



To & Fro

A Publication of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists • Volume 67 • Fall 2011

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 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.

Vision Statement

Recognized leaders who are committed to patient safety, practice autonomously to the fullest extent of their scope of practice, and consummate professionals with 100% of its members belonging to the AANA/GANA, and are fully reimbursed for all anesthesia services.

Report from the President

Continuing Competence for Nurse Anesthetists

by Rose M. Synsmir, CRNA, MSN, MS



At the 2011 AANA Annual Meeting, the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) introduced a draft of the Continuous Professional Certification (CPC) Program. This new program is being proposed to replace the current recertification requirements as of January 1, 2015. The goals of the program are twofold. It will serve not only to maintain core competence but also to enhance competence beyond the expectations of the initially certified nurse anesthetist. The new program encompasses ten core competencies that apply to all nurse anesthetists, regardless of the nature of their professional practice. Four of these competencies address topics and skills that are essential hallmarks of the specialty (alternative airway management techniques, applied clinical pharmacology, knowledge about human physiology, pathophysiology and anesthesia technology) and the other six enhance a nurse anesthetist's ability to provide patient care. Additionally, NBCRNA has listed six program components, one of which will be the successful completion of a standardized recertification examination every eight years. The first recertification exam will be available in 2019 and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists will be required to satisfy the recertification examination requirement no later than December 31, 2023. Individuals planning to retire by the end of 2023 will not be required to take the recertification examination.

The NBCRNA official comment period for the proposed changes is scheduled to start

September 6, 2011 and runs through November 14, 2011. Your feedback is vital and will be used to refine the program parameters prior to final approval by the NBCRNA Board of Directors. I encourage you to do your own investigations and communicate directly with NBCRNA recertification@nbcna.com. Use the comment period judiciously to ensure your concerns and questions are satisfied.

Farewell

One cannot accomplish things alone, it takes a team of people to be successful. This board has worked as a team to accomplish our mission. I am pleased to report this year's board has successfully adopted a Vision Statement and a new meeting format to improve productivity and utilize the board's time more effectively. Additionally, they have initiated a strategic plan to sustain the health of this association into the future.

It is difficult to believe my year as president has come to an end. This position has brought me great joy, challenges and satisfactions. I have had the pleasure of meeting many people and have spoken to several of Georgia's CRNAs on issues affecting our state. It has been my honor to serve as your president this past year. I appreciate the privilege that I was given to me by you, our valued members. I would like to thank my fellow board members, executive director and supportive staff, school faculty and students for their hard work and support during the past year. It has been a pleasure to work with such excellent leaders. Thank you for giving me such an invaluable experience! ■

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Communication
www.gana.org

From the Executive Director

by Christy A. Dunkelberger, Esq.

Georgia CRNAs Win AANA Elections

Congratulations to Janice Izlar and Steve Smith for their success in the recent AANA elections. Janice was elected as AANA President-elect and Steve Smith was elected to the AANA Resolutions Committee. GANA is proud of both Janice and Steve for their commitment and service on behalf of CRNAs. We are glad to have Georgia represented on the national level.

New Rules for Office-Based Anesthesia and Surgery

You may recall that during the 2009/2010 legislative session, both chambers of the Georgia legislature passed resolutions asking the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("GCMB") to create guidelines for office-based anesthesia and surgery. HR 1449 was adopted by the House; and SR 1222 was adopted in the Senate. The GCMB wrote these guidelines, which are currently being reviewed by the Attorney General's office. The Georgia Society of Anesthesiology gave its help and guidance to the GCMB with this endeavor. The GANA Board and staff have reviewed the draft guidelines and provided written comments in response. You can find a copy of the draft guidelines on the Member's section of the GANA website at www.gana.org.

Georgia Redistricting

Redistricting is the legally required task of re-dividing the state's political turf to reflect population shifts after each census. That activity is currently going on in a special session of the Georgia legislature. The Georgia House has approved a map that must move through the Senate, which creates 14 seats in the U.S. House. The vote in the House was along party lines and the Republicans drew congressional districts that will likely boost their margin in Congress to 10-4, up from the current 8-5 advantage. Democrats will likely see their numbers shrink. Once the Senate acts, the Legislature will adjourn until January.

Non Deductibility of Dues for 2011

As required by section 6033(e) of the Internal Revenue Code, we are required to inform you that \$34.00 of your state membership dues are allocated toward expenses incurred by the GANA for state lobbying activities. This amount is not deductible for federal income tax purposes. GANA receives \$232.50 from the AANA for each full dues paying member. All GANA members are also members of the AANA. The AANA will include correspondence about the amount incurred for lobbying activities from the national dues in the AANA President's letter.

