



To & Fro

A Publication of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists • Volume 80 • Fall 2016

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.

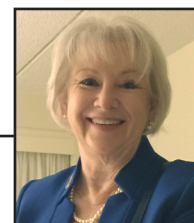
Vision Statement

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

The GANA Strategic Plan

by Jo Sineath, CRNA



It has been an honor to serve as President of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists and I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie before us in the coming year.

In November of 2015, your Board of Directors held a retreat, the purpose of which was to fine tune and institute a Strategic Plan that had been developed by the Board with the assistance of several organizational experts recommended to us by our national office. After many hours of thoughtful deliberations, we focused on three priorities. These priorities have been the blueprint from which many of our activities this past year have been directed. The priorities are listed below, all carrying equal importance within the Plan:

1. The passage of House Bill 212 by the Georgia General Assembly. You may recall that the thrust of this legislation concerned the licensure and requirements of those operating in pain clinics in the state. All of us owe a vote of thanks for Kay Argroves, her Government Relations Committee and other CRNAs who lobbied endlessly with our elected officials. We came close, but after midnight on the last day of the legislative session the bill was not brought for a final vote. Our efforts, however, were not without reward. We now have many new friends under the "Gold Dome" and a lot more people in our state government know who CRNAs

are and more about our education, training, and expertise.

2. We sought to increase member involvement. With the able leadership of Sarah Phillips, Chair of the Public Relations Committee, and Steve Smith, Chair of the Communications Committee, a number of regional meetings were held, reaching out to Georgia CRNAs outside of the metro-Atlanta area. Our desire was to enlist more involvement from our members. As I said in my last address, nurse anesthetists provide safe, cost-effective, compassionate anesthesia care. Unfortunately, our profession is under constant attack to limit the privileges, scope, and opportunities of our practices. We need involved members who will advocate and stand up for our place in the healthcare marketplace. A strong state organization is key to this effort.

I am pleased to say that we were successful in bringing a number colleagues into the fold; those who have accepted the challenge and are now serving on committees and other positions of service to GANA. But I would be remiss if I let it go at that, leaving the impression that we accomplished our goal. We have a long way to go. To illustrate this, I will mention a couple of statistics. Prior to, and during a 60 day comment period that began May 25th, 2016, multiple pleas from the AANA and GANA were sent out enlisting our individual

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Communication

www.gana.org



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Anesthesia Patient
Safety Foundation

From the Executive Director

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

**GANA Elections:**

GANA is happy to announce the following individuals have been elected to the GANA 2016-2017 Board: Barry Cranfill – President-elect; Sarah Phillips – Treasurer; Taushera Westbrook – Secretary; Cameron Durden – Board Member; and Reed Halterman – Board Member. Jo Sineath will remain on another year as President and Leslie Jeter will remain on as Immediate Past President. Other remaining Board members include Alison Herren and Wally Phillips. Congratulations to all and thank you for your service.

State Elections:

Thank goodness election season is over. Even though the Ads and bickering may end, it also means that a lot of work is about to begin. A good deal of work now falls on every constituent's shoulders to begin the development of a connection or relationship with the newly elected legislators. There will be some new faces as well as some old standbys. Please make an effort to get to know your new legislator or re-acquaint yourself with the old. Do it now before the session begins. Once the legislative session begins, it will be more complicated and difficult to steal any minutes from a legislator's busy schedule. They need to know who you are now, so that once the session begins, there will be facial recognition when they see you at the Capitol. We need to let the legislators know that CRNAs are a valuable resource for them whenever anesthesia issues arise.

GANA intends to continue to work with key state legislators towards the passage of legislation that will remove the restrictions placed on CRNAs' scope of practice in pain management clinics. The current Pain Management Clinic Act prevents CRNAs from practicing independently in a pain management clinic. The Act requires a non-CRNA APRN, a PA, or a physician to be present when a CRNA provides services in a pain clinic.

