



T A P A
 TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF
 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

PA Pulse

The heartbeat of TAPA

Bridging the Future of Healthcare

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In this issue

From the President.....	1
Legislative Update.....	2
Mark your calendars for TAPA's 2025 CME Conferences.....	2
Support TAPA's PAC	4
2024 TAPA PAC Contributors.....	4

Mission - TAPA's mission is to promote accessible, quality healthcare, and to advance the education, profession and practice of physician assistants in Tennessee.

Vision

Protecting and empowering the practice of physician assistants in Tennessee.

From the President

It is that time of year when the TAPA elections cycle begins. This is a big year with several positions open. I want to encourage anyone who has ever thought about being more involved in TAPA, to run for office. We are privileged to have a strong state organization that has accomplished a lot, especially in the past five years, in order to allow PAs in Tennessee to practice to their full capability. These successes are in large part due to the unwavering tenacity of our TAPA Director, coupled with the strong support of many PAs across the state. There are so many great PA leaders across our state, and I have had the pleasure of working with them for several years in different roles and capacities.

I am so proud to say that I am a PA in Tennessee, and I often get compliments about how well our organization is run when I am interacting with people on the national stage. I hope it encourages you to know that Tennessee stands out as a great state to practice in for PAs, and PA organizations across the country often ask for advice on legislative, organizational, and PA Day on the Hill topics.

While we are a very successful organization and are a PA professional leader across the country, we could not do it without our PA volunteers. TAPA is very invested in the success of all PAs across the state, and we encourage you to get involved. We love having new PAs join our team and we would love to have a robust group of PAs run for office.

If you are not sure that you want to make the commitment of being a board member, there are other ways to get involved. There are several committees that are also in need of volunteers. Committee work is a great way to get to know other PAs in the state while doing important work that is needed.

While it can be intimidating as a new graduate to think about volunteering in an organization, TAPA loves having new graduates on the team. I, myself, first became a TAPA board member when I was in my first year practicing as a PA. And some of the PA leaders who encouraged me to run for office are still working to support TAPA. What better way to ensure that Tennessee remains a great place to practice as a PA then to be a part of it yourself? We encourage all PAs to get involved in whatever ways that you can.

Marie Patterson
TAPA President, PA-C, DHSc

See President, page 2

Legislative Update

By Katherine Pesut Moffat, TAPA Executive Director

Last year, TAPA had an extremely successful legislative session – passing both the PA Compact bill and the PA Practice Act bill. This was the culmination of many years of hard work by PAs who attended PA Day on the Hill, lobbied legislators, and mobilized in districts across the state to support legislative candidates who supported PAs.

Because of last year's successes, TAPA did not introduce PA-specific legislation this year. Instead, the Academy's focus has been on implementing the bills that were passed in 2024.

In previous issues of TAPA's *PA Pulse*, TAPA President Marie Patterson has reported on the activities of the national PA Compact Commission as they work to create the infrastructure necessary to establish the national compact. Dr. Patterson is Tennessee's representative to the PA Compact Commission. And as one of the few PAs serving on the commission, her voice is an important one in ensuring that practicing PAs have a voice in establishing the rules and regulations of the commission.

With regard to the bill passed in 2024 making changes to Tennessee's PA Practice Act, work has progressed on the rules that must be adopted to implement the changes. There are two sets of rules that must be adopted.

The first set of rules will specifically address "collaborative agreements" that PAs with the endorsement will practice under instead of the traditional protocol. Per the new statute, these rules will be promulgated and adopted by a task

force made up of one (1) member from the board of medical examiners; one (1) member from the board of osteopathic examination; one (1) member from the board of pediatric medical examiners; and three (3) members from the board of physician assistants. This task force met twice and approved the draft rules at their meeting on Dec. 13, 2024.

These draft rules will now make their way through the rulemaking process, with the final stop being the rulemaking hearing in front of the task force. Once the rules are adopted at the rulemaking hearing and approved by the Attorney General and Governor, they will become effective and all parts of the bill passed in 2024 will go into effect. The rulemaking hearing is expected sometime mid-year.

The second set of rules will implement the endorsement application and process, as well incorporating other sections of the new law. The Board of PAs has been working on the draft rules, and they are expected to adopt that draft at their upcoming meeting on April 4.

Mark your calendars for TAPA's 2025 CME Conferences



Over the years, PAs have requested virtual conferences and TAPA is pleased to meet those needs by bringing Spring Fling back as a fully online conference. Six (6) live lectures will be streamed each day on Zoom, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Central time Friday and Saturday – for a total of twelve (12) Category I CME credits. If you are unable to attend the live stream on both full days, don't worry! TAPA will be recording the live streamed lectures for later viewing by conference attendees.

