



To & Fro

A Publication of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists • Volume 78 • Fall 2015

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists CRNAs

- Represent nearly 150 years of quality anesthesia
- Safely administer approximately 40 million anesthetics in the US every year
- Represented by 49,000 CRNAs nationwide and over 1200 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 advances patient safety and CRNA practice through advocacy, education, and member engagement.

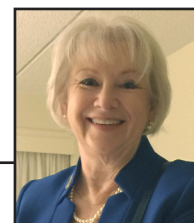
Vision Statement

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists in Georgia will be autonomous providers recognized for their full scope of practice and quality patient care and are compensated fairly for their services.

Report from the President

Calling All Members ... GANA Needs You!

by Jo Sineath, CRNA



How wonderful to see so many CRNAs and SRNAs at the Fall Meeting in Savannah. I hope it was an enjoyable and informative time for everyone. I look forward to serving as GANA President during this very exciting and innovative time.

I would like to share some background concerning the strategic planning process in which GANA has been involved. In November of 2014, GANA President Leslie Jeter, Treasurer Steve Smith and I in my role as President-Elect met with Luis Rivera, Director of State Management Affairs for AANA. AANA was offering a consulting firm to do an extensive organizational assessment leading to formulation of a long term strategic planning process, the ultimate goal being to improve the overall effectiveness of the organization. Several other state CRNA groups had already participated in this process.

Beginning in March 2014, AMMR Association Management Consultants reviewed GANA's background information documentation and online presence. They conducted an environmental scan into 12 key areas and onsite interviews and focus groups as well as in depth telephone interviews with former and current GANA leaders.

In June AMMR facilitated a two day assessment, scan review and strategic planning

work shop. A draft plan for FY 2015-2017 of goals and prioritized objectives was the result. Your GANA Board of Directors and committee members are in the process of creating and implementing specific tasks to accomplish each objective of the plan.

You may have noticed the revised Vision and Mission Statement on the website. Individual Committee Chairs will share the goals and plans for the upcoming year. Much time and work has gone into this process but, without member involvement there is no GANA. The Affordable Care Act has created an environment where Advanced Practice Nurses practicing to the full scope of their practice makes perfect sense.

Please make this the time you become a more active participant. Plan to attend one of the regional meetings being planned. Get to know your state legislators and join your CRNA and SRNA colleagues at The Gold Dome for Capital Day January 27, 2016.

Contact information for board members and committee chairs as well as Executive Director Christy Dunkelberger are on the website at www.gana.org, and on page 2 of this newsletter. Check it out. I look forward to serving as your GANA President and hope to have the opportunity work with each of you. ■

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*Proud supporter of
Anesthesia Patient
Safety Foundation*

From the Executive Director

*by Christy A. Dunkelberger, Esq.
Executive Director/Legal Counsel*



Plans for 2016:

GANA Fall Meeting 2015 welcomed in your new Board of Directors and the beginning of many new changes for GANA. Jo Sineath has taken over as the President, with Leslie Jeter remaining at her side as Immediate Past President. Shannon Broxton steps up as President-elect; with Steve Smith as Treasurer and Sarah Phillips as Secretary. The members at large include returning Board members, Kurt Ochsenknecht and Julie Jackson. The two newly elected Board members are Alison Herren and Wallace Phillips. Congratulations to all Board members and thank you for your service.

As Leslie Jeter moves to Immediate Past President, she will continue to serve one more year on the Board. Leslie should be commended for her continual investment and leadership to CRNAs. She has not only completed her third term as GANA President, but she also continues to volunteer her time and talents to the AANA where she has served as Chair of the Program Committee. GANA has also nominated Leslie for the 2016 AANA Region 2 Director's position.

This past year has been very busy. It has been a good year and a very busy year. GANA has undertaken the initial steps for strategic planning that will lead to significant changes and what we envision as improvements in the GANA. At the end of 2014, the Board voted to take advantage of and undertake a complete organizational review sponsored by the AANA and conducted by an outside third party consultant. In our case, AMMR served as the consultant for GANA. This process started with the Board and selected past and future leaders completing a survey which analyzed the GANA operations.

The intent of the process was to improve the operation and services of the association. It started with a comprehensive assessment; then we defined our core values and our purpose; we identified key goals; and prioritized objectives, and now the future work will be to begin to identify measurable actions and tactical initiatives towards meeting the goals. This is only the beginning stages of what will be a continuous ongoing process. Just briefly let me share with you the key goal areas identified by GANA leaders:

1. Advocacy and Alliances
2. Membership Development and Engagement
3. Governance and Leadership Development
4. Education and Meetings
5. Communications and Public Relations
6. Finance, Operations and Administration

For each goal there are several objectives and each objective has one or two or three tactical initiatives which are the measurable actions taken to meet the objectives. The Board and some other past and future leaders will meet in November to continue this process. We are excited and believe GANA will be a better organization for you the members because of this work. You should already be seeing some results, such as the newly instituted Regional Meetings, updated Mission and Vision Statements, changes to financial policies, and more grassroots legislative networking. There will be more to come and we look forward to your feedback and involvement.

