



# VA APN NEWS

FALL 2005

NOVEMBER 30, 2005

## APNS, TAKING CARE OF VETERANS

[vaww.va.gov/apn](http://vaww.va.gov/apn)

By Jan Elliott

The VA is the largest employer of APNs. There are 3,900 APNs employed by the VA. APNs work in many different departments and are in as many different roles from primary care provider to psychiatric case manager to research coordinator and community nursing home overseers.

APNs are often the stabilizing force in departments, given that the VA provides clinical rotations to medical students, interns and residents who are continually rotating through the VA as part of their training. In this capacity, APNs are the constant, ensuring the continuity of care received by patients.

There are currently approximately 25 million veterans nation-wide. Of these, almost 4.6 million veterans rely on VA for their primary health services. A study published in May 2003 New England Journal of Medicine compared VA care and fee for service Medicare on 11 specific measurements of quality and found VA patients fared

“significantly better” than the private sector. In December 2004 the Annals of Internal Medicine examined 7 specific measurements of quality care for diabetes, and again found VA ahead of its private sector counterparts in all seven categories.

Also, in December 2004, the Independent National Committee for Quality Assurance, which ranks health care plans according to 17 performance criteria, found VA outperforming America’s best private sector hospitals in all 17 criteria.

“The Best Care Anywhere” headline—January 2005 Washington Monthly.

“Today’s VA hospitals are models of top-notch care” headline July 18, 2005 US News and World Report article.

With headlines like these VA APNs should be proud of the contributions made by their profession.



Iwo Jima Memorial

PHOTO SOURCE: ARTTODAY.COM

**BREAKING NEWS:  
SAVE THE DATES:  
OCTOBER 26-29, 2006**

The 1st VA APN National Conference is being planned in conjunction with the Texas Nurse Practitioner Conference in San Antonio Texas. A VA day will occur on October 26, 2006 and a few lectures during the regular conference October 27-29th.

VA APN's are invited to attend the VA Day as well as the conference.

We are in the planning stages and will provide you more information in the future.

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## ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE ADVISORY GROUP (APNAG)

Welcome to the APN Newsletter -

The APN Advisory Group is excited to have our APN Newsletter reinstated. You will find that the format is different but we hope that you find the material informative and a source of communication.

This is just one avenue of providing communication to the APN community in the VHA. Another form recently initiated, is the communication between the VISN APN Liaisons and the VISN Nurse Executives. We have asked them to communicate with each other to promote understanding of the value of each group in promoting the mission of the Veterans Health Administration, identifying problems earlier and in the end be part of the solution.

Also, each VISN has an APN Liaison who participates in a monthly teleconference to discuss common problems, sharing information and solutions, as well as receive information from the APN Advisory Group, and listen to presentations on various topics of interest. Then this information is communicated to the local APN through e-mail and other forms of communication. It is our hope that this increased communication will provide an avenue for information to flow from the top down and from the bottom up. We are very interested in hearing from you.

During the next year we will be changing from our Intranet website to COLLAGE which will be explained later in this newsletter. This will

provide a greater opportunity to communicate information. We will be putting the goals for the coming year, archives of the APN Advisory Group and the APN Liaison Group, and there will links to other resources.

This is an exciting time and we hope you will make the journey with us. Feel free to contact me or any members of the either the Advisory or Liaison Group at any time.

Carol Jean Einhorn, RN, MS, GNP, CURN, APRN  
Co Chair of APN Advisory Group

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## APNs to Use COLLAGE for Communication

Soon, VA APNS will have in place an interactive website which can be used as a resource for obtaining information and for timely communication. COLLAGE is an interactive website for VHA employees and communities of practice (groups with a shared work goal— i.e., APNs). Its focus is the facilitation of quality of care improvement using online sharing of information, communication, and collaboration. COLLAGE provides a basic template which includes tools for membership, email groups, storing and sharing files, online calendar, useful links list, and discussion board. The staff also provides some customization of the standard tools, trains community members in their use, and provides technical support for the site.

APNAG will play an active role in setting up, then maintaining the activities of the online community. The site is located on the VA intranet and access is by your VA network login. There are many resources for help available on the website in addition to the COLLAGE staff. The website can be found at the following link: <http://vaww.COLLAGE.research.med.va.gov/cgi-bin/COLLAGE/>

The COLLAGE team is located in San Antonio, TX and includes Frances Matt, project director; Steve Bitant, programmer; and Cara Goff, technical assistant. They are looking forward to working with us.

