



Your Voice. Your Profession. **MICHIGAN**

AAPA HOD Updates
Pg. 10

Meet Your
MAPA Leaders
Pg. 21



EDITOR'S CORNER



Hello Michigan PAs,

I'm excited to introduce myself and share how honored I am to step into the role of Editor-in-Chief of the MAPA Newsletter. Over the past few years, I've had the privilege of serving on the Communications Committee and working behind the scenes as copy editor of the newsletter. It's been a rewarding experience, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to lead our publication efforts.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Julia Burkhardt, who has moved into her new role as President-Elect of MAPA, and to MAPA staff member, Julie Frinzi, for their support during this transition and throughout the preparation of my first issue as editor.

A little about me: I graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy in 2009 and have worked in Hematology and Oncology at the Corewell Downriver locations ever since. In 2018, I joined the faculty at University of Detroit Mercy, where I serve as an Associate Professor. I lead the Patient Evaluation Practicum course and contribute to the Clinical Medicine course. Outside of work, I'm a proud wife and mom to two busy teenagers - if I'm not at work, I'm probably at a game, competition, or chauffeuring someone to practice!

In this issue, we're gearing up for MAPA's Fall CME Conference and celebrating 50 years of MAPA at the anniversary gala. You'll also find key updates from the AAPA House of Delegates, Legislative Committee, and Practice Management Committee. Plus, don't miss our new spotlight pages, where you'll get to know dedicated MAPA members and leaders.

We're always looking for new and original content for future newsletters. I encourage you to submit opinion pieces, PA Program updates, case reports, essays, original research, or literature reviews through the [MAPA Newsletter Submission Form](#).

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the MAPA Fall CME Conference!

Best regards,

Kelli Frost, MS, PA-C

Editor-In-Chief, Michigan PA Newsletter

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear MAPA Members,

As I begin my year as MAPA's President, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all. I have been a PA for 35 years, and it is a great honor to be entrusted with this role. Looking forward to the next year, we have a great team of Committee Chairs, Executive Committee Members, and Region Representatives that are dedicated to advancing our profession and supporting you in serving your patients.

Your support as a member of MAPA is invaluable, and I want to express my sincere gratitude for your continued membership. It is through your involvement and dedication as a member that we can achieve our mission of promoting excellence in healthcare delivery and advocating for the professional interests of Physician Associates.

I would like to invite you to participate in MAPA's in-person events: our 2025 MAPA Fall CME Conference, the Capitol Summit in the spring of 2026, or a local education dinner hosted by your MAPA Region Representative. These in-person events provide invaluable opportunities for professional development and networking. Your participation not only enhances your knowledge and skills but also strengthens our community.

In the next year, I have set 3 goals for the Academy:

- **Pass the PA Intrastate Compact:** Our lobbyists at Midwest Strategy Group are working tirelessly to support us becoming the 20th state to pass this compact. Our bill, HB 4390, has passed in the House of Representatives and is now under consideration in the Senate. This legislation is a critical step forward for PAs and their patients, especially those in rural and underserved areas. By streamlining licensure, it stands to improve continuity of care and better support patients who receive care across state lines.
- **Support the charity for our Fall CME Conference:** We have chosen Camp Kesem as this year's beneficiary. Camp Kesem is a free, overnight summer camp for children ages 6-18 who are coping with a parent's cancer. This unique camp experience provides fun-filled activities and a supportive community, helping kids navigate anxiety, isolation, and uncertainty - reminding them they are never alone.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

- **Support PA entrepreneurship:** We often receive questions from PAs who want to own their own practice. Our Practice Management Committee, under the leadership of Ryan Desgrange, is compiling a list of resources that PAs can utilize to start their own practice. If you already own your practice, we would appreciate hearing from you. We are interested in resources that you found helpful in setting up your practice and what things you learned along the way that you feel are important for PAs just beginning this endeavor. Please email Ryan at MAPA@MichiganPA.org to arrange a brief interview. You will be contributing to the advancement of PA ownership in our great state.

Thank you once again for your support and commitment to MAPA. I look forward to representing you and seeing the positive impact we can make together.

Warm regards,

Michael White, PA-C

President of the Michigan Academy of Physician Associates



A LETTER FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT



Dear MAPA Members,

As I've stepped into my role as the Immediate Past President of the Michigan Academy of Physician Associates, I want to thank you for an incredible 2024–2025. Your dedication and engagement made this past year a true success.