(continued on page 18)

Big Things Are Happening with Our Students

by April Culler, MSN, RN



Our school's name is changing. Yes, again. The University System of Georgia's Board of Regents voted in September to change the university's name from Georgia Regents University to Augusta University. As the only nursing anesthesia program in Georgia, many of the students are grappling with how to cope with the fourth name change in five years. Our university has also recently appointed a new president, President Brooks Keel, previously the president of Georgia Southern University. He has accomplished wonderful things at Georgia Southern University, so we look forward to his leadership.

There are mixed emotions with the name change, but there is nothing but positivity surrounding our school's future. Despite the name changes, our nursing anesthesia program's leadership with Dr. Jim Masiongale as our program director has remained unchanged and our program remains strong with our faculty. Our school is in the process of transitioning our program to a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program – the first DNP class is set to start January 2017 (pending COA approval) and will graduate in May 2020.

The class of 2017 started the program in mid-August with 30 members in their class. I've had the pleasure of meeting many of them during the interview process and their orientation to the program. I can surely say that they are a bright, motivated group. Many moved to Augusta for school, so they are still adjusting to a new place and new routine. They will be the second class to use our state-of-the-art simulation lab, and the first to use a new computer program to help them learn human anatomy. They've had several small group get-togethers to help bond and support each other through anesthesia school.

My class, the class of 2016, started the clinical portion of our program in mid-August. We're scattered all over the state, and having fun getting our first intubations on real live patients. We're applying all of our recently acquired didactic knowledge to our new patient encounters. I hope you've seen our students in your facility and support them, remembering your first days as a student in the clinical realm. We sincerely appreciate all of our preceptors and are so thankful for your service to advancing this great profession!

The class of 2015 just presented their capstone projects at our annual GANA conference in Savannah, are busy getting ready for graduation and preparing to take boards in the next couple of months. We wish them the best of luck with their certification exam and their futures as they swap their SRNA titles for the coveted CRNA credentials. Also, a big congratulations to Kassie Krieger and Courtney Voss for winning the 2015 GANA Outstanding Student Nurse Anesthetist Award!

Many students from all three classes attended the GANA annual conference from October 3-5 in Savannah this year. Despite the wet weather courtesy of Hurricane Joaquin, we all learned a great deal from all the dynamic lecturers and had a blast visiting the beautiful city of Savannah. Two members of my class, Jeremy Webb and Charlie Campbell, were the two presenters for this year's Dan Ebal Memorial lecture series. Jeremy spoke about promoting diuresis to prevent acute kidney injury and Charlie set us straight on whether to use cuffed versus uncuffed ET tubes in pediatric patients – (hint: some new literature says that we should be using cuffed ET tubes on every pediatric patient).

On October 23rd, Steve Smith and our GANA student representatives will be participating in Georgia Association of Nursing Students (GANS) at the Centerplex attached to Macon Marriott hotel. We will be sharing information and building excitement around our profession with the nursing students in attendance. From what I've heard, we are usually a big highlight of the breakout sessions.

Please feel free to reach out to me or John Ohanu if you have any questions – we are currently the GANA student representatives. You can contact me at aprilculler@gmail.com or John at johanu@gru.edu. Thanks! ■

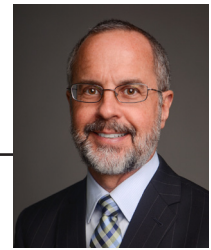
Shadow a CRNA

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

Need Malpractice Insurance?
Contact AANA Insurance Services at
1-800-343-1368 or obtain insurance
information from the AANA website.

Impacting CRNAs Scope of Practice

by Steve Smith, CRNA, MA



The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) continues its work (VA Handbook) on a proposal to authorize APRNs to their Full Practice Authority (FPA). It's arguably our #1 priority right now and could have a tremendous impact on our scope of practice in the future not only in the VA but in all practices. It remains unclear when that rule will be published, although some feedback indicates that it could be as early as the end of 2015. Regardless, it is essential that we continue to keep the heat on the Agency and encourage other stakeholders to weigh in. The ASA continues its aggressive opposition to FPA, including backing a recent letter to the VA Secretary Bob McDonald signed by 17 freshman members of Congress. We had 2 US Representatives from Georgia sign on to this letter, Buddy Carter (district 1) and Barry Loudermilk (district 11). If you reside in one of these districts (<http://votesmart.org/>) please go to www.crna-pac.com. Take action and contact your US Representative and object to the Anti-CRNA VHA Letter. There is a template letter but please try to personalize it as much as possible.

So what should we expect when a rule is published? CRNAs will be able to submit a public comment to the Agency during the comment period through the CRNA Advocacy website at www.crna-pac.com. CRNAs are also encouraged to urge other stakeholders, including Veterans, family members of Veterans, other healthcare providers, etc., to submit public comments using the AANA-sponsored Veterans Access to Quality Healthcare Alliance microsite at www.veterans-access-to-care.com. The AANA will also be driving traffic to this site through a series of digital advertising and engaging in other media activities. Lastly, expect more information about a tele-town hall meeting within the first weeks of the public comment period to inform all AANA members about the rule and how they can take action.

