

## NOVA History 2009

In January, 2009, Audrey Drake RN, MSN, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer Central VA Office and NOVA member retired from the VA after 44 years of service. She has functioned in a variety of clinical, educational, and administrative positions at several Veteran Health Administration (VHA) Medical Centers including Acting Chief Nursing Officer as well as her distinguished Army career.

Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, re-introduced legislation to improve veterans' health care on January 15, 2009. The Veterans' Health Care Authorization Act of 2009, S.252, is an updated version of the bill introduced last year to improve medical personnel incentives and other aspects of veterans' health care.

The NOVA Board of Directors met in Washington, D.C. on January 15 and January 16, 2009. The following activities and actions took place:

- Met with VA Office of Nursing Services staff.
- Approved minutes from November Board of Directors call
- Reviewed and revised NOVA strategic plan
- Approved proposal for VA Emeritus program to selling Soldier's Angels scarves at the annual meeting.
- Recommended a line item be added to budget for VA Emeritus program
- Approved the VA Emeritus logo
- Charged the awards committee with revising guidelines for awards process.
- Charged finance committee with developing an Investment Policy and Reserve Funds policy.
- Selected 2009 NOVA Award recipients.
- Approved 2009 nominations for slate of candidates
- Approved Annual Meeting to be held in Washington DC in conjunction with the Marine Corps Marathon, October 2010.
- Selected Thelma Roach-Serry as program chair for 2010 Annual Meeting.
- Approved plan to continue with regional meetings in addition to the Annual Meeting
- Requested former Board member Marian Ehrhart, to attend VA Special Interest Group for the Ambulatory Care Nurses Association meeting to be held in Philadelphia, March 2009.

At the January Board meeting, the Board thanked NOVA Foundation Chairman Lula Cumberlander for her dedicated service during the past three years. The Board also welcomed Mary Seaman as Chairman, Cecilia McVey as Vice Chairman, and Larry Lemos as Secretary/Treasurer. These 2009 Officers and Directors are dedicated to keeping expenses down and raising funds to ensure the maximum number of scholarships and research grants that can be awarded to VA nurses.

NOVA held its sixteenth Annual Legislative Roundtable on January 16, 2009 at the DAV National Headquarters in Washington, DC, providing an opportunity for key stakeholders in veterans' issues to gather and share information. NOVA President **Nancy Claffin** welcomed everyone, and Past President and Legislative Chair **Cecilia McVey** invited participants to discuss

concerns and issues. Participants included: NOVA Board of Directors President **Nancy Claflin**, Past President **Cecilia McVey**, Vice President, **Larry Lemos**, Treasurer **Mary Seaman**, Membership Secretary **Cheryl Knowles**, Secretary **Joan Clifford**, Directors **Sharon Johnson**, **Ann Narciso**, and **Thelma Roach-Serry**; Past Board Members **Dianne Nelson** and **Mary Raymer**; Executive Director **Deborah Beck**, Deputy Director **Susan Dove**, and **Luke Zorich**. Other participants included **Cathy Rick**, Chief Nursing Officer, Office of Nursing Services; **Reji John**, Administrative Assistant, Office of Nursing Services; **Betty Moseley Brown**, Center for Women Veterans; **Angela Prudhomme**, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs; **Cathy Wiblemo**, House Committee on Veterans Affairs; **Andrea Buck**, Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs; **Joy Ilem**, Disabled American Veterans; **Carl Blake** and **Alethea Predeoux**, Paralyzed Veterans of America; **Teresa Morris**, Veterans of Foreign Wars; **Bernie Edelman**, Vietnam Veterans of America; **Annie Minguez**, American Association of Colleges of Nursing; **Kathryn White**, Association of VA Nurse Anesthetists; **Gary Ewart**, Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research; **Cheryl Beversdorf**; National Coalition for Homeless Veterans; and **John Bradley**, Consultant in Veterans Affairs.