As you make plans for the year, I encourage you to join us in Traverse City for MAPA's 50th Anniversary Gala. This event will be hosted during the Annual Fall CME Conference in October 2025. Not only will this event feature our standard high-quality CME and networking opportunities—it will also be a special celebration of our legacy and future. Please make sure you're there to help us honor this milestone and connect with colleagues from across the state.

Looking for a meaningful way to give back to your profession? Get involved with one of MAPA's many committees. Whether you're passionate about advocacy, communication, education, or events, there is a place for you.

- Interested in policy and legislation? The Legislative Committee would value your voice.
- Have a knack for social media or messaging? The Communications Committee could use your perspective.
- Good at fundraising? The Political Action Committee (PAC) would love your help.
- Enjoy developing big events and educational opportunities? The CME Committee is the perfect fit.

These are just a few of the opportunities available. Your involvement helps shape the future of our profession and strengthens the PA community across Michigan.

Finally, please join me in welcoming Mike White as MAPA's new President. I'm excited to support his leadership and the continued progress he will bring to our Academy.

Best,

Rebecca Cronin, MA, MSM, PA-C

Immediate Past President of the Michigan Academy of Physician Associates

MAPA 2025 - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



Countdown to Traverse City Register Now for MAPA 2025

Don't wait - secure your spot at the 2025 MAPA Fall CME Conference today! This year's event is extra special as we celebrate **50 years** of advancing the PA profession.

Join PA leaders, colleagues, and experts in **beautiful Traverse City this fall** for an unforgettable experience! Nestled on the shores of Lake Michigan, this vibrant destination offers the perfect backdrop for learning, connection, and a little relaxation.

- **Earn valuable CME credits**, expand your clinical knowledge, and explore the latest developments in patient care.
- **Network with fellow PAs** from across the state and beyond—exchange ideas, share experiences, and build lasting connections.
- **Celebrate our profession's rich history** and exciting future with a dynamic mix of sessions, speakers, and social events. Check out the [schedule](#).

Once you're registered, don't forget to:

- [Book your hotel room](#) to lock in exclusive conference rates
- [Add workshops](#) to dive deeper into specialized topics
- [Get your ticket](#) for the 50th Anniversary Gala—an evening of celebration you won't want to miss!

Space is limited for these add-ons, so act now to make the most of your conference experience!

Register Today!

MAPA 2025 - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

PA REGISTRATION RATES

Regular rates July 1-October 3, 2025 -- Onsite rates after October 3, 2025

MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	STUDENT
Regular \$470 Onsite \$500 Retiree \$210	Regular \$660 Onsite \$700 Retiree \$210	Member \$125 Member Onsite \$165 Non-Member \$165

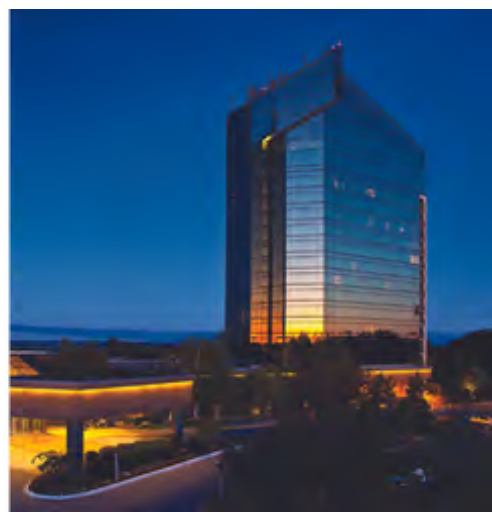
Non-member rates include a MAPA membership that expires one year from registration. Retired attendees and students are not eligible to claim CME credit. MAPA offers a 20% discount for Military members.

Book Your Hotel Room

Discounted Room Rates Available Through September 8!



GRAND TRAVERSE
RESORT AND SPA



Treat yourself to a luxurious stay at the beautiful Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme, MI. Room rates are per room, per night, based on single/double occupancy, and are subject to state tax and convention and visitor's bureau assessment. In addition to the rates, there is a \$20.95 per room, per night resort fee.

Book [online](#) or call 800-236-1577 using the group code MAPA25.

All rooms are first-come, first-served. Discounted rates are only guaranteed through September 8, 2025.

FIFTY & FABULOUS



50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

DINNER, DANCING & EPIC VIBES



Half a Century of Excellence Deserves a Night to Remember!

