



December 17, 2010

Dear Past Presidents (*Kitty, Carmela, Liz, Dorothea, Helen, Sr. Angela, Judith, Betty, Joyce, Joyce, Mary Ann, Kathy, & Melissa*):

When I became ACNM President many of you offered your advice and counsel when I felt the need. I am writing to you to request the opportunity to take advantage of that offer if you are still willing. Specifically, I am inviting you to participate in a web-conference discussion with the ACNM Board of Directors (BOD) in January 2011 (specific date TBD) regarding AMCB's implementation of time-limited certification requirements for all CNMs.

As you know, the ACNM BOD has supported the decision by AMCB to move to time-limited certifications for all CNMs in clinical practice as a necessary step to protect the integrity of the CNM credential and preserve the ability of CNMs to practice in all 50 states. However, we are well aware that there are varying opinions on this matter within our membership, particularly about use of the credential upon leaving active clinical practice and/or retirement. We know this issue is charged - - - hence we would value and appreciate the opportunity to hear your ideas about navigating this difficult situation, while best serving our membership and the future of our profession.

As explained in my recent posting on the Fellows listserv, and as will be further explained in a letter going out soon to our entire membership and all CNMs affected by this decision, the BOD met with AMCB President Barbara Graves and Executive Director Carrie Bright on Saturday December 4th as part of our quarterly meeting. We followed up that meeting with correspondence to AMCB requesting that they further investigate solutions that would allow CNMs not in active clinical practice to retain their identification as a CNM while also safeguarding the robustness of the credential as an indicator of current clinical competence (see attached). We have asked AMCB to respond to several specific requests and expect to hear from them in the coming weeks.

The purpose of the meeting with the ACNM past presidents will be to discuss strategies for ACNM's ongoing representation of our members to AMCB regarding the implementation of this decision. We would very much value the opportunity to hear your thoughts, experience, and wisdom on this issue. We will also invite AMCB to participate, although we doubt they will accept because there is a threat of litigation.

Although it is AMCB's responsibility to communicate their decisions to affected CNMs, we also recognize that ACNM has a responsibility to communicate our rationale and understand how best to serve our members on this issue. Therefore, there will be a number of additional communications from ACNM to our membership, and we will be scheduling an open web-conference meeting for all CNMs affected by the AMCB's decision following our meeting with you.

You will receive an email from Kathy Przybylski at the ACNM national office inquiring as to your availability. We know that some of you do not use email and would encourage those to call the office to indicate times you can meet or to call me personally at 203-737-1302 (or over the holidays at 203-208-0343).

I do hope you will accept this invitation to talk with us about this important issue facing us.

Best wishes for a peaceful new year!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Holly Powell Kennedy".

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