# THE PRACTITIONER

www.arizonanp.com September , 2012 [Edition 2, Volume 3]

## *PRESIDENT'S CORNER*
## *by Janeen Dahn*

It is the fall semester already and students are searching for clinical preceptors that will enrich the learning experience. The preceptor shortage is a growing problem in Arizona because of the increase in preceptor demand from in-state and out-of-state universities. The five Arizona schools [Three state schools (ASU, NAU, and UofA) and two private schools (Grand Canyon University and University of Phoenix)], are all vying for clinical placements in this time of shortages of nurse practitioner preceptors.

The Arizona State Board of Nursing does not have a statute or rule that specifically states the school is responsible for placing students in clinical sites. However, in response to a public complaint about students placing posts on the Coalition of Arizona Nurses in Advanced Practice (CAZNAP) list serve "begging" for a preceptor, the Board has stated in open session that they expect schools ultimately to be responsible for student placement. Specifically, The Board commented that they do not want to see students "begging" for preceptors on Internet list serves such as CAZNAP.

In the State of Arizona, officials from the nurse practitioner programs are responsible for verifying that preceptors are appropriate. However, program managers are encouraging students to *identify* potential preceptors that they believe would be good matches for them with respect to location, availability, personality, and for where they are in the program. Once the student has identified a potential preceptor, the school verifies the preceptor's credentials and determines if the site is an appropriate learning experience for the student. If students use list serves such as CAZNAP to assist in identifying potential preceptors, the schools should educate nurse practitioner students on appropriate networking

ARIZONA nurse practitioner COUNCIL

The Arizona Nurse Practitioner Council is a local chapter of the Arizona Nurses Association, and an affiliate of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the American College of Nurse Practitioners.
Established in 1992, we advocate for our membership through legislative and educational activities. We provide members the opportunity to network with one another and promote their services to the public.

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**Arizona Nurse Practitioner Council Executive Committee**
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etiquette. Once the faculty of record has reviewed and approved the clinical preceptor, there should be ongoing assessment and contact between the preceptor and the faculty of record.

Now is the perfect time for potential preceptors to identify themselves as willing candidates. According to the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), Nurse Practitioner students may precept with physicians or nurse practitioner (not physician assistants). Since the education and practice of nursing (the foundation of nurse practitioner practice) is significantly different from the medical model, NONPF recommends that some of the nurse practitioner training be with a nurse practitioner. As of September 9, 2012, there are 3,920 certified nurse practitioners in the state of Arizona. If even a quarter of the qualified nurse practitioners offered to precept one student a year, we would not have a preceptor shortage. Areas in highest need for preceptors are in women's health/obstetrics, family practice, and pediatrics.

Precepting a nurse practitioner student is a rewarding experience that challenges the practitioner to maintain current practice. Precepting is not only an opportunity to help our nurse practitioner students but it is an opportunity to give back to our community by participating in the education of our future clinicians. 1) It is also part of the role of a professional; 2) some certifying organizations accept precepting as part of the hours to maintain board certification, so it is a way to save on some of the cost of continuing education for re-certification. I encourage you to give back to your profession. If you are interested in becoming a preceptor, please contact the university representative(s) listed below. Additionally, the Arizona Nurse Practitioner Council (AZNPC) is creating a list of available preceptors so please contact Lisa Dugan (lisak@chaparraltile.com) with your information if you are willing to be on the list.

Minimum qualifications for a nurse practitioner preceptor are:

- -Certified by the Board of Nursing in at least one of the population areas: Adult Nurse Practitioner (ANP), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Geriatric Nurse Practitioner (GNP), Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP), Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP), Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP), and Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP)
- -A minimum of 1-year experience in the area of preceptorship (this may vary by school)
- -Nationally certified in the population area preceptorship
- -Master's prepared
- -RN License in good standing with the Board of Nursing

**University Contacts**

Arizona State University – Sue Sarsam [Sue.Sarsam@asu.edu]
Grand Canyon University – Katie Sexton [katie.sexton@gcu.edu]
Northern Arizona University – Angela Golden [Angela.Golden@nau.edu]
University of Arizona – Sheri Carson [scarson@nursing.arizona.edu]
University of Phoenix – Gwen Wodiuk [Gwen.Wodiuk@phoenix.edu]