Hang up the scrubs and break out the glam—this evening is all about sparkle, style, and saluting 50 phenomenal years of PA achievements.

What's in store? Your \$50 Gala ticket includes:

🍸 A swanky cocktail reception with savory bites

🍴 A gourmet dinner to savor

🏆 A quick but meaningful awards toast

💃 A dance floor calling your name

🎁 A keepsake to commemorate the milestone

Add your Gala ticket when you register—plus-ones are more than welcome! Let's raise a glass to five decades of impact and make memories that'll last just as long.

[Buy Gala Tickets](#)

MAPA AWARDS



Last Call for Nominations

Time is running out - nominations close August 31!

Nominate Today

MAPA is currently accepting submissions for the prestigious **Ron L. Nelson Award of Achievement, Educator of the Year, Preceptor of the Year and PA of the Year**. These awards honor individuals who exemplify the highest standards of the PA philosophy and demonstrate exceptional contributions to the profession.

Don't miss this opportunity to recognize excellence—submit your nominations today!

- 📅 Nominations are open through Sunday, August 31, 2025.
- ✍️ Submissions can be made on behalf of others or as a self-nomination, as long as nominees meet the specific criteria for the award they're applying for.
- 📧 Don't miss this opportunity to recognize excellence in the PA community!

Questions? Contact Julie Frinzi, MAPA Meetings Director, at
JFrinzi@MichiganPA.org

HOD UPDATES

Michigan Delegation Report AAPA House of Delegates Meeting • Denver, CO • May 16–18, 2025

By Julia M. Burkhardt MS, PA-C

Overview

As Chief Delegate for the Michigan Academy of Physician Associates (MAPA), I had the privilege of leading an eight-member team through a highly productive three-day session in Denver. Our delegation arrived well prepared to advance Michigan's priorities and continue to push our profession forward. Over the course of the meeting, we engaged in governance elections, rigorous policy debate, and constructive collaboration with colleagues from all the other delegations.



Delegation Objectives and Preparation

In advance of the meeting, the Michigan delegation met to become oriented to the processes and procedures of the HOD along with a discussion of the proposed policies for this session. This allowed the delegates to discuss if there were any proposals that did not align with MAPA's core values. Each delegate brings their own experience and expertise to the discussion and made for a rich complement of PAs for the delegation.

Governance and Leadership Elections

The House re-affirmed its parliamentary charter and elected new House officers. Though Michigan did not field a candidate, we actively supported colleagues committed to enhancing procedural transparency and delegate engagement.

Major Policy Deliberations

Throughout the reference committee hearings, the delegation provided testimony and listened to discussions on many different topics. Some of the hot topics from this year included:

- **Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence:** AI policy focused on ensuring fairness, transparency, and patient autonomy. A-08 to A-13 positions PAs as both innovators and stewards of equitable AI integration.
- **Clinical Education and Preceptorship:** There was continued discussion of the Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (SCPE) shortage. The Resolution 2025-B-13 amended a pre-existing policy paper to reaffirm the issue of SCPE shortage. The House adopted these measures, reinforcing cross-organizational collaboration among AAPA, PAEA, ARC-PA, and NCCPA.

HOD UPDATES

- **Doctoral Degrees and Academic Pathways:** The House considered Resolutions 2025-A-14 and A-15 regarding mandatory PA doctorates and development of an entry-level doctoral pathway. Michigan's position maintained that the master's degree remain the current terminal credential while endorsing a collaborative study group to report on doctoral pathways by 2027. This balances the profession's historic commitment to the master's framework with a forward-looking exploration of diverse educational models that align with the rigor and complexity of our educational model.
- **Public Health, Workplace Safety, and Advocacy:** On professional and public health issues, Michigan supported passage of Resolution 2025-B-10 (Protecting PAs from Workplace Violence). Our delegation supported language emphasizing proactive security protocols, comprehensive de-escalation training, and mandated peer-support time following traumatic incidents. We also endorsed harm-reduction strategies (C-15), expanded tuberculosis screening for high-risk populations (C-14), and mandatory seat-belt legislation (C-09), reflecting Michigan's long-standing commitment to community health and injury prevention.

Conclusions and Next Steps

The 2025 House of Delegates meeting yielded significant policy advancements:

- AAPA will pilot an AI bias-mitigation toolkit
- An inter-organizational task force will develop a playbook for doctoral-pathway reporting with key deliverables due by the 2027 HOD.
- AAPA and state chapters will partner on a national preceptor database and preceptor-development curriculum.

