



To & Fro

A Publication of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists • Volume 63 • Spring 2010

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists CRNAs

- Represent nearly 150 years of quality anesthesia
- Safely administer approximately 32 million anesthetics in the US every year
- Represented by 44,000 CRNAs nationwide and over 1100 here in Georgia
- Are the sole anesthesia providers in nearly 100% of the rural hospitals throughout the country.
- Practice in every type of clinical setting

Mission Statement

The Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists is a non-profit organization committed to advancing patient safety by supporting and furthering the practice of nurse anesthesia in Georgia.

PLEASE VISIT

www.gana.org

Improvise, Adapt and Overcome!

Barry Cranfill, CRNA, MHS, MBA, FAAPM • GANA President



Once upon a time, I made my living as an Army Aviator and military officer in the service of our fine country. During that time, I was privileged to be trained by veteran war heroes that were more than willing to impart their grizzled and sage knowledge and advice on how to best lead, survive, fight and win in the most adverse of circumstances.

Our service members must be trained to evaluate the ever-changing tide of battle, adjust the utilization of resources and seize opportunities where they are found. One of the finer lessons that was pounded into my young and empty skull was the mantra of "Improvise, adapt and overcome." In battle, just as in life, the unexpected should always be expected! And regardless of the scenario, we were taught to think and act instinctively to improvise, adapt and overcome. A good lesson for all!

The take home message for us in this era of healthcare reform is clear: As the rules change, you have to find a way to accomplish your goals within the new paradigm by shifting your strategies to capitalize on the new environment. And the rules have changed... so we have to be ready to improvise, adapt and overcome!

Healthcare Reform

With the stroke of a pen, President Obama set our country on a new course and has changed healthcare and our profession forever. Some say the change is for the better, some for the worse. I fall into the latter category, but that is not the point here. The point is that we must be prepared for how this legislation will change our profession and we must be prepared to improvise, adapt and overcome.

During this process, the AANA assumed an active role and worked diligently to position our Association in such a manner that would increase patient access to care and promote our profession to the various stakeholders within the healthcare system. I would invite you to log on to the AANA website and access the "members only" area to review various documents that outline how these changes will purportedly affect our practice.

As president of the GANA, here are my predictions of how these changes will impact our profession and what we need to do to prepare for the changes.

- Overall, private health insurance costs will most likely increase significantly and benefits will decrease. Payers will be forced to accept patients regardless of their pre-existing conditions. Money will be tight and third party payer reimbursement will stagnate and/or decline, forcing anesthesia groups to become less profitable and in many cases making practices financially unsustainable. CRNAs need to work vigorously to promote the economic advantage provided by CRNA services. There is no need to continuously hold on to the ridiculous practice models that are currently in place. Rather, practice models should be adopted that utilize CRNAs in their full capacity as independent practitioners and the ability to work and bill as non-medically directed providers.
- Provider non discrimination legislation has been slated to become law in 2014. This means that insurers are not allowed to discriminate against CRNAs as long as they are practicing within the scope of their license. Thus payers may no longer discriminate and refuse participation and payment to CRNAs based solely on their status as a CRNA. This will open the door for greater opportunity for independent CRNA practice as payers are mandated to provide payment for services rendered to participating CRNAs within their plans. However, plans may still vary their rates to providers based on quality or performance measures.
- State and Federal budgets will remain very, very unstable. Expect decreases in Medicare and Medicaid rates as well as decreased benefits for those covered under these plans. As CRNAs, these cuts (along with the commercial insurance cuts) will be passed along to the anesthesia staff personnel. Expect longer hours, stagnant pay, fewer jobs and decreased benefits. It is vital that CRNAs become team players in their respective practices and be willing to go the extra mile for their employers and their patients. Otherwise, you may find yourself replaced by another provider willing to hustle and do the hard work.
- As more and more folks are provided access to insurance, increased utilization of healthcare resources may become the norm. This may result in rationing and or prioritization schedules within the healthcare system as a whole. Thus, many CRNAs may be working longer hours and caring for more patients for the same or possibly less reimbursement.

Continued on page 11



The Medical Center of Central Georgia (MCCG) is located in Macon, Georgia. Our large 637-bed hospital system has been the choice for generations of Central and South Georgians and contains the areas only dedicated Children's Hospital, Level II Nursery, as well as the only Level I Trauma Center.

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Message from the Executive Director

Christy A. Dunkelberger, Esq.

New Board of Nursing Appointment

I am very thrilled to report to you that your current GANA President, Barry Cranfill, has been appointed to the Georgia Board of Nursing. This appointment will provide an opportunity to participate in decision making and governance that affects the practice of nursing, including advanced practice nursing here in Georgia. As you know the Board of Nursing promulgates rules and regulations for registered professional nurses. It is exciting for a CRNA to be part of this process. Please join me in extending congratulations and best wishes to Barry on his appointment. We should further thank him for taking the initiative to seek this appointment. Barry will participate in his first Board meeting in May 2010.

Georgia Legislature Recap

The Georgia legislature is winding down its 2010 session. Several key initiatives gave us reason for pause during this session. As you all now know, the budget was a major issue for all Georgians. Closer to home, the budget cuts threatened to shut down the MCG Nurse Anesthesia Program. Fortunately, that plan was retracted and the Program will continue. However, the threat should serve as a wake up call for all nurses. Closing the nurse anesthesia program would have had far reaching affects on healthcare beyond the boundaries of nurse anesthesia. This issue is one that should make all nurses stand up and pay attention. Kudos go out to the magnificent effort the SRNAs in their opposition to this threat.

Another issue of interest to CRNAs is HB 1250 introduced to expand the prescrip-

tive authority law for APRNs. However, HB 1250 failed to pass out of the House before crossover day and therefore it is a dead issue for this year. Some of its intended consequences were to allow APRNs to prescribe Schedule II drugs and sign worker's compensation forms and death certificates.

