



# To & Fro

A Publication of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists • Volume 73 • Fall 2013

## Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists CRNAs

- Represent nearly 150 years of quality anesthesia
- Safely administer approximately 34 million anesthetics in the US every year
- Represented by 47,000 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
- Provide high quality, safe, efficient and cost effective anesthesia care

### 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 are consummate professionals with 100% of its members belonging to the AANA/ GANA, and are fully reimbursed for all anesthesia services.

## *Report from the AANA Past President*

### **A Word from the “Steel Magnolia”**

*by Janice J. Izlar, CRNA, DNAP*



During the Annual meeting in Las Vegas I heard CRNA leaders comment how important it is for an AANA President to have the support of their state association. I am grateful for the support and encouragement of my state association. The GANA stood beside me throughout campaigns for elected AANA positions, years of service on the AANA Board and, especially, as President during fiscal year 2013. It was obvious to other AANA leaders my state was always there for me with special touches like flowers in my room during a stressful meeting, hosting a reception in my honor during a national meeting, thoughtful gifts to recognize the moment and campaign calls to get out the vote in close election races. I am proud I could bring the AANA Presidency back to Georgia as the second member of the GANA to serve as AANA President. After a 70-year void, it is a special addition to our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and I hope to see many of you during the October celebration in Stone Mountain.

There were numerous accomplishments throughout the year and I am pleased with the actions. Not taking our over 90% membership rate for granted, we placed promoting the value of membership as a high priority. Our goal was not just for you to be happy customers but be raving fans! It was especially fun for me to engage members on the various CRNA run list serves. It solidified my preconceived belief, that if CRNAs are given the facts they will engage and make wise decisions.

The Federal Government Affairs division scored 3 huge victories this year. A very favorable final rule authorizing Medicare coverage of all CRNA services in their state scope of practice, including chronic pain management services, a Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) billing clarification that ensures CRNA economic advantage over Anesthesiologist Assistants (AA) by stating services by an AA may not be billed as QZ or non-medically directed as CRNAs are educated and authorized to do and the Medicare agency's proposal to eliminate the requirement that covered bariatric surgery services be performed in accredited Bariatric Centers of Excellence, whose certification guidelines include the requirement that an anesthesiologist provide anesthesia services or supervise anesthesia services when a CRNA delivers the anesthesia care. Having my signature on numerous letters advocating and defending CRNA scope of practice and reputation as qualified, cost-effective, accessible anesthesia providers was rewarding.

Partnership between our state leaders, State Government Affairs and State Management Affairs divisions led to several key state legislative victories and fending off potential negative efforts. Work continues for our state leaders as more of a shift to state scope of practice occurs but organizational assessments are preparing the voluntary leaders with necessary skills and the AANA is ready and willing to support efforts of the state leaders in legislative, regulatory and judicial initiatives.

*(continued on page 6)*



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by Christy A. Dunkelberger, Esq.

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www.gana.org



*Proud supporter of  
Anesthesia Patient  
Safety Foundation*

### 2013 AANA Annual Meeting

I had the privilege of attending the AANA Annual Meeting where our own Janice Izlar closed out her year as President of the AANA and passed the gavel to Dennis Bless. I was honored to be allowed to participate along with Leslie Jeter in presenting the GANA gift to Janice. As you know Janice has become known as Georgia's "Steel Magnolia". As a leader she displayed the qualities of having the strength of steel, yet being able to be as delicate as a flower. To capture and honor these qualities for Janice, GANA presented her with a Frabel sculpture of a magnolia. We hope this gift will be a lasting reminder that Janice is Georgia's Steel Magnolia. We are very proud of her leadership and accomplishments.

### Member Engagement

Once again as GANA goes through its annual election process, the Nominating Committee was challenged with filling the slots on the ballot. Filling the ballot with one or more candidates per position frequently poses a problem. So why do we have trouble engaging our membership? I suppose that only the members can answer that question, but member engagement is a topic getting a lot of attention by organization analysts. Volunteerism is down across the board. According to a United States Bureau of Labor Statistics publication dated February 2013, "Volunteering in the United States" overall volunteerism was down in 2012 by 0.3 percentage points over 2011. The figures for various age groups showed declines steeper than the overall dip. The groups with the biggest declines were the age groups over 45 and those between 20 to 24 years of age.

It is tough to engage members when everyone's life is full of family and work obligations and there is precious little time left over for relaxation and/or fun. This year GANA made some adjustments in the way it conducts business as a direct result of recognizing the personal needs of its members who volunteer to serve. It initiated an electronic newsletter to replace the paper copy of the To & Fro; and held its first virtual Board Meeting. Both of these changes have been well-received. The Board continues to investigate ways to attract more members to serve and who will remain more active in the association. We would like to build a pathway that will attract new interest in actively serving GANA and get people to stay engaged. Please help us with this effort. Let us know if you are interested in being actively involved, such as serving on a committee or running for a seat on the Board. The next board meeting will be held on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> during the Fall Anniversary Meeting. Please join us and give us the answers as to how we can increase member engagement. Tell us what it would take for you to convert from an observer to an actively engaged member.