As we return to Michigan, our delegation is committed to educating our constituents regarding all the resolutions adopted. I am proud of the professionalism and passion displayed by our team. Together, we will continue to advance patient care, educational excellence, and the PA profession's leadership role throughout Michigan and beyond.

I would like to take this moment to thank my delegates for their persistence, professionalism, and advocacy:

- Jeff Cornell, MS, PA-C
- Rebecca Cronin, MS, PA-C
- Chasity Falls DMSc, PA-C
- Yolonda Freeman-Hildreth Ph.D, PA-C
- Tracy Karinen, MS, PA-C
- Michael Moore, MS, PA-C
- Adam Storts, MS, PA-C
- Michael White, MS, PA-C



HOD UPDATES

Introducing the 2025-2026 AAPA HOD Delegates



HOD DELEGATE
Jeff Cornell,
PA-C

2025 Winner



HOD DELEGATE
Chasity Falls,
DMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA



HOD DELEGATE
Yolonda Freeman-
Hildreth, PhD, PA-C

Chief Delegate



HOD DELEGATE
Tracy Karinen,
PA-C

2025 Winner



HOD DELEGATE
Michael Moore,
MSPAS, PA-C

2025 Winner



HOD DELEGATE
John Riley, PA-C



HOD DELEGATE
Sarah Scantamburlo,
PA-C

2025 Winner



HOD DELEGATE
Susanna Storeng,
DMSc, PA-C,
DFAAPA



PRACTICE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE



MAPA Practice Management Committee Update: Empowering the Growth of PA-Owned Practices in Michigan

By Ryan Desgrange, DMSc, MS, PA-C, DFAAPA

The Michigan Academy of Physician Associates (MAPA) Practice Management Committee (PMC) is excited to witness the increasing number of PA-owned practices across Michigan, reflecting a growing interest among PAs in establishing their own ventures. MAPA continues to receive numerous inquiries about the intricate process of starting a practice and remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting these efforts, ultimately contributing to high-quality healthcare and improved access for Michiganders. This PMC is currently drafting a guide that aims to be a valuable resource for PAs embarking on this journey.

Please note: This future information is intended solely as a guide and does not constitute legal, financial, medical, or professional advice.

To equip aspiring PA practice owners, this guide will delve into crucial aspects beyond just the fundamental licensing and registrations. It will provide insights into essential business entity formation and ownership, operational and regulatory compliance measures, and financial and insurance considerations. The committee aims to complete and have this resource approved by the end of 2025. This could lead to other exciting pathways for creating future conference presentations that could provide valuable insights and trends in PA business ownership.

The PMC is committed to supporting PAs in Michigan and invites PA practice owners to join or share their contact information to review future-drafted documents for validity. Interest in committee involvement can be submitted through the MAPA website.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Region 2 Member

Graduated in 2009 from GVSU

Assistant Program Director/Assistant
Professor at GVSU

“Why do we fall? So we can learn to
pick ourselves up”

Contact: psmithpa1@gvsu.edu



Patrick Smith, PA-C

The best part of being a member of MAPA is the opportunity to give back to the community that has laid the foundation for our profession.

By contributing to this organization, I am proud to support the ongoing efforts to protect and advance our profession, ensuring that future generations of PAs continue to thrive and make a positive impact on healthcare.

My favorite aspect of being a Physician Assistant is the opportunity to be a compassionate presence for patients during their most challenging medical journeys. It's incredibly rewarding to offer not just clinical care, but also emotional support, helping them navigate difficult times with confidence and comfort. Being there for patients in this way allows me to make a meaningful impact, providing both healing and reassurance when they need it most.

REGION UPDATES



REGION 6 REPRESENTATIVE
Cristina Bustamante, MSBS, PA-C

Hello Region 6 PAs,

It's hard to believe we're already nearing the end of summer!

Thank you to everyone who has joined our recent educational dinners – your participation truly makes these events valuable. We have one more dinner before summer wraps up: a combined Region 6 & 7 educational dinner on **August 27th** in Detroit, co-hosted by Yolonda and me. We'd love to see you there! Visit michiganpa.org/events for full details and to register.

As always, please reach out with any questions, ideas, or concerns. I am here to support you however I can.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I hope to connect with you at an upcoming event!

