Strategic Planning For the Future of TNP!

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TNP President

Many of you already know that TNP is growing steadily. We are proud to say that our membership has now grown to 1250 members. Unfortunately, this is still a small number compared to the 5500 Nurse Practitioners registered with the State Board of Nurse Examiners. To be able to say that we represent all NP's we must continue to increase the number of our members. With the continued growth of our organization, steps are being taken to restructure our organizational operations to allow for growth and strengthen the services offered. With this in mind, the Executive Board Committee met for their Annual Strategic Planning Retreat in April.

TNP was able to contract an expert consultant, Mr. Bob Harris, who is highly regarded and has a wealth of experience in the management of nonprofit organizations and promotes a framework for evaluating these organizations, such as TNP. Mr. Harris has studied thousands of nonprofit organizations, including associations, chambers of commerce and foundations. From his studies, he has developed the "best practices for effective governance and management."

Starting his career in Washington D.C., he worked with the Presidential Classroom and then moved to Tallahassee, Florida to build an association management company. He is the author of "Building An Association Management Company" and many other books. Mr. Harris teaches an association management course for Tallahassee Community College and is on the faculty for the US Chamber of Commerce. His Association Self-Auditing Process ® has been used by 5,000 organizations. This 150 point checklist improves operations, staff efficiency and reduces risks that may be incurred by the organizations.

Mr. Harris facilitated our Retreat and helped guide us in a thought provoking direction that revealed how much potential TNP has to offer its members. The following is a short synopsis of the steps which TNP hopes to bring about in its strategic plans for our organization.

These steps include:

- Increasing our staff to a full time manager plus an Administrative Director who is an NP. We envision increasing our ability to answer all NP practice issues to become "Your premier resource." With this staff, we are also looking into having a permanent business

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I had promised when I first took the reins of this Presidency, it is my goal to visit as many local groups as possible. My purpose is not only to seek your input about what TNP can do for you but also to let our members know what TNP is doing for them now and in the future.

Several months ago I visited a group of nurse practitioners in El Paso. What impressed me about this group was the number of NP's and the variety of advance practice specialties that attended. For a group that was not "formally" organized, it sure did look it. Like most of our meetings, they had been meeting monthly with a speaker and the dinner sponsored by their local pharmaceutical representatives. As I introduced myself around the room, I think I must have surprised some of the people as they realized that I had made the effort to fly "all the way over there" to meet with them. The questions and comments that I heard were inquisitive and thought provoking to say the least. As the very first group that I reached out to, I felt that I needed to let them know that TNP, whom I represented, was interested in their future and wanted to know what we could do to help them.

I must give credit to TNP's representative, Pete Natividad, for being an integral part of making their meetings happen for several years. While there I met several individuals that exhibited great potential in leadership and desire in melding this group into something great. Since my visit, I have heard that the group has indeed become organized and have elected a President, a slate of officers and adopted their by-laws.

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