On a positive note, a recent independent assessment of the VHA completed by the RAND Corporation recommended the agency move forward with the FPA for APRNs in the VHA. There's legislation in the House, HR 1247 "Improving Veterans Access to Quality Care Act" supporting APRNs to the fullest extent of their education and training. Since February CRNAs have sent more than 14,000 messages to legislators in support of FPA in the VHA.

Along with other GANA board members I will be attending the AANA Fall Assembly Leadership Academy in Rosemont, IL November 6-8, 2015. I am registered to attend the FPD Track and CRNA-PAC event. Don't forget to give generously to the AANA CRNA-PAC (www.crna-pac.com) where your money goes to support federal legislators that support CRNAs. Please save the date and consider joining us in Washington DC for Mid-Year Assembly April 2-5, 2016. Join me for my 10th consecutive year in attendance, along with thirty-one SRNAs from Augusta University and other CRNAs from Georgia as we head to Capitol Hill to meet with our 16 Georgia Legislators and educate them about CRNAs.

Lastly, one of my jobs as your FPD is to recruit Key Contacts for our 14 US Representatives and 2 US Senators. Be one of 435 CRNAs serving as a Key Contact to Congress. For information go to www.crna-pac.com>getinvolved>become a key contact. Here you will find information about the qualifications, job description and benefits. Please feel free to contact me (sldt@comcast.net) if you think you might be interested. ■

GANA BOARD MEETINGS

The next GANA Board Meeting is November 14th at the Georgian Terrace, along with the Board Retreat. The next 2 meetings will be by phone on February 17th and May 18th, time TBA.

If you would like to attend any of these meetings please RSVP to ganaoffice@bellsouth.net or call 770-487-3900. These meetings are open to all members and we encourage your participation.

Boots on the Ground

by Kay Argroves



This is the second year of a two year legislative session. All the bills that were introduced, but not passed last year, will return in January 2016 where they left off last. We are especially interested in HB 212, which amends the Pain Management Clinic Act. It has passed out of the House and currently sits in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. We may call on you this legislative session for your help. Please lend us your assistance even if you do not personally plan on working in a pain clinic. In its current form, it is a restriction on our scope of practice.

Some of the recommendations of the 2010 Institute of Medicine's Report on the Future of Nursing listed; removal of scope of practice barriers as a goal, as well as expanding opportunities for nurses to lead and work in partnership for improved joint efforts. In addition, nurses would be prepared and empowered to be change agents to advance and improve the health of the general public. These are all noble goals!

I am delighted to introduce you to our 2015-2016 Government Relations Committee. They are: Kimberly Kimble, Kathy Mann, Erica Moore, Wally Phillips, Steve Smith, Ann Thompson, and Taushera Westbrook. We are grateful for their service and thank them for their time and expertise.

We will be having a capital day on January 27, 2016 which will coincide with National Nurse Anesthetist week. Please mark this date on your calendar to come meet us at the gold dome in Atlanta to visit with your legislator and network with your fellow nurse anesthetists. ■

GANA Outstanding Student Registered Nurse Anesthetist of the Year Award

by Steve Smith CRNA, MA

It was an honor and privilege this year to present the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists Outstanding Student Registered Nurse Anesthetist of the Year Award at the 2015 GANA Annual Fall Meeting in Savannah to **Courtney Voss** and **Kassie Krieger**. This award normally only goes to one recipient but they were both so great the board had to pick them both.

The award was first presented by the GANA in 1997. The award is given annually to honor an outstanding nurse anesthesia student enrolled in a Georgia nurse anesthesia program. The criteria are excellence in academics, exemplary clinical practice, leadership capability in the GANA, potential for future contribution to the practice of nurse anesthesia and contribution to the GANA as a student.

I can't say enough good things about both Kassie and Courtney. I have worked closely with both of them as the GANA Communications Chair in their capacity as Augusta University's student representatives to the GANA. Besides both being exceptionally brilliant and clinically sound, they have contributed their time and effort in organizing the other students and attending such events as GANA Capitol Day, AANA Mid-Year Assembly in Washington DC, all 3 GANA Annual Fall Meetings, 2 GANA sponsored blood drives, numerous GANA board meetings and retreats, GANA sponsored regional meetings, the Georgia Association of Nursing Students (GANS) convention, the GPB-TV Telethon and both have written articles in this newsletter. To anyone out there who might have a preconceived idea of this generation's work ethics, drive and ambition well, when is the last time any of you participated in anything as much as these two have in the last 18 months?

I applaud you Courtney and Kassie, and can't wait to have you as colleagues.



Steve Smith, Courtney Voss and Kassie Krieger

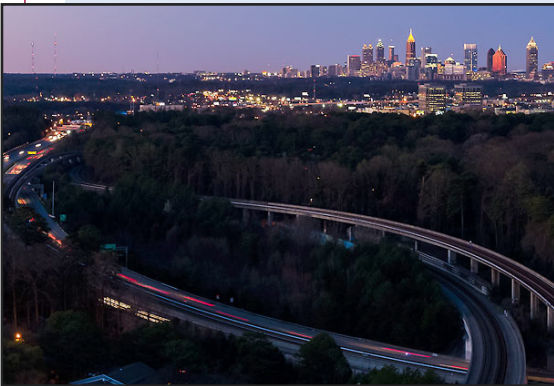
Georgia CRNAs in Action



Past AANA and GANA President Janice Izlar (second from left) at her "Swearing In" ceremony to the Georgia Board of Nursing by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal.