Topics covered included:

- Waiver of offset from pay for certain reemployed annuitants
- Senior Executive Schedule Position in VHA to ameliorate pay inequities for Nurse Executives and Medical Center Directors
- Increase the pay limitation contained for VA nurses from level five to level four of the Executive Schedule to address the pay disparity between the Nurse V maximum rate and the GS-15 maximum rate in some geographic areas.
- Increase the pay cap under the nurse locality pay system. This change would also favorably affect the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA).
- Information and training on Locality Pay Surveys to assist in applying the law to ensure VA nurses receive appropriate pay raises.
- Reestablishment of the Health Professionals Scholarship Program (for non-VA employees).
- Inclusion of the revised definition of nurses who wish to work the 36/40 work week as utilized in the community.
- Direct hire authority for nursing.
- Concerns regarding the centralization of Information Technology resulting in a loss of local control and inability to access and use needed equipment and software, specifically Class III software.
- Concerns regarding the LMS (learning management system) not functioning appropriately and not meeting pre-established timelines.
- Support for the VA Nursing Academy so all VA facilities will benefit.
- Support for the principles of Magnet.
- Succession planning, particularly for nurse executives.
- Incentives, special pay, and recognition for advance practice nurses.
- Oversight of medical centers, both internally and externally.
- Increased retirements.
- Incentives for facilities to use Travel Nurse Corps pilot program, and expansion to a VA Travel Corps.

- Decreasing non nursing tasks assigned to nursing.
- Stand Up for Veterans--awareness and advocacy initiative
- Support for strengthening federal policies/programs for health care services to disabled veterans.
- Ensure that VA has resources, programs, services for health care for wounded and disabled veterans in recovery and rehabilitation.
- Properly screen and treat psychological wounds, including PTSD, utilizing most effective evidence based tools and therapies.
- Properly screen and treat veterans with TBI, including moderate and mild TBI, using validated assessment tools and proven, effective treatments.
- Provide comprehensive support to family caregivers of severely wounded and disabled veterans, including access to VA mental health care services and financial support programs;
- Reform federal budget process to provide sufficient, timely, and predictable funding necessary to sustain the VA health care system and the “best care anywhere;” budget reform from mandatory funding to advance funding method
- Ensure that VA programs responsive to gender specific needs of women veterans, and encourage research activities.
- Ensure outreach to improve women veterans’ awareness of services, benefits, and eligibility criteria
- Construction issues.
- National VA healthcare leasing project, direct privatization of care, in joint ventures.
- Contracting of care.
- Rural health care, lack of capacity and providers; concerns with Project Hero.
- Need more points of contact between VA and community based organizations
- Homeless veterans; women are fastest growing homeless veteran population; 3% homeless, increased 15% last year; VA programs reach only 25% of homeless veterans.
- Accountability, whether VA using money wisely.
- Growing backlog of claims.
- Outreach; approximately 70% to 75% of veterans don’t use the VA.
- 1.8 million Veterans with no insurance; many don’t know about available benefits.
- Issues for OEF/OIF veterans include musculo-skeletal disorders and amputations.
- VA needs to provide all services, orthopedic physicians, physical therapists, and nurse specialists to expand these services.
- Access for priority 8 veterans; Congress has given VA \$250 million to open access.
- Questions about Project Hero.
- Minority veterans are a concern, specifically health care and access.
- CARES initiative will be revisited in second session of Congress.
- Delays in healthcare.
- What the VA will look like in 10 to 20 years; keeping up infrastructure.
- Implementation of GI bill due in August, 2009.
- Nurse and nurse faculty shortages.
- Crisis for VA regarding CRNAs; one third of current CRNAs can retire within the next five years; increasing need for CRNAs outside OR.

- VA research funds provided to any clinician at least 5/8 FTEE; supports TBI, PTSD, and homeless veterans; requested \$575 million; separate request for \$142 million to improve VA lab space.
- Shortage of staff on the benefits side, with experienced staff retiring; fully funding VA's disability compensation program and preserving current form.
- Enforcement of employment and re-employment acts; guard and reserve education for employers on hiring returning troops.
- Seamless transition between VA and DOD.
- Independent budget with 7 critical issues; sufficient, timely, and predictable funding for VA health care; challenge of caring for our newest war veterans; maintain VA's critical medical facilities infrastructure; improvements needed in the claims process; seamless transition from DOD to VA; human resources challenges facing the Department of Veterans Affairs and national cemetery administration.

NOVA has submitted an application to the American Nurses' Credentialing Center (ANCC) for a VA nursing certification. Kathy Lehman from Bedford is chairing the group working on developing the core competencies.