One final legislative issue of interest is the initiative by GSA to pass a resolution under which the legislature would encourage the Board of Medicine to promulgate Rules for office based surgery and anesthesia. HR 1449 was adopted by the House; and SR 1222 has had a second reading in the Senate. Both are nonbinding. GANA is following both of these measures.

Non Deductibility of Dues

Federal legislation excludes that portion of professional dues used for grassroots lobbying for income tax purposes. That amount for GANA members for 2009 is \$43.

Reminders

Nominations for the Rosalie McDonald Award are now being accepted. Please submit your nomination to the GANA office before August 1, 2010.

Mark your calendars for the 2010 GANA Annual Fall Meeting. It is scheduled to be held at the Cobb Galleria Convention Center from October 1 -3, 2010. More to come soon.

GANA will start soliciting nominations for the 2010 GANA Outstanding Nurse Anesthetist Student Award in June. Do you know of a worthy SRNA you want to nominate?

**Hotlines
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800.654.5167**

**Anesthetists in
Recovery (AIR)
215.635.0183**

www.aana.com/peerassist.aspx

Connecting Threads

Submitted by: Barbara Waldron, CRNA

That's the name of one of my sewing magazines. It made me think of us, as people and nurse anesthetists, how important it is for our fulfillment in life to stay connected, to stay plugged in to one another. In the anesthesia world or business it is called networking, in our private lives it is called friendships. These relationships keep us sane and a part of the world.

How do I stay connected? With that wonderful piece of technology called e-mail. I receive pictures, pass on daily meditations, and just generally 'stay in touch'. The other way is through my cell phone...TEXTING, that instant gratification when something great is happening in my life I can immediately pass it on and I don't have to deal with voice mail. Ahhh...so satisfying.

This winter when there was snow on the ground and Becky, my daughter-in-law, had been in the house with my two grandchildren for two days, I texted her to ask if she wanted me to come over to let her out. Everyone benefitted from that small random act of kindness. It makes us evermore connected.

I am reconnecting with some college girlfriends as I am writing this. We became connected in the 60's and over the years have stayed connected through marriages, divorces, loss of jobs, parenting problems, deaths of loved ones. At first by writing letters (oh that snail mail), but now with cell phones, and email! And now after all these years we are closer than ever.

I love staying connected to my nurse anesthetist friends. The thread that binds us is perseverance and endurance...i.e. nurse anesthesia school. It doesn't matter where you went to school; it is just knowing that everyone did that connects us. And we endured.

So we need to know what is happening in each others lives. Be a friend and stay in touch. Staying connected can be the first line of defense

against drugs and alcohol invading your friend's life, or our own.

Susan Taylor said, 'our greatest problems in life come not so much from situations we confront as from our doubts about our ability to handle them.' Let's not handle those problems with drugs/alcohol. Let's handle them by sharing with those connections we have cultivated over the years, those friends in the anesthesia world. Nobody knows an anesthetist like another anesthetist. That's why we have AIR (anesthetists in recovery).

I always love it when I get e-mails from GANA asking me to participate in the Capitol Day activity, or from AANA asking me to contact a Senator or Representative, or one asking me to exhibit on behalf of nurse anesthetists. It means connecting with other nurse anesthetists, finding out what they are up to. I urge you to contact a fellow anesthetist by text, by e-mail, use facebook, or with a cell phone call; you never know what that connection can mean to you or the person you are contacting. Do it today!

I don't know about you but I am really glad to see spring. So are we all back to exercising and eating right? Relieving our stress! Did we add meditation to our list of stress relievers?

Peer Assistance @ AANA stays busy thinking of ways to get drug and alcohol information directly to you. They have now made Wearing Masks online! You can go to our website and there will be a link to it, or use www.aana.com/dvds.aspx. Lots of information at this particular site. BE WELL and COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.

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Stay Connected and Let Your Voice Be Heard

AANA Update - April 2010

Janice J. Izlar, CRNA, DNAP • AANA Region 2 Director • jjizlar@aol.com



Does the AANA have an email on file for you? That is an important question for you to answer. There is no doubt email is the fastest way to disseminate information. The AANA President carefully selects

vital information to send to you via AANA Alerts. This is timely information you need to know to stay abreast of current issues going on within the profession and our organization. E-ssentials is an electronic newsletter that is sent approximately every two weeks. This publication contains current information about topics of interest for CRNAs and articles to help us provide enhanced patient care. Periodically, you should log on to the AANA website, www.aana.com. The site is updated almost daily with information important to you. Stay connected to the AANA for information you need to know!

Your opinion is important to the AANA Board of Directors. A staff task force has been formed to enhance our ability to seek member input through electronic surveys. You recently received the 2010 AANA Compensation and Benefits Survey. We need everyone to complete the survey to obtain accurate, statistically valid information critical to understand CRNA practice and employment patterns across the country. The information is anonymous. Other electronic surveys are planned to obtain membership input on a variety of subjects. So, watch your in-boxes. We want and need to hear from you!

Don't be late with your recertification. The National Board of Certification and Recer-

tification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) is offering recertification applications on-line. It is quick and easy. The fee for recertification is \$100.00 and must be done by July 31, 2010 to avoid the \$500.00 reinstatement fee. It is critical you allow sufficient time for this process. You must have completed the required 40 CE credits before applying. Since the programs have up to 30 days to submit the paperwork for you to receive credit, you should complete your coursework early. Also, allow for a minimum of four weeks for processing. This provides adequate time for review and verification of the information submitted on your application. Contact the NBCRNA via email at recertification@aana.com or phone toll free 866.894.3908 for assistance in obtaining a recertification application or any questions about the process. Don't be late with your mandatory recertification!