### Legislative and Regulatory Issues

GANa continues to monitor the fall-out from HB 178. The Georgia Composite Board of Medical Examiners has created a pain management committee in response to its responsibility granted by HB 178. Proposed rules have been published for review and comments and will be considered at a hearing on October 10, 2013. A copy of the proposed rules can be found at GCMB website. The passage of HB 178 during last legislative session was a setback for CRNAs. A group of affected and interested CRNAs will continue to address this issue until the restriction placed on CRNAs' scope of practice by HB 178 is removed. If you are affected, please contact the GANA office.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Looking Back and Moving Forward

by James Masionale, CRNA, MHS



**A**s I prepared to write my last President's Message for the *To & Fro*, I was perplexed as to what I should write about. Should I do a reflection of the events that occurred during this past year or share with you where I feel we need to go in the future? Unable to come to a conclusion, I decided to touch on both.

Last year GANA celebrated many magnificent accomplishments; none bigger than having one of our past presidents hold the highest elected position in the AANA. Janice Izlar did an outstanding job representing CRNAs during her year as President and many fellow Georgians were at the Annual Meeting Banquet to help her celebrate as she passed the gavel to incoming President Dennis Bless. In addition to Janice, many other past GANA presidents have had vital roles in AANA activities throughout the year. On behalf of GANA and Georgia CRNAs I would like to thank all of them for volunteering their time and efforts to help ensure our national organization remains strong and continues to ensure our practice remains intact. GANA celebrated some "firsts" this year. We held our first Board of Directors virtual meeting this year and it was well received by all attending. We also went to a paperless *To & Fro*. Going paperless allowed the use of more photographs, reduced the size restrictions necessary when doing printed versions, and the financial savings are substantial. I'm very happy to report that this past year GANA's total assets and our PAC fund hit all time record highs, ensuring our ability to advocate on behalf of Georgia CRNAs remains strong. The one not so bright event that occurred this year was the passage of HB178, also known as the pain management bill. We tried unsuccessfully to get the bill amended to remove the restrictions placed on CRNAs by the bill. The last thing that was a bright spot for the year has yet to occur. GANA celebrates 75 years this October in what is going to be the biggest and best Fall meeting in the history of the association. Past president Rose Synsmir and her committee have planned a wonderful event full of education and celebration. Trust me you do not want to miss this event!

Now I will discuss where I feel we need to go in the future. We have been very fortunate to have some talented individuals willing to run for office and serve on committees and we have the best executive director/legal counsel of any state, but there needs to be more involvement from others. If you look at this year's GANA ballot, you will see many positions with only one person running. To be honest, we were lucky to get one person for each position! The biggest threat facing GANA today in my opinion is lack of membership involvement,

especially when it comes to holding an elected position. At the last board meeting I recommended to President-elect Mark Schmitz and those with a year remaining on the board to make it a priority to find ways to make serving more desirable. I believe continuing the virtual meetings, finding a way to allow GANA members to participate in them and scheduling the meetings on weeknights rather than Saturdays may be a good start. I also believe there should be some incentives to serving. Financially, GANA has never been stronger. I feel next years board and financial committee should consider adding a line item to the budget to fund GANA elected officials at the annual fall meeting throughout their time spent on the board or while holding office. Several other states do this, so it is not that farfetched. To be honest I'm not sure if these things will work or not, only you know what it would take to get you to be involved or run for office, it sure would be nice if you would share it with us.

See you at the GANA 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration in Stone Mountain! ■

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### From the Executive Director

*(continued from page 2)*

### GANA Activities

**2013 GANA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fall Meeting** – The 2013 Annual Fall Meeting will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your organization, the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists. This marks an historic milestone for GANA. The anniversary celebration will be held October 4-6 2013, at the Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort in Stone Mountain, Georgia. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this historic event. The GANA Archives Committee promises that this 75<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a memorable and extraordinary event. Visit [www.gana.org](http://www.gana.org) or [www.IPGE.com](http://www.IPGE.com) for more details. A special GALA Celebration is scheduled for Saturday evening, October 5<sup>th</sup>. This celebration will include a sit-down dinner and entertainment by the nationally known CRNA group, the Laryngospasms. Please purchase your GALA tickets separately at [www.gana.org](http://www.gana.org) and join us for the fun.

**GANA Board Meeting** – The next GANA Board Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2013 during the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting in Stone Mountain. If you want to observe your Board of Directors at work, plan to attend this meeting. ■



## Fall Assembly Leadership Academy

by Mark Schmitz, CRNA



August was a busy month attending the Annual AANA Meeting in Las Vegas, and attending the GANA BOD meeting in Augusta. While in Nevada representing GANA and its members, several Board members and non-board members heard much debate regarding bylaw changes and voting on them. As not to be repetitive, the results can be found on the AANA website.

