

Veterans Affairs PA Association

2023 Candidate Platforms



CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Jen Monteleone, MS, PA-C

Baltimore VA Medical Center

Maryland

I am honored and excited for the opportunity to run for president of VAPAA. I have been a PA for almost two decades and proud to say the Baltimore VA in Maryland has been my professional home for the last 8 years. During my tenure, I completed extensive leadership training and held many roles that have prepared me to successfully lead this organization as president.

My current leadership positions include lead PA, chairperson of the PA Council, acting director of PA Student Clinical Experience and advisor/member of the PA Professional Standards Board. I am responsible for oversight, guidance, policy implementation and compliance.

I have also held leadership roles within VAPAA. I served as director-at-large from June 2021-2022 before being elected vice president in June of 2022-present. Additionally, I attended the 2022 AAPA House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in Indianapolis, IN as a voting delegate for VAPAA and will be attending HOD this year as the chief delegate in Nashville, TN. While serving on VAPAA's board of directors, some of my contributions and accomplishments have included:

- Strengthening membership numbers
- Increasing transparency and communication with members by creating posts for VAPAA's social media platforms and sending member emails
- Spearheading the sale of VAPAA-branded merchandise
- Reviewing monthly financials and initiating a full financial audit (currently underway)
- Building strong bonds with AAPA and other PA organizations to promote collaboration and inclusion

Within the many positions I have served, I learned the best leaders are ones who listen, motivate and set a clear direction for the organization, which is how I plan to lead. If elected president, my first initiative will be to review and prioritize our collective goals by sending a survey to the membership. The ability to effect change is not just in our numbers but in our ability to collectively speak and act.

Thank you for considering my candidacy for VAPAA President.

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY

Amy M. Allen, PA-C, EdD, DFAAPA

Columbia VA Medical Center
South Carolina

- PA Allen currently works at the Columbia VA Health Care System in Columbia, South Carolina where she started her VA career in March 2017. PA Allen has been a practicing PA for 20 years.
- PA Allen's leadership experience includes her current role as Lead PA at the Columbia VA. She was the Founding Program Director for the University of South Carolina PA program where she successfully led the PA program to provisional accreditation. PA Allen was a former chair and current member of the Constituent Relations Work Group for AAPA. She serves as the Chief Delegate to HOD for the South Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants as well as a member of their conference planning committee. She is the President Elect this year for the South Carolina Academy of PAs and has served previously as SCAPA Vice President, Secretary and Asst. Treasurer. PA Allen served in the past on the HOD for the Tennessee Academy of Physician Assistants as well as their Board of Directors. PA Allen has also served on several committees previously with the Physician Assistant Educators Association.
- The special skills that PA Allen brings includes her networking ability, research experience, academic background, and enthusiasm for being a PA advocate. PA Allen is currently an adjunct faculty with the Butler University DMS program and serves as a preceptor to PA students at the VA.
- PA Allen is a current fellow member of VAPAA and is serving on the VAPAA conference planning committee.
- PA Allen's vision for VAPAA if elected as a Director at Large is to increase membership of the organization by engaging VA PAs with how they can get involved to help address the issues that are the most concerning to them such as obtaining full practice authority status for PAs to keep PAs on par with NPs in the VA and advocating for equitable hiring of PAs and equal opportunity for advancement into leadership positions at the VA. PA Allen also plans to help the conference planning committee with organizing great conferences where VA PAs can network and have access to the latest information in healthcare in order to provide the best care to our country's veterans.

CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER

Christopher Lorenc, MSPAS, PA-C

Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center
Pennsylvania

My name is Christopher A. Lorenc, MSPAS, PA-C, and wish to run as the next Treasurer for VAPAA. I currently work in Philadelphia at the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center in outpatient Urology and hold the position of Lead PA for this facility. I have also been serving as a Director-At-Large in VAPAA for the past year, and recently assumed the position of Chair of the VAPAA Advocacy Committee which includes coordination of our advocacy efforts across multiple areas including Congress, AAPA, state groups, and AFGE.

During my time as Director At Large, I unofficially served as assistant Treasurer, learning about VAPAA's financial responsibilities and mechanisms in great detail. Such education included the safeguarding of our holdings and appropriate allocation to our numerous efforts including the aforementioned advocacy work, our upcoming and long-awaited conference in November, and even what membership itself does for us to ensure our organization's financial health and maneuverability. In the course of my above-noted work in Philadelphia and through VAPAA, I submit that I have demonstrated a proven record of reliability, constancy, and level-headedness, which is of paramount importance in a position such as Treasurer.

For these reasons, I hope to continue my work in VAPAA and to expand upon it as your next Treasurer. I humbly seek your support in this nomination, and am gracious for any you can offer through your vote and beyond.

CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Eugenia Franco, MSPA-C, DMSc-Fellow

San Francisco VA Medical Center

California

I am a PA of 23 years, SFVA Facility Lead PA since 2012 and currently completing my Doctorate in July 2023 with a tracking in Hospital Administration Leadership. I have been a strong advocate for PAs joining VAPAA and appreciate the importance of your existence and all the progress you all have made in our PA VA careers.

