Hi NAPG Members!

The board is delighted to present our second issue of our newsletter NAPG NEWS, as a service to our members and stakeholders. The theme of this issue is NAPG: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. In this issue, we will share how a small group of experienced and concerned professionals in gerontology with shared values and ideals started The National Association for Professional Gerontologists (NAPG), namely, how a need in 2003 gave birth to NAPG, which was officially launched in 2005. In future issues we will share some of our current and future goals for NAPG. In each issue, we will spotlight on one of the Board and our members so that we get to know each other better.

Anabel Pelham,
President, NAPG

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**NAPG FAST FACTS**

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**NAPG Organization:**

Incorporated: 2005  
Membership: 354 members in 40 states and 6 foreign countries  
IRS Status: Not-for-profit 501c3,  
Public Charity  
Contact: PO Box 744, Healdsburg, CA 95448  
office@napgerontologists.org

Website:  
www.NAPGerontologists.org

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**THE BIRTH OF NAPG**

**Anabel Pelham, PhD, CPG**

*In the beginning…*

NAPG began as many start-ups do, in a coffee shop, on the back of an envelope. Or in this case, notes were taken in a small spiral notebook. At that time, the NAPG founders were attending an annual Gerontological meeting in Oklahoma City. During one of the sessions, a number of gerontology students stood up and shared their long-term frustration and concern that, upon graduation, they did not have a national certification awarded to individuals, a credential or a license of any sort that recognized their academic achievements.

The students pointed out that other graduates, in other related majors, received such recognition and that the absence was a detriment for them in the professional job market and it was hurting the field of Gerontology overall.

It was the heartfelt stories of the suffering of our students that moved the founders to meet that very afternoon in a coffee shop called the Higher Ground, across from the conference center in Oklahoma City. Enough was enough. We had been trying for years, even decades, to persuade our colleagues in national Gerontology organizations to take the leadership responsibility for academic program accreditation and individual, multiple level credentialing. NAPG was born that day in 2003!

The founders Pauline Abbott, Barbara Gillogly, Anabel Pelham, Sue Ward and Donna Schafer, who joined somewhat later, agreed to form a new not-for-profit organization to credential the academic and professional achievement
of Gerontologists. To assess academic preparation, we used the recommendations of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) Standards and Guidelines. We selected “credentialing” to avoid confusion since some Gerontologists have earned academic certificates and since licensing is the responsibility of individual states.

The founders met for two years at the home of Board member Barbara Gillogly, who lived near Sacramento, and worked on a complex set of tasks: developing an appropriate organizational structure, and incorporating, defining the credentialing levels and criteria, securing funding, and defining the Board responsibilities. In 2005 NAPG was formally incorporated in the State of California as a 5013c.

Over the years, it has become apparent that NAPG fills a need to recognize Gerontology professionals. It has grown to include members in 40 U.S. states and, in recent years, credentialing members in six countries: Canada, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Taiwan.

In addition to credentialing individuals, NAPG also offers evaluation of exit exams for academic programs, conducts and disseminates research on Gerontology competencies at various professional/academic meetings internationally, and advocates for the hiring of professional Gerontologists.

Featuring: Donna Schafer, PhD, CPG
Executive Directive of NAPG

This is the first article in a series of “features” on the Leadership and Membership of NAPG.

Donna Schafer has spent her career as an academic, but with a more practical bent. While completing her PhD at the University of Kansas, Donna worked on applied research projects to better understand conditions that contribute to the life satisfaction of elderly people in the community.

As a faculty member in the MA in Gerontology program at San Francisco State University (SFSU), Donna’s favorite assignment was helping students with their thesis projects, many of which developed and/or evaluated community programs for older adults. While at SFSU, Donna wrote her third book, Reminiscence and Nursing Home Life, which included practical advice about how to establish reminiscence groups. She also served a term as President of the California Council on Gerontology and Geriatrics (CCGG), which became a resource for California state legislators in evaluating and recommending legislation helpful to older people.

In 2000, Donna became Dean of Research and Graduate Studies at Humboldt State University (HSU) where she focused on enhancing graduate and professional education, particularly accrediting academic programs and promoting employment opportunities for qualified professionals. Donna also served as President of the Western Association of Graduate Schools.

Donna’s academic and applied interests in Gerontology and professional education merged in 2006 when she became Executive Director of NAPG. She has written and spoken frequently about the need to professionalize Gerontology, which includes accrediting degree programs, credentialing program graduates, and hiring educated Gerontology professionals. Donna became a Board member of the Accreditation for Gerontology Education Council (AGEC), an organization that accredits Gerontology degree programs, in 2016. In addition to overseeing NAPG application and renewal processes, she is engaged in academic research to measure competencies in Gerontology, helping us define and explain who we are and what we can do.

Donna lives in Healdsburg, CA with her husband, Forrest Berghorn, and enjoys visiting vineyards, cheering KU Jayhawks basketball and SF Giants baseball, and playing (badly) an occasional game of golf.
NAPG on the Go!
Upcoming Major Conferences and Meetings

CCGG – Save the date for the annual meeting of the California Council on Gerontology and Geriatrics (CCGG) April 12, 2019 at The University of La Verne in La Verne southern California. For further information see www.ccg.org or contact Dr. Kelly Yokum at kniles-yokum@laverne.edu

ASA - American Society on Aging (ASA)’s next Aging in America Conference will be held on April 15-18, 2019 in New Orleans. A good conference for practitioners---and a great location! www.asaging.org/aging-in-america

SGS - Join NAPG in Miramar Beach Florida from April 9-13 for the annual meeting of the Southern Gerontological Society (SGS).

NOTE CEU Credit:
If you attend the entire conference, you will satisfy the NAPG Professional Development requirement for membership/credential renewal for a two-year period. Registration and other information can be found on the SGS website: www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org

MEMBERS’ Corner – This section is about you.

Cassandra Hill (credentialed in 2015) wrote an article for Fresh Lifestyle Magazine www.freshlifestylemag.com/healing-your-mind-and-body-with-aromatherapy.htm In addition, she will be presenting her paper ”Non-Pharmacological Interventions for Managing Pain” at Southern Gerontological Society (SGS) Conference in April 2019.


Luanne Mullin (credentialed in 2017) has been invited to present two Signature Programs -- “Women in Transition” and “Increasing Personal Resilience: Exploring a Transformational Path to Greater Wellbeing” in San Francisco, CA for The Transition Network in 2019.

Trina Sauceda (credentialed in 2008) recently completed service as a 2017-2018 County of Orange (CA) Grand Jury panel member. She and her fellow grand jurors issued eight reports, all of which appeared in national news.

Send your contribution to the NAPG Newsletter Co-Editors: jbraninphd@yahoo.com or donna_schafer@sbcglobal.net

NAPG NOTES

Remember to Renew:
If you have not renewed your membership in the last two (or more) years, be sure to do so. Check the NAPG website for acceptable professional development documentation and send it with a check for $20 to:
NAPG
808 Samantha Ct.
Healdsburg, CA 95448.

We expect to increase the renewal fee from $20 to $100 in May, so don’t delay!