At the August GANA Board of Directors meeting, one CRNA member at large attended. Thirty students from GRU attended. What's the deal? According to the GA BON, Georgia has 1851 CRNAs. I realize 1851 can't attend at the same time. However, we have a hard enough time getting members to attend the Fall Meeting and Business meetings while earning CEUs. By the way, that meeting (75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GANA) is 04-06 October at the Evergreen Marriott Resort in Stone Mountain Park this year. I appreciate the members that cover my (and other Board members and officers) call or duties when GANA responsibilities arise. All of us have "go to" people that serve the GANA by consistently helping in that manner. Without you, many of the GANA responsibilities would be harder or impossible to accomplish. Unfortunately, the number of "go to" people is decreasing due to retirement or plans to retire before too long. I understand all of us lead busy lives. How many times has it been thought that I'm too busy? Someone else will do it. You've read about this same issue before now. I've written about it before. Other presidents, officers and board members have written about it. Perhaps it's partly my fault because I don't remember writing that you can volunteer for a ballot position. You don't have to be nominated by another person or group. To become a candidate for your professional organization and serve is an obligation. It's part of your professional responsibilities. My best friend told me long ago, "Many hands make light work." The good news is that GANA is considering the use of on line meetings to decrease the amount of driving time required to attend Board meetings and minimize away time from families or valuable off time. This will allow us to have new good leaders throughout the state participate in their professional organization.

As I review this year, in the last legislative session, GA legislators passed HB178, also known as the Pill Mill Bill. Several physician groups and their lobbyists pushed and sculpted the bill as it passed through the House and Senate. When GANA leaders addressed the potential implications for patient access to pain management and some of the practice right concerns to the Legislators, it was said they heard no opposition from their

constituents. Most importantly, the passing of this legislation can place limits of patient access to care for pain management. This directly affected the scope of practice for some CRNAs. HB 178 now essentially puts power into the hands of the Georgia Composite Medical Board to determine the all rules and regulations related to pain management services. This is where professionals and the public may feel the effect of this Bill due to access of care issues. This is a prime example as to why CRNAs need to have ongoing relationships with their local legislators. I understand some people think they cannot talk to politicians. If you can't call them, you need to write to them. You must have your leaders know who you are and your position about key issues. It is sometimes crucial for your patients or someone you may know, as well as yourself.

In closing, please attend the GANA Fall Meeting in Stone Mountain in October, and when called to contact your legislator, don't put it off because bills can be voted on the next day. Thank you for allowing me to represent and serve your GANA as president-elect this year. ■



*Keenan Thompson (CRNA Ann Thompson's son)  
from Saturday Night Live who emceed the  
AANA Foundation Fund Raiser in Las Vegas*

# Georgia Regents University Nursing Anesthesia Program

by Malorie Brewer, SRNA



**A**ugust has been a busy month at Georgia Regents University Augusta! The majority of the junior and senior students attended the AANA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas and had a blast. As a senior, it was humbling to attend the college bowl and see how much reviewing I need to do before taking boards! The participating students did very well, although the CRNAs still came out with the win. The exhibition hall was also a great place for networking because there were so many agencies available to discuss career opportunities. There is a light at the end of the tunnel for the seniors... now we just need to make sure that a paycheck is there, too.

Taylor Hosner, a senior student, represented the GRU students very well by placing 5th overall for girls in the AANA 5K! She broke her personal running record and did an amazing job. We are so proud of her!

Three senior students (Tiara McCaskill, Taylor Hosner, and myself) along with several Georgia CRNAs volunteered at the National Conference of State Legislators at the Georgia World Congress Center from August 13-15th. We took the legislators' vital signs and briefly discussed who CRNAs are and how we practice. It was great to meet leaders from all over

the country. They all seemed to enjoy the small first aid packages we distributed. Sarah Chacko, the AANA Director of State Government Affairs, was an invaluable resource to us. She has a wealth of knowledge about CRNA issues in each state and was able to discuss them in depth with curious legislators. We are so thankful for her dedication to our practice.

The juniors are just beginning their first rotations of clinical. They are applying all of their knowledge from didactic to anesthetic practice, and they are loving administering anesthesia on patients other than Stan the Simulator! They are gaining more confidence in the clinical setting every day. Thank you to our preceptors and clinical coordinators at all our available sites for your patience and dedication to our learning.

The "newbies" are trying to establish a routine in arguably the most difficult semester of the CRNA program. They are beginning pharmacology, physiology, basic principles of anesthesia, and health assessment for CRNAs. Please offer encouragement to any new students that you know. They need it! The class of 2015 is the largest in GRU history with 31 students. We are so excited about all the changes in our program, and we are thrilled to be educating more future Georgia CRNAs! ■



## Yes!

***I want to be actively involved in the GANA!***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

**Interests – Check all that apply:**

**Committees:**

☐ Bylaws    ☐ Communications    ☐ GRC    ☐ Public Relations

☐ Obtain a seat on the Board of Directors

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

☐ State    ☐ Federal

☐ I can participate in GANA Lobby Day

☐ I will participate in any area needed

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please clip and return to:*

GANA, 1832 Hwy. 54 West • Fayetteville, GA 30214

**The GANA  
Business Meeting  
will be held Saturday,  
October 5, 2013 from  
1300-1400 at the  
GANA Annual Fall Meeting  
in Stone Mountain.**

**Also, there will be a brief  
meeting of the GANA  
Board of Directors (TBA)  
during the meeting.**

***All GANA members  
are welcome!***

## A Word from the "Steel Magnolia"

(continued from page 1)

Accompanying me during my walk into the banquet in Las Vegas I asked the song, *One Moment In Time*, by the late great Whitney Houston to be played because the lyrics are symbolic of the year of service. The AANA members did give me "one moment in time" one moment in the history of our great association to lead the profession we love. I did give the presidency "the best of me" but I was "never alone." You elected an awesome FY 13 AANA Board of Directors. We challenged each other, respected each other and meshed into a team not afraid to make hard decisions and open the veil of transparency a little wider by sharing those actions with the members. Additional help in the achievements were outstanding AANA committees, AANA staff and state association leaders. "I did break my heart, fought for every gain, faced the pain, to taste the sweet" victory of success in mending frayed relationships with Council on Accreditation, NBCRNA and AANA Foundation. The relationships will take continued commitment and building of trust but we did all we knew possible to head in a positive direction. Knowing we must capitalize on our strength in unity against professional challenges.

