



President's Message

SB 222 Becomes Law

by *Matthew Kervin, CRNA, MN*

We are now more than halfway through this GANA year, and looking back we have successfully accomplished more, in less time, than we may have thought possible. During the winter I sent a President's Message via the listserv, which generated a good number of responses. One interesting item that recurred was the perception of preference in PAC donations. Since our organization is non-partisan, and our PAC donations are as well, I found the issue interesting. Although some may perceive that the GANA PAC contributes to one party more or less than another, I can attest that the primary goal of the GANA PAC, and the GANA as a whole, is to support those persons who can best appreciate, and represent us, and who stand for causes that benefit the profession of nursing anesthesia. There is no "agenda" to support either party, or a particular candidate or legislator.

Which brings me to perhaps the highlight of the political year: SB 222 passed through both chambers of the legislature and has been signed



Matt Kervin, GANA President

Mercer / MCCG students were on-hand at the capitol when the Senate passed this bill, and a special "recognition" goes out to them as well. But I am also extremely thankful to those of you who contacted your state representatives and senators urging them to vote "Yes" for SB222. If you look on the Georgia State Legislature web site, (http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2007_08/sum/sb222.htm) there were no "Nay" votes in either the House or Senate. Thank you Senators Grant, Unterman, Hooks, and Thomas for sponsoring this legislation that will ensure Georgians have access to safe, quality anesthesia.

Another highlight of the year was the AANA Mid-Year Assembly held in April in Washington, DC. Georgia was well represented with eight nurse anesthetists, and the entire senior class of SRNAs from the MCG (Augusta) Program. Thanks to the hard work of our Federal Political Director, Martha Kral, we were able to visit with both Senators and every House Representative or their staff. Most of our congressmen and their staff members already

know the GANA, and appreciate nurse anesthetists. However, these relationships are usually formed at the local level, and that is where we must continue to work.

Like most industrious and hard working people, nurse anesthetists have grown tired of the continual requests for donations to every organization from A to Z. So, I'm not going to ask for any funds right now. What I do ask is that each of you contact your state and federal legislators at their local office. Talk to them, or their staff about what you do, and the importance of our work. As healthcare dollars "shrink", we become more and more valuable as an economic provider. However, most Georgians still don't know who we are. Although your Board of Directors is working on increasing our public relations efforts, it still starts with each and every one of us. Make sure your patients know you are a CRNA, and then expand to everyone else you contact. And some of the most important contacts are our congressmen and women.

Inside This Issue ...

Report from the Executive Director	2
Nominees for the 2007-08 Board of Directors	4
2007 GANA Fall Meeting	5
AANA Mid Year Assembly a Resounding Success	6
We Were On TV!	9
Happenings in Peer Assistance	10
2007 Midyear Government Relations Report	11

into law by Governor Perdue. This law reinstates the graduate degree "Grandfather Clause" for CRNAs in our state. I am deeply appreciative of the work of our Government Relations Chair, Steve Smith, and his committee, our lobbyist, Monty Veazey, our Executive Director, Christy Dunkelberger, and the entire state legislature. Several CRNAs from across the state and many of the

(continued on page 3)

Editor

Barbara Waldron
325 Chadd's Walk
Athens, Georgia 30606
H: 706-227-0348
C: 706-207-2334
Bawaldron826@earthlink.net

Directors

Jason Butler
483-B Bartram Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30316
H: 404-635-0473
jbutler26@hotmail.com

Executive Director/

Legal Counsel

Christy A. Dunkelberger, Esq.
1832 Highway 54 West
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214
O: 770-487-3900
F: 770-632-1625
ganaoffice@bellsouth.net

Shannon Powell-Thomas

784 Sweet Bay Court
Evans, Georgia 30809
H: 706-863-4915
C: 706-836-4915
W: 706-721-7934
spowell71@comcast.net

**Officers / Board of
Directors 2006-2007**

President

Matt Kervin
Rt. 2, Box 148DD
West Silver Shoals Rd.
Eastanollee, GA 30538
C: 706-244-0282
mattkervincrna@gmail.com