GANA Fall Meeting

Plan to attend the 2011 GANA Fall Meeting at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter at Ravinia from September 30th through October 2nd. Register online at www.gana.org or www.ipge.com.

GANA Awards Available

GANA offers two (2) five hundred dollar scholarship awards to students attending the nurse anesthesia programs at both Georgia Health Sciences University and the Medical Center of Central Georgia. Any qualified student may apply to the GANA Board of Directors for one of these awards. Applicants must be a Georgia resident and have successfully completed three (3) semesters at the time of receiving the award. The criteria for selection include: academic achievement; involvement in organizations and school activities; involvement in community activities outside of school; and, the intention to practice within the state of Georgia and become an active member of GANA within one year of completion of the nurse anesthesia program. ■

2011-2012 GANA Calendar

GANA Board Meetings:

October 1, 2011	At GANA Fall Meeting
October 29, 2011	Retreat at Brasstown Valley
February 4, 2012	At MCCG in Macon
May 5, 2012	At GANA Headquarters in Fayetteville
August 25, 2012	At GHSU in Augusta

Other Meetings and Events:

September 30 – October 2, 2011	GANA Fall Meeting, Atlanta
October 13-15, 2011	GANS Convention, Athens, GA
October 29, 2011	Retreat at Brasstown Valley
November 11-13, 2011	Fall Leadership Academy in Newport Beach, CA
January 2012	Capitol Day TBD
January 22-28, 2012	National Nurse Anesthetists Week
February 23-25, 2012	AANA Assembly of School Faculty in San Diego, CA
April 15-18, 2012	AANA Mid-Year Assembly in Washington, DC
Spring 2012 (TBD)	GPB-TV Telethon
August 4-8, 2012	AANA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA

Proposed Calendar for the To & Fro:

December 2011
April 2012
August 2012

**Please remember to visit
www.gana.org for all of the latest
GANA & AANA information.**



Davida Michelle Hilton Winner of the AANA Foundation's GANA Scholarship

Davida Michelle Hilton is a senior student in the Mercer University School of Medicine/ Medical Center of Central Georgia Nurse Anesthesia Program (MUSM/MCCG). In 2006, Davida received a BSN from Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia. Davida began her nursing career in the Cardiovascular ICU at Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon, Georgia. She has been serving as the 2010-2011 GANA Student Association President.

Upon graduation, Davida plans to move to South Georgia with her family and is still exploring job opportunities in the area. She would like to thank the members of the GANA and the AANA Foundation for this scholarship. The generosity of the GANA and the AANA Foundation have truly been a blessing during this last semester of school.

In addition, Davida would like to thank her family, professors, preceptors, and classmates for the love and support during this journey through the Master's program at Mercer University School of Medicine/ Medical Center of Central Georgia Nurse Anesthesia Program (MUSM/MCCG).



Continued Professional Certification (CPC)

The new recertification program for nurse anesthetists beginning January 1, 2015.

At the AANA Annual Meeting in Boston, the NBCRNA unveiled a draft of the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) program developed over the past three years. The intent of the recertification process is to ensure that the CRNA credential represents an acknowledged commitment to excellence, and continues to distinguish us from others in the field.

The proposal is in draft form. To accommodate major changes to our website, the official comment period for the proposed changes is scheduled to start September 6, 2011 and runs through November 14, 2011. However, many of you already have written us with questions and comments, some supportive, others challenging the need for change, and most simply asking for more information. We have posted answers to the most frequently asked questions at www.nbcrna.com. We welcome your thoughts prior to the official comment date via email at recertification@nbcrna.com.

The NBCRNA understands your concerns about changes to the recertification process and wants to reassure you that the proposed recertification exam will NOT be similar to the rigorous entry level certification exam. The recertification exam will evaluate clinically relevant knowledge in which all certified registered nurse anesthetists must be proficient regardless of their practice setting. These areas include 4 core competencies: airway management, pharmacology, pathophysiology and anesthesia technology. The recertification exam will contribute to ensuring that those who hold a CRNA credential are seen as committed to being the best educated, best prepared workforce possible.

The proposed changes would go into effect in 2015, and the first recertification exam will be available in 2019. ***Those individuals who are planning to retire by the end of 2023 will not be required to take the recertification examination.*** To assure constituents fully understand both the goals and specifics of the program as drafted, we will shortly announce a series of web based town hall meetings to give people an additional opportunity to discuss the proposed changes in the Continued Professional Certification program. We look forward to your participation and receiving your input.