APNAG members involved in the APN website development and updating include Kathleen Burns and Charlotte Depew. They will provide further information about start up of this website soon.

### SPOTLIGHT ON VA APN PEER

#### Rebecca E. Long Appointed as Chair-elect of AACN Certification Corp. Board of Directors



**(Aliso Viejo, Calif.)** Judy Verger, RN, MSN, CCRN, CRNP, Chair of the AACN (American Association of Critical-Care Nurses) Certification Corporation Board of Directors, has announced that Rebecca E. Long, RN, MS, CCRN, CMSRN, is the Board's new Chair-Elect.

Long is an academic educator and Clinical Nurse Specialist with the Veterans Affairs Healthcare System, San Diego, Calif. She is also an instructor in medical-surgical and critical care in the baccalaureate nursing program at San Diego State University.

Long received her Masters of Science from San Diego State University in 1992. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Drury College, in Springfield, MO in 1982. Long began her basic nursing education at Cox College (formerly Burge) of Nursing in Springfield, MO and received her diploma in 1982.

A member of AACN since 1984, she served on the AACN Board of Directors from 2000 to 2003 and on the AACN Certification Corporation Board of Directors in 2003. Long was the AACN legislative fellow in 1993. She is a member and past president of the San Diego Area Chapter of AACN.

Long is also a member of the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses, National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurses of Veterans Affairs and Sigma Theta Tau, International.

"We are so pleased to have Rebecca serve as Chair-Elect. She has a strong knowledge of certification and issues within nursing at the national level. Rebecca is also a strong patient and nurse advocate and will have many opportunities to support patient safety at certification tables around the country. She has a long history of dedication to AACN, and we are looking forward to her ongoing contributions to the corporation," Verger said.

#### Note from the Editor: Rebecca Waldon

This is the Fall Newsletter. We hope to have another in the Spring. There are several features we would like to continue such as educational offerings, Awards and Special Recognitions. All newsworthy items are welcome. Please let us know about educational events and CEU offerings such as the VISN 22 APN conference in February ( pg 6). There is a 500 word limit to articles submitted. A Calendar of Events would be great. Communication is very important for us as VA APNs. The COLLAGE website will offer one way for immediate communication and updates. Another way is remember the Newsletter!

#### VA APN News Editorial Board:

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## THE ROLE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

Amy Wallace Smith, RN, MSN, CFNP  
ACNS, Ambulatory Care  
G. V. ( Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center  
Jackson, Mississippi

At the news that Hurricane Katrina would involve the Gulf Coast area and Mississippi, the VA Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi initiated the emergency disaster plan. The Advanced Practice Nurse team answered the call for help. Prior to the storm, Nurse Practitioners assisted with the evacuation of patients from the Gulf Coast. Implementation of the disaster plan for the home care patients was coordinated by Nurse Practitioners. On Monday August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina surprised the Gulf States with the catastrophic impact of destruction and devastation. The Jackson VA received an influx of evacuees who were triaged by Nurse Practitioners as they arrived by car, bus, or air. The physical, mental, psychosocial, and spiritual needs of the patients were addressed by the Nurse Practitioners and the Clinical Nurse Specialists. Nurse Practitioners served as providers on General Medicine Inpatient teams. Around the clock, Nurse Practitioners staffed the Urgent Care (emergency) clinic.

Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists worked as Care Managers collaborating with the interdisciplinary team to assure that patients received safe, quality care, with efficient process flow, and appropriate discharge planning.

Advanced Practice Nurses provided telephone care to patients, providing direction on dealing with utility outages and health care issues. Emergency clinics were established for medication refills, pulmonary, chemotherapy, and dialysis for displaced veterans. Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) collaborated to meet the needs of patients in all areas.

APNs have been involved in the Hurricane Katrina response from the start. Whether triaging and admitting, counseling survivors, or coordinating community referrals; the role of the Advanced Practice Nurse has proven to be flexible, dependable, and vital. Advanced Practice Nurses ensured that each patient was given immediate treatment to address the trauma and devastations. The APN team responded to the needs with energy and enthusiasm. The "can do" spirit, professionalism, and compassion was inspiring.

Advanced Practice Nurses were vital to the community recovery efforts volunteering for numerous community response teams.