**New
&
Exciting!**

#GAS2016 **There's something for everyone!**



Exciting things are being planned for the GANA Fall 2016 Annual Meeting. Mark your calendars now to attend the first annual Georgia Anesthesia Symposium, #GAS2016, September 30 – October 2, 2016 at the JW Marriott, Atlanta, GA.

Every detail is being planned with you in mind. The program includes hot topics in anesthesia, the latest information on clinical issues, pharmacology, physiology, professional issues and the business of the state and national associations presented by nationally recognized speakers.

Additionally, downtime will be incorporated so you can enjoy the hotel property

and surrounding Buckhead sites. Networking and social events will contribute to the weekend and give you time for relaxing fun. Truly, it will be something for everyone and each attendee will be able to tailor their experience to meet their needs for a professional meeting.

Don't forget; mark your calendars now for the first annual Georgia Anesthesia Symposium, #GAS2016, September 30 - October 2, 2016 at the JW Marriott, Atlanta, GA. We look forward to seeing you there.



Georgia CRNAs and SRNAs in the Community

GANA Blood Drive at Cumberland Mall in Atlanta



Kellie Johnson, Courtney Voss and Hope Johnson Toombs



CRNA organizer Sarah Phillips and Kellie Johnson



Bonnie Grullon-Cooper and Dara Edghill-Odle



John Ohanu, Kim Kimble, Rodgers Kiptuwei and Kassie Krieger



A future CRNA and volunteer



Jo Sineath, CRNA, with SRNA volunteers

2015 GANA Annual Fall Meeting

Savannah, Georgia



Philip Knauer, Ashley Stone, Rohit Avula, Alison Gunbay and Charlie Campbell



Dara Edghill-Odle, GANA President Jo Sineath, Jessica Wooten and Tracy Joiner



Ambra Jordon and John Ohanu



Sarah Phillips and AANA President Juan Quintana



AANA President Juan Quintana and GANA President Jo Sineath



Professor Corey Peterson, Cleopatra Wallace and Rodgers Kiptuwei



Lisa Hedgepeth, Courtney Voss and Erin Murphy



Jennifer Tennorio, Lauren Rapp, Kellie Johnson and Chris Schacke

More from the Annual Fall Meeting



Emily Fuller, Whitney Huffingham and Ryan Ussery



Martha Kral of Wellness



Iva Ozkan, SRNA and Emily Ramnarine



AANA President Juan Quintana, AANA Past President Jance Izlar and Georgia State Senator Lester Jackson



Kyle Calhoun, Jessica Wooten, Tracy Joiner, Iva Ozkan, Frankie Hurst, Dara Edghill-Odle and John Ohanu



Leslie Jeter, State Senator Lester Jackson, Ann Thompson and Christy Dunkelberger



John Ohanu, Tracy Joiner, AANA President Juan Quintana, Dara Edghill-Odle, Jessica Wooten and Iva Ozkan

A New Year, A New Name ... A New Promise

by Shannon Broxton, CRNA, MSN
Augusta University, Nurse Anesthesia Program Professor



Hello fall! August brings exciting times for the Nurse Anesthesia Program here in Augusta. This is by far our busiest season. We have three classes matriculating each fall: seniors graduating in December, juniors starting clinical, and our incoming didactic cohort hitting the books. At thirty per class, these three classes will produce over ninety new CRNAs in Georgia, and for that, we are proud!

You all may have heard the news: Georgia Regents University (GRU) is now AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY. As we move forward with the name change and rebranding of the university, remember that our college is still staffed with faculty who exude excellence and a firm commitment to educating future nurse anesthetists. So whether you are ASU, MCG, GHSU, or GRU, we are all Augusta University now. Go Jags!

Earlier this semester, most of the GANA board and many members were welcomed to the new Education Commons building here in Augusta for a GANA board meeting and tour of our new simulation center. Many students volunteered to assist in showcasing the nurse anesthesia program's state of the art facility. All who attended were impressed by the equipment and the instructor's ability to simulate an anesthetic.

As December approaches, the faculty looks forward to two pinnacle events: graduation and interviews. This year is quite special, as I will be walking the stage with my students having earned a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP). With my completion, all faculty teaching nurse anesthesia at Augusta University will be doctorate prepared CRNAs. We as a faculty are proud of this accomplishment as it readies us to begin teaching and graduating CRNAs at the doctorate level.

At every opportunity, I wish to thank all of those involved in our student's clinical education. Hundreds of CRNAs across the state work with our students nearly every day and without their support and commitment, our program would not exist. I would also like to thank the GANA board for their countless efforts and support shown to our students over the years. Our nurse anesthesia program remains committed to building a future with GANA. Lastly, as I begin this new season as President-Elect, I want to thank the members for their support and promise that recommendations about improving GANA will not fall on deaf ears.

Cheers to you all. ■



Janice Izlar with US Representative Buddy Carter (District 1) and his Health Legislative Assistant at the Georgia Institute of Plastic Surgery. Janice provided a tour for the legislator, informing him of our safety, cost effectiveness and ability to practice without physician anesthesiologists.