Questions? Contact us now at recertification@nbcrna.com.

Hotlines
Peer Assistance
800.654.5167

[www.aana.com/
peerassist.aspx](http://www.aana.com/peerassist.aspx)

Anesthetists in
Recovery (AIR)
215.635.0183

Around the AANA

by Sharon Pearce, CRNA



"The penalty that good men pay for not being interested in politics is to be governed by men worse than themselves."

— Plato (427-347BC)

AANA Website Being Redesigned

In an effort to streamline and automate several new website features, such as online meeting registration and bookstore purchasing, the AANA website is in the process of being redesigned. When completed the site will have a new look and much more functionality, including more robust search capabilities. It will also have a new content management system, which will continue to allow AANA to add content at the department level throughout the organization. Another new feature will be the ability for members to update their member information themselves. The new website is expected to be in place by September 1, 2011.

Current AANA Website Ranks Up There

Did you know the following about the AANA website? Of the millions of websites on the Internet, the AANA's website currently ranks 207,245 according to Alexa, a well-known website-ranking service (www.alexa.com). Alexa ranks sites based primarily on traffic. The lower a site's ranking, the greater the site's traffic. By comparison, the American Society of Anesthesiologists' website currently ranks at 391,932.

Join the AANA In-Crowd on Facebook and Twitter

AANA's Facebook page was started in 2010 and now has more than 2,675 "likers." Are you one of them? If not, join the fun. And while you're at it, become a follower of the AANA via Twitter. Tweets include updates on the latest news, information, and events posted to the AANA website. Be among the first to know what's going on at the AANA via Twitter!

Shadow a CRNA

Contact the GANA office
by email at
ganaoffice@bellsouth.net



Mercer/MCCG Nurse Anesthesia Program Update

by Sheree Wolfenden, CRNA, JD

Life can be very challenging at times.

Just when you think you have everything organized; another challenge comes knocking. Unexpected news is another opportunity for growth and positive change for everyone involved in major, yet, necessary business decisions. Unexpected news reminds me of Clinical Anesthesia; we have to adapt to physiological changes and make the right decisions for the wellbeing of our patients.

The Mercer University/Medical Center of Central Georgia Nurse Anesthesia Program was established in 2004. The program has graduated 37 well prepared CRNAs over the past 7 years. This year, Mercer University and the Medical Center of Central Georgia made the difficult decision that the affiliation agreement would not be renewed after graduating the class of 2012. The program has commitments from all partners to complete a teach-out process that will ensure the class will graduate from the same quality program.

The Medical Center is committed to supporting a CRNA Program. We are in discussions with a well respected Georgia University to explore a partnership and new program affiliation. MCCG Senior Administration, Rickie and I have had discussions and meetings with University Representatives. The University is currently doing due diligence with documents and financial information that has been provided to them. A decision should be forth coming sometime later this year, and GANA will be notified as soon as possible.

I remain hopeful this union will work and be approved by the University School of Nursing, University Board of Directors, University President and all Accreditation Agencies involved. ■

The AANA Needs You – You Need the AANA

by Janice J. Izlar, CRNA, DNAP



AAANA membership is valued for different reasons. Members depend on the ease of tracking continued education credit hours and transferring them to NBCRNA for recertification. Many members value receipt of news worthy information in the *AANA Journal*, *NewsBulletin*, and *E-ssential*. Some members benefit from continuing education opportunities. Availability of professional liability insurance is important to some members. All CRNAs benefit from the AANA's protection of scope of practice attacks, promotion of evidence-based patient safety initiatives and reimbursement advocacy.

A few members are quick to become upset with one decision by the AANA Board of Directors or an affiliate organization and threaten to "quit belonging to the AANA." I simply cannot understand this impulsive action. Without the AANA and visionary leadership for the last 80 years none of us would have benefitted from educational opportunities, had the privilege to practice as a nurse anesthetist nor been compensated for a satisfying career. I suggest, rather than withholding your vital dues money, which is approximately a half-a-day's pay, be an advocate for change. Ask yourself, do I want to deteriorate my chosen profession or enhance it?

If something is important to you, let your state and national leaders know. If you don't like something, get involved and change it. Withholding your membership will weaken your position as a CRNA in your workplace, in state and federal legislative arenas, with regulatory bodies like the Center for Medicare and Medicaid, with accrediting bodies like the Joint Commission and with liaisons like the National Rural Health Association. The reactionary move of withholding dues allocations weakens the AANA's ability to promote patient safety and quality of nurse anesthesia care as recently published in *Health Affairs* and *Nursing Economics*.

