History Society had a booth at the AAPA Annual Conference in San Antonio. Many PAs visited our booth to meet with the trustees and staff; and we certainly appreciated their interest and support.

Many PAs participated in the 50/50 fundraising campaign to support the Veterans Memorial Garden rejuvenation. This project is very special for all of us. Thank you to all who have donated to this effort. We hope you're enjoying the signed "Women in Uniform" print by Don Pedersen that you received for your donation! The History Society has collected over half the funds required to upgrade the Veterans Memorial Garden located at the Stead Center in North Carolina. Please help us make this garden a special place of remembrance for veteran and uniformed service PAs. We can think of no better way to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary than to honor the pioneers who made it possible for us to have such rewarding and meaningful careers as well as protecting our freedoms.

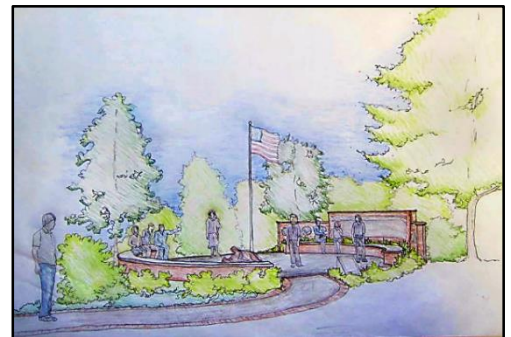
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## Veterans Garden Update: New Way to Participate

The Society has gone public with its campaign to raise funds to upgrade the Veterans Memorial Garden located at the Stead



Center in Durham, NC, into a place of remembrance for PA veterans. To date, the Society through personal contacts has raised 52% of the \$72,000 needed to complete the project.

*(Veterans Memorial Garden continued on page 2)*

*(President's Message continued from page 1)*

The six-banner National Library of Medicine PA traveling exhibit that we've been designing with NLM staff is nearing completion. If you're interested in having the exhibit shown at your PA program, hospital or clinic, let us know by signing up online to host the display. The exhibit includes an online component for middle, high school and university students and will travel throughout the U.S. for five years beginning in October 2016.

In preparation for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the profession, we distributed a survey to PA faculty to find out what they would like in a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Toolkit that will be available in late 2017. Thank you to all who responded to the survey! As a result of the survey feedback, the toolkit will include:

- PA Profession History PowerPoint Slide Presentation
- downloadable copies of the two 6'x3' PA History Society Timeline Banners
- a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary generic press release for PA programs to distribute and share with media groups
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary bookmarks for PA students
- a special edition 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary poster.

If you are not affiliated with a PA program (such as AAPA Constituent Chapters, PA Specialty Organizations, hospitals, health systems, etc.) but are interested in receiving the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Toolkit for use in your workplace or at a special event, please email us at: [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org).

We appreciate all the work of PAHx staff, Board of Trustees and, most especially, PAs who continue to make our profession something to remember and to celebrate through their dedicated care to patients.

*All things PA History can be found on our website at [www.pahx.org](http://www.pahx.org)!*

*(Veterans Memorial Garden continued from page 1)*

In May, the Society launched its 50/50 (\$50 for 50 years) fundraising campaign. The announcement was made via the monthly *NCCPA News* e-newsletter to inform 115,000 certified PAs and students about the project. The campaign was also announced during the AAPA annual meeting in San Antonio, TX. **We write again here to say that we still need your help!**

In June, the Society established a “buy an engraved paver” program with the Bricks R Us Company.



The tax deductible 9x9 inch brick pavers, which honor PA veterans and PAs on active duty in the Uniformed Services, can be purchased online at [www.bricksrus.com/order/pahxvetgarden](http://www.bricksrus.com/order/pahxvetgarden). The brick pavers will be embedded in the wheelchair accessible walkway and the patio surrounding the centerpiece of the garden, the life-size bronze combat medic statue and flagpole. **The pavers are a great way for PAs to honor their PA veteran colleagues, especially those who are no longer with us.**

Landscaping and construction is planned for October, and our goal is to have all funds in hand so that the project can be completed in its totality. **Now is the time to make your tax deductible donation to make the Veterans Garden a reflective, inspiring and peaceful place of remembrance.** Let's show our appreciation to those who have served and are serving their country and profession so well.