GANA Strategic Plan:

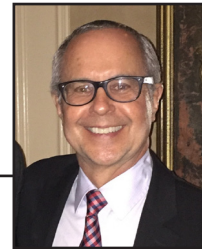
For 2016 - 2017, the GANA leadership will continue to work on tactical initiatives that lead towards accomplishing long range goals. The three goal areas for 2016-2017 are: (1) website development; (2) advocacy; and (3) the GANA annual meeting.

Website Development – Some of you are already aware that our current website is not functioning to full capacity. If you have attempted to sign on to the "member's only" area, your request did not go through. That section is currently not working. Fixing our website limitations is an immediate priority. The communication's committee under the Board's direction will be working hard to evaluate GANA's needs and secure bids for a top-notch website developer and host.

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Expanding Access to Care for our Veterans Still Pending

by Steve Smith, CRNA, MA



There were 223,296 comments submitted to the Veterans Health Administration proposed rule expanding veterans' access to care through full practice authority for CRNAs and other APRNs by its July 25 deadline. By way of comparison, that's more than 36 times the total number of comments that the agency received on more than a hundred regulatory proposals since 2006.

The AANA set a goal of 33 percent of the membership to comment to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) proposed rule expanding veterans' access to care through Full Practice Authority for CRNAs and other APRNs. A total of 36.2 percent of membership submitted comments through the association's Veterans Access to Care Campaign. Twenty-five state associations of nurse anesthetists met their comment challenge goal. Unfortunately, Georgia reached only 26% of their membership goal for submitting comments.

As you know, the Department of Veterans Affairs published its proposed rule on APRN full practice authority in the Federal Register on May 25, triggering a 60-day public comment period that ended on July 25. Currently, we are still waiting to see if all APRNs will be able to expand access to care for our Veterans by being allowed full practice authority in the VA system.

The dates for the upcoming Mid-Year Assembly are April 5-9, 2017 at the Renaissance Downtown in Washington DC. This meeting is Wednesday through Sunday, which is very different from past years. Historically it has been Sunday through Wednesday. The tentative schedule for Wednesday, April 5th is one lecture from 5:00-6:30 PM. Thursday there will be lectures until 11:30 AM, and then the rest of Thursday and all day Friday will be dedicated to legislative visits on Capitol Hill. I will do my best to make our visits on Friday, so we only make one trip to Capitol Hill. All day Saturday there will be more lectures and then on Sunday will be an AANA open board meeting, which is optional. I encourage all GANA members to attend the MYA, especially those of you that have never attended. It's the single most important meeting where you can have a direct impact on anesthesia scope of practice and reimbursement.

In the news, Ralph Kohl has been appointed to the position of Senior Director, Federal Government Affairs, for the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), announced AANA Executive Director/CEO Wanda Wilson, PhD, CRNA. Kohl succeeds 16-year veteran Frank Purcell, BA, who departs the AANA to take over the head post at another leading healthcare professional organization.

Kohl will direct a staff of six in carrying out the AANA's Federal Government Affairs legislative, regulatory and reimbursement advocacy efforts. The AANA boasts the nation's largest nursing political action committee (PAC), and one of the strongest healthcare PACs in the country.

On behalf of the GANA, I would like to thank Janice Izlar for attending a reception on 10/19/2016 in Savannah in honor of US Representative (1) Buddy Carter. The AANA was very generous in their sponsorship as a co-host of Representative Carter with a \$2700 contribution. This shows the importance of the relationship Janice has established with Representative Carter.

I will soon be updating the GANA "Key Contacts" for the upcoming year for Georgia's 14 US Representatives and 2 US Senators. As I have always done in the past, I will include the entire GANA Board on this roster and include CRNAs throughout the state that have an interest in being an advocate between the GANA and their US Representative. If this is something you would be interested in please contact the GANA office at 770-487-3900 or ganaoffice@bellsouth.net.