**WE WANT YOU!**

## *EXCITING NEWS*

**Scottsdale Healthcare Awarded $200 Million to Expand Primary Care Workforce in Arizona**

Scottsdale Healthcare is partnering with the Colleges of Nursing at Arizona State University, Grand Canyon University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona in a statewide collaboration of graduate nursing education programs to increase the primary care workforce in Arizona. Funded by the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, the Demonstration Project will focus on educating advanced practice nurses.

One of only five healthcare systems in the U.S. selected, Scottsdale Healthcare will participate in a four-year, $200 million initiative to help meet the rising need for primary and transitional care practitioners. According to Arizona Health Futures, a report by St. Luke's Health Initiatives, the state of Arizona has a shortfall of approximately 2,500 healthcare providers. The Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration Project will provide more than $17 million to support the clinical education of more than 400 nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists in Arizona.

Scottsdale Healthcare will provide supervised clinical hours, in partnership with Arizona State University, Grand Canyon University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona, as well as the University of Arizona Health Network and community-based care organizations representing more than 30 health care settings across the state.

More information on the demonstration project, operated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation, can be found at: http://innovations.cms.gov/initiatives/GNE/.

## *NORTHERN ARIZONA NURSE PRACTITIONER GROUP by Karen Holder*

Northern Arizona's NP group has committed to the national campaign "Joining Forces." In collaboration with AZNPC's PR theme to focus on our Veterans during National NP Week, we are collaborating with several NP communities throughout the state and sharing ideas on how to spread the word about the healthcare needs of this special population. We are also taking this opportunity to reach out to our local NP community and our community's health resources to enhance public and healthcare workforce awareness of what the issues are as well as where the resources are. We are planning an educational dinner during NP week and the presentation will focus on care of our Veterans.
In June NANPG hosted a Pharmacology Update in Flagstaff. We had 72 attendees and the conference was well received. Thank you to all who attended!

## *SOUTHERN ARIZONA SOCIETY OF ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE/ NURSE PRACTITIONERS by Sharon Morgan*

The Southern Arizona Society of Advanced Practice Nurse/Nurse Practitioners continues to bring together Advance Practice Nurses. We have 135 active members and 455 total members. For more information on SAZAPN go to our website at:
http://www.tucsonnp.com/index.html

SAZAPN extends an invitation to all AzNA Chapter 9 members to our first annual CE day entitled "What You Should Know in Primary Care." It will be held on November 16 at Tucson Omni Resort. Registration begins at 0700. Breakfast and lunch are included. You will receive 7.75 continuing education hours approved by AzNA. Registration is $100. I will be mailing brochures out soon. Please contact Sharon Morgan at sharonmorgan@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

## *JOINING FORCES by Lisa Dugan*

Joining Forces is a national campaign to provide resource information to veterans, their families, and active service members regarding care and treatment of PTSD and traumatic brain injury. Please consider how we as NPs can help this community. This includes educating the public and NPs in our community and helping to restore healthy communities.
http://joiningforces.aanp.org/

Let's band together to make a significant impact in AZ!! Anyone interested in getting involved please contact Lisa Dugan at lisafnp@chaparraltile.com

## *PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT by John Schmaling*

### Providers Direct, PLLC

Providers Direct is a nurse practitioner primary health care clinic for adults. We see patients in a clinic setting, but also provide care in the patient's home if they are not able physically to come to the clinic. Our patient population consists of individuals often of lower socioeconomic status. In fact, 70% of our patient population receives Medicaid benefits. These individuals have traditionally been undeserved by the healthcare community. Many of our patients are frail individuals with multiple co-morbid conditions. For homebound patients, healthcare visits are provided in private homes, assisted living centers, adult care homes, and nursing homes. For individuals who do not have insurance, we provide healthcare services at substantially discounted rates.