Ballots will be mailed May 13, 2010 for the upcoming AANA election. Please see the election slate in the April 2010 AANA NewsBulletin. If the AANA has an email address on file for you, then you should have received a message asking whether you prefer an electronic or paper ballot. In past years, if a member did not reply to this email, they would receive a ballot in electronic and paper format. At the January 2010 Board of Directors meeting, we voted to change this process. Members who do not respond will receive their ballot in electronic format only. If the AANA does not have an email on file for you, then you will continue to receive a paper ballot. Votes will still be received with on-line or paper ballots. If you have not received your ballot by June 1, 2010, please apply for one in writing. This may be done by mail to AANA

Executive Office, Attn. Susan Kastning, or email to skastning@aana.com. Voting cut-off is noon, Tuesday, June 22, 2010. Some races are won by a narrow margin. Every vote counts; let your voice be heard!

I have heard members say they don't vote because they don't know the candidates and their views. The ballot will include a photo of the candidate; a bio-sketch with the candidate's experiences with the state and national associations; and Board of Director candidates will have a position statement. This year the candidate's speeches from Mid-Year Assembly will be videoed and available for everyone to view on the AANA website. Also, there is an Online Forum for Candidates seeking a Board of Director's position. Submit questions to the candidates on this moderated forum to learn their views about issues important to you and our profession. Follow the forum on the AANA website to learn how the candidates view a variety of subjects. Finally, contact the candidate if you would like to discuss

an issue important to you. I am confident every candidate would welcome the opportunity to share their passions and goals for the position they are seeking with you. Get to know the candidate and vote!

Make plans now to attend the AANA Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, August 7 – 11, 2010. The business meeting is scheduled on Saturday afternoon. Many important decisions will be made during this meeting and you need to be there to voice your opinion about the direction you would like to see the AANA head. There will also be exciting special presentations, informative educational sessions, fun social events, wellness activities, and plenty of opportunity to network with colleagues. Be present for this powerful week!

It is an honor to serve as your Region 2 Director. If there is anything I can do for you, please contact me.

SPRING 2010 FINANCIAL REPORT

By David LaGuardia, CRNA

In the previous To and Fro, I wrote an article about the AANA's State Challenge, encouraging Georgia CRNAs to make a donation to the AANA Foundation (AANAF). The competition ends June 30th. States in which CRNAs donate the most money will be recognized at the AANA's 2010 Annual Meeting in Seattle and will be awarded prizes.

Georgia is currently ranked 50th, meaning that we in Georgia have been remiss in financially supporting the AANAF's mission – advancing the science of anesthesia through education and research. It is not too late to make a donation. Every dollar the AANAF receives supports research grants, scholarships, poster sessions, and mentorship programs. You can invest in the future of the nurse anesthesia profession by mak-

ing a tax deductible donation.

You can also support the Foundation and your profession by becoming a Friend For Life. The most common planned gifts are trusts, gift annuities, securities, memorial gifts, and tax favored bequests. The deadline to join is June 15, 2010.

For additional information on making a donation or becoming a Friend For Life, please click on the AANAF's web site www.aanafoundation.com or contact Nat Carmichael (ncarmichael@aana.com).

It's a win-win opportunity. Help the Foundation reach its \$443,000 Annual Fund Goal and move our state up in the rankings.

Did You Know?

Six GANA members have served on the AANA Board of Directors. They are: Rosalie McDonald, Nell Livingood, Virginia Edwards, Barbara Reep, Iris Barry, and Janice Izlar.

“GANA 2010 Capitol Day”



Maegan Brass, MCG Program Director Jim Masingale, Deanna Anselmo, and Steve Smith



Marni Daniel, Maegan Brass, Deanna Anselmo, Ashli Bartlett and on the back row the famous 2 headed calf



State Senator Mitch Seabaugh, Majority Whip with constituent SRNA, GANA's President Maegan Brass



Deanna Anselmo, Jim Masingale, Maegan Brass, State Senator Mitch Seabaugh, Marni Daniel, Ashli Bartlett, and GANA President Barry Cranfill



Monty Veazey, GANA Lobbyist, Jim Masingale, GRC Chair, Steve Smith, Melanie Marshall, BOD



Katie Truitt, Roger Pierce, Anna Evans, Korie Agudelo, Lindsay Malone, Brooke Kessler, Jennifer Pottinger, William Parham, Amy Murdock, and Todd Greene.



GANA representatives meet with the Governor during Capitol Day



Deanna Anselmo, Paul Evelyn, and Maegan Brass



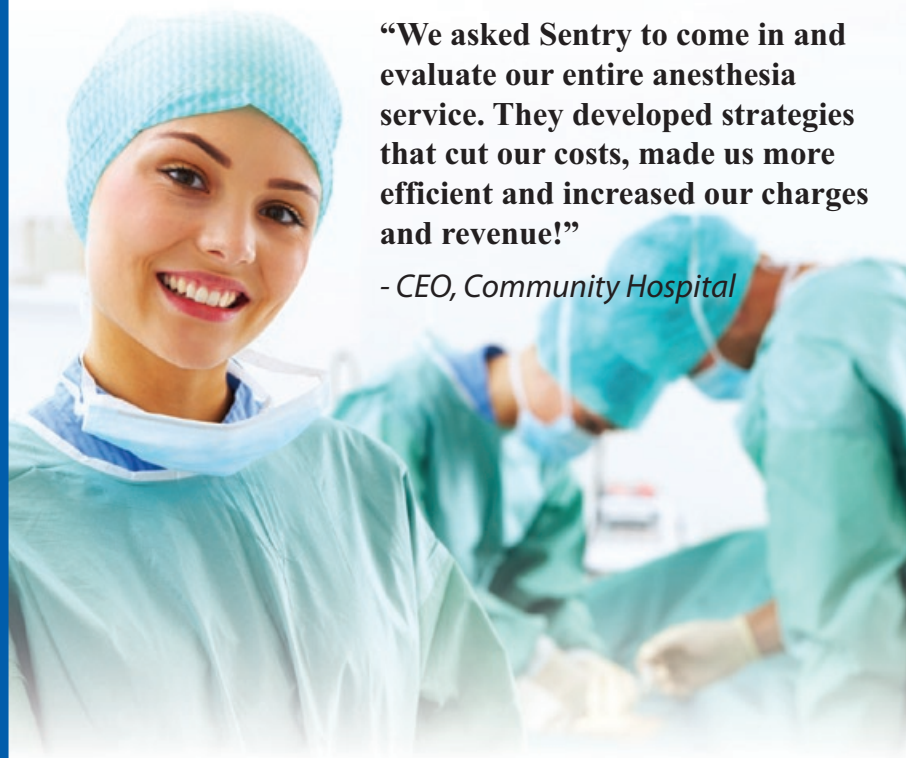
Steve Smith, Immediate Past President and Rose Synsmir, President-Elect