Barack Obama was sworn in as the President of the United States on January 20, 2009

Retired Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki took the oath of office on January 21, 2009 as the Nation's seventh Secretary of Veterans Affairs, assuming the leadership of the Department of Veterans Affairs following confirmation by the Senate. Shinseki said "The overriding challenge I am addressing from my first day in office is to make the Department of Veterans Affairs a 21st century organization focused on the Nation's Veterans as its clients".

NOVA joined the Nursing Community, [www.thenursingcommunity.org](http://www.thenursingcommunity.org) a forum of professional nursing related organizations to collaborate on health care and nursing issues

In February 2009, NOVA collaborated with the Nursing Community to support the \$215 million request for Title VII in Fiscal Year 2010 and the Nurses' Higher Education and Loan Repayment Act of 2009. NOVA also joined with the Nursing Community in February to communicate with HRSA to request the division of the stimulus health provisions funding.

Any NOVA member who recruited a member was entered into a contest for the grand prize. The grand prize winner is Ethel Davenport RN, member of Chapter 446, Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, WI. Ethel received a check for \$250 and a \$100 donation was made to the NOVA Foundation in her honor.

The retired NOVA nurses group known as the VA Nurse Emeritus has taken Soldiers' Angels as their platform for giving back to the Veterans. They sewed "Cool Scarves" and then invited people at the April 2009 Annual Meeting to sponsor each scarf with a donation. They raised \$1320 for the NOVA Foundation, and the scarves will be distributed to the troops by Soldiers' Angels. Each scarf included a personal note of thanks to the soldier from a VA Nurse.

NOVA's legislative committee was very active. Cecilia McVey and Sharon Johnson made several visits to Capitol Hill to discuss issues regarding VA nursing, including support for Senate Bill 252. .

The revisions to the VA Handbook on Staffing were published in March 2009 and included the compression of the Nurse Qualification Standards, the establishment of career paths, and credit for LPN experience. There are now Four Dimensions of Nursing, which are Practice, Professional Development, Collaboration and Scientific Inquiry.

NOVA collaborated with the Nursing Community in March/April 2009 to support the healthcare reform document titled *Commitment to Quality Healthcare Reform: A Consensus Statement from the Nursing Community*.

NOVA uses its Members Networking Message boards to allow an exchange of information and sharing of ideas and opinions, related to individual subgroups or based on specific topics. In March, 2009, an Evidence- Based Practice category was added to the NOVA Message Board.

Elections for the NOVA National Board for 2009-2011 were held and the names of the new officers were announced at the NOVA Annual Meeting in April, 2009. They are Joan Clifford, President –Elect, Larry Lemos, Vice President, Sharon Johnson, Secretary, and Janet Minard, Melissa Nixon, Dee Zander, Thelma Roach –Serry, and Kelly Skinner Directors. Sharon Simpson was appointed to fill a director's vacancy from 2009-2010.

The NOVA Board of Directors met in New Orleans LA on April 22, 2009. The following activities and actions took place:

- The 2010 Annual Meeting has been moved from April to October. It will be held in conjunction with the Marine Corps Marathon in order to make it more economically feasible to participate in both events.
- The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held in Washington, DC from October 28-30. The program will have a legislative focus.
- The Marine Corps Marathon will be held on Sunday, October 31, 2010. Individuals can sign up for either the marathon or 10K walk/run.
- The Board has agreed to hold three to four regional meetings in the spring of 2010. Location and dates are being finalized.
- NOVA continues to monitor legislation impacting veterans and the nurses who care for them. Hearings have been attended; written testimony has been submitted; a briefing for Senate staffers was hosted by NOVA; and numerous individual meetings with legislative aides/veterans issues have been held.