Kim Frazier

3230 Klondike Rd., SW
Conyers, GA 30094
C: 678-725-2600
streetnrs1@att.net

Steve Smith

1132 White Cloud Ridge
Snellville, GA 30078
H: 770-972-6225
W: 404-429-8553
sldt@comcast.net

Immediate Past President

Barbara Waldron
325 Chadd's Walk
Athens, Georgia 30606
H: 706-227-0348
C: 706-207-2334
Bawaldron826@earthlink.net

Rose Synsmir

11840 Devon Downs Trail
Alpharetta, GA 30005
H: 770-232-4715
W: 917-723-8409
rsynsmir@aol.com

President Elect

Dr. Cheryl McRae-Bergeron
2015 River Bend Circle
Blairsville, Georgia 30512
W: 706-745-3856
F: 706-781-6949
cmb@alltel.net

Historian/Parliamentarian

Teresa Hennings
3325 Embury Hills Drive
Chamblee, Georgia 30341
H: 770-451-3171
trh871@earthlink.net

Vice President

Mark Schmitz
219 Lakewood Drive
Carrollton, GA 30117
H: 770-834-7845
W: 770-836-9806
meschmitz@earthlink.net

Lobbyist

Monty Veazey
610 North Ridge Avenue
P.O. Box 1572
Tifton, Georgia 31793
W: 229-386-8660
F: 229-386-8662
Mveazey@gach.org

Secretary

Vacant

Region II Director

Debra Pecka Malina
363 Riverbluff Place, Apt. 1
Memphis, TN 38103-4141
dmalina@midssouth.rr.com

Treasurer

Leslie Jeter
1244 Wildcliff Circle
Atlanta, Georgia 30329
H: 404-315-9984
F: 404-315-9587
C: 404-274-1721
Leslieannj@mindspring.com

Communication

www.gana.org
listserv: ganalist@aptnd.com

Report From the Executive Director

By Christy A. Dunkelberger, Esq.

Executive Director and Legal Counsel for GANA

SB 222: SB 222 was passed by the Georgia Legislature and signed into law by Governor Perdue. With this legislation, CRNAs were successful in recovering the grandfather provision lost last year when prescriptive authority passed. As you know, last year when prescriptive authority passed for APRNs in this state, "advanced practice registered nurse" was redefined. The new definition includes the requirement of a master's or other graduate degree in order to be eligible to practice as an APRN. CRNAs are one category of APRN in Georgia. This definition change in the prescriptive authority statute preempted the regulation that previously allowed CRNAs who graduated prior to January 1, 1999, to practice without a master's degree. However, through Senate Bill 222, CRNAs have recovered what was lost. Senate Bill 222 states that the new definition of APRN "shall not be construed to require a certified registered nurse anesthetist who graduated from an approved nurse anesthetist educational program prior to January 1, 1999, to hold a master's degree or other graduate degree." Our lobbyists, Monty Veazey and Julie Windom work diligently with the legislators to obtain sponsors and votes in favor of CRNAs to regain what was lost and in getting SB 222 passed. Governor Perdue signed SB 222 on May 24, 2007.

In other State legislation, SB 17 was passed which grants limited prescriptive authority to optometrists. Under this legislation, optometrists can prescribe a limited number of non-narcotic analgesics and topical and oral antibiotics used in the treatment of the eye.

In Federal legislation, Georgia Representative Phil Gingrey introduced the Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2007 (HR 2580). The legislation limits non-economic damages to \$250,000 and punitive damages to \$250,000 or two times the economic damages, whichever is greater. The measure also limits the amount a plaintiff's attorney can charge in contingency fees. The bill is identical to legislation that the House approved during the 108th Congress but died in the Senate.