Governor Sonny Perdue signs a proclamation recognizing CRNA Week in Georgia.

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- CEO, Community Hospital



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www.sentryanesthesia.com



Class of 2009 MCG

front row: left to right: Lara Duncan, Carol Bouchard, Courtney Kennedy, Ashley Goolsby, Carla Duffie, Leeann miller, Jason Faunce

backrow: left to right: Elizabeth Hansford, Jada Coleman, Shannon Broxton, Ed Gibson **missing from the picture:** Angela Hudson, Connie Watkins, Taushera Westbrook, and Sonia Magambo.



☒ **Yes!**

I want to be actively involved in the GANA!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Home Tel: _____ Work Tel: _____

Interests – Check all that apply:

Committees:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bylaws | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GRC | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

MCG Nurse Anesthesia School Report

By James Masiongale, CRNA, MHS



Friedrich Nietzsche once said "That which does not kill us, makes us stronger". That saying is perhaps the best way to describe MCG's

Nurse Anesthesia Program at this time. As many of you know, back in February the program, along with several other programs at MCG, was targeted for closure due to budgetary cuts. With the help of GANA President Barry Cranfill, we developed a plan to try and save the program from closure. We brought all 41 of the students back to the Augusta campus for two days to discuss this plan and put it in to action.

Thanks to the efforts of the students and hundreds of CRNAs across Georgia, MCG soon announced that the budget cuts were not going to be as bad as first thought and no programs would be shut down. We had three students scheduled to begin the program in August decide against coming. However, we were able to fill those positions from our alternate list with highly qualified individuals.

So why did I begin this report with the quote? We were not killed and in the effort to try and save the program, many invaluable lessons were learned by numerous individuals. The students got a crash course in government relations and stress management, both of which will benefit them both personally and professionally. The Georgia legislators and Board of Regents have heard loud and clear the message that many of you helped voice, that the Nurse Anesthesia

Program is vital in assuring that rural Georgians have access to quality health care. While there are no guarantees that we will not be faced with this situation in the future, I feel that the threat at this time has passed.

The students and I would like to thank the Mercer Nurse Anesthesia Program and GANA for all their support throughout this process. Also, we are very thankful for all the support we received from alumni and CRNAs across the country. This is a testament to the strength and compassion of our profession that makes CRNAs the remarkable anesthesia providers they are.

I am often asked why I chose to go into education and sometimes question that myself. During the last couple of months it became even clearer. I am surrounded everyday by the most enthusiastic, brightest, and hardest working individuals one could ever hope to be associated with. Fortunately for all, they are the professions future and we are in good hands.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to send me an email or give me a call.

Sincerely,
James Masiongale
Interim Director
& Clinical Coordinator
Nursing Anesthesia Program
Medical college of Georgia
(706)721-8215
jmasiong@mccg.edu

Plan to attend the AANA 2010 Annual Meeting in Seattle August 7-11. On Saturday, August 7th from 10:00-11:00, Georgia CRNAs Mary Flister and Leslie Jeter will present "Rosalie McDonald, CRNA 1891-1973 GANA and AANA Pioneer" during the AANA History and Archives Session.

News from Mercer University School of Medicine's Nurse Anesthesia Program:

Events that have occurred in 2010:

We accepted a class of 20 new students to begin matriculation in August 2010. The applicant pool was very competitive and we have another very strong academic upcoming class. Our two current classes of seniors and juniors have 12 and 15 students, respectively. Incidentally, our first class graduated in 2007 with 8 graduates.

Everyone from the class of 2009 has passed their NBCRNA Exam, or their Boards. Our Program has a 100% pass rate for all classes since the Program's inception.

We have added 2 new off-site clinical enrichment rotations, for a total of 9 off-site clinical rotations plus the main clinical site of MCGG and the MCGG Ambulatory Surgery Center. MCGG continues to be our main clinical site for the Program. We added a clinical anesthesia simulation experience to our junior's first semester in clinical.

Finally, and most importantly, The Nurse Anesthesia Program Directors' of Mercer University and the Medical College of Georgia, Sheree and Jim, spent a few days working together at the New Program Director's Workshop in March of this year at the AANA Headquarters in Park Ridge, Illinois. We shared our thoughts and experiences of being new Directors and we both met and learned a tremendous amount from our COA educational leaders and fellow Director colleagues. MCG must be very proud that they have such a dedicated, intelligent, and clinically experienced Interim Director for their Program.