Two of our nurse practitioners are certified to provide women's healthcare. The practice received a grant from the Department of Health to provide Well Woman Health checks for uninsured and underinsured. This program provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings. In 2012, our practice was nominated for ***Small Business of the Year, Tucson Chamber of Commerce.***

Our practice started with one nurse practitioner working out of his home, making home visits, and has grown to seven nurse practitioners with five support staff.

Our group of nurse practitioners provide health care in a clinic setting and as the patients' needs change, the provider follows them in skilled nursing facilities, adult care homes, assisted living centers or private homes. The same healthcare provider follows the patient as they move from one care setting to another. This allows for continuity of care, avoiding the fragmented care often seen in the older adult population. It avoids duplicative diagnostic testing and unnecessary adverse consequences from incomplete patient information. We also provide office-based treatment for individual addicted to opiate drugs.

## *AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS UPDATE* by Roni Fox

**ACNP 2012 Clinical Conference**

The American College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) will host its 2012 Clinical Conference in Toronto, Ontario from **October 3-7, 2012**. The annual Conference is the premier educational offering for nurse practitioners (NPs) and offers NPs from across the country the opportunity to earn a full scope of continuing education credits at sessions led by top clinical experts.

Offering 30.0 CE credits, this year's conference will feature two plenary sessions including a review of policy and legislative issues impacting NPs, 12 pre-conference skills workshops (additional fee required), over 120 concurrent educational sessions, and numerous health-care related exhibitors.
http://www.acnpconference.com/

**Act Now: Tell Congress to Let NPs Order Home Health Services**

Despite strong bipartisan support, Congress is unlikely to vote on the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act on its own as a free-standing bill - its provisions will have to be included in other "must-pass" legislation the House and Senate will consider. The only way we can ensure that Congress passes this legislation this year is to have as many members of Congress as possible insist that their House and Senate leaders (including the chairmen of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee) include the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act as part of any "must-pass" legislation they vote on this fall. **Please contact your Congress members today!**

**Portable X-Ray Services Ordered by NPs**

Comments on Medicare's new regulations that clearly authorize NPs to order portable X-Rays ended on September 4. 2012 A favorable final decision is expected soon.

**Women's Health Promotion Benefits**

As of August 1, 2012 new insurance companies are required to provide many preventative health services and screenings. For existing insurance companies, most renew their plans at the beginning of the year, and these services will be provided beginning January 1, 2013. Included are services given an "A" or "B" recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, including mammograms every one to two years for women over 40, cervical cancer screening, smoking and alcohol cessation, prenatal screenings and test, diabetes and blood pressure screening and tests, and depression screening for adolescents and adults. The coverage also includes all vaccinations recommended by the Center for Disease Control's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Contraception is also a part of this, although it is still being challenged legally. Click here for more info:
http://www.hrsa.gov/womensguidelines/

**Gestational Diabetes Act**

ACNP is joining the American Congress of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, the American Diabetes Association, and other organizations in supporting bipartisan legislation to improve the health of women and infant by tracking gestational diabetes. Click here for more info (S. 1221/H.R. 2194)

## *AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS by Bessie Burk, Arizona State Representative*

A lot is happening this coming year with AANP. We are having our next annual conference in June 2013 in Los Vegas, so I hope to see many of you there.

Our last conference was in Orlando with approximately 4,500 in attendance. It was truly amazing as our own Angie Golden became President; taking the gavel in front of the largest audience yet.

**Nurse Practitioner week is approaching, the week of November 11, 2012** Please think about an outreach activity or project you can participate with in your area. For example, I know Lisa Dugan is working with several to have a Joining Forces outreach that week to our veterans and their families.

One last thing, the annual nominations for state awards for excellence and advocacy are now open at www.aanp.org, you need not be a member to nominate or be nominated.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**A Life of Advocacy & Work;**

**Biography of Lonna Gutierrez, MS, FNP, Pain & Addiction Specialist,**

**CAPT (ret) United States Public Health Service**

By Cindy Scott, DNP, MS, CVNS & Barbara Perry, MD

Both of us know Lonna across many years, and apart from her distinguished academic resume, as a person, colleague, and friend. She is a passionate professional that has done extraordinary things to improve the quality of life and health for thousands of people across the years of her professional life of service. Equally, she is an articulate advocate for NPs. Her biography does not reflect the personal qualities and strengths of honesty, humility, integrity, a stellar education, and a rare courage to do the right thing no matter what. Lonna inspires from within. Her critical thinking and innovative insights are powerful strengths. She does not buckle under adversity but draws from her strengths while promoting ethical and just change through the artful practice of medicine and nursing rooted in science.