Warm regards,

Cristina Bustamante, MSBS, PA-C



REGION 7 REPRESENTATIVE
Yolonda Freeman-Hildreth, Ph.D, PA-C

Region 7 PAs,

I hope you are enjoying the warm weather. MAPA is still accepting submissions for the prestigious Ron L. Nelson Award of Achievement, along with three annual awards honoring exceptional Preceptors, Educators, and Physician Associates who exemplify the highest standards of the PA philosophy. Nominations are open through Sunday, August 31, 2025. Individuals may submit on behalf of others or self-nominate, provided they meet the specific criteria for each award.

There will be a combined Region 6 and Region 7 Dinner on **August 27th** at the Apparatus Room in Detroit, Michigan at 6:30 pm Jazz Pharmaceuticals will be presenting information about Epidiolex, a cannabidiol used to treat seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome. We hope you are able to attend.

As always, MAPA is looking for more passionate PAs to join our team of volunteer leaders. If you are interested, please visit our Volunteer page on the website.

Thank you for all that you do!

Yolonda Freeman-Hildreth, Ph.D, PA-C

DEA TRAINING

Complete Your DEA Training Online



U.S. Congress-mandated training in the MATE (Medication Access & Training Expansion) Act is required before you renew your DEA license to prescribe controlled substances. This 8 hours of virtual training is now available from Michigan prescribers, **discounted for MAPA Members at \$149**, and other PAs for \$199. MAPA has partnered with the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA) and the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) to offer this training virtually to Michigan PAs. The training is required for PAs who have not graduated within the last 5 years or if the PA medicine program the PA attended within the last year did not provide the training. **HERE** are more details about the training exemption eligibility and other common questions.

MATE ACT Training to Fulfill DEA Application and Renewal Process (Meets 8 hours of training requirement) is offered by two of Michigan's most respected Osteopathic physicians.

Dr. David Neff is a longtime friend of Michigan PAs. Dr. David Neff is currently the COO/CMO at Redicare in Okemos, MI and Grand River Family Care, a combined urgent care and family medicine practice. Dr. Neff has been on clinical faculty in the MSUCOM Department of Family and Community Medicine since 1981.

Dr. David Best graduated from the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2002. He has been providing this standard of care treatment for opioid use disorder patients in Northern Michigan since 2005. Dr. Best has been in private practice since November 2012 and his office is in Traverse City. He and his wife, Lindsay Best, DO, own Best Medical Services, which was certified as an Opioid Health Home in 2021.

Pam Lynch, LMSW, CAADC has a 25-year history working in addiction, and its comorbidities. As a trainer for the National Harm Reduction Coalition since 1999 Lynch has studied harm reduction programming in and outside of the U.S. extensively. Lynch is credited with starting harm reduction programs in Detroit, Ypsilanti, Traverse City, Kalkaska, Cadillac, Petoskey, and Midland, Michigan and Newark, N.J. Before taking leadership of Harm Reduction Michigan, she was employed by the county mental health authority in Traverse City.

DEA License Training Discount

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

July-August Budget & Legislative Round-Up

By Ramiro Galván

This summer, the politically divided Michigan Legislature has been at a standstill with the state's budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026.

In February, Governor Whitmer provided the legislature with her executive budget recommendation, which generally kick-starts the calendar year's budget process. In May, the Michigan Senate quickly unveiled their departmental budget bills, passing them out of their respective subcommittees and voting them off the Senate floor within the same day. Of the two proposals, the governor recommended a state budget totaling \$83.5 billion, and the Senate's budget totaled \$84.6 billion. However, as of the beginning of August, we have yet to see a House version of a completed budget.

The state budget process this fiscal year has been different than previous years for a myriad of reasons. First, January was chock full of conversations around impending paid sick leave and minimum wage laws, delaying budget progress. In addition to the delay, the Michigan House invoked new procedures to increase transparency throughout the appropriations process with a new system requiring individual legislators to put forth their specific requests and project details into a public system. The federal One Big Beautiful Bill resulted in over \$1 billion worth of funding cuts to the state of Michigan. Further, the Michigan House and Governor Whitmer have been walking intandem in search of a road funding deal in this year's budget. The Michigan Senate, however, has stated that a road funding deal cannot come at the expense of state programming that would likely fall victim to a road funding plan without a new revenue stream.