For more information, please visit our website at: [www.pahx.org](http://www.pahx.org), or email us at: [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org)

## The PA World Meets the Organ Transplant World at a White House Summit on Organ Donation – June 13, 2016

*Alfred M. Sadler Jr. MD*

The Obama Administration has made reducing waiting times for organ transplantation one of its top health priorities. Why? Every day 22 people die waiting for a donated organ, and although 95% of Americans state they would be organ donors, only about 50% actually do so.



Seventy-five experts from inside and outside the government were invited to share ideas and make suggestions to solve this problem at a

White House Summit Conference held at the adjacent Eisenhower Executive Office Building. Included were Charles Bearden, PA, a 1973 graduate of the Emory PA program who has served as a transplant coordinator for 40 years, and Kenneth Moritsugu, MD, former surgeon general and former member of the PA Foundation Board. My brother, Blair Sadler, JD, and I also were invited, as two of the principal draftsmen of the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act in 1968 (adopted in all states by 1971). The law provides the legal underpinning for transplantation throughout the US and authorizes an individual or next of kin to donate. All four of us have been active in enhancing the PA role, and we all are advisors to ORGANIZE, whose purpose is to use social media to improve organ donation rates and eliminate waiting lists. It was honor to be at the table with these colleagues again and for such an august event.

Kevin O'Connor, PA, the CEO of LifeCenter NW, a high performing organ bank in Seattle, was also

invited to the White House and representing the PA profession.

PAs have been working in the transplant field in a variety of capacities for 45 years. PAs perform the surgery to recover organs at several organ banks and have been teaching surgical recovery techniques to transplant surgeons in training since the 1970s. Several organ banks in the U.S. are directed by PAs. PAs function as organ recovery coordinators caring for organ donors as well as clinical transplant coordinators caring for transplant recipients and assisting in transplant surgery. AAPA President Josanne Pagel PA-C, directs a large contingent of PAs practicing in various transplant services at the Cleveland Clinic.

PAs have helped move the field of organ transplantation forward and continue to enhance this life saving surgical subspecialty. This collaboration with the Obama Administration should benefit us all.

Details of the White House initiatives going forward can be found online by accessing the [Summit's "Fact Sheet" here](#).

## Witness to History: Guns and Violence – The PA Profession's Policies

*Marilyn H. Fitzgerald, Honorary PA*

With gun violence an everyday news headline, it's reassuring to know that during the 40-year history of the AAPA House of Delegates, that group has adopted policies on firearms and violence reflecting the profession's deep commitment to matters of health and wellbeing.

*(Witness to History: Guns and Violence continued on page 4)*



*(Witness to History – Guns and Violence continued from page 3)*

### FIREARMS

Policy #HX-4400.2.2

AAPA supports policies and educational programs that will effectively reduce homicide, suicide and other violence that occur through the use of firearms. As AAPA represents the diverse membership of PAs, AAPA supports:

1. Reporting by PAs to law enforcement agencies persons in their care exhibiting behavior dangerous to themselves or others.
2. Supporting state legislation that allows PAs to counsel patients regarding firearm safety.
3. Participation in and/or advocacy of educational programs on the safe storage and use of firearms.
4. Participation in and/or advocacy of training programs for the safe use and employment of firearms.
5. Enforcement of current laws for the purposes of public safety regarding firearms.

*[Adopted 1993, reaffirmed 1998, 2005, 2010, amended 2014]*

### VIOLENCE

Policy #HP-3300.1.2

PAs are encouraged to identify key factors that may lead to violence in all ages and to be familiar with and initiate appropriate interventions, including but not limited to, all legally required notifications to address these situations when occurring within their practice setting and/or the community. Interventions may also include innovative and multidisciplinary efforts.

*[Adopted 2000, amended 2005, reaffirmed 2010, 2015]*

Policy #HX-4400.1.1

AAPA believes that PAs should be familiar with social and cognitive skills that foster nonviolent conflict resolution. In addition, PAs should support the incorporation of age-appropriate school and community-based curricula that recognize racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity and that teach the skills of non-violent conflict resolution.

*[Adopted 1992, reaffirmed 1997, 2003, 2008, 2013]*

These three policies are among 14 policies on weapons and violence that are documented in the AAPA Policy Manual demonstrating the profession's activism on these serious social issues.

## **Share Your Story with the PA History Society**

*Michelle Schabowski, MSIS*

During the recent AAPA conference in San Antonio, the PA History Society conducted a series of interviews with 15 conference attendees including PA students, practicing PAs and PA retirees.