The work is not yet done. The aftermath and rebuilding remain. Advanced Practice Nurses have and will continue to meet the challenge.

### Implications for Practice

Advanced Practice Nurses need to be aware of the important role they can play in disaster relief efforts. The skills of this important health care professional group are diverse encompassing not only the skills of a caregiver, but also the multiple skills of a care provider. Advanced Practice Nurses offer holistic care with role flexibility. Katrina called and the Advanced Practice Nurses answered.

## VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System's Website

Featuring APN Resource Handbook

This website provides information, directions, definitions and useful advice about the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. There are several Nursing pages including an APN Resource Book which can be printed and saved. The purpose of the handbook is to provide APNs an aid for referrals, consults and available resources. This handbook contains maps, clinic names and phone numbers, policies affecting APNs, Support Services and information on patient benefits and eligibility. It is user friendly. It is a great example of a resource book for APNs.

The website is: <http://www.va.gov/pittsburghnursing/apnresourcehandbook.htm>



Rosa Garner, RN, Secretary  
Nicholson and Amy W. Smith, NP



Evacuees arriving at Jackson, MS.



*"Katrina called and  
the Advanced  
Practice Nurses  
answered."*

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### APN LIASONS/VISN REPRESENTATIVES

APNAG Facilitators: Joan Knox and Jan Elliott

| Network | VISN APN Member        | Specialty Area          | NP/CNS |
|---------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| VISN 1  | ANN DESLOGES, REP      | PSYCHIATRIC             | CNS    |
| VISN 2  | CHRIS NORTON, ALT      | ONCOLOGY                | NP     |
| VISN 2  | CHARLOTTE BALLEW, REP  | SURGERY                 | CNS    |
| VISN 3  | MIKE SKLAR, ALT        | PRIMARY CARE            | NP     |
| VISN 3  | ELEANOR HOBBS, REP     | HEPATITIS C COORDINATOR | NP     |
| VISN 4  | GAIL PRATER, REP       | PRIMARY CARE            | NP     |
| VISN 4  | JANICE JONES, ALT      | UROLOGY                 | NP     |
| VISN 5  | CHRIS ENGSTROM, ALT    | ONCOLOGY                | NP     |
| VISN 5  | PAMELA A RACHAL, REP   | ENDOCRINE               | NP     |
| VISN 6  | BEVERLY ROSS, REP      | PSYCHIATRIC             | CNS    |
| VISN 6  | PATRICIA DZANDU, ALT   | PSYCHIATRIC             | CNS    |
| VISN 7  | JILL STOKLEY, REP      | PSYCHATRIC              | CNS    |
| VISN 7  | KAREN BAILEY, ALT      | PRIMARY CARE            | NP     |
| VISN 8  | JEROME STEFFE ALT      | PSYCHIATRIC             | NP     |
| VISN 8  | DONNA PFIEFER, REP     | GERONTOLOGY/ENDOCRINE   | NP     |
| VISN 9  | LINDA LAUGHLIN, REP    | OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH     | NP     |
| VISN 9  | JENNIFER BLAIR ALT     | GI                      | NP     |
| VISN 10 | LAURA BECK WILSON, REP | ADULT/MENTAL HEALTH     | NP     |
| VISN 10 | VERONICA RENFROW, ALT  | FAMILY/WOMENS           | NP     |
| VISN 11 | DEBBIE SIMMONS, REP    | ADULT/OCCUPATIONAL      | NP     |
| VISN 11 | MARY REARICK, ALT      | OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH     | NP     |
| VISN 12 | KAREN FRANKLIN, REP    | CARDIOLOGY              | NP     |
| VISN 12 | KAREN CLARK, ALT       | GERONTOLOGY/ENDOCRINE   | NP     |
| VISN 15 | CINDY HEIMSOTH, REP    | MED.SURG/GERONTOLOGY    | CNS/NP |
| VISN 15 | TERRYE REAHR, ALT      | PRIMARY CARE/WOMEN      | NP     |
| VISN 16 | CINDY DAVIS, REP       | GENERAL SURGERY         | NP     |
| VISN 16 | MARY WATSON, ALT       | GERIATRICS/Z PREVENTION | CNS/NP |
| VISN 17 | SANDRA HINDMAN, REP    | PSYCHIATRIC             | CNS/NP |
| VISN 17 | PAULA HUDGINS, ALT     | PSYCHIATRIC             | NP     |
| VISN 18 | MICHAEL KOENIG, REP    | REHAB MEDICINE /HOSPICE | NP     |
| VISN 18 | LEANNA CROSBY, ALT     | GERI/PRIMARY CARE       | NP     |
| VISN 19 | DAN FRANTZ, REP        | PSYCHIATRIC             | CNS    |
| VISN 20 | MARJORIE WARD, ALT     | PRIMARY CARE            | NP     |
| VISN 20 | KAREN HUISINGA , REP   | PRIMARY CARE            | NP     |
| VISN 21 | DEBORAH RUGGLES, ALT   | PRIMARY CARE            | NP     |
| VISN 21 | ANN THRAILKILL, REP    | FAMILY                  | NP     |
| VISN 22 | ROBERTA MCCOY          | ADULT/DERMATOLOGY       | NP     |
| VISN 22 | JULIE LAVERDIER        | PRIMARY CARE            | NP     |
| VISN 23 | DENISE FARR, REP       | PSYCHIATRIC             | CNS    |
| VISN 23 | CAROL HINKLE, ALT      | PRIMARY CARE            | NP     |