"You laid the chance in my hands. You gave me one moment in time. I am a winner for a lifetime for seizing it." I was "more than I thought I could be" and for placing your sacred trust in me, you have my gratitude. Thank you for entrusting me to be your President, I remain – your faithful – Steel Magnolia. ■

## Georgia CRNAs in Action



Jo Sineath CRNA and SRNAs Taylor Hosner, Tiara McCaskill and Malorie Brewer exhibiting for the AANA at the World Congress Center in Atlanta, GA at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Legislative Summit

### 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 2014 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](http://www.gana.org)

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



## Capitol Hill Update

by Steve Smith, CRNA, MA



**B**efore I start out mentioning some of the major accomplishments over the last year provided by you, the Federal Government Affairs staff and the AANA I would like to try and answer the question I unfortunately hear a lot of, “Why be an AANA member and why give to your Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Political Action Committee (or CRNA-PAC)?”. My fellow CRNAs and SRNAs, it’s all about “Advocacy” and your right to practice as you do. The AANA along with the CRNA-PAC advocates for CRNAs concerning issues such as patient safety, access to quality healthcare services, scope of practice, educational funding, reimbursement, and many other legislative and regulatory matters. As such, the AANA tracks state and federal legislation and regulation affecting nurse anesthesia practice, develops and carries out federal grassroots lobbying efforts, coordinates meetings with federal legislators and agency officials, testifies at federal and state legislative and regulatory hearings, and educates CRNAs and state associations regarding effective advocacy strategy and practice. Did you know that \$232.50 of your AANA membership dues goes back to your state. Without your support the states could not function as they do. In summary, CRNAs would not exist and practice as they do today without the membership’s financial support through annual dues and giving to the CRNA-PAC. Our scope of practice would be non-existent, we would practice as AAs do!

One of the major accomplishments over the past year by your AANA was the AANA-backed Medicare CRNA Pain Rule authorizing direct reimbursement of all Medicare CRNA services within their state scope of practice which took effect January 1, 2013. Another was the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) clarified and confirmed that anesthesiologist assistants (AAs) may not bill Medicare for non-medically directed (billing code QZ) anesthesia services as CRNAs are educated and authorized to do. The action taken by CMS represents an important development in anesthesia services coverage, clarifying what we already know: that CRNA and AA educational preparation and services are not the same, and that the Medicare program recognizes them differently. While Medicare recognizes CRNA services provided autonomously and with anesthesiologist medical direction, in contrast, the agency only recognizes AA services under anesthesiologist medical direction.

One of the current big issues we are facing now is permanently repealing the sustainable growth rate (SGR) cuts and reforming Medicare payment. By a 51-0 vote on July 31, the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved legislation repealing Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR) funding formula cuts and reforming Medicare payment (HR 2810). The result is stabilizing Medicare Part B payment for five years with 0.5

percent annual increases. The legislation is not final. It awaits action in the House Ways and Means Committee in the fall following Congress’ August recess. That committee has the job of identifying and approving the revenue source to pay the costs of HR 2810, and possibly of adding entitlement reforms. The full House appears unlikely to take up the bill until November at the earliest.

Of other interest is the AANA-backed Provider Nondiscrimination provision that is under attack by organized medicine. Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD), the only anesthesiologist in Congress, introduced the bill, HR 2817, on July 24 with the backing of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). Under the Provider Nondiscrimination provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which takes place January 1, 2014, health plans may not discriminate against qualified licensed providers solely on the basis of their licensure. It will help to expand patient access to safe and high-quality healthcare and help to control or reduce overall healthcare costs through market competition. This will have a huge impact on states like AL and NC, which currently deny or severely impair coverage by CRNAs for the same services as provided by anesthesiologists.

For those of you in leadership positions or those considering leadership positions in the GANA or AANA please consider attending the AANA Fall Leadership Academy in Miami Beach, FL on November 8-10. This meeting is designed to provide detailed information for those interested in the following areas; State Government Relations, Federal Political Director, State President-Elect, State Reimbursement Specialist, AANA Foundation, Leadership and Media Spokes-Person Training for State Association leaders. I encourage all members of the board, particularly those that are interested in moving up the ladder, to attend this meeting. You can register online at [www.aana.com](http://www.aana.com).

The next Mid-Year Assembly will be April 6-9, 2014 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va. Make plans now to join us in Washington, DC to learn about the current legislative issues that affect CRNAs and the tools to take it to Capitol Hill and advocate for our profession.

