

TAPA Board of Directors Election

2025 Candidate Nominations

(listed in alphabetical order)

President

- **Johnny Presley** - Johnny has been a PA since 1993. He has been the vice president of TAPA for the past two years, and he served as a COPA member for two terms, finishing the last several years of his tenure as chair. He has always been supportive of TAPA and spends lots of time in Nashville meeting with state leaders and advocating for the PA profession.

In addition to being a PA, Johnny is a business entrepreneur owning clinics in Crossville and Jamestown. He is active in his community where he served on the local school board for several years, including as chair, and volunteers as the sideline medical personnel for the county high school sports teams, staffing home and away games.

Vice President

- **Kristina (Kristy) Engelhaupt** – Kristy Engelhaupt has been a Physician Assistant since 2011. Currently she works in Family Practice in telemedicine. She holds 9 active state licenses.

She has served as the TAPA Knoxville Region Director 2022-to present. During this time she has increased membership participation and sponsorship of TAPA. She has also served on the Awards and Nominating Committee from 2022-2023.

- AAPA Leadership and Advocacy Conference, Washington, DC - She represented TN to advocate for the advancement the Compact License and Advancement of PA Practices.
- Tennessee House Of Delegate – Present
- PAs in Virtual Medicine and Telehealth Membership and Social Committee Chair 2022
- American Academy of Physician Assistants Peer Editor 2022-Present
- American Academy of Physician Assistants Grant Review Awards Committee 2022-2023

She received her Bachelors degree in Biology, Magna Cum Laude, Jacksonville University, Florida. She served 4 years in elected student government positions. She attended Kettering College for her Masters Physician Assistant Degree, graduated in 2011, as the class Vice President with Cum Laude Honors.

- **Brendan Lucas** - I am excited to submit my candidacy for Vice President of the Tennessee Academy of PAs. As a healthcare leader with experience in multiple settings (emergency medicine, private practice primary care, urgent care, telemedicine, and most recently as a healthcare disruptor in the in-home acute care model), I am deeply committed to elevating our profession and advocating for the vital role we play in the healthcare landscape. Throughout my career, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact that PAs have on patient care and our communities. This passion drives my desire to serve as Vice President of our Academy, where I believe we can forge new pathways for our profession and amplify our collective voice.

Most of my involvement with TAPA falls within the realm of leading the Tennessee delegation as Chief Delegate in AAPA's House of Delegates. Additionally, I've served on a couple of smaller committees and remain committed to advancing PA practice through advocacy work (both through PA Day on the Hill and building personal relationships with my legislators). I have gained insightful experience in AAPA as Chair of the Governance Committee, where we have consistently worked to improve the governing documents of the organization to ensure compliance while meeting the needs of members. My involvement at the state and national level has provided me with valuable insights into our current challenges and opportunities.

As Vice President, I will prioritize initiatives that enhance practice, strengthen advocacy efforts, and promote professional development for all PAs in Tennessee. Together, we can create a robust support group that

empowers every PA in Tennessee to thrive and become the next great leader in healthcare. I am committed to fostering an environment where every member's ideas are valued, ensuring we are united in our mission and vision. By inspiring teamwork, collaboration, and empowering Tennessee PAs to step forward, we will continue building the bridge for the next generation of PAs in this state. I am eager to harness our collective strengths to advance our profession; together, we can rise to meet the challenges ahead and seize the opportunities to enhance our impact on healthcare.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the opportunity to work alongside each of you in achieving our vision and continue my service to Tennessee PAs as your Vice President.

Secretary

- **Iveylee Trump** - Iveylee has been practicing since 2010, has served on the TAPA Board of Directors as the Nashville Region director, and is the current Board Secretary. She practices dermatology in Brentwood, TN and resides in Nashville with her husband, 3 young children, and 2 dogs. She looks forward to continuing to serve on TAPA and advocating for the PA professional both locally and nationally.