Kay Argroves Receives The 2015 Rosalie McDonald Award

by Janice J. Izlar, CRNA, DNAP

Rosalie McDonald was the first President of the GANA and the 6th President of the AANA. With memory of Rosalie McDonald, each year we honor a CRNA who has demonstrated dedicated leadership to the profession of nurse anesthesia. This year it was my honor on behalf of the GANA Board of Directors to present this prestigious award to Kay Argroves.

Kay's dedication to the profession of nurse anesthesia has spanned decades. When first meeting Kay you see a quiet, utmost professional individual. As you get to know her and watch her work you quickly see an individual with knowledge, conviction and strength, someone unafraid to embrace a challenge to the profession with a positive attitude. Standing up for what is right for the patient and the profession is a hallmark of her character.

One of the first times I saw her organized diligence was when the GANA challenged the Georgia Board of Nursing (GBON) regarding their proposed Master degree requirement for initial APRN authorization for CRNAs. Following a well-researched, thoughtful presentation to the GBON, the final rule mirrored the Council on Accreditation's educational requirement for entry-level nurse anesthesia educational programs, the envy of other APRN specialties.

As Kay assumed leadership roles with the GANA her visionary leadership skill became apparent. Envisioning the advantages to the GANA that an Executive Director (ED) would bring to the association, while serving as GANA President the contract was signed for Christy Dunkelberger to work as the first GANA ED/Legal Council.

When an opportunity for a CRNA to serve on the GBON APRN Committee Kay said yes. During this tenure of service Kay worked to protect the citizens of Georgia while promoting APRN contributions to the healthcare system through safe, accessible, affordable care.

In addition to her service to Georgia CRNAs, Kay has served on the AANA Practice Committee, standing up for Standards, practice guidelines and position statements to ensure patient safety and support the high quality care of CRNAs. Her service to the AANA



Leslie Jeter, Steve Smith, Janice Izlar and Kay Argroves

is well respected and appreciated by CRNAs and AANA staff.

Over the years when there was a GANA need, Kay was ready to step up to the plate. Her service continues today by making numerous state and federal legislator visits, building relationships to form coalitions and serving as chair of the state's Government Relations Committee.

With almost an innocent passion Kay has always been there for the GANA. She sees the good in people and encourages others. Kay is never satisfied with the status quo. Rather, she continues to seek improvement for herself, those around her, our profession and our state and national associations.

Rosalie McDonald spearheaded the GANA in 1938 through the formation of the association; Kay Argroves, CRNA, has spearheaded the GANA for the last 20 years through dedicated service. She is most deserving of this highest honor, the 2015 Rosalie McDonald Award.

Please join me in congratulating Kay for receiving this honor. ■

AANA 2015 Nurse Anesthesia Annual Congress

Salt Lake City, Utah



Steve Smith, Dr. Lena Gould and Bob Gauvin at the Diversity CRNA reception



Janice Izlar and Leslie Jeter at the Annual Banquet



GANA President Jo Sineath, AANA President Juan Quintana, Amy Frank and Lisa Smith at the Annual Banquet



GANA breakfast – with Mark Haffey, Bob Gauvin, Jance Izlar, Luis Rivera, Bruce Weiner, Debbie Barber, Cheryl Nimmo, Alison N Jason Carter, Amy Frank, Martha Dukes Kral, Jo Sineath, Madge Moon and Steve Smith

Georgia CRNAs and SRNAs in Action



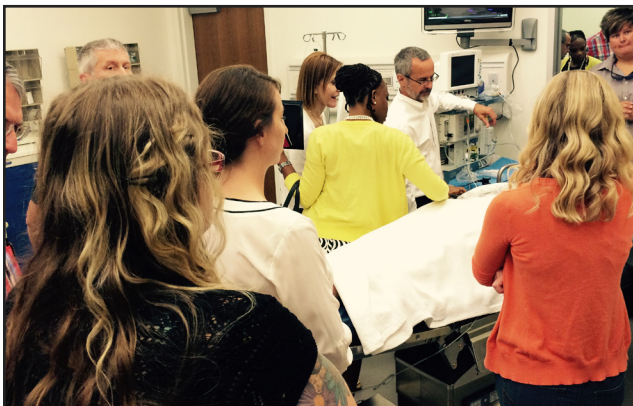
GANA CRNAs and SRNAs volunteering at Georgia Public Broadcasting

GANA Regional Meeting in Rome, GA



Ambra Jordon, Mark Schmitz, April Culler, Iva Ozkan and John Ohanu

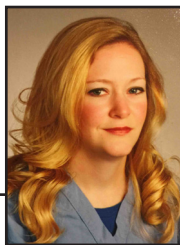
GANA Regional Meeting in Augusta, GA



Tour of the Augusta University Anesthesia simulation lab during the GANA Regional Meeting there. Professor Shannon Broxton was doing demonstrations in the lab.