Submitted by:
Sheree Wolfenden, CRNA, JD
Program Director
MUSM/MCCG Nurse
Anesthesia Program

77th Annual Meeting
**American Association
of Nurse Anesthetists**

Seattle, WA
August 7-11, 2010

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2010 ISSUE DEADLINES:

January 15th • April 16th • September 24th



To & Fro

**The objective of GANA is to promote the best interests of
its members, cooperate with the American Association of
Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), facilitate cooperation
between nurse anesthetists and the medical professions.**

**We are asking for your advertising support to help make
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Message from the Government Relations Committee

By James Masiongale, CRNA, MHS

It has been a very busy and exciting time since my last message. A meeting between me and GANA lobbyist Monty Veazey, GANA President Barry Cranfill, GANA Federal Political Director Steve Smith, Executive Director/Legal Counsel Christy Dunkelberger, PAC Chair Carmen Simmons was very informative and successful. We discussed several issues that could potentially have an impact on CRNA practice in the State of Georgia. From these discussions, the 2010 GANA Legislative Agenda was developed:

1. Preserve CRNAs current scope of practice in the administration of anesthesia including pain management;
2. Ensure equitable third party reimbursement for CRNAs and expand the pool of payers who reimburse CRNA services;
3. Preserve the current protocol language applicable to CRNAs' practice pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-34-23 of the Medical Practice Act.

GANA and the GRC are no strangers to the Georgia Capitol and members of the legislation as of late. President Barry Cranfill, Public Relations Chair Melanie Marshall, several students from both MCG and Mercer's Nursing Anesthesia Programs, and I represented GANA as part of Rural Health Day at the Capitol February 17th. We used this opportunity to talk to legislators, thank them for their support of CRNAs, and introduce our 2010 legislative agenda. On March 25th, we were at the Capitol again for GANA Capitol Day. This was the largest turn out to date thanks in large part to the students from the CRNA programs at MCG and Mercer. We were slightly disappointed that two days prior to the event the legislators decided to break on the 25th. This may have decreased the number of legislators at the Capitol but provided the opportunity to meet many of them in their offices to discuss several issues and thank them for their support in helping prevent the closure of the CRNA program at MCG (I will cover this in my MCG Program

Report). The students did an outstanding job contacting legislators and inviting them to stop by for breakfast provided by GANA. We all enjoyed the proclamation signing and photo with Governor Perdue. This was a great way for people that had been to the Capitol previously, mentor those that had not. It was also a wonderful opportunity enlightening the legislators on the importance of CRNAs to the state of Georgia. I hope you will join us next year. Students from both programs have vowed that next year will be bigger and better than this one. Please check the GANA webpage for photos.

CALENDAR: AANA Mid-Year Assembly: April 25th -28th.

We will keep you informed of the above events by way of the GANA website www.gana.org and email via the listserv. Also under the "Advocacy" section of the website are both government and federal political affairs information. Please refer to the following sites when accessing legislative lookup and general assembly information: www.congress.org www.vote-smart.org and www.legis.state.ga.us

President Obama has signed the health-care reform bill into law. No one is sure just how this will affect CRNAs or anesthesia as a whole. I encourage you to actively monitor this as it begins to play out and notify GANA if you feel your practice has been affected. I would also encourage you to please contact your legislators and get to know them, but more importantly let them get to know you. This will work in your favor if we need to rally for an issue in the future.

I will end this report as I did my first report: Remember the GANA PAC. It is vital to our profession. I ask that you also do something in upcoming months to give back to this wonderful profession, it can be as simple as an email to a legislator or educating someone that does not know about CRNAs.

GANAS President's Report

submitted by Meagan Brass, SRNA



Wow! What a crazy Spring we have had. The announcement of budget cuts and MCG proposing the closing of the Nurse Anesthesia Program was something that

caught all of us off guard and we found the possible loss of all of our hard work very heartbreaking. To everyone's surprise, we were able to rally our families and friends to help in the awareness of the crucial role that nurse anesthetists play in the medical field, particularly in rural areas. In bringing awareness to our cause, we got much attention from the media and were able to get our message heard (loud and clear might I add).

Many of us went directly to the Capitol to speak with members of State Legislation, met with the Dean of the School of Nursing, MCG's Provost, MCG's President, and anyone who would listen, all while continuing to juggle the role of anesthesia student. I want to personally thank Barry Cranfill, Professor Jim Masiongale, GANA and AANA for their leadership during this difficult time. I also want to thank each student who has been tirelessly vocal about this cause. Finally I want to thank all the CRNAs across the state who called and emailed their legislators, the MCG Provost, and MCG VP of Finance.

We could not have achieved this with-

out your help. Let this be a lesson to us all; this is why we need to stay politically active in our profession; we need to ensure that state programs will continue to receive the funding they need to educate their students and that all programs in the state of Georgia will continue to produce excellent CRNAs.

Again, my sincerest thanks and gratitude to each of you. Capitol Day this year was held March 25th. We had an amazing turn out! So many of our students had direct face time with legislators such as Senate Majority Leader Chip Rogers, Representative Ben Harbin, Representative Barbara Sims, Senator Mitch Seabaugh, Gubernatorial Candidate Rep. Austin Scott, and even Governor Sonny Perdue!

Mid Year Assembly is quickly approaching, April 25-28 in Washington D.C., and will give us the opportunity to polish our lobbying skills. Don't forget to go on to the AANA website to register, registration is only \$50. As June rolls around, we will once again be volunteering for the Georgia Public Broadcasting Phonathon in Atlanta, we will keep you posted on the exact date.

Until next time, Maegan Brass

GEORGIA IN LAST PLACE? Sad, but true

Leslie Jeter, CRNA,

MS - Georgia AANA Foundation Advocate



In the previous To and Fro, I wrote an article about the AANA's State Challenge, encouraging Georgia CRNAs to make a donation to the

AANA Foundation (AANAF). The competition ends June 30th. States in which CRNAs donate the most money will be recognized at the AANA's 2010 Annual Meeting in Seattle and will be awarded prizes.

Georgia is currently ranked 50th, meaning that we in Georgia have been remiss in financially supporting the AANAF's mission – advancing the science of anesthesia through education and research. It is not too late to make a donation. Every dollar the AANAF receives supports research grants, scholarships, poster sessions, and mentorship programs. You can invest in the future of the nurse anesthesia profes-

sion by making a tax deductible donation.

