

## Sophia Palmer Risk Retention Group and FNA promote new liability Plan for NPs

Since last February when insurance companies stopped writing policies at all or offer only "claims made" policies to Florida Nurse Practitioners, FNA has worked with Ponce DeLeon to develop a liability insurance product for nurses and nurse practitioners in Florida. After several months of discussion with the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation, Ponce DeLeon determined that it would be best to form a Risk Retention Group in another state and then get their product approved for marketing in Florida. In December, Ponce DeLeon submitted their application to the Nevada Insurance Commissioner for approval of the Sophia Palmer Nurse Risk Retention Group and continued with their underwriters to develop a Professional Liability Insurance Product for Florida's nurses and Nurse Practitioners.

We are pleased to announce that the Sophia Palmer Nurse Risk Retention Group was approved by the Nevada Insurance Commissioner in February and, as soon as the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation approves the product, FNA and Sophia Palmer are geared up to market the plan. We are truly excited because Sophia Palmer will offer both a "claims made" policy and an occurrence based policy. As a general rule, occurrence based policies are much preferred because there is no need for "tail coverage" since the policy will pay based on the incident occurring anytime during the life of the policy while a claims based policy pays only if the claim is made while the policy is in effect. As many of you know, claims can often be made after as much as four years after the incident because the plaintiff might not know of the error until after consequences occur or the incident becomes known. **Sophia Palmer Risk Retention Group will give Nurse Practitioners in Florida many options to select the policy best for them.**

The FNA Board and Staff are very pleased with the products and options offered to RNs and Nurse Practitioners. A Risk Retention Group is different from an Insurance Company because it is owned by the insured's themselves. Therefore, to purchase a policy, a registered nurse must purchase two shares of stock and an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner must purchase share equaling 40% of the initial premium. Therefore if your premium, based on your area of practice, is \$2000.00 for an occurrence based policy you must purchase \$800.00 in stock. This is required on initial purchase of your policy only. When you retire and no longer want the insurance, you can apply to the Board for resell of your shares back to Sophia Palmer Risk Retention Group.

Sophia Palmer will be governed by a Board of Directors, chaired by Barbara Lumpkin, (one of your colleagues) with FNA member, Janegale Boyd serving on the Board. Other Board members will include the immediate past Dean of the UNLV College of Nursing and Directors of Ponce DeLeon, the parent company of Sophia Palmer. The name Sophia Palmer was chosen because Sophia was a founding member of the American Nurses Association and on the initial Board of the American Journal of Nursing.

Another great feature is that FNA members will get a 10% discount on your premium. For some categories of Nurse Practitioners, such as Certified Nurse Midwives, this discount will more than pay for your Association dues.

Remember, Sophia Palmer Risk Retention Group is by nurses for nurses and the objective is to insure that Florida's nurses have good liability insurance plans available to them.

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