Furthermore, your state association depends on your dues money for their operations since \$232.50 of your dues is returned to your state association. State leaders rely on AANA staff resources to guide them in their decision-making processes. In addition, state associations are reassured of financial stability with the dues financed Strategic Reserve Fund, set up to fend off adverse attacks. This fund is supported by \$62.50 of your annual dues.

Your voluntary leaders give, with pleasure, countless hours and monies so CRNAs can benefit from a rewarding profession. Your AANA Board and Finance Committee take their fiduciary responsibility very serious, allocating resources to benefit CRNAs, the profession and our organization at the state and national level.

Collectively, we can successfully match any adversary. Let's stand together, fight together, and promote our chosen profession together with a unified voice. Strength and power comes from within each of us, join me in cherishing AANA membership and let nothing separate you from the pride and privilege of having an AANA membership card. ■

Georgia Health Sciences University Nurse Anesthesia School Report

by James Masiongale,
Director & Clinical Coordinator
Nursing Anesthesia Program,
GHSU

GHSU's Nursing Anesthesia Program would like to welcome the Class of 2013. Twenty highly motivated individuals arrived on campus August 20th for orientation. They are now inundated in reading and studying, as they embark on their 28-month quest to be CRNAs. No one was happier to see them than the Class of 2012. Their arrival indicates the beginning of clinical for the junior class. They now join the Class of 2011 in the clinical arena, making 39 students in our 26 clinical sites across the state. The Class of 2011 has begun their final semester and will be graduating in December.

Three faculty members and several students attended the AANA National Meeting in Boston. It was a wonderful meeting and everyone enjoyed the lower temperatures and the beautiful sights of Boston.

As always I want to thank all of the clinical instructors. You are the heart and backbone of our program and without you we could not exist. Taking the time to share your knowledge, experience, and skills is one of the greatest gifts you can give back to this wonderful profession. You are true Hero's in the eyes of the students and didactic faculty, and we are forever grateful to you.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to send me an email or give me a call at (706) 721-8215 or jmasiong@georgiahealth.edu.

Welder Has Earned a Second Bronze Star

On behalf of the GANA Board of Directors and the membership, I would like to take this opportunity to give gratitude and thanks to one of our own, Major Matthew D. Welder. He currently resides in Evans, Georgia and is stationed at Fort Gordon, where he is the senior clinical anesthesia instructor for the nurse anesthesia residency program at Dwight D. Eisenhower Medical Center. He is married to Jennifer Welder (Professor at Georgia Health Sciences University) and they have four children (three daughters and one son). Matthew has served in three combat tours, been a guest lecturer for Georgia Health Sciences University and has plans to move to Korea as chief of anesthesia in January for a one year tour. He then plans on returning to Fort Gordon and retire in 2015. His future plans include pursuing his DNP and teach anesthesia at a major university. I, for one, cannot thank Matthew enough for his selfless contributions to our country and giving back to the great profession of nurse anesthesia. Please see his story below from the Ogden Reporter on August 10, 2011. (Introduction by Steve Smith CRNA, MA):

Major Matthew D. Welder, a 1990 OHS graduate and son of Larry and Sandy Welder of Ogden, is the recipient of two Bronze Stars. Major Welder presented a plaque to his childhood church, Immanuel Lutheran, during the Aug. 7, 2011 church service. The plaque that included one of his Bronze Stars read: "Thank you for your dedication and prayers. Your presence in my life will never be forgotten."

Major Welder served two tours of duty in Iraq and one tour in Afghanistan as a member of the United States Army. He is an anesthesia provider and also the senior clinical anesthesia instructor for the residency program at Dwight D. Eisenhower Medical Center at Fort Gordon, GA.

He will be serving a one year tour in South Korea as chief of anesthesia at the hospital on base.

Major Welder was presented his first Bronze Star in 2006 for his "meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the United States as certified registered nurse anesthetist, Task Force 21 Medical, Forward operating Base Abu Ghraib and Camp Cropper from 28 April 2006 to 15 October 2006 during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)."

The following narrative accompanied his award:

Captain Matthew Welder served superbly as one of only two anesthesia providers for Task Force 21 Medical, providing life-saving care for numerous Marines, Soldiers, Iraqi Army, civilians and security



Major Matthew Welder, left, spoke before the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church last Sunday and explained how the power of prayer helped him through the difficult times and what their prayers meant to him. Pastor Gordon Lundberg accepted the plaque on the church's behalf. — Photo by Sharon Album

detainees. Captain Welder's efforts were in direct combat support of Forward Operating Base and the area west of Baghdad, including operations in Ramadi. These units frequently suffered battle-field casualties due to improvised explosive devices, ambush, mortar, or sniper fire resulting in complex life and limb threatening injuries. These casualties arrived at the prison hospital within minutes of the attack, creating a challenging and critical period where seconds counted and rapid decisions made the difference between life and death.