The five- to 10-minute interviews were videoed and are now available on the PA History Society website. The interview subject matter was chosen by the participant. Topics ranged from “how did you choose to become a PA?” to in-depth discussions of the unusual paths their careers have taken. How did a psychic help Dick Rensch become a PA? What did Cindy Lord do that led to a conversation with profession founder Dr. Eugene Stead?

All interviews are located in the Oral History section of the PA History Society website: <http://pahx.org/oral-histories.html>

The PA History Society will conduct another round of these short interviews during the PAEA conference in Minneapolis this October.

Do you have a story that you would like to share? Email us at: [contactus@pahx.com](mailto:contactus@pahx.com)

***Send us the names of PAs, and a few sentences about their professional accomplishments, for consideration to be featured on our website Biography Page!***

***Email us at: [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org)***

## History Society Trustees and Staff

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Karen Mulitalo, MPAS, PA-C

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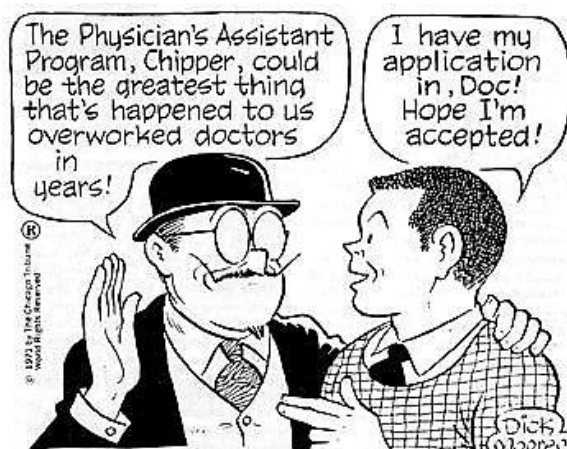
Veronica Chaffin

Administrative Assistant

## Chipper Wallet, PA-C returns to *Gasoline Alley* Comic Strip

*Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA*

Cartoonist Jim Scancarelli will bring Chipper Wallet back into the *Gasoline Alley*™ comic strip to let people know that the PA profession will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. **Chipper will appear in the August 14, 2016 Sunday Comics** providing clinical advice to his brother-in-law, Slim Skinner.



He will appear periodically throughout 2016 and 2017, providing health care to his neighbors and friends in his rural hometown of Gasoline Alley. The PA History Society has invited Chipper to speak (via the comic strip) at the dedication of the Veterans Memorial Garden at the Stead Center in Durham, NC, in April 2017. As a former Navy Hospital Corpsman who served in Vietnam and who later became a PA in 1973, Chipper represents the pioneering PAs who paved the way for others to follow. To read Chipper's biography, [click here](#).

The reappearance of Chipper in *Gasoline Alley*™ came about when the Society contacted Scancarelli to ask him to draw several images of Chipper at age 71 to include in the **PAHx 50th Anniversary Toolkit**. Scancarelli remembers doing something similar when the profession celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Chipper was 44 years old.

*(Chipper Wallet continued on page 6)*

(*Chipper Wallet continued from page 5*)



Please take the opportunity on August 14th to read the *Gasoline Alley*™ comic strip in print or via the Internet by [clicking here](#).

Also take advantage of the materials included in the PAHx Anniversary Toolkit when it becomes available this fall.

Gasoline Alley is © 2016 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All Rights Reserved. The image of Doc with Chipper appeared in the Duke University Medical Center Newsletter, *The Intercom*, on March 12, 1971 and appears courtesy of DUMC Archives, Durham, NC. The photograph of Chipper attending the 1992 AAPA National Conference, Nashville, TN, appears courtesy the PA History Society, AAPA Photograph Collection.

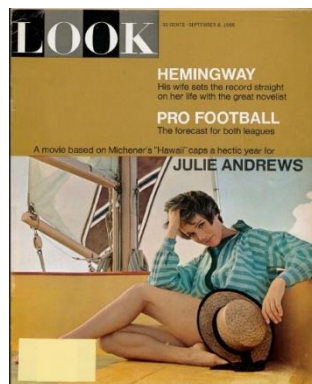
## From the Archives:

### Look: The Magazine that Launched a 1,000 PAs

Michelle Schabowski, MSIS

The September 1966 edition of *Look* magazine is one of the most influential catalysts to generate awareness of and ignite interest in the PA profession. Within the magazine, with its eye-catching cover of Julie Andrews posing aboard a boat, is an article titled "More Than a Nurse, Less Than a Doctor."