Lonna has led a life of service to her country throughout her career as an officer in the US Public Health Service where she has served those in areas that were underserved clinically and isolated geographically. She also served those patients with intractable pain, chronic pain, and addictive disorders and pain who were among the most difficult to treat. Patients in her care hold admiration and regard for her because she lives her convictions while advocating for the needs of those without a voice.

Lonna's lifetime work history is impressive. She was 10 years old and the oldest child in the family when her mother was stricken by polio with resulting paraplegia. The responsibility of caring for her mother and her siblings fell to Lonna and she rose to the task and learned to persevere under adversity.

She received an AA degree in Nursing, graduating with Highest Distinction from Purdue University in 1967; and a BSN with Distinction from Purdue in 1979. She achieved membership in Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society and Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing Honorary Society. She also worked as a direct care provider and supervisor at a nursing home, a psychiatric facility, and local hospitals during her early professional years.

On April 4, 1974, in Monticello, IN, the city where she lived, an F-5 tornado destroyed the city during one of the biggest and worst tornado outbreaks in US history. Many people died that day in the wake of catastrophic destruction. In a quest for community recovery and healing, she founded Project Landscape, Inc. to replant the trees in the entire city of Monticello so that it might be transformed into a park-like garden and inspire hope in the community. She formed a work group, raised thousands of dollars and collaborated with Landscape Architects from Purdue University to create a unified design for the entire town so that, today, the thousands of flowering trees that the city residents planted now line the streets and erupt in breathtaking shades of red, pink or white blossoms across the city. Lonna received the "President's Plaque" from Project Landscape, Inc. for Community Service in Disaster Recovery for her work. Lonna's career as a writer took root when her

article in the Lafayette Journal Courier entitled, "Loss of Trees Leaves Psychological Scars" appeared in 1975. It revealed her interest in the effect of tragedy on the human psyche that has persisted throughout her career.

Lonna was commissioned in the United States Public Health Service in September 1979 and served in a variety of duty stations until her retirement from the Corps on February 1, 2007, at the rank of Captain. Her assignments were varied and sometimes dangerous. She has worked as a nurse on the Navajo Reservation at a Crownpoint Boarding School and at the Indian Hospital in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her work at the Santa Clara Pueblo in Espanola, New Mexico included writing the policies and procedures that allowed the clinic to receive the first exemplary JCAHO accreditation in Indian Health Service history.

Lonna's work with the USPHS included work at the Immigration Service prison clinics in El Centro, CA and El Paso, Texas. She was the RN founder/supervisor of the INS Flight Program. While on active duty with the USPHS she had a number of special assignments. Examples are work with flood/disaster relief for a North Dakota Indian tribe cut off from healthcare services by a flood. She also did a high risk, undercover deportation of a suicidal, criminal alien from the United States to Geneva, Switzerland, with two special agents that was completed safely and according to International law. While she was assigned to the US Immigration Service, she was ordered to assist officers in collecting the *Marielito* Cubans who were sent to the US, by Fidel Castro and later dispersed to federal and local prisons around the country as part of the Cuban Refugee Operation in 1981. She worked flight duty 40-60 hours per week for over a year transporting these high risk, often criminally insane, physically ill, suicidal prisoners between federal correctional facilities and ultimately to the federal penitentiary in Atlanta Georgia from where they were returned to Cuba. For her work, she has received numerous USPHS awards including two Commendation Medals, three Hazardous Duty Ribbons, two PHS Citations, INS Flight Wings, an Isolated Hardship Award, and several Unit Commendations.