Increasing Member Involvement thru Regional Meetings

by Sarah Phillips, CRNA



It has proven to be an exciting, eventful year for the GANA and next year will not disappoint. The PR committee has taken great strides to increase member involvement and activity this year with the implementation of several new events. The introduction of regional meetings has made the GANA more transparent and available to its members, while providing CRNAs the opportunity for camaraderie and networking among each other. Regional meetings have also allowed for educational opportunities. CRNA Steve Smith gave a lecture at our Rome meeting on The Business of Anesthesia; and Shannon Broxton, CRNA provided a tour with hands-on experience at the new simulation lab at Georgia Regents University in Augusta. GANA's 1st annual blood drive with the American Red Cross in Atlanta enhanced public awareness of the need for blood donation, while familiarizing them with the role of nurse anesthetists. Finally, GANA received some airtime with Georgia Public Broadcasting as we volunteered with our friends and families at one of their many telethons. We were able to introduce the public to our profession through a live interview with Jo Sineath, CRNA.

Next year we plan to continue similar events and make a few additions. GANA will expand regional meetings to other cities, such as Macon, to make ourselves accessible to as many of our members as possible. Our 2nd annual blood drive is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 21st, 2016 in Atlanta, and we will likely have opportunities to volunteer with Georgia Public Broadcasting next summer. CRNA Week is in January and promotional items will be soon be available through the AANA at no cost. Order these items to display at your workplace and show support for your profession!

Our need to educate the public and attain active members to strengthen our association is constant. Take an active role and become involved with GANA when you can. We welcome new faces at our meetings and have opportunities to volunteer with us throughout the year.

Please feel free to contact me with questions, suggestions, or if you have interest in any of these events.

Sarah8888@hotmail.com

ganaoffice@bellsouth.net ■



Go to www.gana.org, click on Facebook in the upper right hand corner of the home page and then "Like Us" on Facebook!

2015-2016 GANA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 6-8, 2015

AANA Fall Leadership Academy
Rosemont, IL

November 14, 2015

GANA Board Retreat
The Georgian Terrace, Atlanta, GA

January 27, 2016

GANA Capitol Day
State Capitol, Atlanta, GA

February 17, 2016

GANA Board Meeting – Telephone

February 20, 2016

GANA Regional Meeting, Macon, GA

February 25-27, 2016

AANA Assembly of School Faculty, San Antonio, Texas

April 2-6, 2016

AANA MYA, Washington, DC

May 18, 2016

GANA Board Meeting – Telephone

May 22, 2016

2nd Annual GANA/Red Cross Blood Drive, Cumberland Mall, Cobb Cty, GA

August 27, 2016

GANA Board Meeting
GRU Augusta, GA

September 9-13, 2016

AANA Nurse Anesthesia Annual Congress, Washington, D.C.

September 30 – October 2, 2016

GANA Annual Meeting
Atlanta, GA

Fiscal Year 2015 Treasurer Report

by Steve Smith, CRNA, MA

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for being a GANA/AANA member. It is because of you we are able to have what I consider to be one of the strongest state associations not only in Region 2, but throughout the country. We could not do what we do without your financial support. We rely heavily on membership dues to be able to financially make the GANA what it is. For those of you who may not know, \$232.50 of the \$645.00 annual dues you pay to the AANA comes back to GANA. We currently have just over 1200 members and our assets are over 1.3 million dollars. We are financially sound. Since 2006 I have been actively involved with the GANA. During that time, we have gone from assets of approximately \$400,000 to our current value. Most of our funds are conservatively invested. We do not take our fiduciary responsibilities lightly. If anything, this association has a history of being extremely conservative with its money, which in part is why we enjoy a sound position today.

Secondly, I would like to thank the members of the finance committee this past year: Leslie Jeter, Jo Sineath and ED/legal counsel Christy Dunkelberger. For this coming year it will remain as is with the addition of Shannon Broxton. We will meet in November to work on the budget for board approval. Our fiscal year 2016 will begin November 1st of this year and run until Oct. 31 2016.

The finance committee has had maybe one of the busiest years in recent history. Earlier in the year there was a board decision to terminate Gibbs Financial Services. The Gibbs Company was merging with another company which would have resulted in increased costs and limited our investment

capabilities. As a result, we sent out RFPs to fee-only financial advisors. After careful consideration and the board's approval, GANA hired Berger Wealth Management. The investments have now been moved into a corporate account with Charles Schwab. GANA's investments are in mutual funds and bank CDs.

On June 19-20 of this year we had a state organizational review (SOR). The GANA was found to be in great financial shape. The SOR recommended our Investment Policy Statement and Financial Policies and Procedures be revised and that is what we have done. Our objectives are to provide for long term appreciation and provide some protection by utilizing a balanced and diversified investment approach. The GANA target goal is to keep 3 years of annual operating expenses in cash reserves. Many state policies only allow for 6 months in reserve for operating expenses.

Another recommendation by the SOR was to invest more money, time and energy into the membership and that is what we have started doing and will continue to do. The PR committee has already started doing a great job with this through regional meetings offering a meal, an educational program with CEUs, and an open forum for questions. Thus far, meetings have been held in Rome and Augusta. Special thanks to Sarah Phillips, Jo Sineath, Kurt Ochsenknecht and Shannon Broxton for making this possible. It was extremely well received by the membership.