Treasurer

- **Sarah Murawski** - Hello Tennessee PAs. I am running for TAPA treasurer this year and I am asking for your vote. I have been practicing in Tennessee since 2017 and have been involved in TAPA since 2019. I have served as the Nashville Regional Director for the past several years and have deeply enjoyed getting to know Tennessee PAs and bringing you all sponsored educational opportunities. I am also currently a delegate to the AAPA House of Delegates, where we discuss issues facing the PA profession and vote on solutions to those issues facing PAs across the country. It has been an honor and a privilege to represent you all in these ways. I am running for Treasurer in hopes of helping TAPA grow and continue to fund our efforts to improve PA practice in Tennessee. Each year, I run a PA week t-shirt fundraiser to raise funds to support our legislative and philanthropic efforts. I will continue this effort as your Treasurer. Thank you for your support, and I hope to continue serving you as a member of the TAPA board of directors.

Chattanooga Region Director

- **Jessica Roden** - Hi, I'm Jessica Roden, a Certified Physician Assistant based in Chattanooga, TN. I currently work with a plastic surgery group in aesthetics, but I spent the first five years of my career in emergency medicine and urgent care. Those fast-paced environments shaped the way I practice and showed me just how much PAs can do.

My PA journey started in college, when I watched firsthand as my mom's primary care provider — a PA — helped catch her thyroid cancer early. After being brushed off by other providers, this PA was the first to truly listen to her concerns. She was smart, compassionate, and authentic — everything I've strived to be in my own practice.

I graduated from Lincoln Memorial University–DCOM in 2016 and have been connected to TAPA ever since attending my first conference as a student in 2014 with my now-husband, Andrew (who's also a PA). I'm passionate about seeing our profession grow, and I'm excited for the opportunity to support fellow PAs across the region.

I live in Chattanooga with Andrew and our two children, Ella and Carson, and together we recently launched Blox, a mobile app built to help student and new grad healthcare providers feel more confident in clinical settings. When I'm not working, I enjoy all things health and wellness and spend as much time outdoors with my family as I can. I would be honored to represent Chattanooga as TAPA's Regional Director!

Nashville Region Director

- **Danelle Jacobus** - Danelle Jacobus, PA-C has been a practicing PA in Nashville for 25 years. She spent most of her career in GI with a couple of years of dermatology and cardiac transplant mixed in. Currently, she shares her experience and expertise with students in the South College Nashville PA program as principal faculty and still sees GI patients in Franklin as well. She is very involved in her community and volunteers frequently with non-profits around Nashville. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling the world as well as visiting all 50 states (currently only lacking Alaska.)

Ms. Jacobus currently serves as the chair of the community outreach committee at South College Nashville PA program and is interested in engaging with TAPA and other PA colleagues in a more defined role.

- **Samantha Stifler** - Samantha Stifler, PA-C is a highly accomplished provider with eight years of specialized experience in plastic and reconstructive surgery. Over the last decade she has engaged with patients who may be undergoing head-to-toe cancer, trauma and cosmetic surgeries. Currently, she serves as the Lead PA of the Vanderbilt Plastic Surgery breast cancer reconstruction team where she plays a pivotal role in advancing patient care and surgical outcomes through a collaborative approach. In addition to her clinical and operative expertise, Samantha is deeply committed to education and mentorship. She has been involved in precepting and interprofessional learning experiences, attended national PA leadership conferences, and she has received several honors including patient experience awards at Vanderbilt Medical Center and the "Mentor of the Year" at her prior institution, Johns Hopkins Hospital.

As a former NCAA Division I athlete, she brings a level of discipline, commitment and perseverance to her professional endeavors as she did in her athletic career. Samantha is passionate about advocating for the PA profession, specifically by creating opportunities for growth, networking and spreading awareness of the vital role that PAs play in improving practice efficiency and improving patient safety and quality of care.

When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her two rescue pups and husband, hiking the mountains of Tennessee, baking breads and sweet treats, and attending all of the great concerts Nashville has to offer. Her commitment to excellence and personable nature make her a valuable leader and advocate in the PA community.

Tri-Cities Region Director

- **Shane Smith** - Hello Tri-Cities Region. My name is Shane Smith, and I wish to fulfil the duties of TAPA Tri-Cities Regional Director. I am completing my second term as the Tri-Cities Regional Director and would welcome another 2 years to represent the region.