In the early 1990's, Lonna realized the best version of her self-inspired pursuit of higher education when she took a leave of absence from the Public Health Service to complete a Master's Degree in Nursing Research and her FNP certification at Arizona State University where she graduated in 1992. Her poem, "The Speech of Grass" (see below), was published In the ASU Honors Journal in May 1991. Her thesis work, Hoping and Faith; a Grounded Theory Study, explored the effect of hope on the healing process and undertook the difficult task of creating a scientifically sound format so that data could be gathered and analyzed. She was invited to present her paper at the Nursing 2000 Research Conference in 1993, and to the Western Institute of Nursing Research and at the Phoenix Children's Hospital in 1994. Lonna worked intermittent tours of duty while pursuing her Masters education working the emergency department at PIMC. She also worked in a private practice in Casa Grande, Arizona, an underserved primarily Spanish speaking population of farm workers.

After returning to active duty in the Corps in 1993, she worked as an FNP Clinical Consultant in Otolaryngology for two years then was assigned to Admiral Vince Berkley, Clinical Director at PIMC. In collaboration with federal attorneys and other experts, she wrote the PIMC Medical Staff Bylaws, Rules and Regulations that facilitated an exemplary review from JCAHO for PIMC.

During her service at PIMC, Lonna also worked with CAPT Dave Eppenheimer, MD, an Addiction Medicine/Internal Medicine Specialist. She provided direct clinical services and took Indian Health Service Addiction Training in 1996, 97, 98, 2001, and 2002. She was certified by the American Academy of Pain Management in 2002 and

also received Buprenorphine Certification in June 2001. She founded pain management services in the Dept. of Primary Care and ran the clinic until her retirement in 2007. She also provided inpatient consults and spearheaded a pain management team. She published "Chronic Pain, Part I," and "Chronic Pain, Part II" for the *IHS Primary Care Provider*, a clinical, medical publication, in January and February of 2003. She won the distinguished Julia Plotknik Award for Professional Publications in Nursing, of the US Public Health Service, for these publications.

Since her retirement from active duty, Lonna has maintained a full schedule of practice while pursuing her art. She was invited to organize a Pain Management Symposium, which was presented in Flagstaff, Arizona July 24-25, 2008. She was a People to People Nursing Ambassador to China August 14-29, 2009 with 17 other delegates. The delegation visited seven venues in three cities and collaborated with professional groups to discuss nursing issues and global health. She produced several publications in the wake of the trip and is currently the editor of, *The Art League West Newsletter.*

Lonna's professional associations have included the Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS, Arizona Nurse's Association, American Nurses Association, Arizona Pain Society, Fellow of the American Academy of Pain Management, International Association for the Study of Pain, Neuropathic Pain Association of IASP, International Association for Pain and Chemical Dependency, and the American Society of Pain Educators.

Lonna's accomplishments speak for themselves, however as her longtime friends, we feel the best way to understand Lonna is through her visual and written art. Lonna recently had three works of art accepted into an International exhibition in Napa Valley, California. She has also won local, state and national awards for her art. A copy of one of her award winning poems appears below and sums up her approach to life.

**The Speech of Grass**

by Lonna Fullerton-Gutierrez,

Go into the far meadows,
And listen to the speech of grass.
Forget the sound of words.
Go down into the bottom lands
And lay down on the earth
With your heart against the ground
And listen to its beating.
Inhale the shadows dank with spice,
And become conversant with weeds,
And when you are wise in the speech of grass,
Lean into the emptiness of silence
And hold for a moment
The beating of your own heart
In your outstretched hands.

## *AzNA CHAPTER 18 Border HEALTH NURSES/ ENFERMERA DE SALUD FRONTERIZA*

### *by Marylyn McEwen*

Arizona Nurses Association Chapter 18, Border Health Nurses is the newest AzNA chapter. We invite you to join Chapter 18 to promote nurses in all professional relationships to advocate and practice with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and uniqueness for every individual, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems within the Arizona region of the US-Mexico border.