Other: Two GANA members were successful in the recent AANA elections. Congratulations to Kay Argroves who was elected to the AANA Nominating Committee and to Janice Izlar who was elected to the Resolutions Committee.

The GANA-PAC is selling lapel pins. The pins are one inch in length and contain the image of the GANA logo. The price for a pin is \$4.00 and can be purchased by contacting the GANA office. All proceeds will go to the GANA-PAC.

If you are interested in being on the GANA listserv, please forward an email message to the GANA at ganaoffice@bellsouth.net. Likewise, if you are on the listserv and want your name removed, please forward an email making such a request. ■

President's Message
(continued from page 1)

Don't know who they are? Point that web browser to <http://www.gov.state.ga.us/links.shtml>. You'll find a link to the State Legislature and a list of our Federal Congressmen. You'll find them very easy to talk to, and it won't hurt.

We're always ready to assist you in any way. And it's an honor to serve as your president. ■



Candida Richardson & Shari Dexter, two new staff members and contacts in the Washington, DC AANA office



12th District Representative John Barrow with CRNAs and SRNAs in Washington, DC

An ad in the newspaper "Roll Call" published in Washington, DC during our visit to the Capitol. →

Q: What is quality healthcare?

A: Nurse Anesthetists at the head of the table



With the Institute of Medicine reporting that anesthesia is 50 times safer today than in the early 1980s, America's 36,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) provide 27 million anesthetics annually, with and without the assistance of anesthesiologists, in every healthcare setting. We are the sole anesthesia providers in two-thirds of all rural hospitals, and predominate in U.S. Armed Forces and Veterans hospitals. We are recognized Medicare Part B providers. And we are coming to Washington to ask Congress to:

- Reverse Medicare cuts
- Restore nurse education funding
- Reform Medicare anesthesia payment teaching rules equitably for both CRNAs and anesthesiologists



**CRNAs on the Hill
April 24-25**



American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Office of Federal Government Affairs
412 First St., SE, #12, Washington, DC 20003
(202) 484-8400 • www.aana.com

Advancing Patient Safety & Excellence in Anesthesia

Nominees for the 2007-2008 Board of Directors

"We are looking for a few good women and men"

by Barbara Waldron, CRNA

This year has passed quickly, and before you know it we will be in Savannah for our Annual Fall Meeting and we will be installing a new board.

A NEW BOARD – that is the focus of this article.

Have you ever thought about serving The Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists? I can only speak for myself; it has been rewarding and difficult at the same time. I have worked as a team member, just as I do in the operating room, so in that respect the positions are very similar. Sometimes for me working with people in general can be difficult, that would be the difficult part about being on the board. Ultimately our common goal is maintaining the scope of practice of nurse anesthesia for the state of Georgia and that is what we focus on in managing our activities at GANA.

Sure it takes time, but I view it as a part of maintaining my profession. I want nurse anesthesia as an option for my granddaughter should she choose this as her career and passion. As President, I made it my top priority, and the rewards were proportionately reaped. As Director, I was learning what GANA was all about, so I did not experience the same rewards, and thus not the same personal growth as I did as President. We prioritize everyday when we get up and get going. Think about making GANA one of your priorities.

I ask you to read Steve Smith's article on page 11 in this issue – he sums it up beautifully. You cannot know the satisfaction you will receive until you do the deed.

Call me at 706-207-2334, or call Steve, talk to us or any of the board members for that matter. There are various ways to serve besides being on the board. I will be waiting to hear from you.

Barbara Waldron
(C) 706-207-2334
(H) 706-227-0348
bawaldron826@earthlink.net

Sharon Twibell – twibell@cox.net
Martha Dukes-Kral – kral2@aol.com
are other Nominating Committee members that you can contact.



Yes!