With significant issues at hand in Washington DC that shape and affect CRNA practice and reimbursement, please join in supporting our CRNA-PAC today. Only your continued voluntary gifts ensure that the CRNA-PAC can be strong for you and your practice on Capitol Hill. Go to www.CRNA-PAC.com to learn more and to make a one-time or sustaining contribution. This is a bipartisan contribution and only goes to those legislators who support the causes of CRNAs in Georgia and around the country. ■



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

Augusta University Student Report

by Girah Caraballo, SRNA
Class of 2017 – Augusta University



The phrase “to and fro” precisely describes the daily lives of the graduate students in the intensive nurse anesthesia program (NAP) at Augusta University (AU) Augusta, GA. The purpose of this article is to offer insight into our collective progress through this program and to share our contributions to the successes of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists’ (GANA) mission and vision for certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) throughout Georgia. Regardless of what cohort we are in, the constant undertaking of studies, clinicals, and preparation for board certification all eventually end with our shared goal of commencement and graduation and thrusting the profession forward.

The newest AU NAP class is just finishing their first semester of anesthesia school and getting acclimated with the basics of anesthesia. They are, however, mastering the art of defending their rationales on exams, a recent topic of discussion in the infamous organic chemistry/pharmacology class. They have already learned the value of evidence based practice (EBP), something they will soon use throughout their careers as anesthetists. The Class of 2018 will be the last of a master’s prepared classes as the AU NAP transitions from an MSN program to an EBP focused doctorate of nursing program (DNP) starting in Spring 2018. While the last of its kind, this class is the first to benefit from a more student-centric annual GANA fall meeting. At the inaugural Georgia Anesthesia Symposium (GAS) 2016 held in Buckhead, Atlanta, junior and senior students collaborated and participated in the first-ever student led discussion panel. New students were able to gain invaluable knowledge from the upperclassmen regarding their experiences in the program. The intimate setting of the discussion panel allowed for open dialogue amongst students on topics ranging from professional to personal advice. Jessica Galloway will serve as GANA class representative for this class and assist in making next year’s discussion panel even better.

While the juniors are just finishing their first semester of the program, the soon-to-be seniors, or the class of 2017, have made great strides in the last year and a half, both academically and personally. Holly Barnlund and Jacob Keesen presented their lectures in the Dan Ebal Memorial Lecture Series at GAS 2016 on the topics of epidural analgesia in the obstetric population and heart rate control during intubation respectively. This, along with the senior class’s State of the Science general poster presentations, not only provided continuing education units (CEUs) for participating GANA members but also sparked EBPs at an Atlanta-based and CRNA-owned and run practice. A survey of GAS 2016 participants revealed that the student presentations were extremely helpful and brought a certain leading-edge of clinical relevancy to the event. Lauren Debarge was recognized as GANA’s Emerging Leader for her contributions to GANA’s government relations committee

(GRC). While not busy in their studies, students volunteered for events such as the Georgia Association of Nursing Students (GANS) Conference to help promote the AU program and the CRNA profession. Students also helped promote the profession in collaboration with Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) during an 8 hour telethon. Beyond the classroom, the class of 2017 celebrated one student’s child’s first birthday, the birth of another classmate’s fifth child, two engagements, three marriages, a military promotion to the rank of major, and a feature as the face of AU’s I Choose Success Campaign. As a member of this class myself, and on behalf of my classmates, I would like to offer a sincere thank you to all of our professors, mentors, and preceptors for their tireless efforts in our successes. We are looking forward to finally becoming seniors and completing our last year of clinical rotations.

Last, but certainly not least, the class of 2016 is wrapping up their final weeks of clinical rotations. Most have already secured jobs throughout the state in practices and facilities where they’ve had the opportunity to complete clinical rotations, while some have secured employment out-of-state in the southeastern region of the United States. This class was instrumental at the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Mid-Year Assembly Rally on Capitol

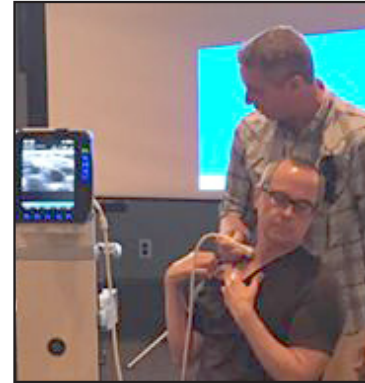
... while we are all busy studying, we have also taken the time to learn about our profession, support one another and our community, and support GANA ...