The most significant telltale sign for the poor negotiations between legislative chambers is the failure to pass a School Aid Fund (SAF) budget by the statutory deadline of July 1; a deadline Michigan has in place to provide schools with a "heads-up" on the amount of revenue they can expect to receive as they budget for their upcoming school year. After the Michigan House and Senate failed to reach an agreement on the SAF budget by the statutory deadline, there hasn't been movement between the two legislative chambers on any departmental budgets. In Michigan, the state has a constitutional deadline to pass a state budget by October 1st and without significant movement thus far, there's a looming possibility of a government shutdown.

For the first 7 months of the 103rd Legislature, there have only been 6 bills signed into law – the lowest number of bills signed into law at this point in a legislative cycle in the history of Michigan. With budget negotiations proceeding poorly, legislation that has successfully passed out of one chamber, including House Bill 4309 the Physicians Associates Compact Licensure bill, has been halted due to overarching political reason. Up until the third week of August, the Republican House was not moving bills sent from the Democratic-led Senate, and the Senate was following suit by not advancing Republican House bills. However, we recently saw movement on several House Republican

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

bills on the Senate floor. This is hopefully indicative of a thawing of political tensions and willingness to move bipartisan legislation that betters Michigan, our workforce, our families, and our economies.

As of July, MAPA has begun working with Midwest Strategy Group (MWSG) of Lansing to advance our legislative priorities. This partnership is spearheaded by our lobbying team at MWSG, Ramiro Galván and Leah Bolger, and MAPA President Michael White.



Ramiro Galván is widely respected for his expertise in the areas of health policy, appropriations, and insurance policy. He is also known for his skills in political fundraising, campaign finance law, and compliance.

Prior to joining Midwest Strategy Group, Ramiro served as Director of Legislative Affairs at the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS), where he was responsible for overseeing the legislative affairs division, constituent services, originating with members of the Michigan Legislature, and the development and advancement of MDHHS legislative and budget priorities in collaboration with stakeholders.

In addition to his work at MDHHS, Ramiro worked in the Michigan Legislature for several years as Legislative Director and Chief of Staff to the ranking member on the House and Senate Health Policy committees.



Leah Bolger is a dedicated public policy professional with extensive experience in legislative affairs, policy analysis, and coalition building. Before coming to Midwest Strategy Group, Leah was the Director of Legislative Affairs at the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, serving as an issue-area expert for over 5,000 member businesses, specializing in portfolios including tax, financial services, appropriations and economic development. She is skilled in collaborating with legislators, executive offices, and key stakeholders to shape impactful policy initiatives from conception to implementation. Her commitment to excellence and unparalleled work ethic positions her as a trusted advocate for business and community advancement in Michigan.

With a strong background in state government, previously serving as both a legislative director and policy advisor in the Michigan House of Representatives, Leah has advised lawmakers on executive orders, state budgets, and legislative procedures, earning a reputation for her critical thinking, leadership, and strategic communication abilities.

SUPPORT THE PAMPAC



Get your Physician Associate T-Shirt Today!

Support Michigan PAs by contributing to the Michigan PA Political Action Committee. 100% of your donation empowers PAs to advocate for policies that enhance patient care and advance the PA profession.

Join us in making a meaningful impact today!

Donate to PAMPAC

2025-2026 MAPA LEADERSHIP

**Congratulations to the 2025-2026 election winners
and thank you for serving on the MAPA Board**

2025-26 MAPA Board of Directors



PRESIDENT
Michael J. White,
PA-C



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Rebecca Cronin, MA, MSM,
PA-C



2025 Winner

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Julia Burkhardt, MS,
PA-C



2025 Winner

SECRETARY
Michelle Petropoulos,
DMSc, PA-C



TREASURER
Adam Storts, MS, PA-C



**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE**
Sara Luna Salman, PA-S



2025 Winner

**REGION 1
REPRESENTATIVE**
Jodi McCollum, PA-C



**REGION 2
REPRESENTATIVE**
Jon Borton, PA-C



2025 Winner

**REGION 3
REPRESENTATIVE**
Susanna Storeng,
DMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA
2025 Winner



**REGION 4
REPRESENTATIVE**
Janell Colao, DMSc,
MSPAS



2025 Winner

**REGION 5
REPRESENTATIVE**
Janet Burns, PhD,
PA-C



**REGION 6
REPRESENTATIVE**
Cristina Bustamante, MSBS,
PA-C



**REGION 7
REPRESENTATIVE**
Yolonda Freeman-
Hildreth, PhD, PA-C

MEET YOUR MAPA LEADERS



Name: Julia Burkhardt MS PA-C

Position: President Elect

Hometown: Originally from Toledo, Ohio; currently resides in Plymouth, MI

Area of practice: Obstetrics & Gynecology and PA Education

Years in practice: 9

What drew Julia to MAPA leadership: I was drawn to MAPA leadership by a deep desire to give back to the profession that has given so much to me. From the time I was a student, I was encouraged to be part of a positive change—and began my journey as a volunteer leader in the AAPA Student Academy. That experience sparked a lasting commitment, and I've continued my professional leadership within the Michigan Academy ever since. More than ten years later, I've never looked back.

