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# Nebraska PA

The Official Newsmagazine of the Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants

[www.nebraskapa.org](http://www.nebraskapa.org)

## UNMC PA Program Director Announces Retirement

James E. Somers, PA, PhD. has announced his intent to retire on April 30, 2012.

Somers has been with the program for 30 years, and has served as the Program Director since 1991.

Dr. Somers a native of Leavenworth, Kansas joined UNMC in 1977 and spent six years as an instructor and clinical coordinator. He briefly left Nebraska spending a year at the PA program at the University of Oklahoma. When he returned to UNMC

he did so in the capacity of an instructor in the department of preventive and stress medicine. In subsequent years, he served as a physician assistant in the department of radiology and as the academic coordinator.

The Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants thanks Dr. Somers for the leadership he has provided in developing many of our state's PAs.

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## NAPA Board of Directors Meeting

**Saturday  
October 15th, 2011  
9 a.m.**

**Anderson Management  
1335 H St., Lincoln**

*NAPA board meetings are open to all members.*

## NAPA Needs Your Help

The NAPA communications committee is seeking individuals with an interest in utilizing social media to help keep us all connected and informed. The communications committee needs help with establishing and maintaining a presence on facebook and to help us with other ventures in social media.

**Please contact Russ Coash  
or Kathy Tonkin  
[r\\_coash@yahoo.com](mailto:r_coash@yahoo.com)  
or [kmdeckerpa@yahoo.com](mailto:kmdeckerpa@yahoo.com)**



### POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

- President Elect**
- Secretary**
- HOD Representative**
- Board Member At Large**

Contact [info@NebraskaPa.org](mailto:info@NebraskaPa.org) if interested.

**NAPA 2012  
Conference  
April 11-14, 2012**

Kearney

**New Feature On  
NebraskaPA.org**

**PHOTOS!**

<http://www.nebraskapa.org/content/view/24/42/>

or go to NebraskaPA.org ad click on "Scrapbook"

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## Getting Involved and Staying Connected

Jodi Chewakin MS, PA-C

Hello Nebraska PAs. As a transplant to Nebraska in 1999 I am honored to serve as your academy president this year.

There have been many positive changes for Nebraska PAs over the past decade and it has been rewarding to have actively participated in some of these events and watch them unfold. Nationally other states look to our academy as a role model because of the great things we have accomplished with revisions in supervisory statutes, gaining full prescriptive privileges and expanding scope of practice regulations.

We should be very proud of what we have accomplished as an academy. However, are we taking the time to be role models for our colleagues? How do we interact with each other, new grads, transplants and students?

Are we all too busy doing our jobs that we forget to take care of each other?

This past year I have transitioned from clinical practice to academia and it has helped me realize just how important it is to get connected and stay connected with fellow PAs. Let me share with you my first experience with a PA in Nebraska.

Jeanne Bird was the first PA I met when I moved to Nebraska (Colorado is so lucky to have her). And I must say not only was she a great clinician but she was enthusiastic about being a PA. She encouraged me to join a committee and become connected to NAPA. Before I knew it she even had me scheduled to speak at the NAPA conference! That was just the beginning for me. I was hooked on NAPA.

I have often have reflected on this encounter and paused to take a personal inventory of my own professional activities. How do I encourage other PAs to get involved? How do I 'network' in Nebraska? How do I promote our profession to others?

National PA week is October 6-12. What a great time to yearly meet, greet and reconnect with fellow PAs in your communities and clinics. Maybe you know of a recent graduate looking for a job, or someone new who has moved into the area. I encourage you to find a reason to stay in contact with your colleagues. I challenge all of you to take the next few months to assess your professional activity inventory. Ask yourself - what am I doing to personalize, protect and promote my profession?

## AAPA House of Delegates Passes Resolution Changing the Authority of the HOD

NAPA sent 3 representatives to the AAPA's House of Delegates. Chief delegate Tom Grothe headed the Nebraska delegation. Patty Scholting replaced second year delegate Jason Hadenfeldt who was unable to attend. Russell Coash was the third delegate.

In Mr. Grothe's report to the NAPABOD he discussed what may have been one of the most important resolutions to have passed the HOD in recent times. This resolution dealt with the structure and authority of the HOD as a policy making entity. The changes the resolution instituted are due to a recent interpretation of the incorporation laws of the state in which the AAPA is incorporated (North Carolina).

On the final day of HOD activities Tom Grothe read a resolution in recognition of Jesse Edwards and condolence to the family. A copy of the resolution is available at [NebraskaPA.org](http://NebraskaPA.org).



HOD Delegates 2011

**Nebraska Sports Concussion Network Tools:**

[www.nebsportsconcussion.org/resources/forms.html](http://www.nebsportsconcussion.org/resources/forms.html)

# Nebraska National Guard PAs Return from Afghanistan

Capt. Andrew J. Nelson  
Nebraska Army National Guard

War is a dangerous business. People can and do get hurt. But when that happens, the United States Army has physician assistants on hand to help.

