

## CHANGES TO THE APRN FORUM

By Dr. Tina Bettin DNP, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, APNP, FAANP  
President of APRN Forum

The APRN Forum is a Mutual Interest Group (MIG) of the Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA) that has undergone many name changes since its creation. The Forum started out as the NP Council back in the late 1980s; later, the name was changed to the NP Forum. The Forum was further transformed when the name was changed to the APN (Advanced Practice Nurse) Forum to be more inclusive of all four advanced practice registered nurse roles, as there were a couple of the roles which did not have state-wide associations. Approximately five years ago, the Forum changed its name to the APRN (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse) Forum so that it was in line with the APRN Consensus Document.

In recent years, many things have changed. The Clinical Nurse Specialist has developed a state association under the umbrella of their national association. There are also national associations with state affiliation for the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and the Certified Nurse Midwives. That being said, there is not a state group/association for nurse practitioners other than those who have a specialized role. It has been brought up on more than one occasion regarding the lack of a state association for all nurse practitioners. Currently, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse make up 25% of WNA's membership, and of those, 98% are nurse practitioners. WNA utilizes WNA's nurse practitioners to provide testimony, serve on advisory councils and state agency councils; and serve as a resource on APRN related questions. WNA's nurse practitioner members are providing a large financial boost to WNA and supporting the lobbying efforts of the APRN Coalition. Because of the changes within the APRN network across the state and the need to bring a voice to the largest number of APRNs in the State, the APRN Forum Board of Directors voted to return back to the NP Forum and with that a focus on the issues related to nurse practitioner practice, education, workforce, leadership and policy. The WNA Board of Directors voted unanimously to support this conversion.

WNA members will not notice a change in the NP Forum. The annual Clinical Pharmacology Conference in the spring will continue to occur. The NP Forum Board will continue to be elected for staggering two-year terms. The executive committee of the board will continue to be the president, vice-president and secretary/treasurer. There will be five elected members to the board of directors. The APRN Representative to the WNA Board will have a voting seat on the NP Forum Board. This individual may not be a nurse practitioner as the seat is open to any APRN who would like to run for the WNA Board. There will be a seat available for American Association of Nurse Practitioner (AANP) State representative without a vote. To be a member of the NP Forum, an individual needs to be a member of WNA and a nurse practitioner.

The NP Forum will continue to support and be a member of the APRN Coalition which is working on the APRN Modernization Act legislation for 2019-2020 legislative biennium. The NP Forum will work with WNA's Public Policy Council to provide feedback on legislative proposals that impact APRNs. The President of the NP Forum Board is a co-chair of the newly created WNA APRN Roundtable. The other co-chair is the WNA Board of Directors APRN representative.

Benefits of being a member of the NP Forum are many. For \$15 per month, a nurse practitioner will be a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA), and the NP Forum of the WNA. As a member, you will also get a discount to join the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). It is always recommended to be a member of your state and national association.

If you have any questions, please contact the WNA office or myself.