You can also support the Foundation and your profession by becoming a Friend For Life. The most common planned gifts are trusts, gift annuities, securities, memorial gifts, and tax favored bequests. The deadline to join is June 15, 2010.

For additional information on making a donation or becoming a Friend For Life, please click on the AANAF's web site www.aanafoundation.com or contact Nat Carmichael (ncarmichael@aana.com).

It's a win-win opportunity. Help the Foundation reach its \$443,000 Annual Fund Goal and move our state up in the rankings.

All GANA members are invited to attend a Board of Directors Meeting scheduled to be held on Saturday May 15, 2010, at the Medical Center of Central Georgia Nurse Anesthesia Program, 777 Hemlock Street, Macon, Georgia 31201

GANA Nominating Committee Seeking Candidates

As a member of the GANA Board of Directors (BODs) since 2006, I can tell you it has been an extremely rewarding time of my 27 year career as a CRNA. My only regret is waiting as long as I did to get actively involved. It is quite a professional experience and feeling to know that you are trying to give back to a profession that has given us all so much.

If you have ever thought about serving on the Board, I encourage you to either come to our next Board meeting on Saturday May 18 in Macon or talk to a current or past member of the Board and then reconsider.

The Nominating Committee is currently recruiting candidates for the following offices: President-Elect and Vice President (must have served one full term as either a member of the BODs or an officer), Treasurer, Secretary, and three Board of Director's positions. The Board of Director's position is a two year term and all others are for one year. The start date for these positions will be October 2, 2010 during the GANA Annual Fall Meeting in Atlanta.

As a member of the Board you will be expected to attend five BOD meetings and one GANA Annual Retreat in a one year period. Each office has duties and responsibilities specific to that office. This information along with expense reimbursement can be found in either the GANA Bylaws (www.gana.org on the "members only" side) or by contacting one of the Nominating Committee members below.

Steve Smith, Chair, 404-429-8553,
slltdt@comcast.net

Jim Masiongale, 706-721-8215,
jmasiongale@mcg.edu

Kathy Mann, 706-258-4040,
kathymann@georgiaprime.com

AANA Election Slate Announced



The AANA Nominating Committee, after completing candidate deliberation at its February meeting, has announced the slate of candidates for the upcoming election of the AANA Board of Directors, Nominating and Resolutions Committee members. Those elected will begin their fiscal year 2011 terms of office at the conclusion of the AANA Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington. The slate of candidates can be found on www.aana.com.

Ballots will go out in mid-May and voting will end at noon on Tuesday, June 22, 2010. Position statements for the BODs will be included in the ballot along with each candidate's photo and biographical data. This information will also be

posted in the member-only section of AANA's website. It should also be noted that coming soon will be an "Online Forum for Candidates for the AANA Board of Director's". This can be accessed at www.aana.com. This will be a chance for all members to ask the candidates their views about certain issues such as health care reform and scope of practice issues.

We have a unique opportunity this election to elect one of our own, Janice Izlar from Savannah, our current Region 2 Director, as she runs for Vice President of the AANA. Not since Rosalie McDonald, elected the 6th President of the AANA, has anyone from Georgia ran for and won an executive position on the AANA Board. For more than 14 years now Janice has devoted her time and energy to the GANA and AANA where she has proven her leadership and com-

mitment at the state and national level. She recently completed her DNAP. Her passion and love for the nurse anesthesia profession is unmatched. I have had the good fortune of knowing and working with Janice since 2006. I cannot think of another CRNA who I would rather lead us into the future than Janice. She has the leadership skills, vision, and toughness to succeed and make us all proud of our profession. We are 1100 members strong here in Georgia. We can truly make a difference here in Georgia in the outcome of this election. Please take the time to vote for and elect Ms. Izlar as our next Vice President of the AANA.

Steve Smith CRNA, MA
GANA Immediate Past President



Vote
for

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CRNA, DNAP
VICE PRESIDENT

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- AANA Foundation Board of Trustees
- Resolutions Committee Chair
- Finance Committee
- Ad hoc Associate Member Involvement Committee
- Ad hoc Leadership Development Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Council on Recertification
- Continuing Education Committee Chair

E-mail: jjizlar@aol.com

CONTINUATION OF:

Improvise, Adapt and Overcome!

Barry Cranfill, CRNA, MHS, MBA, FAAPM • GANA President

These Nostradamus like prognostications are not intended to strike fear or rally folks to one political opinion over another. They are provided as a catalyst for our members to determine how these changes will affect their practice and how they must improvise, adapt and overcome.

MCG NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM

As you are all aware, the Medical College of Georgia announced that, due to budget cuts, the MCG Nurse Anesthesia Program would close this summer forcing dozens of students to be left without an opportunity to complete their CRNA training. This was a unilateral decision on the part of the MCG leadership. Thankfully, due to the concentrated efforts of the members of the GANA and GANAS, this decision has evidently been reversed. MCG has announced that the program will remain open...for now.

Please understand that this was a very real threat. The program has always had funding problems, but never to this extent. I am very proud and humbled by the work that was done by everyone on behalf of the MCG NAP. Our coordinated efforts to inundate MCG, the State legislature and the media with our message to preserve the program were clearly successful. I applaud each of you for your dedication to CRNA education in the Georgia.

Additionally, I want to express my sin-

cere gratitude to Tony Chipas, CRNA, PhD, Program Director for the Medical University of South Carolina. One of my first tasks when this crisis began was to attempt to secure a method for the current students to finish their training. Although a few other programs offered assistance, Tony's efforts were exemplary. Within 48 hours of the announcement, we had a contingency plan in place with MUSC that would have provided every student with the opportunity to transfer to MUSC and complete their studies, on time, utilizing clinical sites within Georgia. Additionally, the Dean of the MUSC College of Health Professions (at Tony's urging) agreed to accept these students at the "in state" tuition rate. Please join me in thanking Dr. Chipas for his generous offer of assistance. I would like to remind our membership that Tony is currently a candidate for AANA Region 2 Director!