I have recently given a Leadership PA Presentation to our SFVA Innovation Team and section chiefs in goals to incorporate PA dual hiring, utilize PAS in all areas of medicine and remove language in bylaws and policy that is goes against DEI principals. My hope is to also give this presentation to our Executive Leadership Team.

CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Juan Mendez, MPAS, PA-C

Iowa City VA Medical Center

Iowa

Currently in Spinal Cord Injury and Dysfunction clinic for 5 years, experienced PA for 11 years; Military and VA

I'm retired Captain in the U.S. Army National Guard. 20 years, which 14 years was enlisted with highest rank of Sergeant First Class. Leadership skills include leading/training soldiers, establishing SOPs, running clinics in the military.

I would like to help grow the organization that represents PAs in the VA.

CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Renee Robbins, MPAS, PA-C

William S. Middleton Memorial VA Medical Center
Wisconsin

My name is Renee Robbins, MPAS, PA-C and I have been working as a cardiology PA at the William S. Middleton Memorial VA Hospital in Madison, WI since 2014. My healthcare journey began as a masters prepared exercise physiologist in cardiac rehab for 10 years and I began my second career as a PA in 2012 as a hospitalist PA. I have been a member of VAPAA since 2014 and am seeking a Director at Large position.

I have been a member of our Madison PSB board since 2017 and have acted as chair when boarding PA-3 during time of 2021-2022. Since 2021, I have been the Lead PA POC for Madison and have given talks to improve understanding on new qual standards, SAP/SAA, and bookable hours. I have been a part of the APP Work group 2021-2022 to help implement our new APP model at our facility to foster continued growth of PAs. I am a Clinical Adjunct Faculty for University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health for their PA program. I am dedicated to the education of PAs and strengthening our autonomy to practice as fully as our education and experience allow.

Leadership experience wise I have been involved with many committees and clubs over the years. I was the hockey booster president during the pandemic facilitating a season for the team and its families within public health guidelines for a diverse group of people with differing opinions and beliefs. I enjoy learning constituents' thoughts/viewpoints to create decisions that reflect the majority and what is best for the group. Additionally, my volunteer experience that entails leadership roles include: Waunakee Touchdown Club Freshman Rep 2022-2023, Miracle League Baseball Coach 2021-present, Capitol City Cougar Hockey Booster Club president 2020-2022, Capitol City Cougar Hockey Booster Club Freshman Rep 2019, Rush Soccer club Co-manager 2018, Waunakee Soccer Club manager 2016, Girls on the Run 2016 cheer coach/2013-coach volunteer, Waunakee Little League softball coach 2012-2013/2016, Erin Melin DingleBall Tourney chair 2004-2013, Waunakee Touchdown Club Freshman Rep 2010-2011, and Dustin Raley Memorial Kickball Tourney Chair 2000-2010. My strengths are marketing and fundraising and I also help bring team philosophy to groups to help achieve goals. Speaking of goals, it has been wonderful watching the VAPAA organization grow over the years and I wish to help continue this trend by utilizing social media to share information with other VA PAs. Specifically, making sure all VA PAs feel part of a team is going to improve the cohesiveness of our group so that we can work together to provide an enjoyable work atmosphere for PAs. I believe the PAs that work at the VA are here because they believe it is an honor to serve those who served and I wish to help VAPAA continue to improve the profession.

Thank you for your time!

CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Stephanie Vetterli, MS, PA-C

Salt Lake City VA Medical Center

Utah

Leadership Experience

- Facility Lead PA
- VHA PA Field Advisory Committee 2+ years, still serving currently Leadership Development Institute Alumni VIS 19 2021 cohort
- Detailed as Interim Deputy Chief of Primary Care since Nov 2021

Professional Organization Activity

- Member AAPA
- Member UAPA (Utah Academy of Physician Assistants/Associates)
- Member VAPAA

Special Skills

- Organization, time blocking, project management and process improvement.
- Small business owner, social media.
- Education, Bachelor's degree in Secondary education, taught high school science, current adjunct clinical faculty at Univ of Utah PA Program, preceptor for second year students.
- Strong knowledge of VHA PA related policies.
- Event planning, spent years working as a Summer Camp Head counselor and Director of Logistics.
- Public speaking and presentations.

Vision

I feel that VAPAA has made great strides in supporting and growing PA practice during my 15 years as a VA PA. If elected, I would work to further VAPAA goals of introducing and advocating for strong legislation and policies to support PAs in VHA practice. I would advocate fiercely for Full Practice Authority (FPA), strong compensation for PAs including yearly CME allowance, improve access to high-quality CM, improved collaboration and communication with VAPAA members and to increase VAPAA membership. As the voice for VA PAs, VAPAA must grow our membership to ensure that our goals and programs match the needs of our constituency.

VAPAA should demonstrate and reflect the broad backgrounds, experiences, and practice of our members. I would work to continue VAPAA's well established foundation of impactful advocacy that strives to make VA the best possible work environment for PAs, thus ensuring that VHA is well positioned to provide excellent healthcare for our veterans.

ALL VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE ONLINE FOR THESE ELECTIONS

*WATCH FOR AN EMAIL FROM VAPAA AROUND 12:00 PM CT
ON MAY 24, 2023, WITH VOTING INSTRUCTIONS*



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