The NOVA Annual Meeting was held in New Orleans from April 22-24, 2009. It was a truly outstanding conference. On April 23, 2009, "Stimulating Staff Nurses' Spirit of Inquiry Through Nursing Innovation" was presented by Karen Rice, DNS, APRN, ACNS, BC, ANP, Program Director from the Center for Nursing Research Ocher Medical Center. This was followed by "Safe Patient Handling, Where are We Now?" presented by Mary Seaman, MS, RN, NEA-BC, Director of Staff Relations/Nursing, James A. Haley VA Hospital. The morning ended with a presentation by the NOVA Thespian Players, Sharon Simpson, RN, MSN, Catherine Bailey, RN, CNA-BC, Art Briggs RN, BSN, MSA, and Miriam Rogers, RN, BSN. The skits and

audience/player interaction was moderated by Mike Holy RN, MS., Beverly Ross , PMHCNS, BC, Clinical Nurse Specialist from Hunter Holmes Mc Quire VAMC presented Suicide Prevention. This was followed by “Post Traumatic Stress Disorder” which was presented by Ronald Nardi, MSN, APRN, Director Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program Newington, Kentucky. The afternoon was completed by a presentation called “Clinical Nurse Advisors” given by Christine Engstrom, PhD, CRNP, AOCN, Program Manager, Women’s Health Oncology Clinical Nurse Advisor, Office of Nursing Service VACO. In the evening NOVA members were treated to a buffet at the NOVA Foundation Reception and Silent Auction. While enjoying the food, they bid on many different types of treasures. Mary Seaman , MS, RN, NEA-BC, Chairperson NOVA Foundation emceed the event. The auction was attended by 50 people. A total of \$5000 for the NOVA Foundation was raised at the Annual Meeting. On April 24, 2009 Joan Clifford, RN, FACHE, began the morning with a presentation on the “Bedside Care Collaborative”. This was followed by Mary Ramer PhD RN, CNAA’s introduction to the group called the Soldier’s Angels. Just before lunch, Maureen Levesque,RN, BSN, and James Doeling,BSN,MS presented” Transitioning from Student to Professional” Immediately before lunch, participants were treated to poster presentations by several of our NOVA Colleagues. This was followed by the Awards Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting which was moderated by Nancy Claflin RN, PhD, CCRN, COHQ, FNAHQ, and President of NOVA. The following people won and were presented with awards at the Annual Meeting: Dianne Nelson,RN,BSN was given the Barbara Chambers Award, Hazel Jackson,RN,ACNS-BC,CHPN,RN-BC won the Professional Nurse Award for Clinical Excellence and Donna Soroczak won the Professional Nurse Award for Leadership.. The Lebanon, PA Chapter 346 was given the Silver Star Chapter Award, and the Veterans Award went to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas, Post 658.The afternoon began with a presentation on “Nurse Recruitment and Retention: An Overview” by Marisa Palkuti Med,Director,VHA Healthcare Retention and Recruitment Office, New Orleans. This was followed by “Innovations in Nurse Recruitment by Shawanda Poree, BSN, MBA. Cathy Rick,RN,NEA-BC, FACHE,Chief Nursing Officer ,Office of Nursing Services Department of Veterans Affairs held a Town Hall Meeting and the meeting was closed by Mary Seaman,MS,RN,NEA-BC with one of her delightful vignettes called “NOVA- Take Note”.

On Saturday, April 25, 2009 following the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, NOVA held a special optional event for NOVA members to serve the local community. Thirty NOVA members and friends spent the day volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, New Orleans. The group helped build two homes in the 9<sup>th</sup> ward which was one of the areas that was hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina.

Nancy Claflin, National NOVA President, attended a NOVA Meeting at the Milwaukee VA in May 2009.

In June 2009, NOVA joined with the Nursing Community to commend the work of the Senate Health Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee in crafting the *Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009*. This legislation represents a movement towards comprehensive and meaningful reform for our nation’s healthcare system.

The NOVA Board of Directors made visits to Capitol Hill on July 16; the NOVA and NOVA Foundation Boards got together on Friday, July 17, from 8:00am to 10:00am to discuss strategic planning and other plans for the future. The following activities and actions took place:

- With the success of the 2008 pilot Regional Meeting in Baltimore, MD, the Board approved three new educational offerings for members: Saturday, November 14, 2009 – Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA; Saturday, March 20, 2010 – Ritz Carlton, Phoenix, AZ; Saturday, May 1, 2010 – St. Louis, MO (Hotel TBD).
- The Long Term Disability Insurance Program continues to grow and NOVA staff continues to explore other membership benefits.
- The Board agreed to establish an Investment Fund for the Organization and approved the investment policy proposed by the Finance Committee.
- The “Every Member Get-A-Member” campaign will continue as an integral part toward building NOVA’s membership and will begin October 1.
- In lieu of a dinner at the Monocle Restaurant the NOVA Board supported a \$1,500 NOVA Foundation scholarship.
- Audrey Drake joined the board for lunch on July 17 – and was presented a gift honoring her retirement.

