Northland Association of Pharmacy Technicians (NAPT)

Annual Report

Submitted: April 2023

Greetings from the Northland Association of Pharmacy Technicians (NAPT) Executive Board and General Membership.

To summarize the mission statement, NAPT’s goal is to provide leadership, continuing

education, and collaboration among pharmacy technicians. We aim to meet the expectations of those individuals and recognize pharmacy technicians as an important part of the patient care team.

As the outgoing Chairperson of NAPT, it is my pleasure to provide you with an update of NAPT activities for the 2022-2023 term. This is a high-level review of events within NAPT for this past year.

NAPT participated in the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) Convention held in Phoenix, AZ in May 2022. A poster titled, “Recruiting, Retaining, and Expanding the Roles of Pharmacy Technicians in North Dakota” was presented at the poster presentation by Lillie Lambert and Amanda (Mandy) Chase. During the NABP convention, North Dakota Registered Pharmacy Technician Diane Halvorson, was recognized and presented with the Carmen Calzone award for her dedication to the North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy as well as the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy as an advocate for pharmacy technicians.

The NAPT Executive Board voted to transition from postal mailer communications with its members to an electronic platform. In August 2022, with the assistance of NDPhA, NAPT began communicating with its members via email.

In July 2022, an article titled, “Expanding Pharmacy Technician Roles through Tech-Check-Tech Utilization” was published in the North Dakota Pharmacy Association NoDak. This is a result of the TCT Project.

The NAPT Annual Fall Conference was held in Bismarck, North Dakota, at the Ramada by Wyndham on September 23 and 24, 2022. With a total attendance of 69, the NAPT Fall Conference Planning Committee and the NAPT Executive Board thought the turnout was great. The theme for the conference was, “The difference between TRY and TRIUMPH is a little UMPH.” The event offered a total of 10 CE and provided pharmacy technicians the ability to gather, learn, and network with fellow pharmacy technicians and professionals.

Once again during the NAPT Annual Fall Conference, NAPT hosted the Basket Extraordinaire, with all proceeds from this event going to the NAPT Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships to our pharmacy technicians of tomorrow. At the close of the event, proceeds totaled $2,150. At the conclusion of the event, another donation was received, which brought our total to $2,300.

With the growing demands placed on pharmacy, there have been recent questions related to pharmacy technician job satisfaction, wages, and commitment. The Northland Association of Pharmacy Technicians (NAPT) Executive Board, on behalf of its members, decided the best way to gain an understanding of Pharmacy Technicians in North Dakota was to conduct a survey of all North Dakota Registered Pharmacy Technicians. In collaboration with the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Center for Collaboration and Advancement in Pharmacy (CAP), NAPT created a survey that was distributed to 896 active North Dakota Registered Pharmacy Technicians in May of 2022. Survey articles one and two were published in separate NoDak issues. A compilation of those articles has been published and can be accessed on the North Dakota Board of Pharmacy and the NDPhA websites.

A Pharmacy Technician in Training survey was compiled by the NAPT Executive Board and was sent to all ND pharmacist-in-charge and/or pharmacy owners to help identify the need for pharmacy technician in training education in North Dakota. The results are currently being reviewed by the NAPT Executive Board members.

An important interest NAPT continues to promote is visits with students from NDSCS and NCTC by NAPT Executive Board members. In March 2023, NAPT Executive Board members interacted with students at these institutions to discuss the purpose of NAPT, requirements after completion of their program, and how to become involved in NAPT.

The NAPT scholarship fund provides awards to individuals enrolled in a pharmacy technician program and who are North Dakota residents and/or a registered North Dakota Technician-in- Training. Applications are accepted annually in January and recipients who qualify for the scholarship can receive scholarship funds. This year we are excited to congratulate Emma Eskildsen and have awarded her a $400 scholarship. Emma is currently enrolled in the pharmacy technician program at North Dakota State College of Science.

Annually, NAPT gives recognition to pharmacy technicians by awarding the Distinguished Young Pharmacy Technician, Diamond, Friend of NAPT, and Pharmacy Technician of the Year awards. We had another successful year with the receipt of nominations for many well- deserving pharmacy technicians. The awards will be presented during this convention.

The NAPT Executive Board will continue their path to promote the profession by presenting the 2022 Pharmacy Technician Survey results during the NDPhA Poster Presentation and again at the 2023 NABP Poster presentation session in Nashville, Tennessee. The committee comprised of Brenda Nitschke, Amanda (Mandy) Chase, and Diane Halvorson has prepared a poster titled, “2022 North Dakota Pharmacy Technician Survey Results Provide Framework for Developing a New Mindset” which will be presented by Brenda Nitschke and Mandy (Amanda) Chase.

Respectfully submitted: Mandy (Amanda) Chase, RPh Tech, CPhT, NAPT Chairperson