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Bonita Springs, Fla.

**Florida Gulf
Coast Chapter**

**Candidate for
Secretary**

From the Candidate

As I write this, our country faces a passionate divide regarding race, immigration, healthcare, gun violence, and gender and sexual respect. Lost in the debates are our children. It has never been more important to be a voice for one of our nation’s most vulnerable populations, infants, children, adolescents, and young adults - from the most rural communities to the most critical of care settings. NAPNAP is that voice. It has grown from an education-based organization in the shadow of the American Academy of Pediatrics to a full partner at the table. The organization is now a sought after voice regarding human trafficking, immunizations, antibiotic stewardship, gun violence, breastfeeding, child maltreatment, mental health, and the role of the pediatric- focused advanced practice registered nurse; and yes, we still provide education to those who care for children across the spectrums of age and acuity. We can all stand tall and proud because we each played a part in this evolution. We are nearly 9,000 strong.

As a leader in NAPNAP, I see that I can contribute to - mentoring evolving leaders to develop their passions for advocacy and service, building an organization that respects diversity and celebrates inclusion, and leading the national conversation regarding topics such as child trafficking, breastfeeding, and the right for every child to healthcare. New challenges will forever face us. So an important part of that work is to continue to build an organization and leadership nimble to change; however, advances don’t come without risks. A good organization isn’t afraid to take them. NAPNAP is such an organization. For example, last year the organization established NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth and the first campaign, the Alliance for Children in Trafficking. This is an exciting new endeavor for the organization, a foundation led by nursing with interprofessional partners to work towards a common problem with a common voice. The Alliance is expanding quickly and outcomes starting to come in. Other examples are internal to the organization such as the new membership menu to provide choices to attract more pediatric focused APRNs to NAPNAP and this year’s member’s opportunity to learn about other special interest groups through open and free enrollment for one year. We are still analyzing the results of these changes.

This year (2018) I stand tall and proud to celebrate 40 years as a pediatric nurse, 23 as a pediatric nurse practitioner, and 17 years as a member and leader in NAPNAP. I recently ran into someone who said, “that ain’t nothing, wait until you can say you have been a nurse for 50 years like me - don’t waste a minute it goes so fast and there is much to do.” Wow, I keep thinking about her. Nursing is who we are at NAPNAP and the care of infants, children, and adolescents our passion. I have a lot left to do to be like her; I don’t want to waste a minute. With your vote, I hope to continue being a voice in and for NAPNAP.

Strengths for Position

1. Content expert for pediatrics, APRN scope of practice and education
2. Good and respectful listener
3. Flexible team member who embraces change
4. Innovative and thoughtful leader

NAPNAP Involvement

- 2017-present—Executive Board secretary
- 2017-present—Member of NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth Board of Directors
- 2017-present— Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce co-chair
- 2017-present—Finance Committee member
- 2015-2017—Executive Board member-at-large

Professional Experience

- 2000-present—Illinois Emergency Medical Services for Children
- 2014-present—Pediatric Nursing Certification Board. Acute Care Peds Updates
- 2012-2015—Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow
- 1995-present—Designed and directed the acute care PNP program at Rush University

Educational Background

- 2007—DNP, Rush University, Chicago
- 1995—MS, Rush University, Chicago
- 1978—BSN, Marquette University, Milwaukee