The NOVA Foundation held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bull Roast Charity Event on September 19, 2009 at Martin’s Camelot, with over 250 folks making their way to Upper Marlboro, Maryland to support the **Saluting our VA Nurses** event. Some of corporate sponsorships included: Lockheed Martin, the Kirk Group, G&B Solutions, Bridgegate International, Olive Strategies, Alliance Engineering, TechVision 21, Intekras, Lexus Nexus, Cisco, McAfee and many more. VSOs were also a key sponsor including AMVETS, VFW, and PVA. The Foundation netted more than \$8,400 that will go directly toward 2010 nursing scholarships.

A NOVA Chapter Contact conference call was held on October 21, 2009.

On October 22, 2009 the President signing the VA Health Care Advanced Funding into Law. The new law will provide timely, predictable funding for the Veterans Health Administration, the nation’s largest health care system, one-year ahead of the regular appropriations process.

The NOVA Foundation was a charity partner in the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Marine Corps Marathon on Sunday, October 25, 2009 in Washington, DC. It was decided that the 2010 National NOVA Meeting will be held in October 2010, to coincide with the Marine Corp Marathon.

A successful Member-get-a-Member campaign was initiated with the slogan: **You Can Make a Difference TODAY**; and was extended past its original date which was October 1 – December 31, 2009 to March 31, 2010. The members of NOVA’s Membership Committee are assigned to VISNs. Each NOVA chapter has been assigned to a member of the committee as their NOVA contact for information, including starting new chapters. Membership Secretary - Cheryl Knowles, VISN 1, 2, 3 Kathleen Lehmann, Kelly Skinner, VISN 4, 5 Annette Nelson, Dee Zander, VISN 6, 7 Magelene James, Mary Powe, Thelma Roach-Serry, VISN 8, 9 Lee Fealy, Providencia Cardona, VISN 10, 11 Janet Parrish, Ron Patrick, VISN 12, 15 Rainee Mitchell, Melissa Nixon, VISN 16, 17 Portia McDaniel, Jenny Urban, VISN 18, 19, 20 Sharon Simpson VISN 21, 22, 23 Sonia Olivar, Ethel Warren

NOVA provided input to the revision of the Nursing Section of the Independent Budget including a new separate Human Resources section containing information on the nursing workforce

NOVA made a contribution to the NOVA Foundation in the names of the two VA nurse practitioners killed during the Fort Hood shootings that occurred in November 2009, Russell G. Seager and Juanita L. Warman.

The NOVA Foundation held its first annual golf tournament at Tampa Palms Golf and Country Club on November 11th, 2009. The event was a huge success with over \$6,400 raised for the NOVA Foundation.

NOVA's regional meeting **VA Nurses: Caring for Our Heroes by Caring for Ourselves** was held November 14, 2009 at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The program began with a welcome by the Nurse Executive at the Lebanon VAMC, the home of Chapter 346. The day continued with presentations focused on how VA nurses can take care of themselves. Bradley Davidson, MD presented "Creating a Healthier World for You" and Candy Yingling, CTRS from the Alzheimer's Association reminded us to "Create a Healthier Body by Maintaining Your Brain." Kathy Jesiolowski, NP, presented "Creating a Healthier Body--Boning Up on Osteoporosis". Chapter 346 sponsored the presentation given by Elaine Boltz on creating a healthier outlook by laughing away your stress. Bruce Eagleson, MD, spoke on creating a healthy community and brought quite a sense of humor to what would usually be a dry presentation on the H1N1 Virus. Connie Perry-Simon, RN, MSN, presented, "Creating a Healthier Career for You: Proficiency Writing". She explained the Nurse Qualification Standards and presented information to decrease the stress related to writing your proficiency. "Managing Your Stress and Anxiety" was presented by Psychologist Amy Kurcirka. Yoga instructor Denise Smith presented "Stretch & Breathe"; the perfect relaxing end to an enjoyable day of education and fun. With the leadership of Cheryl Gates, Chapter 346 President, a mini health fair was organized and available throughout the day. The health fair included bone density screening, blood pressure screening, depression screening, diabetic screening, and body mass index (BMI) measures. Chair massages were also available to help the attendees relax. Reviews and comments from attendees were very positive. The success of the regional meeting can be credited to the team work of Susan Dove and Chapter 346 planning committee which includes Cheryl Gates, Janet Minard, Malis Rutt, Maria Graham-Shaulis, Pam Shaffer, Tammy Wessner and Cathy Capiotis.