In addition to the live lectures offered at Spring Fling, conference attendees will also have access to six (6) hours of prerecorded lectures focusing on board review topics. These lectures are being planned for self-assessment CME, which are

TAPA Awards

TAPA is accepting nominations for the following awards:

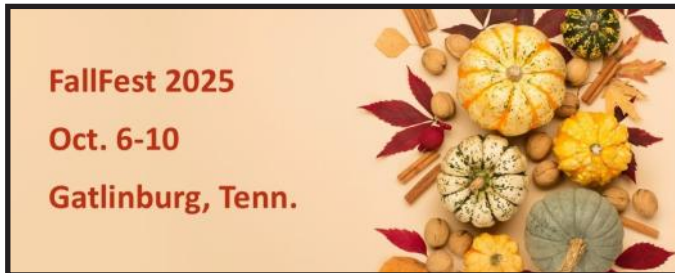
- **PA of the Year**
- **PA Student of the Year**
- **Preceptor of the Year**
- **Educator of the Year**

Nominations are accepted from PAs, PA students, faculty and collaborating physicians. The submission deadline is **July 31**. Forms can be found at www.tnnpa.com/awards.

Conferences, continued from page 3

eligible for the 50-percent bonus awarded by the NCCPA when they are logged, giving attendees a total of 9 CME credits once the bonus is applied by the NCCPA.

The TAPA member rate for the conference is just \$295, so make sure your membership is up to date to take advantage of the reduced rate! Registration materials can be found at tnpa.memberclicks.net/spring-fling.



PAs looking for an in-person conference should make plans to attend FallFest. Returning once again to the Gatlinburg Convention Center at the edge of the beautiful Smoky Mountains, this week-long conference is always a great event.

This year, the CME Committee is adding breakout sessions throughout the week, in addition to the medical lectures typically offered at the conference. The breakout sessions are being planned to offer three tracks – clinical, professional/personal development, and hands-on skills training.

PA students won't want to miss the Student Track on Monday, Oct. 6. The CME Committee is revamping the Student Track programming to give PA students more choices for lectures and hands-on workshops.

Registration materials will be distributed in May, so watch for more information. We hope to see you in October!

Does your practice need to hire a PA?

Are you searching for a job?

If so, visit TAPA's Job Board!

Jobboard.tnpa.com



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- Onsite human anatomy lab
- New class starts every January



AFFORDABLE

Tuition is competitive. Milligan is consistently named among the best in the South and nation for quality, affordability, and value.



FACULTY

Our low faculty-student ratio provides close personal interaction. They are all practicing PAs or Ph.D.s and teaching is their passion.



CHRISTIAN MISSION

Our faculty teach from a Christian perspective, with a goal of preparing servant-leaders.



PA EDUCATION MENTORING

Milligan is a great place to get involved in PA education. Contact us for opportunities to serve as a clinical preceptor or adjunct faculty member.

Support TAPA's PAC

Last year, TAPA enjoyed major legislative successes. However, this success would not have been possible without the support of many PAs contributing to TAPA's political action committee (PAC).

The PA scope of practice is decided at the state level, so it is imperative to elect members of the General Assembly who appreciate and support the PA profession and understand how a robust practice act enables PAs to improve access to care for Tennesseans.

TAPA's PAC is important because it collects contributions from PAs and bundles those into larger campaign contributions. This enables TAPA to give financial support to those candidates that support PAs and the PA profession.

The General Assembly will soon adjourn for the year and while this is not an election year, legislators will be calling on TAPA to donate to their 2026 campaigns. It is important for TAPA to have a well-funded PAC account in order to extend TAPA's influence and support our friends.

Many PAs contribute to the PAC when they pay their membership renewals, and that is wonderful! These contributions have helped TAPA to build up the PAC over the years. However, it's the recurring contributions that really build the foundation of the PAC and create a dependable revenue stream.

On the right is a list of PAC contributors, and you'll see many names with an asterisk by them. These are the TAPA members who have signed up for regular contributions to the PAC.

An automatic donation is charged to the credit card on file, which makes it easy and convenient to support the PAC. Even a modest contribution of \$25 a quarter adds up to \$100 per year, or \$25 a month adds up to \$300 at the end of the year. Many of our recurring donors give \$50 each month, which really helps to build our PAC!

PAC contributions are an investment towards ensuring that legislators that support PAs are in Nashville when votes are held on bills affecting PA practice. [Click here](#) to set up monthly recurring charges on your credit card or [visit www.tnpa.com/political-action-committee](http://www.tnpa.com/political-action-committee). If you need assistance, please call the TAPA office at (615) 463-0026 or send an email to info@tnpa.com.

2025 TAPA PAC Contributors

(Received Jan. 1-March 31, 2025)

If you haven't yet contributed to the PAC this year, please visit www.tnpa.com/political-action-

Bridge Members

contributing \$250+

Suzanne Bugar

*James Montag, Jr.

Sustaining Members

contributing \$100-\$249

Lezlie Burden

*Patrecia Eaton

*Jennifer Light

*Melissa Watson

Contributing Members

contributing up to \$100

*Donald Black

*Brian Fretwell

*Richard Heintz

*Allison Jowers

*Joseph Lindahl

*Paula Miksa

*Leigh Anne Monaghan

Benjamin Morgenegg

*Sarah Murawski

*Johnny Nowlin

Vincent Proctor

*Jodi Robbe

Ursula Treadaway

Michael Watson

*Recurring donors

Thank you to TAPA's Institutional Members!

- Bethel University
- Lipscomb University
- Middle Tennessee State University
- Milligan University