Captain Welder consistently demonstrated his highly refined professional trauma management skills and abilities to make the right decision with each and every one of these critically wounded Soldiers. His professionalism and expertise resulted in highly successful trauma resuscitations, diminishing the risk

of permanent injury and disability, and giving each patient the optimal opportunity for full recovery.

Airway management is often the most critical primary concern during trauma resuscitation, and often the most challenging and terrifying for the health care provider. With uncommon steadiness, mental courage and aptitude, Captain Welder built his reputation as a team member that would be sought out over others and when the situation was tense and a second try may not be possible.

His expertise in airway management and trauma resuscitation was a keystone in the trauma training of over 50 Registered Nurses and 75 Combat Medics composing the clinical staff of Task Force 21 Medical. During his six month tour, the hospital will have conducted over 500 surgical procedures, to include over 30 Coalition casualty surgical episodes.

His dedication to duty ensured the provision of quality combat health support to Coalition forces and security detainees during combat operations and reflect great credit upon him, the Task Force 21 Medical, the Task Force 30th Medical Brigade, and the Multi-National Corps Iraq.

Major Welder's second Bronze Star was received in 2008 following his third tour overseas in Afghanistan. It read:

For exceptionally meritorious achievement as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist for a Joint Task Force in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During this period, Captain Welder's superb performance contributed significantly to the immediate medical care and success of The Unit's missions while conducting combat operations. Through his distinctive accomplishments, Captain Welder reflected great credit upon himself, this Command and the United States Army. ■

GANA Archives & History

by Mary P. Flister, CRNA

Planning for the future is not usually associated with delving into the past. However, the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists requires the same careful planning as the founding of the association experienced with input from charter members.

Please plan to attend this year's GANA fall meeting at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta, Georgia, September 30 – October 2 to support your state association. If you are unable to attend the entire meeting, be sure to make time on Saturday, October 1 to attend the GANA Business Meeting from 12:30pm to 2pm*. We will be celebrating the election of Janice Izlar, CRNA, to president-elect of the AANA and Steve Smith, CRNA to the AANA Resolutions Committee and presenting the 2011 Rosalie McDonald award winner. You will

also learn about the Georgia legislative environment as it pertains to CRNAs in Georgia.

The Archives and History committee will have on display the framed founding charter of GANA and a special feature display paying tribute to the 2nd through 5th signers of the 1938 GANA Charter.

We are also looking for volunteers to participate in a committee planning for the 75th GANA Annual meeting in the fall of 2013. I will be at the Archives exhibit with a sign-up sheet for that purpose ... planning for the future while showing you the past!!

**GANA Business Meeting ONLY. Attendance does NOT include the conference luncheon.*

Five Past Rosalie McDonald Award Winners Get Together for Lunch



Bottom row (L to R): Mary Flister (2009), Leslie Jeter (2007) Top row (L to R): Ann Thompson (2002), Nell Livingood (1st recipient in 1988) and Teresa Hennings (2004). Four of the group served as GANA President with Leslie and Ann serving two terms. Teresa Hennings served for multiple years as GANA Treasurer and *To and Fro* editor. *These ladies are an inspiration to us all!*



RACE LOCATION:

Meet for registration on the lobby level in the Dunwoody Room at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Atlanta Perimeter at Ravinia, 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, GA 30346

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Registration time: 5:30 a.m.
Race start time: 6:00 a.m.
Breakfast time: 6:30 – 7:00 a.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The run/walk is primarily on an asphalt surface. The course is flat.

T-Shirt (with design at left, sizes on a first-come, first-serve basis): \$20 for early registration by Friday, Sept. 30th or \$25 day of the race.

CONTACT INFO: Rose 917-723-8409

WEBSITE LINK: www.gana.org

Race to be held rain or shine.