In the case of 1st Squadron, 134th Cavalry, a Nebraska Army National Guard unit that served in Afghanistan in 2010 and 2011, the PAs are two graduates of the University of Nebraska Medical Center physician assistant training program: Lt. Col. Peter Hunt and Capt. James "Jimmy" Allen.

The men trained together but were not in Afghanistan at the same time. Because of the unique stresses deployment places on a medical professional's private practice, their tours are shorter than those of most other Soldiers. The squadron returned to Nebraska in July after one year on active duty. Hunt and Allen were each on duty about six months.

"I have found being in the National Guard and deploying with this squadron has been a rewarding time in my life," said Hunt, in an e-mail message from Afghanistan. "You spend so much time with these Soldiers, they do become your brothers, and you do feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. "You also realize how blessed we are to live in the United States and have these

kind of individuals to protect our freedom." Hunt graduated from UNMC in 1987.

In Afghanistan, the PAs provide all kinds of medical care, from routine treatment of illness and injury to combat casualties. They also helped train Afghan soldiers in medical care. In the event of a catastrophic battlefield injury, they were available to provide initial stabilization and resuscitative measures on site.

They provided flu shots and other vaccines to soldiers and Afghan interrupters. They did TB testing on the local Nepalese security. They conducted sick call every morning and evening, and were on call every night for emergencies. British, French, Turkish and Australian personnel were also patients. "I treat all country's soldiers, which can make things a little interesting with the language barrier," Hunt said. "Lucky, most

of the foreign soldiers speak English or have a comrade that does."

Like many of their fellow Soldiers, these PAs cite patriotism and brotherhood as reasons to serve. Allen joined the military after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. "We, of course, are available at all times day and night for emergencies," he said in an e-mail. "At times, I will also go on missions out into Kabul to help mentor local nationals in the (Afghan National Army) or (Afghan National Police) or provide assistance to local clinics in the area."

"The most rewarding part of service is the great people I have had the privilege of meeting and serving with during my time in the National Guard," Allen said. "It is a great honor to be able to serve our country in this way and I feel proud of what we do."

Plan now to attend...

## Clinical Breast Exam (CBE) Workshop

April 11-14, 2012

Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants 37th Annual Spring CME Conference

MammaCare Specialists will provide detailed training and the opportunity to perform a supervised CBE on a volunteer model.

Limited attendance so be sure to register early!

Sponsored by the Office of Women's and Men's Health  
Every Woman Matters Program

[www.dhhs.ne.gov/womenshealth](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/womenshealth) ~ 1-800-532-2227



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Russ Coash, PA-C, Managing Editor

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## From the Newsletter Archives

In case you missed it check out the December 2010 edition of the NebraskaPA for an article from Mike Grutsch on what you must report to the state medical board.

"Mandatory Reporting For Health Care Professionals"

Newsletters are archived online at [nebraskapa.org](http://nebraskapa.org).

## Summary of July BOD Meeting

Submitted by Chelsie Doane, PA-C

The NAPA Board of Directors met on July 16th, 2011 at Mahoney State Park. President Patty Scholting called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum of voting members confirmed. The minutes from the previous BOD meeting were reviewed and accepted no changes.

### President's Report

Patty Scholting. A resolution was authored and presented at the Nebraska State Legislature on behalf of Jesse Edwards. She attended the AAPA Annual Conference in Las Vegas and attended both the North Central Regional meeting and the HOD in place of Jason Hadenfeldt.

### President Elect

Jodi Chewakin. Attended a meeting with Patty and Andy Licht to discuss the current contract with Anderson Management and future NAPA projects the staff will be working on. She also attended a meeting with Dara Schroeder and Patty Scholting regarding strategies for continuity of board activities, committee activities and future endeavors of NAPA. Jodi is working with the UNL pre-PA program.

### Treasurer's Report

Dave Powell. The Statement of Income and Budget was reviewed. All membership dues were up from the projected budget. The HOD expenses were decreased as Jason did not go and Patty's were taken care of as she was the acting president. After reviewing the budget it does not appear as though we will have a negative net income by the end of the year. The Balance Sheet was reviewed as was the investment Committee Report. The value of our account was up 5% for the year at the end of the second quarter.

### Committee and Liaison Reports

#### Publications

Russ Coash. We are in need of a proof-reader for the newsletter. Articles are always welcome.

#### Membership Committee

NAPA has just under 400 members. There are still a few membership appli-

cations trickling in. There are about 800 licensed PAs on the state's list.

#### Legislative Committee

An update from the lobbyist was reviewed. A discussion was carried out over an email sent from Becky Wisell to Bonnie Shearer discussion PA's responding to natural disasters and emergencies. See the article for more details or see <https://www.cms.gov/H1N1/Downloads/RequestingAWaiver101.pdf>.