Current Legislative Issues

The GANA has been busy at the Capitol this year. We participated in the Georgia Rural Health Day at the Capitol as an exhibitor, meeting with legislators and staff regarding rural health and CRNA issues within the state. Additionally, we had a record turnout for our GANA Capitol Day last month. We were privileged to have personal meetings with many of our legislators and we were honored by Governor Perdue with a proclamation honoring CRNA practice within the state.

Additionally, the GANA was proactively involved in the recent legislative resolutions urging the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners to develop rules for office based surgery and anesthesia. The GANA was successful in removing some arbitrary and confusing language that may have led to rules that would have limited CRNA practice within the state. However, this issue is far from over and the GANA will continue to monitor the progress of any rules that may be promulgated by the CSBME. Again vigilance is key and we need to be prepared for all threats to our practice within the state.

The Future!

The AANA will be represented at the National Rural Health Association meeting in Savannah and the GANA will have representatives there to help staff the exhibit along with our own Region 2 Director, Janice Izlar. It is refreshing to see that our organization is working hard to foster meaningful relationships with other health care organizations that have a vested interest in CRNA practice.

The AANA Mid-Year Assembly (MYA) is fast approaching and, as always, the GANA will be well represented in our lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill. I would encourage each of you to consider attending the MYA now and in the future. It is by far the most productive and informative meeting of the year and it provides our members with the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with our national legislators and their staff members. These relationships will become vitally important as the healthcare reform moves from legislative intent to regulatory oversight and enforcement. As always, that transition can be a tough road and our hard won relationships will prove invaluable as we meet the challenges that will invariably arise.

Folks, change is here and we all have to be ready. My favorite southern humorist, Lewis Grizzard, once said, "The game of life is a lot like football. You have to tackle your problems, block your fears, and score your points when you get the opportunity." Improvise, adapt and overcome!

Shadow a CRNA

**Contact the GANA Office at 770-487-3900
or email ganaoffice@bellsouth.net**

AANA Federal Key Contact Program

As the new Federal Political Director (FPD) I am excited about the opportunities before me. My plan is to remain Georgia's FPD for at least 2 years and no longer than four. During my tenure I will do my best to recruit "new blood" into the system and encourage more CRNAs to become involved in the political process. The goal of every FPD in every state is to put patients first by promoting patient safety and also protect the practice rights of CRNAs at the federal level. As past Government Relations Committee (GRC) Chair and as a member of the GRC committee since 2006 I have strived to do this on the state level. The next step for me is to continue on at the Federal level.

My objectives as your FPD will be: to focus on grassroots efforts as they have become the most important and useful tool of the lobbying profession, build and maintain relationships with federal legislators and their staffs, establish and maintain at least one CRNA key contact for each legislator, proactively work to educate Washington policy-makers on our profession, issues, and legislation that affects CRNAs and to support CRNA-friendly federal legislators during their campaigns for election/re-election.

The AANA currently has over 40,000 members, thus, the potential grassroots force is huge. Many individual CRNAs have developed a close legislative and political relationship with their Members of Congress. The AANA is formalizing those relationships and enhancing them further through implementation of grassroots network known as the AANA Federal Key Contact Program. This program is an organized, proactive and strategic grassroots advocacy program. The purpose of the program is to build a strong on-going relationship with key Congressional members in positions important to the policy goals and objectives of the AANA. The focus will be to concentrate efforts towards those legislators who serve on committees that deal

with legislation having the greatest impact on our members such as healthcare reform, Medicare, Title 8 funding, along with other issues relating to the profession of nurse anesthesia. Congressional committees of importance to the AANA include: Appropriations - Labor/Health and Human Services, Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means and Veterans Affairs. A second group of legislators important to the AANA is a Congressman or Senator in a leadership position, one we have a good relationship with or one who has expressed an interest in forming a relationship with the AANA and those who have been helpful to the AANA in the past.

I have included in this writing for you the Georgia Key Contacts for 2009-2010 and Georgia's Key senators and representatives Committee Assignments and Leadership Positions. I would like to thank all of the Georgia CRNAs who have very graciously volunteered their time and energy for the next two years. We were able to get enough volunteers to have not only one but two contacts for each legislator. Way to go guys. Through these volunteers Georgia will have its voice heard in Washington.

If you have not yet given to the CRNA-PAC for this year please visit www.aana.com and consider donating a generous contribution to be used at the Federal level. Remember to visit www.gana.org to access the Advocacy link in order to look up information related to government affairs at the state and federal level. Finally, please contact me with any questions related to federal government issues and also if you think you might be interested in becoming a Georgia Key Contact in the future.

Steve Smith CRNA, MA
Federal Political Director
404-429-8553
slltdt@comcast.net

Oct 1-3, 2010 Georgia ANA Meeting in Atlanta



Invites you to attend the

Georgia ANA 2010 Fall Meeting in Atlanta

**at the
Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel
and
Cobb Galleria Convention Center
Atlanta, Georgia**

Key Senators and Representatives Committee Assignments and Leadership Positions

Jack Kingston – House Committee on Appropriations
Sanford Bishop – House Committee on Appropriations
Lynn Westmoreland – none
Hank Johnson – US House Committee on Armed Services
John Lewis – Senior Chief Deputy Majority Whip, US House Committee of Ways and Means
Tom Price – none
John Linder – US House Committee of Ways and Means
Jim Marshall – US House Committee on Armed Forces
Nathan Deal - *Ranking Member* US House Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health
Paul Broun – none
Phil Gingrey – US House Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health
John Barrow – US House Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health
David Scott – none
Johnny Isakson – US Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
and US senate Veterans Affairs
Saxy Chambliss – US Senate Armed Services

