March 14, 2026

Spring is about to emerge! As a lifelong Midwesterner, I always get antsy this time of year for sunny skies, fresh warm air, and new things popping up in the flowerbeds. However, winter always wants to get one last BLAST in when we start to fantasize about spring. In reality, it seems like last week when I wrote the last message (rather than 6 weeks ago!).

Hopefully February was a good celebration of Heart Month for all of you in some way. I had fun sharing social media posts with CHD facts. Maybe it was too much for some of my followers, but I also believe CHD never receives the hype it deserves on the national public stage, so my goal was to share and share repetitively. I have also made it a priority of my presidency to increase our membership. We have made it to 400 members, but now my goal is 500. Share your experiences and your love for SPCN with colleagues and friends from throughout the world. We increase in strength as an organization with every member we gain. What other organization offers 7 FREE hours of CE each year at a minimal cost of $30 for membership?

Do you have a desire to become more involved in SPCN? We have many opportunities for you to step up! We have two open spots for co-Communications Manager, ie, social media experts. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please reach out to me directly for more information. Our calendar year begins in November with our annual meeting, aligned with AHA Sessions. Prior to that meeting, we will have elections for President, Secretary and Member-at-Large. Nominations are now open for each of these positions. Reach out to Karen Uzark for questions or to nominate yourself or a colleague.

Our next webinar will be held in April with a focus on cardiac cath new technologies. Watch your email for more information to be shared soon! We are also starting preparations for additional webinars in June and September. If someone reaches out with a request for sharing your expertise, please contribute to the group by accepting the invite. It is imperative that we educate our own by sharing our knowledge and experience.

If you have research projects wrapping up and are searching for an avenue to share your results, consider submitting an abstract to one of many cardiac meetings coming up in the fall and winter (AHA, SV-ONE, CHOP conference to name just a few). This is another important way to share with nursing and other health care professionals.

I have been asked to represent nursing on the CHSS Certification work group. This is a pivot from the CHSS recommendations for essential and comprehensive congenital programs published in 2023. The current goal is to develop certification standards for congenital heart centers. Nursing representation (RNs or NPs) is needed in all sub-groups to offer expert feedback. I still have open spots for fetal/imaging, surgery and intervention/cath, and HF/transplant. The commitment is 2-3 Zoom meetings with the sub-group and 1-2 meetings as a nursing group. The work is set to begin soon so reach out to me ASAP if you are willing to share your expert voice.

I realize there are many asks in this message. I value each of you as a member of our organization. Please consider one of these asks as an opportunity for you to move forward in your career. Thank you to all who have contributed in the past, and looking forward to more new faces coming to the forefront of SPCN.

Respectfully,
Trudy A. Pierick, MSN, ARNP, CPNP, FAHA
SPCN President