**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 2011 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!*



Medicare Cuts to CRNA, Physician Payments Coming January 2012

by Steve Smith CRNA, MA



I hope everyone had a nice summer and was able to take some vacation time off and spend quality time with friends and family. To all the CRNAs and SRNAs from Georgia that were able to attend this year's AANA Annual Meeting, thank you on behalf of the membership for representing Georgia. I would also like to give a special thanks to Janice Izlar, Rose Synsmir and Leslie Jeter who attended the CRNA-PAC Fundraiser at the JFK Presidential Library during the AANA Annual Meeting in Boston. The proceeds from the entire AANA Annual Meeting raised over \$100,000 for CRNA-PAC, a record. On another note, Janice Izlar and I would like to personally thank the GANA for your support in the recent AANA 2011-2012 elections. Georgia had one of the top voter turnouts in the country, especially among the larger states. Janice was elected as the AANA President-Elect and will become the AANA President for 2012-2013 and Steve was elected to the AANA Resolutions Committee.

Medicare will cut CRNA and physician payments by 29.5% on January 1, 2012, unless Congress acts to reverse the cut. The funding to reverse the cuts are some \$25 billion for one year's fix, and over \$300 billion for ten years. In an AANA comment letter sent in August to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) it stated the Medicare agency should take the lead in informing Congress about the huge impact the cut would have on U.S. healthcare, and should also fully recognize CRNA practice in every circumstance. Here's how you can help. Access the "Care to be Counted" link either at www.gana.org or www.aana.com and under the CRNA Advocacy tab press "Take Action" and follow the prompts. This will allow you to send a personal message to your Senators and Congressman. If you are thinking these cuts will only affect those CRNAs who do their own billing, you are sorely mistaken. The fallout effect of these cuts would affect all of healthcare. For those CRNAs working in an anesthesia care team (ACT) practice it would mean the possible loss of CRNA positions. Everyone will be affected! When contacted by the AANA or GANA to advocate for your profession, please do so, it could mean your job.

If you have not yet visited the "Care to be Counted" site on www.aana.com, I highly recommend it. Here you will find a wealth of information concerning AANA Federal Government Affairs. It explains who and what the AANA-PAC does and how to donate or become a member, where our PAC dollars go, how to find your legislative officials and how to take action on issues that affect

CRNAs. I would also like to encourage you to check out Anesthesia E-ssential that is sent out electronically every two weeks or so by the AANA or you can access it either on the GANA or AANA website. It will help keep you abreast of all the federal issues affecting us. Another excellent resource to help keep up with federal issues is the AANA Federal Government Affairs "Hotline" published for CRNAs each week that Congress is in session. It can be located at www.aana.com under the Government Relations tab.

Remember to give to your CRNA-PAC fund. It's all about maintaining our scope of practice. Your contributions help ensure that we are able to elect and re-elect those that are friendly to our cause. The easiest way to make your contribution is to go to the "Care to be Counted" site as previously mentioned in my report. It's not too early to be making plans to attend the 2012 Mid-Year Assembly in Washington D.C. on April 15-18. This meeting allows you to meet your federal legislators from Georgia and advocate for your state membership. It's the one meeting where you can truly make a difference in your profession. I am making plans to have a booth set up at the GANA Annual Fall Meeting in Atlanta, September 30 - October 2. Please come by and visit. Thank you all for allowing me to represent you as your FPD. I am looking forward to working with the new board of directors for 2011-2012. As always, I welcome any questions or concerns relating to federal issues. ■

The GANA Business Meeting
will be held
Saturday, October 1, 2011
at 12:30 pm
at the GANA Annual Fall Meeting
in Atlanta.

Also, later that afternoon (time TBA),
there will be a brief GANA Board of
Directors Meeting.

All GANA members are welcome!

You Are Your Own Best Ambassador

*by Melanie Register Marshall
CRNA, MN*



On Saturday, August 13, 2011, several GANA members volunteered at Georgia Public Broadcasting's TV pledge drive. Members wore red "CRNA" shirts and had prime seats with lots of TV time. We spoke live with GPB's hostess about our care for patients across the state. It was a fun experience and a great opportunity for statewide exposure for CRNAs.

Is that what it takes for you to have effective public relations, though? Every day, you are your own best ambassador to your most discerning client, your surgeons. You are the frontline public relations provider for CRNAs. Your surgeons are aware and watching all that you do to take care of his or her patient. The surgeon sees your performance and care and also hears patients who are happy with your care. Please remember that every time you introduce yourself as a CRNA and promise to provide excellent care to your patients, you're also demonstrating value to your surgeons. Always keep in mind your profession and your personal connection with your surgeon in every interaction you have and you will be the most valuable public relations tool available to the AANA and GANA.