I encourage you all to utilize the following resources that provide up to date information concerning state and federal news that affects you. On the homepage of the GANA website ([www.gana.org](http://www.gana.org)) you have access to the “Advocacy” tab which provides state and federal information concerning CRNAs, “Care to be Counted” logo where you can also give to your CRNA-PAC and finally “Like Us” on GANA Facebook where I try to provide you day to day general information important to CRNAs. The GANA 2013-2014 ballot has been delivered. Please vote! I hope to see you all at the GANA 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Gala on October 4-6 at the Evergreen Marriott Resort and Conference Center at Stone Mountain. ■



# 2013 AANA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas



*Charles, Janice and Ellis Izlar*



*AANA Region 2 Director Tony Chipas, GRU Professor Amy Masiongale and Program Director Jim Masiongale*



*Leslie Jeter, the emcee of the 2013 AANA Annual Meeting banquet*



*Ann Thompson and Kay Argroves*



*AANA President Janice Izlar with 2013-2014 AANA President Dennis Bless*



*Sheree Wolfenden with her son and daughter*



# 2013 AANA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas



*Christy and Fred Dunkelberger and Ann Thompson*



*CRNAs Phillip Merritt and Mark Schmitz and two representatives from Georgia representing LocumTenens.com*



*Charles and Ellis Izlar with Janice's mom*



*Kay Argroves, Leslie Jeter, Christy Dunkelberger, Steve Smith, Phillip Merritt, Janice Izlar, Jim Masingale, Rose Synsmir, Mark Schmitz and Barbara Waldron*



*CRNA Noleen Afolabi-Brown with her daughter Kiki and CRNA Kay Argroves*



*Georgia Regents University (GRU) SRNAs Vito Crispo, Shaundra Davis, Jon Speed, Blair Reeder with Professor Amy Masingale and Program Director Jim Masingale*

## Protect Your Practice Rights

by Daniel Dell, CRNA, MSN



**G**reetings! As we head toward our annual meeting in Stone Mountain and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GANA I would like to remind you of the GANA PAC and the importance it plays in protecting your practice rights. Please stop by and donate to the GANA PAC!

One item of federal legislation that we need you to know about and also need you to contact your representatives about is H.R. 2817. HR 2817 was created by Dr. Andy Harris, MDA of Maryland. The bill has a five percent chance of passing committee and less than one percent chance of passing. If enacted, H.R. 2817 would repeal Section 2706(a), Title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act. According to The Patients' Access to Responsible Care Alliance (PARCA), "This provision, based on policy supported by bipartisan leaders for more than a decade and ultimately included as part of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, serves to bar health plans from "discriminating with respect to participation under the plan or coverage against any health care provider who is acting within the scope of that provider's license or certification under applicable State law." This provision prohibits health plans from discriminating against entire classes of qualified licensed healthcare professionals, such as non-MD/DO providers, solely on the basis of their licensure. Under this provision, health insurers can still address provider network quality and sufficiency for the availability of healthcare benefits to their enrollees. Limiting patient access to and choice of qualified, licensed and certified health care providers reduces competition and

concentrates market share resulting in generating economic benefit for other providers and ultimately increasing cost for consumers. Non-MD/DO professionals provide high-value, cost-effective care – and consumers should have the ability to choose their health care providers. Limiting patient access to and choice of qualified, licensed and certified non-MD/DO health care providers as H.R. 2817 intends, would further reduce competition and concentrate market share and economic benefit into the hands of select providers – a misguided policy that would increase costs for consumers and the delivery system as a whole."

We need you to contact your representatives in congress and urge them to oppose H.R. 2817. ■

### 2013 GANA Calendar

#### GANA Board Meetings:

- |                   |                                                                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 5, 2013   | During the 75th GANA Annual Fall Meeting and Gala at Stone Mountain, GA |
| November 16, 2013 | GANA Annual Fall Retreat at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta      |

#### Other Meetings and Events:

- |                     |                                                                                                            |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 4-6, 2013   | GANA 75th Annual Fall Meeting and Gala at Stone Mountain                                                   |
| October 17-19, 2013 | Georgia Association of Nursing Students (GANS) Convention at the Atlanta Convention Center at AmericasMart |
| November 8-10, 2013 | AANA Fall Leadership Academy in Miami Beach, FL                                                            |



Go to [www.gana.org](http://www.gana.org), click on Facebook in the upper right hand corner of the home page and then "Like Us" on Facebook!

# Georgia Regents University Nurse Anesthesia Program Report

by James Masiongale, CRNA, MHS  
Director and Clinical Coordinator

The Class of 2013 began their last semester of clinical on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The realization is now setting in that they will graduate soon and enter the work force. Prior to receiving the honor of calling themselves CRNAs, they must first take and pass the National Certification Examination. The National Board of Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetist (NBCRNA) announced this year that they have raised the passing standards. The last time this occurred nursing anesthesia programs from across the country saw an increase in first time failure rates. We have stressed the importance of a well-organized study plan to our students and hope we will not see a decline in pass rates as a result of this move.

Members of the Class of 2014 are now finally getting to do anesthesia. They have moved from the classroom/simulation setting to the clinical arena. Many thanks to those CRNAs who are willing to take new SRNA students and help them grow and develop into great CRNAs. Those first few weeks lay that important foundation upon which they will build throughout their career.

The Class of 2015 arrived on campus for orientation on August 16<sup>th</sup>. This class is composed of 31 very intelligent and motivated individuals eager to start the journey to becoming

CRNAs. The new class size will be 30 students per year, but an additional slot was created to make up for the loss of an individual from the Class of 2014. With the closure of the Mercer/MCCG, this number is still less than what was being produced previously.