On a final note our next audit will be for fiscal year 2016. The GANA is a 501(C) (6) entity, as such is open for public inspection. If any of the members would like access to GANA financial information, please contact the GANA office. ■



Report on the Georgia Nursing Leadership Coalition IOM SUMMIT II APRNS: Access and Economics

September 21, 2015
Emory Conference Center • Atlanta, GA

by Kay Argroves

The first Georgia Nursing Leadership Coalition (GNLC) summit occurred in February 2011 after the October 2010 Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued its landmark report titled: “The Future of Nursing.” For the last 5 years, nationwide, all states have been challenged to join the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action. This is an initiative pioneered by both the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to promote the IOM report. The GNLC was formed following this first statewide summit. This was the second summit.

The Georgia Nursing Leadership Coalition brochure shared the following recommendations from the Institute of Medicine’s report on the Future of Nursing (2010) as a template on the direction nursing and healthcare should be advancing. The recommendations are for the:

1. Removal of scope of practice barriers for all nurses (In other words, nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training). (Roussel, 2016)
2. Expanding opportunities for nurses to lead and diffuse collaborative improvement efforts (Nurses should be full partners with physicians and other health professionals in redesigning health care in the United States). (Roussel, 2016)
3. Implement nurse residency programs
4. Increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020 (Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression). (Roussel, 2016)
5. Double the number of nurses with a doctorate by 2020
6. Ensure that nurses engage in lifelong learning
7. Prepare and enable nurses to lead change to advance health
8. Build an infrastructure for the collection and analysis of interprofessional health care workforce data (Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and information infrastructure). (Roussel, 2016)

“Nursing has been designated as the change agent to transform the US healthcare system.” Roussel, 2016. No other member of the healthcare team understands and views the patient more holistically than the profession of nursing. (Roussel, 2016)

Mary Chesney, PhD, RN, CPNP, FAAN, was the keynote speaker. She is from Minnesota, and spoke on a newly formed coalition of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN’s) who were successful in passing a law granting full practice authority to all APRN’s in Minnesota. Independently, their organization had previously sought to gain APRN autonomy through legislation. Essentially they tried legislatively in 1996, 1999, and 2009 for full authority without restriction and were blocked. They sought to regroup and try a different approach. They formed a totally new unified APRN coalition representing all APRN’s speaking in one voice. They charged \$40.00 for membership.

Ms. Chesney shared many pearls on techniques they used to address coalition members concerns, areas of interest, consensus building, and political challenges from within and outside of the membership group. One of the most unique ideas she shared was having several different nursing organizations lobbyists working together for a shared goal with one lobbyist designated as lead.

Ms. Chesney further explained that it is important to remember when visiting a legislator that people form opinions and are motivated by their value systems. Most individuals are influenced by one of three factors. First, some people are most profoundly influenced by a heartfelt story, some by data, and some have the bottom line of financial cost as their guiding value. So when visiting a legislator it is important to know which value system guides that individual.

Ms. Barbara Safriet, J.D., LL.M., FAANP(H), was the next keynote. She helped write the IOM report in regards to using nurses to their full scope of practice. She is a champion for APRN’s and shared some of the challenges she faced in this endeavor.

She emphasized that public service and public good require full utilization of our well trained professionals for the best use of precious resources. She also expressed the concern that civics, as a curriculum in schools of nursing, is lacking, and more effort needs to be placed on this in the future at all levels of nursing education.

She said much research is being written now by other organizations, not affiliated with nursing, in supporting full scope of APRN’s such as the Rand Studies, the IOM Future of Nursing, the Federal Trade Commission’s (FDA) March 2014 statement, and the Council of Economic Advisors Report on APRNs published in July 2015. She also explained that the FDA cannot come to a state to expound on a position or assist unless they have

had the expressed invitation by the state attorney general. She also shared that members of APRN organizations should be notified of the importance of this so that their membership can vote accordingly when a candidate runs for this elected office.

Other information of interest:

Perspectives on Advanced Practice Registered Nursing in Georgia – a 2015 report produced by Georgia Watch with funding from the Georgia Health Foundation.

Rural Hospital Stabilization Committee Report – a 2015 report to the Governor.

AARP Public Policy Bulletin – Removing Barriers to Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Care Hospital Privileges

Georgia Watch's, Beth Stephens, JD., also spoke at the meeting on their Patient Centered Outcomes Research. She shared that 1 in 44 voters in Georgia is a nurse. This is an important demographic for all legislators to be made aware.

It was a great opportunity to network with fellow APRN's from differing professions as well as make future plans for our collective work together.

References:

Institute of Medicine. (2010). The future of nursing: Leading change, advancing health. Retrieved from <http://www.ion.edu/Reports/2010/The-Future-of-Nursing-Leading-Change-Advancing-Health.aspx>

Roussel, L., Thomas, PI, & Harris, J. (2016). Organizational Structure and Accountability In Management and Leadership for Nurse Administrators (pp. 114-115). Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.

From the Communications Committee

by Steve Smith, CRNA, MA

I am excited to report that the communications committee, which is composed of Sarah Phillips, Monica Burrell, Alison Herren, SRNA Dara Edghill and myself as chair, is currently working on completely redoing the GANA website. Past AANA President Janice Izlar will also be assisting us. This is something that was suggested by our state organizational review this past year and in my opinion is something that is way overdue. We are hoping that the new website will be easy on the eyes, easy to navigate and contain the information that you need and want. Our target date is to have it completed by the end of the year. We welcome any and all suggestions as we take on this important project.