Rural Health Association Day



Barry Cranfill, Marni Daniel, Maegan Brass, MaryEllen McMellion, Brady Banares, Jim Masiongale, Kati Truitt, Shawn Ledford, and State Senate Majority Leader, Chip Rogers of Woodstock



Marni Daniel, MaryEllen McMellion, State Representative Quincy Murphy of Augusta, Jim Masiongale, Brady Banares, Shawn Ledford, Maegan Brass and Barry Cranfill

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GANA PAC-Spring 2010

by Carmen Simmons,

GANA PAC Chair, simmons_carmen@hotmail.com

I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have taken a few minutes out of your busy schedules to update yourselves on the issues concerning our profession. I trust that each of you received a letter outlining critical themes that must be given attention to and addressed by the GANA membership. When prompted, many of you jumped on board with contacting the MCG Administration, your own personal legislators, Senators, and state Representatives concerning the possible closing of the Nurse Anesthesia program. And I know we made an impact on the future of the MCG Nurse Anesthesia program. It is imperative that we have state officials in office who understand our issues and support our efforts, but we must prove to them that we are passionate about subject matters that threaten our profession. This is why I especially want to thank those of you who have consistently been donating funds to the GANA PAC. It is through your donations that we are capable of making a statement that will raise eyebrows and invoke interest. I want to challenge you to stretch just a little bit further by increasing your donation by \$10 a month. If you don't give monthly, give an additional \$120 for the year (over and above what you already give). This is equivalent to two Starbucks coffees out of the entire month, 10 candy bars or a tub of cookie dough from a neighboring school aged child, a pair of flip flops from Old Navy, etc. It is a small sacrifice that most of us can probably make without missing it. I also want to mention that if any of your contact information has changed, please email the changes to myself at simmons_carmen@hotmail.com. Thank you GANA for your continued support.



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Volunteering Opportunities

We are very lucky every day to take care of patients and enjoy time with our coworkers while we put our nursing, assessment, communication and anesthesia skills to use. Unfortunately, we're usually inside cold operating rooms and barely able to pass by a window throughout our days. Do you want to see a new environment, get involved in your community and even help some people? Let's get together as CRNAs representing GANA and have some fun volunteering throughout Georgia.

I'm sure we can all think of many opportunities to help and have fun locally. The options are limitless. We can consider first aid for events, staffing booths at events, speaking at school career days, talking to other organizations about what we do, serving at food kitchens, reading to children, and on and on. What interests you? What is planned for your area? How about races and cookouts on Memorial Day and July 4th, swimming/tennis/baseball events throughout the summer, football games or fall flings? Think about what will be going on. We can have fun, get out of the hospitals and surgery centers and represent our profession. If I can provide any help in setting up your plans, please email me. We can work together to organize GANA resources to help make your experience better.

Melanie Register Marshall
Public Relations Chair
Email: melgator@yahoo.com



MCCG/Mercer Class of 2009

first row: Tasha Parker, Carmen Potts, Karen Durbin, Jessica Gilbert
second row: Chase Middleton, Amy Smith, Molly Andrews,
Sheree Wolfenden - Program Director, Lauren Blond, Donna Sieber
and missing Richard Maitz



Nominations for the 2010 Rosalie McDonald Award Now Being Accepted

GANA is seeking nominations for a CRNA to receive the 2010 Rosalie McDonald Award. Please nominate a worthy CRNA for this prestigious award. All nominations must be submitted by August 1st 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 at the Renaissance Atlanta Waverly on October 2.

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GANA Calendar of Events

GANA Board Meetings:

Board of Directors' meetings (BOD)
begin at 10AM unless otherwise noted.

- May 15, 2010 at MCCG in Macon
- August 21, 2010 at MCG in Augusta

GANA Events

- Georgia Public Broadcasting – TV
Telethon in June 2010 TBA
- GANA Annual Meeting in Atlanta on
October 1-3, 2010 at the Renaissance
Atlanta Waverly Hotel

AANA EVENTS

- Mid-Year Assembly in Washington,
D.C. on April 25-28, 2010
- AANA Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA
on August 7-11 2010

Nursing Events

- Ongoing Events with the Georgia
Nurses Association

Proposed Calendar for the To and Fro

- August 2010

www.gana.org

Please take a moment to signup on the “members only” side of the website. Click on the red “members” link at the top of the webpage. After filling out the brief information allow us a few days to complete the signup. You must be an AANA/GANA member in order to access the site. Once signed up, this will allow you to access information the general public cannot. You will also be allowed to vote electronically during GANA elections. Please take time to also signup on the AANA “members only” site at www.aana.com. Once you are signed up you will be able to access the new AANA site, Anesthesia E-ssentials, which

can also be found on www.gana.org. This site contains the most current up to date information provided by the AANA.

While visiting the GANA “members only” side of the website please go to the bottom of that page. There you will find the Mailing List. If you are not receiving blast emails from the GANA you can subscribe from our secure mailing list. Likewise, if you do not wish to receive anymore blast emails from the GANA feel free to unsubscribe.

Before leaving the website be sure and visit

the Political Action Committee (PAC) link, located on the home page in the lower right hand corner. These donations are separate from the AANA and stay here in Georgia to help protect our scope of practice. We really need your support as we plan on rewarding those Legislators (both Republican and Democrat) here in Georgia who helped in our efforts to keep the Medical College of Georgia nurse anesthesia program from closing its doors. We want to make sure these Representatives and Senators stay in office. This is how your PAC money can make a difference.

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?

Nurse Practitioner _____ Other (specify) _____ (Mandatory for all donations greater than \$100)

Are you interested in lobbying with the GANA during the 2010 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 887, Tifton, GA 31793**

Forms available at www.gana.org

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