The students and faculty would like to thank those of you who have made donations to the Nurse Anesthesia Program foundation. These funds are utilized solely for student activities and are not for program operations. If you would like to donate, make the check payable to: GRU Foundation Fund 11302 and mail to Melvenia Blanchard at 987 St. Sebastian Way, EC 5440, Augusta, GA, 30912. She will see that it gets to the corrected location.

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

James Masiongale  
Director & Clinical Coordinator  
Nursing Anesthesia Program  
Georgia Regents University  
(706) 721-8215  
jmasiong@gru.edu ■



GRU students Taylor Hosner and Malorie Brewer at the AANA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas



Leslie Jeter, Steve Smith and Christy Dunkelberger at the AANA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas



## Wellness from Las Vegas

by Barb Waldron, CRNA

As usual the annual AANA meeting was exhausting. This time I went with the attitude “I can’t do everything, just try to enjoy what you do do”. I was fairly successful, still had to get that 45 minute nap every day.

One of my interests was to attend the **Critical Incidents and Adverse Events Open Forum**. It was a first and very well attended, mostly dealing with the “second victim” in medically induced trauma. These incidents can happen to our patients, family members, or friends. They have found that the care takers are the “second victims” and can exhibit signs and symptoms as mild as depressed mood to full-blown PTSD. Symptoms can appear either right away or in the future ... and they can manifest as drug and alcohol abuse. This type of incident can happen in your personal life or in your practice; and affect your ability to perform your anesthetics in the immediate aftermath as well as in the future if not tended to immediately after the incident.

I know personally that as a younger practitioner I felt like I could handle anything; I was invincible. But, I do remember everything about the patient that died while we (the healthcare team) tried to operate on her ruptured aneurysm. After all these years I remember the personnel that were present and physical description of the patient. The only thing I don’t remember is the patient’s name. The point is that these types of incidents are imprinted in our brain and affect self-esteem, ability to practice, judgment, sleep, unprovoked irritability (or just plain anger), and actually your total well-being. The forum I attended in Las Vegas opened Pandora’s Box, and just showed us another reason to question our ability to cope on the job.

Go to the AANA/Wellness/Adverse Events/Bad Outcomes/How to Cope. It will take you to the MITSS.org (Medically Induced Trauma Support Services) website where you can look at videos of patients and clinicians affected by their particular medical trauma. They also have a downloadable tool kit for coping. One of the tools that jumped out at me was talking to a professional immediately after the incident. If you don’t have this service available at your place of work, designated Employee Assistance Program (EAP)/or some form of it, seek it out in your community. One of the speakers at the forum had to write his patient (against the hospital’s advice) a letter telling her of his remorse and apologizing for his actions in the incident, and that letter was written after a considerable length of time. A lecture followed this forum, ‘The Aftermath of Perioperative Catastrophes: Our (CRNAs) Voices are Finally Heard!’ It reinforced the need for the MITSS toolkit. It also reinforced that fact that drugs and alcohol are not the coping mechanism we need to be using. Check out the websites, it is good viewing. PTSD isn’t just for war veterans; I could see a lot of me in their stories. You will hear more on this subject, because it does have a huge impact on our wellness. It was a great meeting for wellness activities.

I hope we see you at Stone Mountain for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary GANA meeting. Peer Assistance/ Wellness will be there.

In conclusion, it was a privilege to watch Janice succeed in her year as our AANA President. She represented us well, and you can be proud. ■

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

Helpline  
Peer Assistance  
800.654.5167

Anesthetists in  
Recovery (AIR)  
215.635.0183

*Plan now to attend*  
*Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists'*

# **75th Annual Meeting & Gala**

**October 4-6, 2013**



**Evergreen Marriott  
Conference Center  
Stone Mountain, GA**



## **Program Description**

The 75th anniversary program of the GANA offers an outstanding variety of clinical, political, economic, and contemporary topics.

The Conference begins with the Annual Dan Ebal Memorial lectures that are presented by students in the Georgia Regents University Nurse Anesthesia Program. These lectures are the culmination of student research conducted to meet degree requirements. An Update on AANA activities follows and the remainder of the sessions are devoted to core didactic clinical topics followed by an evening reception with the commercial exhibitors

The weekend sessions will focus on the impact of illegal drugs on patient care, an assessment of the "economic worth" of a CRNA, and insight into the importance of government relations for CRNAs. Saturday afternoon will provide a very special keynote lecture by **Dr. Jerry Cromwell**. Dr. Cromwell's lecture is based on the results of many years of research into the economic advantages of Nurse Anesthesia practice without physician supervision. This is followed by a panel of GANA Past Presidents discussing the historical developments in the Association during their tenure as president. The 75th anniversary GANA Banquet and Reception completes the evening's activities.

Sunday morning's topics discuss the role of the CRNA in Pain Management and newer developments in pain therapies. As always, ample time is provided for discussion and attendee input.