#### NAPA Office

Andy Licht. The office staff is currently wrapping up everything from the conference. They set up the Proclamation signing. Medicare is inquiring about PAs that may benefit from the EMR incentive program and would like NAPAs help to identify these specific PAs. Andy will get the information to the board for review

#### PARA/Liaison

Karen Schrader. Nebraska Health Access Network: NAPA agreed to send a letter of opposition regarding formation of a national IPAB to Senator Ben Nelson. We did receive a response from the Senator's office and also from NEHAN. NEHAN held meetings which Karen attended. Bills and pending legislative issues were discussed. One of these was LB466 which was not passed. NAPA did send a letter of opposition to LB466. The top 4 priority bills per NHHS are: LR037 (Child Welfare Reform), LR293 (related to health care exchange and insurance support systems), LR282 (use of Tobacco settlement funds and budget), LR212 (review the 407 process for professional licensure, manicurists and others are being considered). Many other organizations attended this meeting, one of which (The Multiple Sclerosis Society) created a PDF version of "Multiple Sclerosis for the Physician Assistant; a Practical Primer which can be downloaded from the NAPA website.

IPAB was discussed as this was passed in legislation, however, no board has been put in to place to this date. The board has been active at opposing this by sending a letter to Senator Nelson. A discussion was carried out about creating an OP ED piece about opposing the IPAB. The template article was reviewed and an article will be

developed and voted on by the board. Russ and Cheryl will edit the template article and email it out for a vote. We will have a 2 week time line for creation and approval with a deadline of August 1st.

The American College of Physicians is making a strong effort to get PAs to become members of their organization.

#### Patient Safety

Darwin Brown/Patty Scholting. This was the first meeting for the new Executive Director, Ann McGowan. The bylaws were reviewed and it was noted that terms limits were in place which would affect multiple members including Darwin Brown and Patty Scholting. The board will entertain a motion at the next meeting to amend the bylaws to extend the terms. Communication and internal marketing were also discussed.

#### Scholarship and Grants Committee

Darwin Brown/Tom Grothe. Membership was reviewed. 45,050 was earned as of July 1st 2011 in interest in the account. Thanks was given to NAPA for the contribution of \$5000 for scholarships given at the 2011 Spring Conference. The Grant Application Process is now fully operational. Kathy Tonkin is leading the subcommittee. The information is on the web site. Funding was once again discussed and it was decided to wait until the January budget meeting to make any formal decisions.

#### HOD

Tom Grothe, Jason Hadenfeldt, Russ Coash. Discussion about how many people should be sent to the HOD due to the change in the HOD structure. We will still maintain the option to send 3 but it is up to the board if all 3 need to attend. They did meet in Las Vegas at the AAPA HOD. The resolution that changed the HOD structure was the most important resolution that was passed.

#### CME Committee

Dara Schroeder. She will be co-chairing the committee this year in preparation to hand of the chair next year to Bridget Burke as she will take over the role of president of NAPA. There were 31 lecture/workshops at the 36th annual NAPA Spring CME conference. At 276 paid registrants we were only  
*(continued on page 5)*

## Nebraska Physician Assistant Alumni Reception a Success

NAPA, Union College and the UNMC PA Alumni Chapter sponsored a reception for over 100 attendees. The “Nebraska Physician Assistant Alumni Reception” was held May 31st during the AAPA 2011 conference in Las Vegas.

Food and beverages were consumed, prizes were given out and photos were taken. All on the house (plus a cash bar). Old classmates reunited and new connections were made with colleagues.



Nebraska Reception at AAPA Conference



Nebraska Reception at AAPA Conference

### BOD Meeting *(continued from page 4)*

7 down from last year. The exhibit hall was at 40 tables. There was an increase in donations/sponsorships but a decrease in grants. The evaluations and comments were reviewed. The dates for conferences for the next 3 years; 4/11-4/14/2012, 4/10-4/13/2013, 4/9-4/12/2014.

#### Reimbursement

Chuck Scholtes. E-Scripts were discussed. Everyone has to be E-Prescribing by 2014 per government regulations or risk being penalized.

#### Union College

The class of 2014 has been selected and class officers have been elected for the class of 2013. They will continue to volunteer at the foot clinic and “Clinic With a Heart.” Eleven students and one incoming student recently returned from a medical mission trip in Peru. The hooding ceremony for the graduating Class of 2011 was May 7th.

#### UNMC

The class of 2012 has taken over the Sharing, Respect, and Good Life clinics for the summer. Volunteer activities include serving dinner at the Ronald McDonald house, participating in Habitat for Humanity and doing the Paint-a-thon. The UNMC PA Alumni Chapter sponsored a student picnic for all first and second year PA students in June.

#### Old Business

##### Anderson Management Contract

This has been signed and increased by 5% this year.

##### PA Rules and Regulations

We are all still waiting on them to be passed.

#### New Business

##### Legislative Day

It was decided to do a gathering and

discussion versus a breakfast or lunch. We may take 2-3 items with supporting documentation to discuss. It is a short 60 day session.

#### Computer Committee

This is an Ad Hoc committee that Tom Grothe recommends be dissolved as there is really no need for it at this time. Motion passed, this committee will be dissolved.

#### Voting Issues

Two board members were not able to vote. It is estimated that 30 people voted. The question was brought up that maybe we should vote at the conference instead of after. This would require a bylaws change and further discussion.

#### Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned by President, Jodi Chewakin at 11:50. Next meeting scheduled for October 15th at 9:00 a.m. at Anderson Management in Lincoln.