

Time to reflect and plan for the coming year!

Independent Voice

NCPA Student Political Advocacy Challenge

In last month's IV, the details of the application process for the IV challenge were outlined. Hopefully, many of your chapters have already begun contacting senators and raising awareness about the many issues affecting independent practice today. Even though it seems like as students we may not be able to make a difference, we have to remember the power we have in numbers! If the legislators see how many of us, the next generation of pharmacy students, are active in the legislative process, our voices will certainly be heard. NCPA is dedicated to helping our voices be heard and has provided several tools by which we can accomplish this. Visit the NCPA website regularly to check on bills that are presently active and impacting independent pharmacies. Visit the Legislative and Government Affairs website: <http://capwiz.com/ncpanet/home> to be connected to several important resources. First, you simply scroll down the current list of house bills, click on "Take Action Now" and with a few simple steps, compose an e-mail to your senator! In addition, you can sign up for e-mail alert lists and you can be connected to events happening in congress today! The resources available from this website allow you to not only understand the current issues that are at stake, but also the process by which we can make a difference as students and, later, as pharmacists. Share this information with your classmates and encourage them to get involved. In addition, I highly encourage each one of you to attend NCPA Legislative Affairs in May, 2008 on Capitol Hill. This conference gives you the opportunity to witness first hand the process in action! You will see how you can make a difference and you will be amazed at the energy brought by the hundreds of pharmacists in attendance! You can't miss it!



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Would you like an NCPA Representative to visit your school? Contact Jackie Lopez (jackie.lopez@ncpanet.org) today to schedule a School Visit!

NCPA Wellness Challenge

With the beginning of a new year just around the corner, it is a great time to get out in the community to promote a healthy lifestyle. Many people try to lose weight, quit smoking, or take up healthy exercise habits at the dawn of a new year, and, as pharmacy students, we can help people reach these goals! Many of you who attended the Annual Convention had the opportunity to speak with independent pharmacists—from my experience, their enthusiasm and willingness to help students with projects and programming is overwhelming! Team up with your local independent pharmacists and let the community know you are there to help them reach their goals and stay healthy! Not only can you put on health fairs, but you can provide education—go to schools and teach students about asthma and allergy management, eating right, and medication safety! You have the opportunity to make a difference and the skills to make it happen—start the new year off by showing the community how much you care!

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Important Dates:

January 15, 2008: Summer Internship Application Deadline and Executive Residency Deadline

January 18, 2008: Student Regional Council (SRC) Application Deadline

January 31, 2008: NCPA Chapter Mid-term Report Deadline

February 22, 2008: Chapter Outstanding Member of the Year Award Deadline

March 1, 2008: Student Political Advocacy Challenge Award Application Deadline

March 15, 2008: Scholarship Application Deadline

March 31, 2008: Wellness Challenge Award Application Deadline

May 1, 2008: NCPA Foundation Loan Application Deadline for Fall, 2008

May 15, 2008: Business Plan Competition entry deadline

May 19, 2008: NCPA Legislative Affairs Conference, Washington, D.C.

May 31, 2008: Chapter of the Year Application Deadline

Do you want to buy a pharmacy but don't know where to start or how to find one? Don't worry! NCPA has the resources and tools to help you! NCPA has teamed up with the Independent Pharmacy Matching Service (IPMS) to allow pharmacists who are interested in buying (or selling) a pharmacy to connect. IPMS is in partnership with Buy-Sellapharmacy.com® and together they provide a number of services to assist interested parties in the process. For more information, go to:
<http://www.ncpanet.org/ownership/IPMS.php>.

Not sure if you want to own a pharmacy but want to find out more? Check out virtual mentors for pharmacy ownership under NCPA Student Services! At this website, you can log in and search a database full of questions asked by students like you! If you don't see your question there or if you want more information, just log in and submit your question to a virtual mentor! This is a great opportunity for you to find out more about independent pharmacy, anytime, anywhere!

Compounding Pharmacy: A tool for individualized care

Several years ago, NCPA partnered with the Professional Compounding Centers of America (PCCA), which gave independent pharmacists and interested student NCPA members access to the myriad resources and knowledge available through PCCA. PCCA provides training, resources, quality products, equipment and formulas to compounding pharmacists around the country. In addition to online resources, PCCA has professional consultants available daily to answer compounding questions. This service is prompt and professional; a true boon to any compounding pharmacist. As students, we can take advantage of the great resource in PCCA by attending or hosting a PCCA Remote Boot Camp. At this Boot Camp, students will learn to make 11 different dosage forms using the latest tools and techniques. The Boot Camp runs for 2 full days and includes a lot of hands-on work in addition to video and personal instruction. There are Boot Camps in Houston, TX several times during the year, but PCCA is also willing to travel to YOUR school! If you have at least 25 interested students, you may host a boot camp and save on travel expenses! If you participate in the boot camp as a student, you will be eligible for the advanced compounding courses offered by PCCA as a pharmacist. It's never too early to learn skills that will be useful for your entire career. Compounding is an essential tool that will give you a competitive edge as a pharmacist, and allow you to provide individualized care for your patients. For more information, visit <http://www.pccainstitute.com>.

**Download application forms and find the latest updates on chapter activities at:
www.ncpanet.org/studentsvcs**