*(See Agenda on the following page.)*

*Register at [www.ipge.com](http://www.ipge.com) or [www.gana.org](http://www.gana.org)*

***Tickets for the Banquet/Gala must be purchased separately.***

***To purchase banquet tickets, go to [www.gana.org](http://www.gana.org) or fill out and mail form on page 14.***





# 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Gala Agenda

## Friday, October 4, 2013 (8 CE Hours)

*Selected SRNA Students, Dennis Bless, Wayne Ellis*

- 7:00 – 7:45am..... Registration/Continental Breakfast
- 7:45 – 8:00 ..... Welcome/Introductory Remarks
- 8:00 – 9:00 ..... Dan Ebald Lectures
- 9:00 – 9:30 ..... Break – Visit Exhibits
- 9:30 – 11:30..... 2013-14 AANA Update
- 11:30am – 12:30pm... Discussion, Questions/Answers
- 12:30 – 1:45 ..... Lunch Break on your own
- 1:45 – 2:45 ..... Intraoperative Myocardia Ischemia
- 2:45 – 3:45 ..... Managing the Patient with  
Alzheimer's Disease
- 3:45 – 4:45 ..... Break – Visit Exhibits
- 4:45 – 5:45..... Anesthesia Considerations with  
Elderly Patients
- 5:45 – 6:45..... Discussion, Questions/Answers
- 7:00– 9:00 ..... **GANA Reception**

## Saturday, October 5, 2013 (8 CE Hours)

*Peter Strube, Leslie Jeter, Jerry Cromwell, GANA Past Presidents*

- 6:30 – 7:30 am..... Continental Breakfast
- 7:30 – 8:30 ..... Illegal Drugs and their effect on Anesthesia
- 8:30 – 9:30 ..... The Business of Anesthesia: What is your  
Worth?
- 9:30 – 10:00..... Break – Visit Exhibits
- 10:00 – noon ..... Leslie Jeter
- Noon – 1:00pm..... Legal Update
- 1:00 – 2:00..... GANA Business Meeting
- 2:00 – 3:00..... Keynote Presentation by Dr. Cromwell
- 3:00 – 4:00..... Past Presidents' Roundtable
- 4:00 – 5:00..... Discussion, Questions/Answers
- 6:00 ..... **GANA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala  
Celebration and Banquet**

## Sunday, October 6, 2013 (4 CE Hours)

*Jackie Rowles, CRNA, MBA, FAAPM*

- 7:30 – 8:30am..... Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 – 9:30..... Perioperative Care of the Patient with Neuropathic Pain
- 9:30 – 10:30..... New Drugs and Pain Therapies
- 10:30 – 10:45..... Break
- 10:45 – 11:45..... The Role of the CRNA in Pain Management
- 11:45 – 12:45..... Final Discussion and Wrap-up

### GANA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet Ticket Purchase Form Dinner/Awards/Laryngospasms/DJ Music October 5, 2013

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket Prices: CRNA – \$100      Guest – \$100      SRNA – \$ 65

*Number of tickets requested:*

\_\_\_\_\_ CRNA Ticket(s) @ \$100/each      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Guest Ticket(s) @ \$100/each      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SRNA Ticket(s) @ \$65/each      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail completed form with your check to:  
Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Inc.  
1832 Highway 54 West, Fayetteville, GA 30214*



## AANA News

*by Tony Chipas, CRNA, PhD*

I just returned from the AANA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas and I am energized and ready for more. The Annual Meeting is a time to renew old friendships as well as to make new ones. I got to see a lot of people from all of the states in this region – both CRNAs and students. To my old friends as well as my new ones, thank you. Thank you for showing up, thank you for contributing and thank you for being CRNAs. For those of you who had to stay home to keep the ORs, schools and facilities functioning, I want to thank you for all that you do to protect our patients and our association.

Before I get into this report, I first want to applaud Past-President Janice Izlar (GA) for her service for the past several years. If you did not get to meet Janice, I can tell you that she was truly one of the finest presidents this Association has had in my 40 years in the AANA. Not only did she advance the AANA agenda but she also set a new level of communication with the membership – and did it all with dignity and grace. I was proud to serve on her AANA Board of Directors this last year. I hope that Janice has the opportunity now to get some much needed rest and relaxation. She is one classy lady.

The Annual Meeting was a day shorter this year but that did not make it less action-packed. As many of you know, there were several proposals put forward to change the bylaws. The most contentious was the one to remove the names of the credentialing bodies, NBCRNA and COA, from our bylaws and replace them with the term “credentialing entities approved by the Board of Directors.” This change was proposed by members of the association and was NOT made because anyone wanted to replace either of these

credentialing bodies. It modified our bylaws to better reflect what is considered to be best practices in association management. The change was supported by the AANA Board of Directors. After a lively discussion of the pros and cons, the bylaw amendment passed by the necessary 2/3 majority of the over 500+ voting members present at the business meeting. The new bylaws give the Board of Directors of the AANA greater flexibility in dealing with Association business. The 2013-2014 Board of Directors is committed to do what is in the best interest of you the members and this great Association we all have.

Our relationship with the ASA, unfortunately, has not improved. In response to an Op-Ed piece written by one of our members from Florida and published on the Hill Blog in Washington, the President and President-Elect from the ASA wrote a response in which they called CRNAs “unsafe.” In her eloquent response, President Izlar did not hold back. She stood up for all of us in a written response that was too long in coming. To read all of the details, I hope you will go to the front page of the Members Only side of the AANA website and read all of the responses. We cannot allow the ASA to drag the members of this association through the mud without a strong response. In that light, our new President Dennis Bless (MN) has promised to keep up the fight against all forces external as well as internal that want to control or demean our practice as nurse anesthetists.