## APN ADVISORY GROUP (APNAG)

The VA Advanced Practice Nurse Advisory Group was established to serve in an advisory capacity to the VA National Nursing Executive Council (NNEC) for the purpose of establishing, implementing and evaluating the strategic plan for Advanced Practice Nursing in the VA. The mission of the APN Advisory Group is to provide a national focal point for information relating to issues pertinent to APNs and their practice in VA facilities and clinics such as licensure, utilization, roles, scope of practice, recruitment and retention, workload captures and prescriptive authority.

The APN Advisory Group reports to the NNEC.

### Members:

Carol Einhorn, GNP, Co Chair, VISN 10-12  
 April Gerlock, ARNP, Co Chair VISN 20  
 Kathleen Burns, NP, VISH 1-2  
 Nora Krick, ANP, VISN 3-4  
 Joan Knox, FNP, VISN 5-6  
 Mary Lovelady, CRNP, VISN 7-8  
 Rebecca Waldon, GNP, VISN 9-10  
 Mary Falls, APNP, VISN 11-12  
 Charlotte Depew, NP, VISN 15, 23

Nancy Cook, FNP, VISN 16-17  
 Carolyn Anich, APRN VISN 18,19  
 Janette Elliott AOCN VISN 21-22  
 Brian Westfield, Nurse Executive  
 Anna C. Alt-White, RN, PhD ONS

| APNAG STRATEGIC PLAN  | PLAN  | RESPONSIBILITY  | NNEC GOAL  |
|---|---|---|--|
| I Provide Resources enabling all APNs to develop leadership skills and competence       | 1. Participate in leadership development NNEC goal Group  | Anna Alt-White, Mary Falls, April Gerlock, Joan Knox                              | Goal 1. Leadership                                 |
|   | 2. Update current APN Tool Kit  |   |  |
|   | 3. Add additional information to tool kit algorithm credentialing and privileging, plus areas of clinical pertinence, collaboration.  |   |  |
|   | 4. Provide resources that address areas of leadership development to assist individual APN needs.   |   |  |
|   | 5. Provide Intranet and Internet resources on Website including "Best Practice Model, VHA Policies, Outcome Measures".  |   |  |
|   | 6. Promote leadership roles in identifying, intervening and solving issues affecting APNs through increased communication and networking between APN leadership and Liaison Representatives and Nurse Executives. |   |  |
| II. Improve the flow and timely distribution of Communication                           | 1. Develop and implement the COLLAGE APN website and maintain the current APN website.  | Char Depew, Rebecca Waldon, Kathleen Burns, Jan Elliott, Joan Knox, Mary Lovelady | Goal 2 Technology                                  |
|   | 2. List all APN facility representatives on the websites  |   |  |
|   | 3. Publish APN newsletter quarterly.  |   |  |
|   | 4. Revise VA APN Brochure   |   |  |
|   | 5. Facilitate APN Liaison Group   |   |  |
|   | 6. Refine APNAG Charter   |   |  |
|   | 7. Archive APNAG and Liaison Group  |   |  |
|   | 1. Identify and monitor barriers to practice for APNs.  | April Gerlock, Nora Krick, Anna Alt-White, Carolyn Anich. Mary Lovelady           | Goal 4 Qualified Work Force Recruitment /Retention |
| 2. Monitor Telehealth development and implementation as to how relates to APN practice. |   |   |  |
| III To Identify issues that impact APN Practice.  | 3. Take an active role in the development, implementation and evaluation of projects through committees and task groups.  |   | Goal 5 Collaboration                               |
|   | 4. Monitor and keep informed issues, legislation.   |   | Goal 3 Care Coordination                           |
|   | 5. Work with Collaboration group on the CNL project   |   |  |