*Janice Izlar,
AANA President-Elect with Sharon
Pearce, AANA
Region 2 Director
at the AANA
Annual Meeting
PAC fundraiser at
the JFK Library*

Georgia CRNAs In Action



(L to R): Bryan Parker, Nyrva Cadet, Steve Smith, Melanie Marshall, Julie Parker, Gil Kandrac and Lisa Smith volunteering at the GPB-TV Telethon on August 13, 2011



(L to R): CRNAs Nyrva Cadet, Gil Kandrac, Steve Smith and Melanie Marshall volunteering at the GPB-TV Telethon on behalf of the GANA on August 13, 2011.



Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU) Class of 2013 was in attendance at the August 27, 2011 GANA Board of Directors meeting.

2011 AANA Annual Meeting Banquet



*Charles Izlar, Janice Izlar,
Daniel Dell, Tamika Park,
Rose Synsmir, Leslie Jeter and
Ellis Izlar*



*AANA President-Elect
Janice Izlar and
GANA President Rose Synsmir*



AANA President-Elect Janice Izlar with her son Ellis and husband Charles

Thank you from Janice J. Izlar, CRNA, DNAP

Thank you for giving me the highest honor of serving as AANA President-elect. It was a shining moment when I reviewed the states' voting percentage and realized Georgia had one of the highest percentages. I could not have achieved this milestone without your support.

I consider AANA service a privilege. It is not a path traveled by many. On the journey I am grateful to have the pleasure of meeting CRNAs from every state. The opportunity to step on that path of professional service and make a difference in our profession is a pleasure and one that I am humbled to have.

During the next 2 years as President-elect and President, sometimes I will get it right, other times I will need to improve, but will remain steadfast in the duty to represent each of you. It will be easier to advocate for members if I hear from you, my GANA colleagues. Please contact me with your ideas and concerns for our esteemed profession. I continually seek your support for our organization, the AANA.

All the best,
Janice

September 30 – October 2, 2011



The Institute for Post-Graduate Education, Inc.

and



The Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists

presents:

The GANA Fall 2011 Meeting in Atlanta

at the



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Go to www.ipge.com or www.gana.org to register.

GANAS Report

by Davida M. Hilton, SRNA
GANAS President
Mercer University/MCCG Nurse Anesthesia Program

Well my senior associates, the end is near! What an exciting time for all the SRNAs across the state! SRNAs before you decide to combust with excitement and anticipation over your career choice in anesthesia, I must inform all the SRNAs of an important event. What? Why is this girl so pumped? The GANA fall meeting!

The meeting is fast approaching and there will be some exciting topics that will be presented. I honestly cannot believe it has been two years since my first GANA meeting. I remember walking around looking dazed and confused. I was one of those overwhelmed new faces at the meeting. I had no idea what to expect. I can still remember walking into the meeting room and thinking "Oh My God". I immediately went through all my "To Do" list items. I remember thinking I have multiple test and clinicals to prepare for, all before Monday. I thought I do not have time for this meeting! However, I quickly caught the excitement and energy of the board members. There was a fire in the atmosphere for anesthesia. I realized quickly the importance of the fall meeting. Ever since the first meeting I attended, I have looked forward to the fall meeting.

I have been reflecting over my short time in the anesthesia realm and realize I have grown so much. However, I have a long way to go. When I am asked by a CRNA "Are you ready to graduate?" all sorts of feelings and thoughts come to mind. The feelings and emotions are still intense even with graduation in the near future. However, the focus tends to shift as a student as the months turn into semesters.

As you sit and read this, many of you have the same thoughts and emotions about your anesthesia experiences. I can tell you from my experience, once the shock of adjusting to graduate school passes, it does get better and you begin to settle into a routine.

The pace and never ending "To Do" list becomes a normal part of being back in school. You may not have any real interest in the GANA fall meeting at the beginning of your graduate program, but I can tell you as you move closer to graduation, you realize the importance of meetings and the Board of Directors. I want to impress upon each of you to have an interest in what happens during this GANA meeting and the impact the pivotal topics have on our practice.

As a graduate student, it's okay to take time to focus on your studies. However, begin to take "baby-steps" to introduce yourself to the topics at hand and the politics. Use this upcoming GANA fall meeting as a way to expose yourself to our GANA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors pave the road for our future journey in the profession. The journey ahead may seem long and relentless, but remember the dream that inspired you to become a CRNA. We must always press ourselves to be the best we can in our profession, even though, at times being a SRNA seems overwhelming. Even now there are times I wonder how I am going to make it through one day to the next. However, the Board of Directors and GANA meetings always give me inspiration to push myself forward.