*(continued on page 16)*

### *In Memory*

Robert (Bob) Fabus, CRNA, age 62 of Blue Ridge, GA, passed away Saturday, July 6, 2013 from an apparent MI while recovering from a total joint revision. Bob was born in Ashley, Michigan and graduated from the Mayo Clinic School of Nurse Anesthesia in 1974. Bob started his career in Michigan but moved to Georgia in 1985. In Atlanta, Bob worked at the Atlanta Hospital, the Emory Clinic, and with the DeKalb Anesthesia Group. In 2006, Bob moved to Blue Ridge and worked with Blue Ridge Anesthesia Associates, an all CRNA group. Bob is survived by his life partner, David Erickson.



## AANA News

(continued from page 15)

We had a series of very positive outcomes this year on the Federal level, according to Mr. Frank Purcell, Senior Director of Federal Governmental affairs. These included:

- Medicare released a final rule recognizing ALL CRNA services within their state scope of practice, including chronic pain management services;
- Medicare clarified that the QZ modifier denoting non-medically directed CRNA services may not be used for AA services;
- Medicare transmitted to MACs that the rural pass-through program can reimburse all CRNA services within their scope, not just anesthesia care; and,
- AANA's State Reimbursement Specialist initiative is identifying, training and mobilizing CRNAs to learn and advocate for reimbursement issues by state.

We must always be vigilant to the attempts to limit our scope of practice and we must always defend our right to a full scope of practice.

If you have never gone to the Fall Leadership Academy, it is coming up November 8 – 10 in Miami, Florida. This is an opportunity to acquire the skills necessary for organization governance and association best practices. It is intended for established as well as developing state and national leaders. Our new track this year will be directed toward acquiring the skills necessary to be an effective State Reimbursement Specialist (actually, skills all of us could use in the future). Hopefully we will see you there. To find out more, check the AANA website:

<http://www.aana.com/meetings/aanaworkshops/Pages/Workshop-Home-Page.aspx>

I have been honored to serve you on the AANA Board of Directors. If you have any questions, complaints, concerns or ideas, I want to hear them. Please email me at [achipas@aanabod.com](mailto:achipas@aanabod.com) or call me at (843) 412-0951. I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming State meetings that I will be attending this fall in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee.

With kindest regards,  
Tony Chipas CRNA, PhD  
Director Region 2



### **Alexis Taylor Awarded the GANA/AANA Foundation Scholarship**

*Alexis J. Taylor is a senior student in the United States Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing. She received a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Augusta State University in 2004. She then received a Master's degree in Nursing from the Medical College of Georgia in 2007.*

*Alexis began her nursing career in the progressive care unit and later went on to work in the ICU at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia. Upon graduation, she will work at this same Veteran's Affairs hospital as a CRNA in Augusta where she is a native.*

*Alexis would like to thank the GANA and AANA Foundation members for this scholarship. It has been a great help with the final expenses associated with school and board preparation and she is truly grateful. Alexis would also like to thank her outstanding husband Jeff, her wonderful children, family, professors, preceptors and classmates for their patience, love and support during her challenging, exciting and at times stressful journey to becoming an anesthesia provider.*

## I Did

by Mary P. Flister, CRNA

It's hard to believe the 75th Annual Meeting of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists is fast approaching; not only the planning and anticipation, but also consider the history of the previous 74 years that got us to now. We can all be proud of our founders, members and active participants who made it possible.

AND

When the celebration is over, we begin another 75 years of quality patient care, professional enhancement and participation in our state and national organization.

I would like to share the history of my involvement with GANA and ask you to consider participating in GANA's future, if you have not already done so.

### I DID

#### Inquiry – Discovery – Involvement – Development

My professional journey with GANA began in 1987 when E. Ann Thompson, CRNA and Nell Livengood, CRNA cajoled – *persuasion by sustained coaxing and/or flattery* – me into participating in GANA programs and committees. As a mid-'60s BSN graduate of an all-women's Catholic college, I had been cajoled – minus the flattery – to return to society what I had been so fortunate to receive. I started with "OK, I Will" and am retiring with "I Did."

**INQUIRY** is defined as "asking for information" – how is my practice as a CRNA affected by local trends, local officials, local healthcare policy, local practice restrictions?

**DISCOVERY** takes place with the follow-through necessary to answer these questions. The search for answers is best done with help from people in the know.

Finding "people in the know" brought me to my fellow CRNA employees, resulting in ... **INVOLVEMENT** with the GANA and finding my niche – *a position or activity that particularly suits somebody's talents and personality or that somebody can make his or her own*. There is always a place for participating at any degree of involvement within GANA.

**DEVELOP** the ideas, talents, and skills that will carry you over the years to the fulfillment and rewarding realization of meaningful participation.

Adios – Keep the Faith!

– Mary P. Flister, CRNA, Emeritus, BSN



to identify the CRNAs in these photos

Use row number, left to right, and clothing color as possible identifiers.



Email names to Mary Flister,  
[mpfgana@juno.com](mailto:mpfgana@juno.com)  
or better yet,  
visit the Archive Display at the  
75th Annual Meeting and Gala  
October 4-6, 2013  
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