## APNAG Strategic Plan (continued)

|   |  |                           |  |
|---|--|---------------------------|--|
| IV. To Provide opportunities to increase knowledge of current practice and provide avenue for networking. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop proposal for VA APN National Conference</li> <li>2. Facilitated Palo Alto research on APN Job Satisfaction Survey.</li> <li>3. Initiate regular communication between APN Liaison and NNEC members.</li> </ol>   | Nancy Cook, Carol Einhorn | Goal 4 Maintain Qualified Work Force Recruitment and Retention |
| V. Evidenced Based Practice   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Share outcomes from the APN peer project review with APNs nationally. ( Project: To compare Outcomes of VA APN care to a Nationally Established Standard).</li> <li>2. Work with NNEC Evidence Based Practice Group and the national EBP steering committee to develop a plan to implement EBP at the advance practice level of nursing within the VA nationally.</li> </ol> | April Gerlock, Nora Krick | Goal 6 Evidenced Based Practice.                               |

## EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE PEER REVIEW PROJECT:

### “THE RESULTS ARE IN”

By: April Gerlock

VA Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) across the nation participated in a peer review project that incorporated evidenced based practice, during the year of 2004. The goal was to: Identify key indicators to support evidenced based practice that enhances quality care to veterans. Joining the project were APNs in Mental Health (both Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists) from VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VA PSHCS) and New York, NY (NY HHCS), and APNs in Primary Care at Central Texas VHCS Waco.

VA Puget Sound and New York Mental Health APNs reviewed records of patients receiving atypical antipsychotic medication to determine if metabolic indicators (lab work for Cholesterol, Triglycerides, LDL, & HDL) and weight were monitored within the past year. APNs from Central Texas VHCS reviewed patient records of patients identified as NOT meeting the clinical reminder of HTN management, to determine if patients received the interventions indicated.

The project was an enormous success in that it allowed APNs to compare their practice to nationally established standards. It doing so, it provided those of us participating a chance to continually adjust and improve our practices to enhance the quality of care to veterans, by receiving immediate feedback through the peer review process. A total of 176 patient records were reviewed along with the practice of 16 Advanced Practice Nurses.

A special thanks goes out to all of the APNs participating in the project, and to the hard work of the on-site project coordinators to include Denise Karns (Central Texas), Daragh Murphy (New York), April Gerlock and Mary Soehnlén (VA Puget Sound).

To view the power point presentation of the entire process and results contact:  
[April.Gerlock@med.va.gov](mailto:April.Gerlock@med.va.gov)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVA 26th Annual Meeting 2006

Dates to be Announced in January  
 Miami, Florida

VISN 22, 8th Annual Educational/Networking Conference

Provided by APNs for APNs  
 February 10, 2006  
 Long Beach, California

Florida's 3rd Annual Magnet Nursing Research Conference

February 9-10  
 Tampa, Florida

National Conference of Gerontological Nurse Practitioners

September 27-October 1  
 Ponte Verdra, Florida

**IST Annual VA APN Conference**

October 26-29  
 San Antonio, Texas

## VISN Reports

### VISN 3:

Reported by Nora Krick

Three nurse practitioners from VISN 3 recently received national Honors:

**Mary Ann Dumas**, PhD, CFNP, FNP in clinical practice in primary care at VAMC Northport was selected as a 2005 Fellow of American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (see Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (October 2005), Vol 17, Issue 10}, p. 389).

**Bridget Christina Maybury**, RN, MSN, ANP Patient Safety Specialist Bronx VAMC was selected as a 2005 National Nurse of the year by Nursing Spectrum for excellence in "advancing the profession" (see Nursing Spectrum November 7, 2005 issue, pp. 10).

**Nancy Risser**, MN, RN, APN, CANP was named a winner in the New York Times Job Market Annual Tribute to Nurses on 11/20/05. Only seven nurses were selected from hundreds of nominating letters. She was nominated by one of her patients who credits her with making him feel his life was worth living after the death of his wife.