I hope each of you will catch the spark at the meeting. I can honestly tell you I admire the board members and want to continue to strive to work hard for our profession and the future of anesthesia. The board needs us as future CRNAs to carry out the goals of the

association. As the semesters have passed, the tests and practicum have come and gone. Now, the biggest test of all lies ahead for many of us. Boards! Study Hard! Good luck to all! See you all at the fall meeting!!! ■



Mercer/MCCG students
Jesse Kaiser and Davida
Hilton in the classroom
practicing suturing for
CVL placement

Class of 2012

by Tina Powers, SRNA

Mercer University/MCCG Nurse Anesthesia Program

The class of 2012 has completed one year of our 28-month journey! We have been proud to reach that milestone in our education. The second semester we studied Advanced Physiology, Advanced Pathophysiology, Principles II, and Clinical Practicum I. The third semester our classes included Introduction to Research, Advanced Pharmacology II, and Clinical Practicum II. We also participated in various community service projects during these two semesters.

In our physiology class we were responsible for the lectures of the class. Each student taught the class a total of 4 different times during the semester. The responsibility of being prepared thoroughly for the presentation and to speak in front of the class helped us to grow both personally and professionally. In addition to our final exam, we also were given an oral exam over several important aspects of physiology. Our pathophysiology class included an evidence-based research paper over various topics and a presentation of that paper to the class.

Principles II introduced us to more aspects of anesthesia that are critical to our learning, which, in addition to Clinical Practicum I, prepared us to enter the OR for our hands-on learning experience. We were in the OR one day a week during this semester. We were able to have rotations such as airway, pre-op, PACU, and being with an anesthesia tech to enhance our learning experience. What caused us great stress at the beginning of this semester, such as preparing the anesthesia table and completing the machine check-off, is now part of our everyday routine. We are delighted that we can now perform these duties with ease.

Summer semester which brought with it a whole new set of challenges, recently came to a close. Probably the biggest challenge was being in the OR 4 days each week while continuing to be responsible for didactic study as well. Our clinical days begin very early and end in the late afternoon or early evening. As soon as each clinical day comes to an end, we began preparing for the next day, which includes studying for the surgical case, writing a detailed care plan, and contacting our assigned CRNA to discuss our proposed plan.

As Fall semester is beginning, we are all experiencing a myriad of emotions; triumph as we reflect on our accomplishments of the past year; excitement as we become seniors, appreciation and love for the graduating seniors, trepidation as we embark on what may be our most challenging semester yet, exhaustion as we continue our grueling schedule, sadness as we are more separated from our families than ever; anxiety as we begin our outside rotations, but most of all joy as we remind ourselves that each day that comes to a close means we are one day closer to our own graduation. ■

You Are Only as Good as Your Last Case

by Kevin Roark, SRNA

Mercer University/MCCG Nurse Anesthesia Program

It is August here in Georgia, and it's hot. The kind of hot that makes glasses fog up after spending all day inside a brisk 60-degree operating room. The long soak in the OR's cool temperature makes me appreciate the Georgia heat upon my first steps outside of the hospital, albeit a short appreciation. Whoosh, doors open, ahhh, warm Georgia sunshine on my cold face.

This contrast in temperatures is analogous to the feelings I face with graduating from CRNA School in 15 weeks. Sometimes the feelings are hot and sometimes they are cold. Most days, I am just plain happy to be almost done with such a long-term goal. Other days, I wonder when I will get used to being in a case all by myself.

The excitement of our upcoming graduation manifests itself in many ways. For instance, there are class countdowns to graduation. I am guilty of this. As president of my class, one of my duties is to remind my classmates, every so often, how far we have to go (or how far we have come). I always get at least 2-3 replies saying, "Thanks, I needed that!" or "Wow! That's just around the corner!" There are also conversations overheard with classmates about the things that will be different once school is finished like: decent health insurance, vacations, or dinner without ramen noodles.

We don't get too excited though, because anesthesia is a very humbling profession. Just as soon as you think you have it figured out, something will surely bring you down a notch (or three). A very wise, veteran CRNA told me recently, "You are only as good as your last case." This mantra helps me keep things in perspective on good days and bad days. It does not matter if you have done something successfully 100 times, because #101 just might be different.

I would like to thank all my classmates for helping me get through the last 2 years of school. They have all volunteered to help out with my various "presidential duties", and we have all leaned on and learned from each other at one point or another.

I would also like to thank my family, friends, professors and clinical instructors for all of your support and patience.

We are almost there CO-2011.

109 days until graduation (as of 8-22-11)
15 weeks
59 actual shifts

To & Fro

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☐ Obtain a seat on the Board of Directors

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

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☐ I will participate in any area needed

☐ Other: _____

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