Hill, in educating and clarifying the role(s) of our profession for the legislature and making our presence known and voices heard. This event, along with Capitol Day at the Georgia State Capitol during CRNA Week, are but two ways students can make a difference in CRNA lobbying efforts to practice to the full scope of our training.

While the class of 2018 is preparing for their next Basics of Nurse Anesthesia final exam, the class of 2017 is preparing for their first Self-Evaluation Examination (SEE), and the class of 2016 is preparing for national board certification. What I’ve hoped to make evident in this article is that while we are all busy studying, we have also taken the time to learn about our profession, support one another and our community, and support GANA. And we are thankful for all the support shown us during our education as we embark into careers as nurse anesthetists. We look forward to reporting even greater student successes in next year’s *To and Fro*. Until next time. ■

Georgia CRNAs in Action

**GANA Northeast
Regional Meeting on
Saturday, July 16, 2016
in Watkinsville, GA**



*CRNA Eddie Thomas
demonstrating the scanning for
an interscalene block*



SRNA April Culler



GANA President Jo Sineath

**GANA Blood Drive
in May 2016 at
Cumberland Mall
in Atlanta**

AANA Annual Congress in Washington DC



Jo Sineath and Wally Phillips



Jo Sineath and Madge Evans



*Jo Sineath, Rose Synsmir, Ann
Thompson and Art Baker*

GAS2016 Is History ... Plans are Underway for GAS2017!

*by Janice Izlar, Leslie Jeter and Rose Synsmir
GAS Program Co-Chairs*

Mark Your Calendar: September 29 – October 1, 2017.

Now is the time to make your request for time off work so you will not miss the second annual Georgia Anesthesia Symposium, GAS2017!

Over 150 GANA members attended the inaugural Georgia Anesthesia Symposium, GAS2016. We gathered for educational sessions by nationally acclaimed speakers, engaged with colleagues and left feeling empowered to advocate for the profession of nurse anesthesia while proving safe, quality care to our patients. Listen to some of the comments attendees said; “Great Job! This was the best meeting I’ve attended since I started practicing in 2008,” “I really liked Lunch and Learn,” and “I thought it was near perfect!”

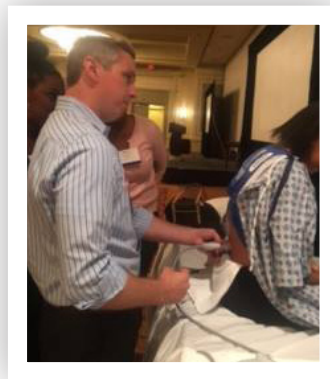
For the first time in many years, the GANA hosted a meeting planned and coordinated entirely by GANA members. Every detail was designed with you, the members, in mind. Offering an opportunity to earn 22 Class A continuing education credits in a 3-day weekend meeting. Plus, time was found to network during a fun evening enjoying Latin food and margaritas while listening to an awesome Mariachi band. Student nurse anesthetist, Girah Caraballo, was the costume winner and the photo booth was a hit with everyone.

The ultrasound workshop received rave reviews and requests for more hands-on workshops in the future. Members seemed to especially benefit from the keynote speaker on patient safety, Dr. Kenneth Rothfield, and AANA General Counsel, Mark Silberman on legal issues surrounding CRNA practice.

Annette Johnson won the early registration grand prize; a complimentary registration for a future GANA sponsored meeting. Erica Moore and Janice Izlar were the second place early registration prizes winners receiving a \$100.00 Amazon gift card. New graduates valued the 5% new graduate registration fee discount.

