



# PATIENT ADVOCATE EXCHANGE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Education Presentations:

#### The Importance of Hiring the Right

**Caregiver**, Laurel Smith, Family Home Care, Thursday, May 23, 2024 - Noon-1pm

### Professional Members Discussion Session:

Thursday, May 16, 2024 from Noon to 1pm This is a recurring monthly meeting for Professional Members only who will receive an email with an invitation to join the Zoom meeting.

### Social Networking:

Networking is taking a break in June, but will resume meeting in August.

Members login to the website for access to the members only dashboard with meeting minutes, recordings, resources, and more. Non-members wanting to receive email communication about happenings, including a current newsletter, please subscribe at the top of our website homepage [www.ArizonaAPA.org](http://www.ArizonaAPA.org) today.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow advocates,

During national volunteer month, I would like to thank all of the members who serve on committees and the Board of Directors for the time and energy they bring to these positions. We would be nowhere without their insight and dedication. Thank you!

All members should be on the lookout for a survey regarding the value that AAPA brings to you and what you would like to see from us in the future. We are here to serve your needs and want to make sure our programming, timing, and engagement is what you are looking for in your membership organization. Please take a few minutes of your time to complete the survey as it will guide our work. We appreciate it!

The Board of directors is working on important collaborations to strengthen our connections within the patient advocacy profession bringing resources to you and advancing healthcare for all patients.

I hope to see you soon at one of our events.

Happy Spring!

Kind regards,  
Jennifer Whalen



### Board of Directors

**President:** Jennifer Whalen, DHSc, PA-C, BCPA

**Past-President:** Michelle Riddle, BCPA

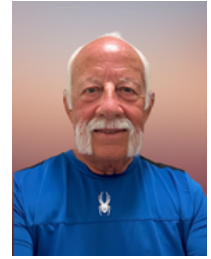
**Secretary:** Nancy Keller, PhD, BCPA

**Treasurer:** Jodie Pang-Diekevers, LMSW, BCPA

**Director at Large:** Melissa Cardine, MSN, RN, BCPA

## Let's Get to Know Rick Gullick

**WEB MANAGER, GRAPHIC DESIGNER, COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST, AND ALL AROUND GOOD GUY**



A bit about myself and **living the dash**. I am a workaholic cheese head from Wisconsin and of course a Green Bay Packer and Wisconsin Badger Fan.

Long, long ago when my sons were in Kindergarten, I had the opportunity to volunteer at their school to help teach. It was at a time when computers were starting to emerge, so I chose that and became a regular for the school showing and helping kids to get a bit familiar with "computers". I was amazed and hooked on the potential for what computers could do and that stuck with me as the technology field grew. I spent much of my career as a web architect and database administrator for the University of Wisconsin.

About twenty years ago I moved to Arizona where I started a second career as the Director of Environmental Care and Safety officer at a Tucson Hospital, changing from an academic world to clinical. It was there that I met and was asked to develop a website for a nurse organization. That has led, primarily by "word of mouth" to my many website developments which I continue to this day.

I am now retired from a "job" but still have a strong passion and enjoyment for helping individuals and organizations with their technology needs, in particular emerging startup groups. I currently live back in Wisconsin with my wife, two sons and grandkids. Winters here make me want to return to Arizona but being around family is where I need to be.

Oh yah, I mentioned living the dash earlier??

The next time you are at a cemetery note that tombstones have a "Start Date" an "End Date" and then there's the dash in between. No one can control their Start Date and most of us don't control the "End Date"!

But that Dash -

Now's there's something we can control!!

So, think about this; are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left. Doesn't matter how much we own, the house, the cars, the cash. What matters is how we lived and loved and how we spend our dash time.

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways - Reinsling in one hand - chocolate in the other - body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming -

"Whoo what a ride".

Continued.

Living the dash continued.

I would like to personally and publicly thank Rick for the tremendous dedication he has shown to AAPA nearly since its inception and to the support he shows every member, Board member, committee member, and non-member; giving us reminders, suggestions, and nudges when we need them; creating and reinventing the website any time we feel like it; graphic design, flyers, social media posts, and emails; doing research for us on all things technology related and fostering our growth and reach with his expertise. You name it- Rick does it! If you want to thank Rick, please send a message to our email [admin@ArizonaAPA.org](mailto:admin@ArizonaAPA.org) because, you guessed it, Rick is one of the people that monitor it.

We could not do it without you Rick, and we look forward to living the dash with you!

Thanks Rick!  
Jennifer Whalen



Arizona Association of Patient Advocates  
Invites You To Join Us



**"The Importance of Hiring The Right Caregiver"**

Thursday, May 23, 2024  
12:00pm - 1:00pm  
A Virtual Event

**Presented by:**  
**Laurel Smith**  
*Family Home Care*



- Home care is unregulated in Arizona. What to look for or ask when interviewing caregivers / home care companies.
- How do people pay for home care services?
- The importance of hiring the right caregiver.

**REGISTER** 



Webinar is pending approval for General CE's by the Patient Advocate Certification Board to satisfy the requirements for Board Certified Patient Advocates (BCPA).

[www.arizonaapa.org](http://www.arizonaapa.org)    [admin@arizonaapa.org](mailto:admin@arizonaapa.org)



**HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE SUMMIT**

**FOR ADVOCATES, BY ADVOCATES!®**

If you are looking for a patient advocacy conference, Healthcare Advocate Summit has an independent patient advocate track with CEs for BCPAs.

**Las Vegas, Nevada**  
**September 3-6, 2024**

<https://www.healthcareadvocatesummit.com/>

We had several patient advocates from Arizona attend last year who enjoyed the conference and found it worthwhile for learning, earning CEs, and connecting with other enthusiastic patient advocates. Let us know if you plan on going and we can organize an all Arizona get together.