The committee is also going to revise the GANA brochure. We hope to have this completed by Capitol Day on January 27, 2016. We feel this is necessary due to changes in the content of the brochure such as our new mission and vision statement. The plan is to tailor it towards legislators and those in control of hiring CRNAs such as hospital CEOs and administrators. It will focus on our safety record, accessibility and cost effectiveness.

We plan to continue publishing the GANA newsletter, To and Fro, twice a year in November and May with a hard copy to all GANA members and an electronic copy on the website. Remember to please "Like Us" on GANA Facebook at www.gana.org. Besides just Facebook, once we get the new website up and running you will have 5-6 ways of connecting with the GANA.

As they get close to graduation, I would like to thank the two GANA student representatives who have helped me in more ways I can count this past year not only with the communications committee but with Mid-Year Assembly and PR events. Thank you so much Kassie Krieger and Courtney Voss who were also chosen as the 2015 GANA Outstanding SRNAs of the Year. I am looking forward to working with their two replacements, April Culler and John Ohanu.

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

**Helpline
Peer Assistance
800.654.5167**

**Anesthetists in
Recovery (AIR)
215.635.0183**

Legislative and Regulatory:

a. House Bill 212 is in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. GANA continues to lobby for passage of this Bill in order to fix the restriction placed on CRNAs' scope of practice through the passage of the Pain Management Clinic Act. If your state Senator is on the Health and Human Services Committee, we need you to contact him/her to discuss the passage of HB 212. A list of Committee members is included below. If your Senator is on this Committee, please contact the GANA for more information about meeting with your Senator.

Senate Health and Human Services Committee Members:

Unterman, Renee Chairman
Hufstetler, Chuck Vice Chairman
Millar, Fran Secretary
Burke, Dean Member
Butler, Gloria Member
Cowser, Bill Member
Henson, Steve Member
Hill, Judson Member
Jackson, Lester Member
Kirk, Greg Member
Ligon, Jr., William Member
Orrock, Nan Member
Shafer, David Member
Watson, Ben Member

b. Our next GANA Capitol Day is scheduled for January 27, 2016. We hope many of you can join this event to help lobby for HB 212 and to show Georgia legislators the strength of CRNAs in Georgia.

c. Board of Nursing

This year Barry Cranfill, CRNA left the BON. His appointment was not renewed by the Governor. Also, Kathy Mann, CRNA resigned from the BON. Both Barry and Kathy were excellent members of the BON. GANA is very appreciative of their service and very sorry to see them go. However, when one door closes another opens and GANA is pleased that Janice Izlar, CRNA has been recently appointed to the BON. We are very fortunate to have another CRNA representative appointed to the BON. Congratulations Janice and thanks to you, Barry and Kathy, for your service. ■

Student Report from Augusta University

by Kassie Kreiger, SRNA



As you may or may not have heard, MCG has, yet again, changed its name. Many of us started looking at the program when it was the Medical College of Georgia. However, after we applied, the school was renamed Georgia Health Sciences University, then later, the school merged with Augusta State to become Georgia Regents University. Now the class of 2015 will be graduating from the newly named Augusta University ("AU"). With Mercer closing in 2013, AU is now home to the only nurse anesthesia program in Georgia.

Regardless of the name on our diploma, we are just eight short weeks away from finishing our 28-month Nurse Anesthesia Master's program! I am excited to report 20 of our 29 SRNAs have already secured employment and the other 9 are not far from it. I am also excited to report over half of our class will be staying in Georgia to practice. Those leaving Georgia will be practicing in Texas, Tennessee, South Carolina, Illinois, Indiana and Massachusetts. With two rotations left to go, our students are averaging 700 cases and 1750 clinical hours. To say the least, we are honored and eager to be joining the esteemed CRNA profession!

From our entire NA class, we would like to again thank all of our professors, preceptors, and mentors for the dedication you have put into our education. You have been generous with your patience, wisdom, time, and compassion and we would certainly not be where we are now without all of your help. Please continue to send good luck and well wishes our way as we prepare for boards!

For any of those who would like to attend, the nursing convocation will be from 10-11am at the Christenberry Fieldhouse, with the commencement ceremony beginning at 2pm at the James Brown Arena, Saturday December 12th in Augusta. We also invite you to join us in celebrating Friday evening with dinner, drinks, and music at Augusta's Savannah River Rapids Pavillion (\$35/pp.) Please contact me at KassieAnne@gmail.com for further details or to RSVP.

SRNAs Get Involved at the 2015 GANA Annual Fall Meeting

Savannah, Georgia



Nancy Ogendo, Carmen Simmons, Marquette Butler, Erica Moore and Kim Kimble



Rohit Avula, Reed Halterman, Philip Knauer, Ryan Ussery, Ashley Stone and Charlie Campbell



Standing: April Culler, Amber Toulson and Lindsay Anderson; Sitting: Alyson Dukes, Jennifer Simmons, Whitney Lyles and Amy Morales



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

To & Fro

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

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone # _____ Best time to call _____

Email _____ Fax _____

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

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 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