Join us as we advance our profession by: 1) promoting ethical practice of nurses who respect the right to human determination, irrespective of the country of origin, 2) participating in the legislative activities of our state and national nursing organizations that promote leaders, 3) advocating for the delivery of dignified and humane care to all people who reside within the Arizona region of the US-Mexico border, and 4) advocating for and contributing to a moral environment that encourages respectful interactions among colleagues within the Arizona region of the US-Mexico border.

Currently Chapter 18 members are revising the AzNA 2001 Position Statement on Border Health Care. Join us as we advance our profession through active involvement in education and knowledge development of health care policy that promotes health among the people who reside in the Arizona border region.

- **To keep your current chapter membership and add Chapter 18 as a second chapter, please send a $15 to the Chapter 18 Treasurer: Fabiana Bowles (made out to AzNA Chapter 18) and mail to: Fabiana Bowles, RN 1754 S 41st drive Yuma, AZ 85364**

- **To join AzNA/ANA and Chapter 18 visit https://aznurse.org/membership_info/index.html and click the on membership application**

## *AzNPC PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE*

### *by Lisa Dugan*

Gratitude goes out to the volunteers who have helped with website planning, dinner meetings, selling t-shirts, and completing the video project. Volunteers enrich the quality of the Arizona Nurse Practitioner Council. Please consider volunteering as “many hands make light work.”

Our new website has been live for two months. The website provides our members and visitors with a variety of new and improved features to include news and announcements, upcoming events, local job opportunities, and NP locator for the public. Each member of our group will have a secure member profile listing that will allow them basic access to our website and also create a channel of communication from our group to each of our members. In addition, the completed video highlighting NPs is on the website. Please encourage your patients to visit the website. There is a wealth of information. We welcome feedback regarding the site and its content. The address for the new website remains the same www.arizonanp.com. Please go to the website to enroll and update your profile.

The educational dinner events are a huge success thanks to Nancy Johnson, FNP-C. We are making every attempt to offer dinner, CEs,

webinar access, and video recordings of the events as a service to our membership and other NPs throughout Arizona. CEs are provided by NAHEC –Northern Arizona Health Education. Webinar attendees will also receive CE. In addition, many thanks to Janeen Dahn and Erich Widemark at the University of Phoenix for making the Sperling Center available to us for many of these events. Some of the recent events held include "Gynecological Malignancies" by Kelly Collonello, CRNP, MSN, "Psoriasis, A closer look" by William Ko, MD, and "Rhinisinusitis and Balloon Sinuplasty " by Robert Bridge, MD. We do encourage you to follow through with your RSVP, because at times we have a waiting list, and we would like to offer the event to those interested in case you are unable to attend. Please go back to the website and change your RSVP to "NO" if you find you are unable to attend.

**National Nurse Practitioner Week** occurs the second week in November each year. The Arizona Nurse Practitioner Council offers grants each year for Nurse Practitioner Week as an added benefit of membership. Selection criteria focus on promoting NP awareness and NP service in the community.

Veterans Day falls during NP Week. AZNPC is committed to Joining Forces, which is a national initiative to increase awareness of how we can help Veterans and their families with the issues they face. Many struggle with PTSD, TBI, depression, and alcohol and/or drug abuse. We encourage you to become involved in creating events during NP week in your area. Many NPs volunteered to help this initiative during the SW NP Symposium in Flagstaff. NPs from Casa Grande, Flagstaff, and Phoenix are planning events. We hope that NPs from other areas in Arizona will join in the effort too.

## *LEGISLATIVE UPDATE by Denise Link*

The results of the primary elections are in and 146 candidates will be on district ballots seeking election to federal, state, and county positions in the General Election on November 6th. Keep informed by checking the websites of the candidates in your district and attending meetings that they will be having in your area. Of the 32 candidates endorsed by the AzNA PAC, 28 won their elections. For a full list of the successful endorsed candidates, information about the PAC, how to find your new voting district, links to candidates sites and other election related help visit the AzNA Arizona Election website. In the last general election, many important senate and house seats in the state were decided by a few hundred votes. Your vote counts!