In 2007 I graduated PA school from Springfield College in Springfield Massachusetts. I currently serve as assistant professor of PA studies at Milligan University PA Program and continue to work clinically in the Ballad Health system as a trauma surgery, critical care, and acute care surgery PA. My previous experience includes working in Emergency Medicine and Urgent Care. I have served as lead PA in Worcester, MA at St Vincent Hospital ED. Prior to becoming a PA, I worked as a pharmacy tech, combat medic, and flight medic in the United States Army. I have served in varied roles in several different deployed theaters around the world. I am a member of the American Academy of Physician Associates, the Tennessee Academy of Physician Associates, and the Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants.

In 2020, I earned my Doctor of Medical Science from the University of Lynchburg. I continue to hold my National Registered Paramedic. Originally from east Kentucky, I enjoy seeking out challenges and spending time with family. I do enjoy advocating for the PA profession and am willing to serve you.

My wife Sharon & I have 1 adult son and attend Jonesborough United Methodist Church in Jonesborough, TN. It would be an honor to serve another term as the Tricities Representative on the TAPA Board.

At-Large (2)

- **Travis Layne** - Dr. Travis Layne has been a physician assistant for 28 years. He has clinical experience in family practice, interventional pain medicine, orthopedics, neurosurgery, and vascular surgery. He currently works full time for Vanderbilt Emergency Medicine in their regional hospitals located in Shelbyville and Tullahoma. He also manages and is the primary provider for an in-home wellness concierge service for the Nashville area. He has been in PA education for over 7 years as a faculty member, didactic coordinator, and most recently as the Director of Didactic Education at Middle Tennessee State University. In the past he has served as an AAPA delegate for our academy. He currently lives in Shelbyville, TN with his loving wife of 10 years and their 3 children. He enjoys spending time with his family and advocating for the PA profession.
- **Scarlett Mulligan** - Scarlett Mulligan is a physician assistant and Air Force veteran who has provided patient care for 26 years, including 20 years as a PA. She is the founder and CEO of a multi-location psychiatry practice. A graduate of the University of Washington, Scarlett's extensive clinical background includes emergency medicine, urgent care, family practice, orthopedics, long-term care, and psychiatry. She is passionate about OTP and fostering mentorship for the next generation of PAs. If elected to the TAPA Board of Directors, Scarlett is committed to advancing the profession through leadership, advocacy, and inclusive growth.
- **Jodi Rende Robbe** - I have been a PA for more than 20 years. I have volunteered in many roles as a PA, currently I am a delegate to the AAPA House of Delegates for TAPA, a role I have served in since 2023. I also volunteer with AAPA as a member of the Judicial Advisory Committee, and a member of the STARS reimbursement panel. I currently serve as the reimbursement chair and on the Government Affairs Committee of TAPA. I work as the Director of APPs for Hospital Medicine in a large academic medical center. In that role I have both clinical and administrative responsibilities. I was recently selected as a Distinguished Fellow of the AAPA in recognition of my past service to the profession. I am running for director at large to continue to serve the PAs of Tennessee.
- **Natalie Stafford** - Natalie is based in Memphis and currently practicing at Mays and Schnapp Neurospine and Pain. She also serves as the Lead APP for Resolve Pain Solutions, where she is passionate about mentoring and educating fellow PAs and NPs. Dedicated to advancing responsible pain management, Natalie contributes her expertise as a member of the Task Force with the Tennessee Medical Association and the Opioid Abatement Council, helping to develop updated opioid prescribing education. She has proudly served as a Delegate for Tennessee at AAPA for the past three years. Natalie values the opportunity to connect and collaborate with other PAs across the state, sharing insights and building a strong professional network. Outside of work, she enjoys family walks, baking bread, and getting lost in a good book.
- **Johnna Yealy, PhD, PA-C** – Johnna is returning to her home state of Tennessee to help develop the LMU Chattanooga Physician Assistant program. A seasoned PA, Yealy specializes in emergency medicine and has also provided clinical services in dermatology, hospital medicine, and student health.

She has a strong history of professional service, having twice served as president of the Tennessee Academy of PAs, as well as holding roles as vice president and student representative. Nationally, she has contributed to the Physician Assistant Education Association in various capacities.

Yealy has presented at national conferences including AAPA, AAMC, and PAEA, and has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and a book chapter in dermatology. She has also served her community as a Statewide Model AHEC Community Advisory Board Member and a National Health Service Corps Ambassador.

In addition to her academic and clinical work, Yealy is a major in the United States Army Reserves with the 724th Military Police Battalion.