I want to be actively involved in the GANA!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Home Tel: _____ Work Tel: _____

Interests – Check all that apply:

Committees:

- Bylaws Communications
 GRC Public Relations

Obtain a seat on the Board of Directors

I'd like to become a legislative contact for my legislative district:

- State Federal

I can participate in GANA Lobby Day

I will participate in any area needed

Other: _____

*Please clip and return to:
GANA, 1832 Hwy. 54 West,
Fayetteville, GA 30214*



Janice Izlar campaigning for a position on the AANA Resolution Committee

**GANA joins IPGE
to present the
2007 GANA Fall Meeting**

October 5-7, 2007

Marriott Savannah Riverwalk



Program Description

A 20 CE Credit seminar designed to update the CRNA practitioner in a variety of contemporary topics of clinical interest. The program will offer core didactic lectures which will explore questions related to the problems of drug addiction and abuse among anesthesia professionals, preventing medical errors, current thinking on the prevention and management of PONV, providing anesthesia for chemical and biological injuries, preparing and managing the cardiac patient undergoing non-cardiac surgery, providing inhalant anesthesia using the LMA airway device, understanding the anesthetic implications of herbal medications, applying appropriate techniques for the prevention of post-operative optic neuropathy, managing hypotension in the OB patient, providing the occasional with pertinent information designed to assist in inducing sedation, analgesia and anesthesia for obstetrical patients, current thinking in the management of conscious sedation and other sedation techniques, and applying the computer generated anesthesia record to clinical practice. An update on current activities of the AANA will also be presented and ample opportunity is provided for questions and answers during open forum sessions scheduled daily.

**For more information
and to register,
click on www.gana.org**

Jointly presented by



and



**Georgia
Association
of Nurse
Anesthetists**

AANA Mid Year Assembly a Resounding Success

by Martha Dukes Kral, CRNA

The 2007 AANA Mid Year Assembly meeting in DC has come and gone. According to reports, it was a resounding success. It was a success due to the efforts of the AANA who planned and orchestrated the meeting, so that CRNAs and SRNAs who participated would have the knowledge and confidence to approach



9th District Representative Nathan Deal serves as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Health overseeing Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Pictured with Rep. Deal are Martha Dukes-Kral, Emily Gillum, Nicole Earhart, and Cheryl McRae-Bergeron

legislators with issues of concern to CRNAs. It was a success due to over 500 CRNAs and SRNAs who took their “time and treasure” (quote from AANA Federal Affairs Director, Frank Purcell) to participate and eloquently tell the CRNA side of the story to their legislators and their staff.

It was my pleasure to assign appointments to the willing participants. We had an enthusiastic group of attendees from Georgia. I want to express my deep appreciation to Matthew Kervin, Steve Smith, Cheryl MacRae-Bergeron, Barbara Waldron, Ann Thompson, Kay Argroves, James Jinks, Janice Izlar, Leslie Jeter, Lisa Stephens, and the twelve senior students from Medical College of Georgia for attending. We visited all twelve Congressmen, and the office of deceased Congressman Norwood, and the two Senators from Georgia. The

congressmen and their staffs were very receptive to us, appeared very interested in what we had to say, and also they were very impressed by the students. I received very positive feedback from the attendees themselves, and one veteran attendee said “this was the best one [Mid Year Assembly] I have ever attended.” From one of the students came, “You, as well as other members of GANA, made me feel important as a student. Thanks for your willingness to include us. I learned a tremendous amount, and came back with a positive experience about our state organization.”

We asked Congress to reverse the 8-10% anesthesia Medicare cuts slated for January 2008 to ensure senior citizen’s health care; to reverse the nurse anesthesia education cuts so that we can provide a strong nurse anesthesia workforce; and to cosponsor an AANA supported, non-partisan bill, HR 1932, which promotes equitable treatment of teaching nurse anesthetists and anesthesiologists, and nurse anesthesia students and anesthesiology residents.