NOVA planned three regional meetings in an effort to reach out to members who may be able to travel to a local area one day meeting. These meetings are not intended to replace our Annual Meeting which will be held in October 2010 in Washington D.C., but provide additional opportunities for NOVA members to participate in networking while taking time to care for ourselves. Future regional meetings are planned for: Saturday March 20, 2010 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona; Saturday May 1, 2010 in St. Louis, Missouri, location to be determined and June 2010 in Boston MA date and location to be determined.

The NOVA Board held a meeting via teleconference on November 3, 2009; this was to discuss the budget and other areas of concern. Items were also added to the Agenda for the board meeting scheduled for January 14 and 15 in Washington, DC.

The NOVA Foundation announced the recipients of three scholarships awarded for the 2009-2010 Academic Year. Each of the selected recipients received a \$1500.00 award. The first recipient Ms. Gerilyn Corpuz is the BCMA nurse coordinator in the Puget Sound Health Care System. Enrolled in the University of Washington, School of Nursing, she is pursuing a Master of Science in Clinical Informatics and Patient Centered Technologies. The next recipient, Ms. Carol Miller of the Dayton Ohio VA Medical Center is a nurse practitioner enrolled in the Nursing Program at Waynesburg College. Ms. Miller is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. The third recipient Ms Michelle Moore is a staff nurse in the VA Northern Indiana Healthcare System and is pursuing an Advanced Practice Nursing Degree at the Ball State University School of Nursing.

Deborah Beck, NOVA's Executive Director passed away unexpectedly on November 20, 2009. Deborah worked tirelessly to promote NOVA as the voice of VA nurses, and was a staunch advocate for VA nurses and veterans. She helped NOVA to grow as an organization, and NOVA was grateful not only for her leadership, but also for her friendship. A Memorial Service was held for Deborah on Friday, December 4 in Virginia. The family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Deborah's memory, to the NOVA Foundation. The Foundation has established a scholarship in memory of Deborah Beck.

On December 31, 2009 NOVA made the transition from WSBA Management Company to Dove and Associates. Susan Dove, former Deputy Director, is NOVA's new Executive Director; and Luba Litvinova, former Director of Administration, is NOVA's Director of Membership and Administration. This change required a change in NOVA's mailing address and telephone number, all email numbers remained the same.

NOVA accomplished a great deal through the year 2009 as a result of the work and planning of Officers and Board of directors. The year ended with membership reported as 3,187 active members.

#### 2009-2010 NOVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### Officers:

President: (08-10) Nancy Claflin- VA Phoenix Health Care System, Phoenix, AZ

President-Elect: (09-10) Joan Clifford-VA Boston Health Care System, Boston, MA

Vice President: (09-11) Larry Lemos-VA Long Beach Health Care System, Long Beach, CA

Treasurer: (08-10) Mary Seaman-James A. Haley VAMC, Tampa, FL

Secretary: (09-11) Sharon Johnson-VA Maryland Health Care System, Baltimore, MD

Membership Secretary: (08-10) Cheryl Knowles-Secretary Bath VAMC, Bath, NY

Directors: (09-11) Janet Minard-Lebanon VAMC, Lebanon, PA

(09-11) Melissa Nixon-St. Louis VAMC

(09-11) Thelma Roach-Serry-Hunter Holmes McGuire VAMC, Richmond, VA

(09-10) Sharon Simpson-VA Southern Arizona Health Care System, Tucson, AZ

(09-11) Kelly Skinner-VA Boston Health Care System, Boston, MA

(09-11) Dee Zander-Philadelphia VAMC, Philadelphia, PA  
Immediate Past President: (08-10) Cecelia McVey-VA Boston Health Care System, Boston, MA  
Executive Director: Susan Dove  
Director of Membership and Administration: Luba Litvinova