2026/2027 AAPA House of Delegates (2)

- **Kristina (Kristy) Engelhaupt** – Kristy Engelhaupt has been a Physician Assistant since 2011. Currently she works in Family Practice in telemedicine. She holds 9 active state licenses.

She has served as the TAPA Knoxville Region Director 2022-to present. During this time she has increased membership participation and sponsorship of TAPA. She has also served on the Awards and Nominating Committee from 2022-2023.

- AAPA Leadership and Advocacy Conference, Washington, DC - She represented TN to advocate for the advancement of the Compact License and Advancement of PA Practices.
- Tennessee House Of Delegates – Present
- PAs in Virtual Medicine and Telehealth Membership and Social Committee Chair 2022
- American Academy of Physician Assistants Peer Editor 2022-Present
- American Academy of Physician Assistants Grant Review Awards Committee 2022-2023

She received her Bachelors degree in Biology, Magna Cum Laude, Jacksonville University, Florida. She served 4 years in elected student government positions. She attended Kettering College for her Masters Physician Assistant Degree, graduated in 2011, as the class Vice President with Cum Laude Honors.

- **Jennifer Light** – I graduated from South College Physician Assistant program in December 2011. Since then I have practiced in pediatrics and family medicine. I am currently practicing with East Tennessee Children's Hospital Urgent Care in Knoxville and serve in leadership as "Lead APP".

My involvement with TAPA began while in PA school serving as student director for South College in 2010. After graduation I again became involved with TAPA by serving on the Board of Directors as Treasurer, Secretary, Director at Large and served as President of TAPA 2019-2021.

As a dedicated TN Physician Assistant, I am committed to representing your voice and advocating for our profession's future at the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) House of Delegates. I bring 13 years of clinical experience, leadership in my Lead APP position at work as well as TAPA, and a passion for advancing PA practice and patient care.

As an HOD delegate, I will be committed to attending the AAPA conference in 2026 and 2027. While there I will collaborate with the other TN delegates to:

- Champion policies that strengthen our scope of practice and professional autonomy,
- Advocate for the needs and concerns of Tennessee PAs on the national stage,
- Foster collaboration, innovation, and respect within our diverse PA community.

In addition to being a PA, I am also a wife to Brian and a mom to Avery (21) and Jake and John-Pearce (19 year old twin boys). In my free time I enjoy any outdoor activity and reading.

- **Brendan Lucas** - I have had the privilege of serving as a delegate for Tennessee for the past four years. This House will be my third year leading the Tennessee delegation as Chief Delegate. I am a healthcare leader working to positively disrupt the healthcare system through an innovative in-home acute care model, bringing high-acuity care to patients' homes. Health policy and advocacy have long been my passions, and I'm excited for the opportunity to continue my work to advance the PA profession in Tennessee.

Outside of the House of Delegates, I have discovered a hidden passion for organizational governance through my service on AAPA's Governance Committee. I am currently completing my second year as Chair of that committee and my fourth year as a member. I remain involved and eager to assist Tennessee PAs in advocacy and through my roles on the Nominating Committee and Awards Committee. I have also had the distinct honor of emceeding TAPA's Challenge Bowl for the past couple of years.

Tennessee has seen rapid growth in recent years and has celebrated significant achievements in PA practice. I'm excited to offer my skills and experience and to continue serving TAPA as a delegate to AAPA.

- **Kara Stencel** - Currently serving at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center's General Surgery Clinic, Kara Stencel, PA-C, MPH specializes in the outpatient management of hernia and gallbladder conditions. Before her time in Nashville, she completed a Postgraduate Training Program in Emergency Medicine at MedStar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC, and earned her Emergency Medicine Certificate of Added Qualifications (EM-CAQ) during her over four years there.

Prior to her clinical career, she worked as a Congressional staffer, where she developed a strong foundation in health policy. As a dual degree student at the Yale School of Public Health and the Yale PA Program, she deepened her involvement in advocacy and leadership as an AAPA Student Representative and a PAEA Health Policy Fellow.

She has been an active member of several professional organizations over the years, including the Tennessee Academy of PAs, the American Academy of PAs (AAPA), PAs in Obesity Medicine, and the American Association of Surgical PAs.