Other activities: we enjoyed the AANA PAC Cruise on the Potomac, which offered a delicious dinner, and an opportunity to bid on auction items to further raise money for the AANA PAC; we listened

... the congressmen and their staffs were very receptive to us, appeared very interested in what we had to say, and also were very impressed by the students ...

to various speakers who explained how Medicare policies affect CRNA practice and payment; the AANA held a free reception to all participants; and

we were able to personally meet the candidates for the AANA elections. Our own Janice Izlar and Kay Argroves are running for the Resolutions and Nominating committees, respectively. Please VOTE for Janice and Kay.

Next year the Mid Year Assembly will be April 13-18. Anyone can attend, so mark your calendars in advance. We need you.

At the FPD Conference, which I attended in March, the FPDs were encouraged to recruit “key contacts” to our Georgia legislators. A key contact is a CRNA who knows or has the potential to know a legislator, and can have some influence with the legislator that can achieve results, who knows or is willing to learn about CRNA issues, and who is personable and articulate. Each one of you has those qualities. Every day at work we articulate and fulfill our needs for the patient to those on the surgery team and beyond. One of our greatest everyday skills is our affability. If you have any connection with a legislator, be it through work, school, church, home, etc., please let me know.

Please share your extracurricular time with your profession. And if you are limited in time, then share your monetary resources. Donate to the AANA PAC. This money is well spent on ensuring your practice rights. Through your efforts, AANA PAC continues to be one of the largest healthcare PACs, and our voices are continuing to be heard on “The Hill.” ■



Our nation's capitol



CRNAs and SRNAs at the Washington, DC office on their way to lobby for Nurse Anesthesia issues



The famous cherry blossoms in Washington, DC

Dear GANA Members,

As you may have heard via the list serv, and this edition of To and Fro, SB 222 has passed in both the house and senate. There was much hard work put in by the members and your Board of Directors. Key legislators were both written and visited in regards to this issue—and we were successful! This is only one of many issues that your GANA Board is watching, however we need YOUR help.

There are many ways that you can volunteer with the GANA, but as we hear often, and understand, you are busy DOING anesthesia. Please then support your membership, and the profession of nurse anesthesia in Georgia, with a donation to the GANA PAC. Your contribution will assist us in our effort to have key issues of CRNA's addressed at the Capitol. The funds are separate from AANA-PAC funds and will go towards addressing the issues that affect our scope of practice in the state. Please give what you can, every dollar is appreciated.

Thank you,
Shannon Thomas, CRNA
GANA-PAC Chairman 2007



Kay Argroves campaigning for a position on the AANA Nominating Committee



Georgia
Association of
Nurse
Anesthetists
PAC

I am contributing \$ _____ to further
the legislative efforts of the GANA.

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone # _____ Best time to call _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Do you work in an office based setting? a rural hospital? a surgery center? an urban hospital?

Are you interested in lobbying with the GANA during the 2008 legislative session? _____

Are you acquainted with any of Georgia's legislators? _____ If yes, who? _____

Please clip and send to: **Robbie Pope, GANA-PAC Treasurer, P.O. Box 1572, Tifton, GA 31793**

Forms available at www.gana.org

Thank you for
your contribution
to this worthy
cause for your
profession!



We Were On TV!

*by Cheryl McRae-Bergeron, CRNA
President-Elect*

I was at the State Capitol twice in January. Once for the signing of CRNA Week and the other was to lobby for the educational grandfathering of CRNAs.

São Berkowitz and I spent the day at the State Capitol for Georgia Nurse's Day. We visited with Senator Judson Hill (32nd District), Representative Kathy Ashley (56th District), and Representative Terry Johnson (37th District) explaining how important nurse anesthesia is to the state and asked for their support in what would become SB222. We also dropped by the offices of Senator Chip Pearson's (51st District) and Representative Charles Jenkins (8th District) with the same message.