GANA appreciates the exceptional participation of student associate members providing lectures, an oral poster session and general poster session to maximize CE credits for CRNAs. A concurrent session was held exclusively for SRNAs to assist with transitions from classroom to clinical to first job.

Mark your calendar now for the second annual Georgia Anesthesia Symposium, GAS2017, September 29 – October 1, 2017. It promises to be even better as we tailor the meeting to meet your needs in an educational conference.



*Augusta University
Senior SRNAs at
the GAS2016 Latin
Fiesta Party*



The GANA Strategic Plan

(continued from page 1)

support in favor of a proposed rule that would authorize APRNs full practice authority within the VA system. We were asked to accomplish a simple task of completing an online form requiring no more than 5 minutes of time. Our response to this request was an embarrassing 26% from our membership. Likewise, when ballots were mailed for the election of GANA officers just this past August, less than 10% of our 1200 members responded by voting. At the Annual GANA business meetings, we continually face the challenge of having a quorum present so that our decisions are valid. A quorum is only 5%! The Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists, like any organization is only as good as the efforts of its members. I realize that we are all pulled in different directions and have responsibilities other than the GANA. But our profession, and its rewards, are integral to the “goodness” of the lives that we lead. Please make the decision to serve on a committee, run for a position on the Board, or, at the very least, attend GANA meetings and events. Interact with your legislators. Make your voice one more that they hear in matters pertaining to our role in the healthcare system.

3. Our last priority was to bring our annual Fall meeting “in-house” by planning and conducting a quality, relevant, and enjoyable meeting. I am sure that all of you who attended GAS2016 will agree that this goal was accomplished with flying colors. We owe a big tip of the scrub cap to Janice Izlar, Leslie Jeter, and Rose Synsmir, Co-chairs of that committee, and those who assisted them, for the outstanding meeting they put together. The planning and presentation of GAS2016 was a passion and a labor of love on the part of those involved. And that was evident the entire weekend. Future GAS meetings will include a professional meeting planner who will handle the myriad of details that our program committee will direct. In this effort, there are many opportunities for member assistance. If you are looking for a way to become more active, this may be the place for you.

If I were to call this report a “State of the Organization” report, I would summarize by saying “The State of our Organization” is good. But I would quickly add that, as mentioned in 2., above, we can do better. As we begin the coming year, I implore you to join the effort. Let’s continue to make the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists a strong voice for the profession that means so much to all of us. Rather than a gauntlet, I’ll simply drop a (clean) rubber glove at your feet and challenge you to pick it up and come along.

To every SRNA and CRNA who served on a committee, called or wrote to a legislator, or came to the Capital to support and advocate for our profession, I offer you my heartfelt thanks. ■

April Culler Named AANA/GANA Foundation Scholarship Recipient for 2016



April Culler is a senior student in the Augusta University CRNA program. She received her MSN from the Medical College of Georgia in 2012. April joined Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta at the Scottish Rite campus as a pediatric ICU critical care nurse from the start.

She continued to practice there until she returned to anesthesia school. April served as one of the GANA student representatives throughout 2015 and 2016, which she says was a very rewarding position in terms of volunteering and networking within the CRNA community. April would like to sincerely thank the AANA/GANA Foundation members for this scholarship. The scholarship has been valuable in meeting the needs of school expenses in the final semester of nurse anesthesia school as she will be transitioning into post-school life. April would like to thank her husband, Brian for being an incredible support throughout the duration of the program. She would also like to mention how important her close friends and classmates, professors and preceptors are to her for making anesthesia school such an enriching experience.