### VISNs 4--6:

Reported by Vivian Dee

**Mary Erskine**, MSN, RN, CS CARN, VISN 4, Appointed MOVE coordinator for VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

**Christine Engstrom**, MS, CRNP, AOCN, Oncology NP, Baltimore VISN 5 has two recent publications:

Engstrom, C. (2005). Hot flash experience in men with prostate cancer: a concept analysis. *Oncology Nursing Forum*, 32(5), 1043-1048.

Hussain, A., Dawson, N., Amin, P., Engstrom, C., Dorsey, B., Siegel, E., et al. (2005). Docetaxel followed by hormone therapy in men experiencing increasing prostate-specific antigen after primary local treatments for prostate cancer. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, 23(12), 2789-2796.

She was also nominated and elected to Who's Who Among American Universities & Colleges in recognition of outstanding merit and accomplishment as a doctoral student at USUHS.

### VISN 10:

Reported by Laura Beck-Wilson

**Michele M. Valentino** (VHACLE) was recently elected to the Board of Director 's of APNA (American Psychiatric Nurses Association) as Secretary and Head of Communication. Position is from Nov. 2005 to Nov. 2007.

**Sharon A. Watts** (VHACLE) Publications: Linda B. Haas and Sharon A. Watts Diabetes Spectrum 2005 18: 159-162; and Berman, Cheryl et. al & Watts, Sharon A. Poster & talks: Maximizing Assessment of High-Risk Foot during Dialysis-poster American Association of Diabetes Educators 2005 National Conference 11/05/05 Summa Health Care Insulin-All You Ever Wanted to Know about Insulin; 11/02/05 Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Primary Providers-Insulin Tips & Tricks and Prandial Insulin.

**The Cleveland VAMC NP's in Geriatrics** received 1<sup>st</sup> place for Dementia Research at the National Conference of Geriatric NP's held in Cleveland in September 2005. The NPs involved in the research include Mary Ann Greene, Betty Lou Dunlop, Nancy Fisher. In addition, Thomas Hornick, MD and Patricia Higgins, RN, PhD were members of the research team.

**Julie Gee** (VHACLE) gave a paper at the National ACA conference in Las Vegas, Nov 28-Dec 1: "Using Shared Medical Appointments in subspecialty clinics: The experience with HF (Heart Failure) SMA's." She also presented a poster on a similar topic at Mt Sterling Conference Nov 16<sup>th</sup>.

### VISN 18:

**Michael Koenig**, Adult NP received the First Annual Associate Clinician of the Year Award for 2004 from the Southern Arizona VA Health Care Center. This award recognizes outstanding Mid level Providers.

### VISN 22:

Reported by Roberta McCoy

The **APNs working at Las Vegas, Nevada and Greater Los Angeles, Long Beach and Loma Linda, California** are planning their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational/Networking conference provided by APNs for APNs. It is hosted by the APNs at Long Beach Medical Center Feb. 10, 2006 in Long Beach. All are welcome. [Roberta.mccoy@med.va.gov](mailto:Roberta.mccoy@med.va.gov) for details if you wish to attend or present.

**APN representatives** from each facility meet monthly via televised conference call.

The **APNs in Las Vegas** are dispersed around the city awaiting construction of a new facility. They have obtained their own web page: [http://vaww.las-vegas.med.va.gov/nur\\_prc/lev3nur\\_prc.htm](http://vaww.las-vegas.med.va.gov/nur_prc/lev3nur_prc.htm).

The **APNs of Greater Los Angeles** have a committee developing a combined APRN policy that encompasses both CNS and NPs applicable to scope of practice, standardized procedures, and collaborative agreements and credentialing and privileging. Also, their education committee has just provided its third continuing program.

The **APNs at Loma Linda** are developing an application of the 9 VA Quality Standards as they relate to their Scope of Practice and for the 3 CNS spheres: patients, nurses, systems.

When weekly Medical Grand Rounds in which APNs participated, moved from the San Diego VA to the University Of California Medical Center it became inconvenient to travel, park etc. Therefore, APNs devised "Grand Round Quality" presentations for and by APNs. APNs now need not travel to another hospital for Grand Rounds to have the benefit of professional and APN appropriate discourse and learning opportunities..