Later that evening, GANA Treasurer Leslie Jeter, Government Relations Chairman Steve Smith and I attended the GANA's reception at the Sloppy Floyd Building. Besides getting to meet other nurses from around the state, we were able to have a long conversation with both Senator Nan Orrock (36th District) and member of the Health and Human Services Committee) and Representative Charlie Jenkins.

After the signing of the CRNA Week proclamation, Immediate Past President Barbara Waldron and I had lunch with my high school classmate, Representative Terry Johnson (37th District). I have been a friend with Terry and his lovely wife Nancy (also my classmate) for more years than I like to remember. It's nice to know that there is always an open door for us in the House.

March found the GANA at GPB-TV manning the phones to help raise money for Georgia Public Broadcasting. Thanks to your donating both your limited time and boundless energy, some 27 CRNAs, Medical College of Georgia student nurse anesthetists and friends and family of CRNAs were seen on live TV. Our President, Matt Kervin, also had a live interview, maybe a first for the GANA. This was REALLY fun...and FATTENING. Lidia Bastianich, author of *Lidia's Kitchen* and *Lidia's Italian-American Kitchen* cooked live on the show. We got to sample her works, which were delicious (the event was catered, so we were forced to eat every two hours). Even though the credits of the featured show "Winged Migration" rolled across my face (my 82 year old mother was very upset that she couldn't see her only child on TV), I can't remember having such a good time with fellow CRNAs. We must have 'done good', because three days later I received a phone call

inviting us back.

April brought me swollen ankles and feet as I trudged up and down 'the hill' in Washington, DC. It was indeed an honor to be part of the GANA delegation to the AANA's Mid-Year Assembly as we help to carry our message to the national level. A big thanks to our own Federal Political Director, Martha Dukes Kral, for organizing the GANA visits. Martha is well known by those in Washington and is an immense asset to the GANA. Next time you see her, please let her know what a good job she does for the GANA.

The GANA Spring renewal of ACLS/PALS/BLS at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta was both a convenient and pleasant experience. I can, without reservation, recommend renewing or obtaining your certification with this GANA sponsored meeting. And, once again, Leslie Jeter outdid herself with the GANA luncheon on Saturday. (And thanks to my husband, Woodie, for manning the registration table).

Don't forget to meet us in Savannah October 5th for the GANA Fall Meeting. See you there!! ■



(L to R) Cheryl McRae-Bergeron, District 37 State Representative Terry Johnson and Barb Waldron

Happenings in Peer Assistance

Since we met last, I suggested to you that you try everyday to improve your life in some small way. I keep working on that character flaw of being bossy, and/or opinionated. I have also increased my exercise through a program at Athens Regional and enlisted the services of a personal trainer. And you know what? My life has become better.

Peer Assistance Available to CRNAs

If you need help with drug or alcohol dependency, we are here for you. There is a lot of information on the new website. If you know of someone who needs help, call for assistance. Drugs and/or alcohol kill.

PEER ASSISTANCE HOTLINE 800-654-5167
ANESTHETISTS IN RECOVERY 215-635-0183

Or visit www.aana.com/resources
www.gana.org/peerassistance
<http://www.centerforamericannurses.org/wellness/>

Gayle Brackin, a CRNA at Atlanta Medical Center ("AMC"), approached me at our Fall Meeting at Stone Mountain about presenting a Peer Assistance program for her institution.

As a committee member, I, along with Ginger Hamilton SRNA at MCCG, put together an addiction lecture. We took it to Atlanta Medical Center, and presented it at their continuing education meeting 7am May 9th. Ginger and I worked up a power point presentation that is informative and runs about an hour. I wish to thank Gayle Brackin for making the arrangements with AMC and for recognizing the need for this type of information for ALL anesthesia providers. Gayle was so kind to host Ginger and me at her home the night before the lecture to decrease the stress of finding AMC so early in the morning. Thanks Gayle, you are so special.



Ginger Hamilton, SRNA and Barb Waldron, CRNA, State Peer Advisor

Ginger and I are fine tuning our lecture, so keep us in mind for a lecture at your institution.