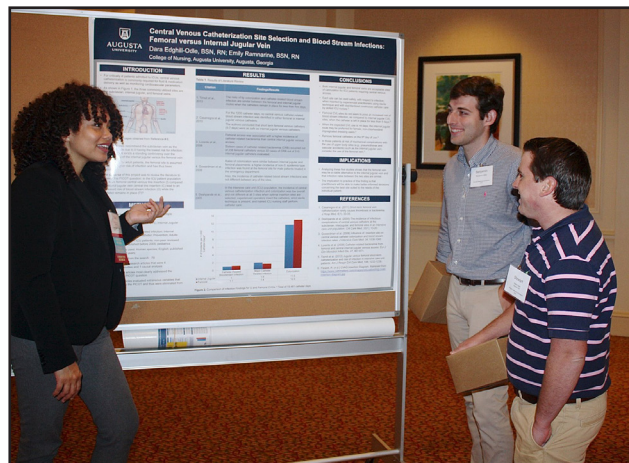
SAVE THE DATE

The next GANA board meeting will be held **February 18, 2017** in conjunction with the GANA regional meeting in Columbus, GA at 10:00 a.m. with location TBA.

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



*Alison Herren, Sarah Phillips,
Monica Burrell and Janice Izlar*



Dara Edghill explaining her poster to two RNs



*Sarah Phillips and AANA
Region 2 Director Dina Velocci*



*Steve Smith, Alison Herren and
Dewey Galeas*



*April Culler received the
2016 GANA Outstanding
SRNA of the Year award*



*Jo Sineath and Christy Dunkelberger
Jo received the GANA crystal gavel
in honor of her 2015-2016 GANA
Presidency*



*Jessica Faith Wooten, Dara Edghill,
John Ohanu, Angie Ohanu and
Aleshia Edwards*



Some of the attendees of GAS2016



Kay Argroves and Jo Sineath

Kay received an award in honor of her outstanding work this past year as the GANA Government Relations Chair



Kay Argroves, Lauren DeBarge and Jo Sineath

Lauren DeBarge was honored with the Government Relations Committee Emerging Leader Award



Jo Sineath, Janice Izlar and Rose Synsmir

Janice, Rose and Leslie Jeter (not pictured) were honored for their outstanding work on the 1st Annual Georgia Anesthesia Symposium

In Memory of Alan Williams



A funeral service celebrating the life and legacy of Mr. Alan Leroy Williams was held at Holy Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. Mr. Williams made his transition to his heavenly home surrounded by his loving family on June 4, 2016. Mr. Williams, affectionately known as "Plookey", was born November 11, 1950 in Youngstown, OH, a son of Roy Williams and Jeraleen Isenhour Williams Lacey.

Alan was a 1968 graduate of South High School and a 1974 graduate of Youngstown State University, where he received an associate's degree in nursing. In 1980, he became the first African-American male to graduate from the St. Elizabeth's Health Center School for Nurse Anesthetists. He was formerly employed with St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Youngstown, OH; Crawford Long Hospital, West Paces, Grady and the Atlanta VA Hospital in Atlanta, GA as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. He retired in January, 2016 after 36 years of loyal service.

Mr. Williams was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and an active member of the AANA (American Association of Nurse Anesthetists). He enjoyed skating, traveling, and playing tennis, and was a member of the Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association. He was also a member of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Georgia for 13 years.

On August 17, 1974, he married Kathleen Joy Southerland and to this union two children were born: Kimberly Joy and Alan Leroy Williams II. He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife Kathleen, his loving children, Kimberly (Alfonso) Jones of Decatur, GA, Alan L. Williams II of Stone Mountain, GA; his beloved granddaughter, Kyla Joy Jones; his siblings Evangelist Cassantra Clinkscale, Ronald (Mary) Williams, Janice (Seraffin) Okello, Beverly (Robert) Dixie, Beatrice Williams, and Constance (Charles) Fitzpatrick; his step sisters, Marlane Johnson, Iris Clark, Jennifer Lacey, of Youngstown, OH, Nora Ali, Helen Lacey of Columbus, OH, Kay Madison of Detroit, MI, Lorraine Yancy of Arlington, TX; a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, fraternity brothers, and dear friends.

Alan was preceded in death by his parents; his stepfather, Madgie Lacey; two brothers Gregory Williams, Floyd (Bennie) Williams; and step brothers, Robert, Thomas and Charles Lacey.