Today, my involvement with PA students continues to inspire me. I'm committed to ensuring that our state remains a vibrant and supportive place for them to enter the profession and practice to the full extent of their training and licensure.

Julia's advice for PAs interested in leadership: Just do it. Don't let self-doubt or hesitation hold you back—your desire to help is more than enough to pursue anything you set your mind to. Start small by joining one of MAPA's committees and build from there. It's a great way to learn more about the organization and get a feel for what volunteer leadership looks like in action.



Name: Rebecca Cronin, MA, MSM, PA-C

Position: Immediate Past President

Hometown: Kalamazoo

Area of practice: Emergency Medicine

Years in practice: 5

What drew Rebecca to MAPA leadership: Wanting to help advance the PA profession

Rebecca's advice for PAs interested in leadership: Find yourself a mentor. Finding a mentor who will give honest feedback, who you respect, and has a leadership style you want to emulate really allows you to grow as a person and PA leader.

MEET YOUR MAPA LEADERS



Name: Sarah Scantamburlo, PA-C

Position: Delegate, AAPA HOD

Hometown: Novi

Area of practice: Psychiatry

Years in practice: 15

What drew Sarah to MAPA leadership: Effective leadership is about the success of the team, and as PAs, I want to see all of us not only succeed but excel. I sought out a leadership position because I care about the footprint and outcome of our profession. Each of us has unique abilities and contributions, and my goal in every leadership capacity I have held in the past is to ensure that there is room at the table for all voices. Stepping into leadership felt like a natural extension of wanting to have a deeper impact- both in the present and future.

Sarah's advice for PAs interested in leadership: The leaders in your life are also mentors. If the mentors in your life inspire you, you are feeling the call. There is always room at the table and representation matters. The more we learn from others, the more we learn about ourselves.



Name: Ryan Desgrange, DMSc, MS, PA-C, DFAAPA

Position: Practice Management Committee Chair

Hometown: Howell

Area of practice: Orthopedic Trauma Surgery

Years in practice: 17

What drew Ryan to MAPA leadership: The ability to work collaboratively with other vested MAPA leaders to help drive change and advocacy within the state and beyond.

Ryan's advice for PAs interested in leadership: Be thoughtful in your pursuit and seek mentorship to build upon lessons learned and best practices, setting yourself up for success. The key is to be respectful and collaborative.

MEET YOUR MAPA LEADERS



Name: Nicholus Kopacki, DMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA

Position: Chair, Communications Committee

Hometown: Traverse City

Area of practice: Emergency Medicine, Cardiology, Academia

Years in practice: 15

What drew Nicholus to MAPA leadership: The opportunity to be part of a collaborative, forward-thinking community that is actively shaping the future of the PA profession in Michigan. As a PA and educator, I'm passionate about mentorship, advocacy, and advancing both clinical and professional development for current and future PAs.

MAPA represents a platform where voices can be elevated, ideas can be implemented, and meaningful change can happen, whether through legislative action, educational initiatives, or professional networking. I'm inspired by the leaders who have come before me and motivated me to contribute my energy, experience, and enthusiasm to ensure that MAPA continues to thrive as a resource for our profession and the patients we serve.

Nicholus's advice for PAs interested in leadership: Simple: start where you are and lead with authenticity. Leadership isn't defined by titles, it's about influence, initiative, and integrity. Whether you're mentoring a student, advocating for a patient, or contributing to a committee, you're already developing the skills that great leaders possess.

Say yes to opportunities that stretch you, even if they feel intimidating. Surround yourself with mentors who challenge and support you. And perhaps most importantly, stay grounded in your "why"...the reason you chose this profession in the first place. When your actions are rooted in service, your leadership will naturally inspire others.

Leadership in our field is not only about elevating yourself, it's about creating space for others to grow alongside you.

THANK YOU MAPA LEADERS

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