The article, about a new type of health care provider, is not listed on the cover of the 35-cent magazine. Instead the cover features more enticing articles --an interview with Ernest Hemingway's wife and an article about pro football. Nevertheless, the impact of the then-undistinguished



article is still being felt to this day by over 108,000 certified PAs.



The brief article includes pictures of the four former US Navy hospital corpsmen who were in the pilot class of the PA profession: Vic Germino, Don Guffey, Dick Scheele, and Ken Ferrell. The article details their training and paints an optimistic picture of a new type of medical program that might turn into a promising profession to help with the physician shortage.

"More Than a Nurse, Less Than a Doctor" has been credited by many PA pioneers with introducing them to the fledgling profession and inspiring them to research and pursue becoming a PA.

## Meet the PAHx Staff

Marilyn H. Fitzgerald, Honorary PA

As the PA profession nears its 50th anniversary and the PA History Society projects and activities expand, so has its professional staff support. Thanks to generous financial support from NCCPA, the Society now has three staff members – the people who make things happen.

Lori Konopka-Sauer is the full-time managing director of the History Society. She manages the day to day activities of the Society, its staff and finances,

(*Meet the Staff continued on page 7*)



*(Meet the Staff continued from page 6)*

the 12-member Board of Trustees, two volunteer historians, board committees, the PAHx website and communications, and all special projects.

Prior to joining the PAHx staff in 2013, Lori was governance manager at the NCCPA after working as administrator to the Accreditation Review Commission for the Education of the PA (ARC-PA). Before her involvement with PAs, Lori oversaw the day to day publicity functions for Atlanta-based programming at CNN as director of CNN public relations. Raised in Michigan, Lori graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a BS in Communications. She and her husband have one college-age son.

In March 2016, *Michelle Schabowski* became the History Society's full-time archivist. She manages the archival collections and the archival management software, digitizes and assures the preservation of the PA archive collections, aids PA profession history researchers, and coordinates the social media activities of the Society.

While earning a MS in Information Science from the University of Tennessee, Michelle worked with the University of Tennessee Special Collection's Great Smoky Mountains Regional Project and the University of Tennessee's Howard Baker Modern Political Archives. After graduation, she worked with the South Florida Collections Management Center, which houses the collections of the five National Parks in southern Florida, including the Everglades National Park. Prior to her archivist pursuits, she was an English Language Instructor in Japan for nine years.

*Veronica Chaffin* is the part-time administrative assistant who oversees various administrative functions for the organization including the review of expense reports, the distribution of PAHx books and products, and the donations for the Veterans Memorial Garden fundraising project. Prior to

joining the PAHx staff, Veronica worked with several professional and trade associations, including the American College of Rheumatology, the National Federation of Independent Business and the American Red Cross National Testing Lab. She has also been an administrative assistant/secretary for several city and state agencies: the City of Duluth, GA, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.



*Left to right: Veronica Chaffin, Lori Konopka-Sauer, Michelle Schabowski*

Check out all of the PA History Society [Newsletters online](#).

Please be sure to "like" PA History Society on [Facebook](#) to receive updates and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)



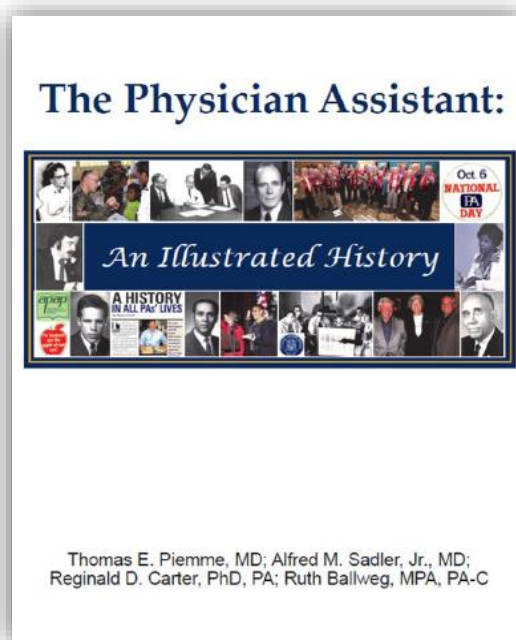
## The Physician Assistant: *An Illustrated History*

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