There is a new website about recovery programs <http://www.jackstem.com/treatment-facilities.htm>, lots of good information.

Be well. See you at the Fall Meeting in Savannah! Please think about attending.

Nominations for the 2007 Rosalie McDonald Award Now Being Accepted



GANA is asking for your nominations for a CRNA to receive the 2007 Rosalie McDonald Award. Your nomination must be submitted by August 15th to the GANA office. Nominations can be submitted by mail, fax or email to GANA, 1832 Highway 54 W. Fayetteville, GA 30214; facsimile: 770.632.1625; or ganaoffice@bellsouth.net.

Rosalie McDonald spearheaded the GANA in 1938. She was the first GANA President, and the 6th AANA President. Be proud of your profession. Honor a fellow CRNA by nominating him or her for their contribution to our profession. The honoree will be presented with the award at the GANA Annual Meeting this year in Savannah on October 6th.

2007 Midyear Report

by Stephen D. Smith, CRNA, MA

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to serve on the GANA board of directors and as your government relations chair. I consider it a privilege and will do my best to represent you.

I've been practicing as a CRNA since 1983 and up until last year was never actively involved with the GANA. I was one of those that did my clinical thing and gave my yearly contribution to the PAC fund. I truly regret not getting involved with our state association before I did because I believe it is the right thing to do and hopefully I can make a difference.

I have now learned first hand that without the involvement of many CRNAs across the country, on the national and state level, we would not be practicing as we currently do in today's healthcare system. Besides giving your yearly contribution to PAC, please consider getting involved in some capacity with the GANA. We on the GANA board need you. I promise you, you will feel better about being a CRNA.

I am proud to report to you that SB222 (grandfather provision for CRNAs) passed in the Senate and the House and was signed by governor on May 24 to be put into law. Specifically, SB222 will reinstitute the grandfather clause of 1999 that we lost as a result of SB480 (prescriptive authority law) being passed last year. We owe a debt of gratitude to Christy Dunkelberger, our executive director, for the writing of SB222 and in getting it set in motion. I would also like to thank Monty Veazey, GANA lobbyist, for his on going work at the capitol. Most of all I would like to thank all of you for responding to my emails to contact your representatives and ask for their support. We as a board can only do so much. It takes all of us working together to make good things happen. Thanks again for your support.

GANAs Capitol Day on March 19 was very well attended and quite successful. SB222 was actually voted on and passed in the Senate that day. Representing the GANA on that day were Matt Kervin, Martha Kral, Shannon Thomas, Pete Chvala, and me. Also attending were Steve Arnold, Program Director of Mercer/Macon, and fourteen of his nurse anesthetist students along with Christy and Monty. We were able to personally talk with several senators and legislators about the importance of SB222 including Johnny Grant, the sponsor of the bill. At day's end we had a very good turnout to our display. We took

the AANA history wall again this year. We were able to inform the visitors of who we are and what we do as CRNAs in the state of Georgia and nationwide.

I had the good fortune of attending my first Midyear Assembly in Washington, D.C. in April. Martha Kral, our FPD, will cover this but I just wanted to encourage all of you at some point in your career, sooner than later, to attend this annual meeting. It is a rare opportunity to meet and talk with your Senators and Congressmen from back home about our concerns that affect them and their constituents. Plus, Washington D.C. is cool if you haven't been there.

Finally, as your new government relations chair I would once again like to thank all of the GANA members, the board, and a special thanks to Martha Kral, for which I could not have survived the last four months without her daily support and advice. Remember, it is not enough to be a good clinician either get involved directly with the GANA or support us through PAC donations. Most of all, when you are asked to contact your legislators please consider doing so. We desperately need your support to maintain and improve upon our practice here in the state of Georgia. ■



Capitol Day 2007



Steve Smith, Martha Dukes-Kral and Pete Chvala