

Dee Swanson

Introduction by Janice Unruh Davidson FAANP



One of the goals I had for this year was to get to know Dee Swanson better. I remember Dee being inducted the year after I was inducted, but I had not had the opportunity to sit down and talk with her over the intervening years. For an issue of the Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) Forum I tracked Dee down from her practice schedule and we took the time to do a “virtual” interview. I want to share a bit about Dee’s background.

Interview Abstract

This was one of the first interviews to appear in the Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) Forum. In the interview Dee discusses becoming a member of AANP. She held multiple offices which led to her becoming president of AANP in 2010. During her term her goals were to increase membership, increase staff, and work more closely with the AANP foundation. She stressed the importance of both cooperation and communication. She advocates for Fellows to continue to contribute to the goals of AANP by offering their expertise and leadership.

Bio Sketch

Diana (Dee) Swanson, is a born leader from Indiana. She obtained BSN from Indiana University School of Nursing in 1979 and returned to complete her MSN in 1988. Dee went on to also complete a post-master’s certificate in Primary Care of the Adult and Gerontology in 1991. She first certified as a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner in 1991 while working in long-term care, and then certified as an Adult Nurse Practitioner in 1994 while

working in public health. In 2005, she completed a Family Nurse Practitioner program through Northern Kentucky University and obtained national board certification as a FNP in 2006. She is currently completing her DNP at George Washington University (2010).

When Dee was inducted as a FAANP in 2002, she was recognized for her clinical work as a NP with Internal Medicine Associates for which she set a precedent for NPs on how to become shareholders within a practice. She was recognized for the marked influence she had on the Bloomington, Indiana community and for her work to advocate for increased recognition of the NP role such that NP providers were hired in numerous hospitals and long-term care facilities.

Dee was the first president of the Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses of Indiana and was recognized for working extensively to protect advanced practice in her region.

She had already co-chaired the AANP International Special Interest Group and had served as an active board member of AANP, representing her region and mentoring future leaders. Following her induction as a FAANP in 2002, she went on to serve as the AANP President-Elect for one year, President for two years, and is now serving in the role of Immediate Past-President. Our phone interview was completed on September 30, 2010 - remotely from Dee Swanson's home in Bloomington, IN.

Keywords

AANP, advanced practice nurse, nurse practitioner, leadership

Transcript

Diana (DEE) Swanson
AANP Oral History Project

Dee Swanson *An Interview with AANP Past-President, Dee Swanson*

*Interviewed by Janice Unruh Davidson,
FAANP*

One of the goals I had for this year was to get to know Dee Swanson better. I remember Dee being inducted the year after I was inducted, but I had not had an opportunity to sit down and talk with her over the intervening years. For this issue, I tracked Dee down from her very busy clinical practice schedule and we took the time to do a “virtual” interview. But before I share the interview leader from Indiana! She obtained her BSN from Indiana University School of Nursing in 1979 and returned to complete her MSN in 1988. Dee went, I want to share a bit about Dee’s background.

Diana (Dee) Swanson, is a born on to also complete a post- master’s certificate in Primary Care of the Adult and Gerontology in 1991. She first certified as a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner in 1991 while working in long-term care, and then certified as an Adult Nurse Practitioner in 1994 while working in public health. In 2005, she completed a Family Nurse Practitioner program through Northern Kentucky University and obtained national board certification as a FNP in 2006. She is currently completing her DNP at George Washington University.



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Following her induction as a FAANP in 2002, she went on to serve as the AANP President-Elect for one year, President for two years, and is now serving in the role of Immediate Past-President. Our phone interview was completed on September 30, 2010 - remotely from Dee Swanson's home in Bloomington, IN.

JUD: Tell me a bit about your background as an AANP member

DS: I first became an AANP member in 1992. In two years, I was elected Indiana State Representative, followed with two terms as Region 5 Director while I also co-chaired the International SIG.

JUD: What pathway took you to national office?

DS: I found that I really liked serving at the national level. I started serving as Treasurer of the Political Action Committee in 1999 and then was elected AANP Treasurer in 2001. In 2003, I was elected AANP Recording Secretary for two consecutive terms, and then was elected President-Elect in 2007, which progresses to President and then service as Immediate Past President. Consequently, I have now served on the national board for 12 consecutive years.

JUD: What motivated you to continue so long on the AANP board?

DS: I think it was just a natural progression, but I liked the fact that it provided consistency in transition because during these years we have grown so much as an organization. We are nearing 30,000 members!

JUD: What was your platform when you first ran for a seat on the Board of Directors?

DS: Nothing specific as historically we did not do much campaigning, but that will likely change as our organizational leadership becomes more competitive.

JUD: What do you think were your greatest contributions in your role as President?

DS: Leading the search for the new AANP CEO; rapid membership increase; expanded staff; working more closely with the foundation.

JUD: What was your most challenging obstacle to your leadership?

DS: I didn't experience any specific barriers or obstacles . . . the search process was a real learning curve, but a positive experience for me.

JUD: In your experience, what are the primary challenges you believe AANP currently faces?

DS: To represent all NPs. There are some 140,000 potential members of which we the largest professional NP organization, representing nearly 30,000. The NPs are a diverse group, but collectively offer so much to the future success of our profession. As a comparison, approximately 90% of the CRNAs are collectively represented by their professional organization, but they have extremely close ties with their students.

JUD: To what extent do you think your recognition as a FAANP contributed to your successful leadership of AANP?

DS: I think there is a mutual desire for cooperation and communication. As a FAANP, I knew that the academy wanted to provide more leadership in AANP activities and initiatives.

JUD: What recommendations do you have for your FAANP peers?

DS: The FAANPs are an elite group of practitioners who are already involved in leadership . . . I would recommend that they continue to find ways to contribute their expertise to AANP, the foundation, certification, wherever they feel led.

JUD: Thank you so much, Dee, for your leadership and years of dedication to AANP!