



HPNA State Ambassadors Program Description

Background: In June 2007, the Public Policy Committee (PPC) was asked by the HPNA Board of Directors to expand their focus to include policy issues at the state *and* national levels. A task force was formed comprised of the following PPC members: Joy Buck, Chair, Susan Rogers, Donna Gautier and Nanci Tansey. The task force developed a survey that was distributed to Board members, the Public Policy SIG and chapter leaders to determine the level of interest in such a project, to identify individuals interested in participating and to determine the best way to proceed. Donna Gautier and Nanci Tansey have agreed to serve as co-chairs for the State Ambassador Program.

Purpose: To develop a cadre of HPNA members with interest/expertise in health policy who will be responsible for:

- 1) Following and informing the PPC about critical policy issues at the state/regional levels
- 2) Disseminate information about national policy issues to their constituencies
- 3) Assisting with policy advocacy efforts as directed by the Board of Directors and PPC

Structure: The PPC bears the primary responsibility for the development, direction and oversight of the State Ambassador Program. The PPC will provide an annual report of Program activities to the Board of Directors. The Chair of the State Ambassador Program is responsible to coordinate the Program, report to the PPC and serve as liaison between the PPC and State Ambassadors.

Qualifications for HPNA State Ambassadors:

- a. Membership in HPNA
- b. Experience in hospice and palliative nursing.
- c. Desire to learn about the policy making process at the local, state and federal level.
- d. Completion of the ONS on-line Advocacy 101 training.
- e. Agree to serve for a minimum of two years.
- f. Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- g. Membership in state nurses association preferred.

General Responsibilities (State Ambassadors):

- a. Serve as a general resource for HPNA members regarding legislative and regulatory issues at the state level.
- b. Provide information about state/regional policy issues and initiatives to the PPC on a quarterly basis, at the minimum. This information will be submitted in writing to the co-chairs of the State Ambassador Program.
- c. Disseminate information about national policy issues as directed by the HPNA PPC and Ambassador Program Chair.
- d. Encourage HPNA nurses at the state and local level to participate in HPNA public policy activities. These activities might include but are not limited to responding to grassroots calls to action at the direction of the Board and PPC.

- e. Assist with the development and presentation of HPNA advocacy training programs within the state and at national meetings.
- f. Communicate with HPNA chapters throughout the state to gather information, making visits when possible and offer/deliver presentations on public policy advocacy.
- g. Interface with state nurses association and state board of nursing to monitor legislative proposals concerning health care, nursing, etc. and inform the PPC of any pertinent issues that may need support or attention.
- h. Seek out, develop and participate in state-specialty nursing organizations or other hospice and palliative care organizations and networks to share information about HPNA's legislative priorities and to seek support of other nursing and hospice/palliative groups for HPNA issues.
- i. Represent HPNA on state or local committees, coalitions, task forces and workgroups pertaining to nursing, hospice/palliative care or related issues as requested.

Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI):

- a. The HPNA Board of Directors has committed to sending two nurses to the NIWI training in held in Washington D.C. every spring. This training program provides an opportunity for nurses to receive advocacy training and practice at the national level. Nurses network with other nurses from across the nation and practice their advocacy skills during visits to Congressional leaders on Capital Hill.
- b. Nurses selected to attend NIWI training with financing by HPNA will be required to serve as policy ambassadors at the state/regional levels for a minimum of two years.