Denise Link, Legislative Chair for AzNA Chapter 9, Arizona NP Council, and Robin Schaeffer, AzNA Executive Director attended two meetings at the Governor's Office regarding the establishment of Health Insurance Exchanges and the role of AHCCCS as Arizona government leaders engage in deliberations about healthcare delivery and financing now that the US Supreme Court has ruled on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. While many of the final decisions will be subject to approval by the new legislature after the November elections, deadlines for conditional plans must be met so that Arizona is ready to implement whatever plan is approved. Right now the discussions are focused on the Essential Health Benefits and what benchmark will be used to design Arizona's criteria for health insurers to be approved as participants in the exchange. Donald Hughes, Special Consultant to the Governor for Healthcare Innovation, led a meeting of healthcare stakeholders on August 14, 2012 to update the participants on the status of the discussions. The main take home message was that the goal is to provide a menu

of Essential Health Benefits that looks like a "typical" employer plan. Mr. Hughes also discussed the creation of a state website for shopping in the health insurance exchange and used the Travelocity travel website as an example of the kind of user friendly marketplace that his office is trying to create where consumers could compare and select an insurance plan that fits their needs and budget.

The second meeting with Mr. Hughes took place on August 29, 2012 and involved Denise, Robin and Mr. Dave Mason, health policy advisor for the American College of Nurse Practitioners. The group discussed the role of advanced practice nurses in the exchanges and improving access to health care for the currently insured and those who will become insured under the Exchange, how we can participate in the decision making process, how nurses can be partners with the government agencies to balance cost and care and advocate for the state at CMS to get clarity and guidance on the formation of the exchanges that are undecided. The plans for governance of the exchange were discussed; AzNA will advocate for nurses to be appointed to any governing or advisory board that will direct the health insurance exchanges. AzNA will continue to be actively involved and vigilant as the process moves forward.

## BOARD OF NURSING

*The latest edition of the Arizona Nurse can be found at: http://www.azbn.gov/*

Upcoming BON meetings in 2012:
Sept 19 & 20
Nov 15 & 16
*Meetings are from 8:00AM – 5:00PM and are open to the public. Best times to attend are the first day and the morning of the second day.*

Upcoming Advanced Practice Committee meeting in 2012:
Sept 26 10:00AM – 2:00PM

*BON and Advanced Practice meetings are at the BON office 4747 N. 7th Ave Phoenix, AZ*

## *Have you ever imagined you could help a torture survivor?*

# Physicians and Mental Health Professionals in Phoenix and Tucson

## NEEDED FOR EVALUATION OF TORTURE SURVIVORS

HealthRight International's Human Rights Clinic® (HRC) invites you to attend a **half-day advanced training** to learn how to recognize and document physical and psychological signs of torture on survivors.

HRC trains and deploys **licensed physicians and mental health professionals in Arizona** as volunteers to evaluate torture survivors who have fled persecution in their home countries and are seeking asylum in the United States. Gaining secure immigration status prevents survivors from being returned to possibly life-threatening situations and is the first step in helping them regain their health, independence, and ability to pursue productive lives.

Objectives:

1. Describe the asylum process in the US and the role of clinicians as expert witnesses.
2. List key aspects of physical and psychological torture.
3. Conduct culturally and clinically sensitive examination of torture survivors.
4. Document findings.
5. Demonstrate effective testimony in immigration proceedings.

*Painting by* Ibrahima Bah

Steps to Becoming an HRC Volunteer:

1. Register quickly as space is limited!
2. Attend Saturday, September 22nd, training.

**Training is free of charge*.

3. License check.
4. Phone interview and reference check.
5. First HRC case.

The next Human Rights Clinic training for new volunteers in Arizona will be held:

***Saturday, September 22nd 8:30 AM-2:00 PM***

*Location: INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE**

**5227 NORTH 7TH STREET, PHOENIX, AZ 85014**

* handicap accessible

This activity has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to **3.50** prescribed credits by the **American Academy of Family Physicians.**

This activity has been approved for Continuing Education credits in Psychology by the **American Psychological Association.**

To apply or for more information:

HRC.Training@healthright.org
Attention: Sydney Carter
212-584-4867 / 212-523-9123 (phone)
http://healthright.org/where-we-work/us