Please visit jewashingtonfuneralservices.com to leave condolences and to sign the online guestbook. Ministry of care and comfort provided by J.E. Washington Funeral Services, Inc.

2017 Legislative Session

by Monty Veazey



The Georgia Legislature will convene the second Monday of January 2017. The legislature had one of its shortest sessions on record this past year due to early election voting. I look for this session to be on the opposite end of the spectrum being one of the longest we have seen in quite some time.

In many respects, the General Assembly membership should look the same. The Georgia House of Representatives and the State Senate have a republican majority and will remain the same, giving each a super majority.

As in the past, the budget will remain in the forefront. Because Georgia is a growth state, revenue will continue to increase and we do not expect to see any substantial cuts in the near future.

Many of the legislative leaders anticipate this session to be known as the healthcare session as we expect the following issues to be addressed:

1. Certificate of Need pushed by
 - a. Cancer Treatment Centers of America who do not treat Medicaid or uninsured
 - b. HCA who wants to expand their base
2. Medicaid Expansion
 - a. All access to healthcare
3. The Hospital Bed Tax
 - a. Up for renewal this year
4. Rural healthcare crisis
5. Scope of practice
6. Medical marijuana

Many thanks to each of the CRNAs who came to the Capitol to participate in "GANA Capitol Day". The association continues to make great contacts and always stands out as a successful organization. We will re-introduce pain management legislation at the beginning of session, hoping for success as we came so close last year. ■

by Dr. Dina F. Velocci DNP CRNA



Greetings GANA Members,

I hope the fall season in Georgia is treating you well. Thank you for the great southern hospitality at your recent state meeting. GANA will have a very busy year protecting and promoting your profession. I will do all I can to support the advocacy efforts over the next two years. Please consider giving a small donation to your GANA PAC to help support the efforts of your BOD colleagues on your behalf. <https://www.gana.org/donate.shtml>

I would like to highlight a few important issues that will face all CRNAs. The first is CMS release on MACRA final rules. This will affect quality reporting for CRNAs beginning in 2017. If you are not sure how this will impact you please click on the link to find out more. <http://www.aana.com/resources2/quality-reimbursement/Pages/MACRA.aspx>

The next issue you may want to be aware of is the AANA initiative in developing informational sources to aid certified registered nurse anesthetists in understanding the complex relationship between quality and value outlined in many of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) quality initiatives. One of the AANA member advantages is the option CRNAs have now to choose for their QCDR reporting measures. Here is the flyer with all the information. <http://www.aana.com/resources2/quality-reimbursement/Pages/QCDR-Infographics.aspx> As well, here is an excellent link to more information on reimbursement. <http://www.aana.com/resources2/quality-reimbursement/Pages/default.aspx>

Lastly, if you are in need of a few free CEUs ... Please take advantage of your member benefit! Enter promo code MEMBER upon checkout to receive 1 free Class A CE credit. Your code can be used for up to six online courses worth 1 Class A CE credit each (a \$300 value) on www.AANALearn.com

I wish each and everyone a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving. I would like to share this short video I found powerful and inspirational. <http://www.goalcast.com/2016/10/14/mindshift-change-mind-motivational-video/> ■

Augusta University Nursing Anesthesia Report

by James Masiongale, CRNA, DNP
Director and Clinical Coordinator, Nursing Anesthesia Program
Augusta University



Greetings from the students, faculty and staff of the AU's Nursing Anesthesia Program. We are a little over midway through the fall semester and things are running at full speed. The seniors are busy with their last semester of clinical, studying for boards and searching for their first job as a CRNA. The juniors are in their second clinical rotation and starting to get their routines figured out and the didactic students have made the adjustment from ICU nurse to full time student.

I am sure you are aware that all CRNA programs must be at the doctorate level by 2025. Programs not making the transition will no longer be able to take students. We have submitted the required paperwork and should hear from the COA board in November. If we are approved to make the move, we will admit our first DNP cohort January 2018. We will get the information on our web page regarding applications as soon as we get the approval.

I am asked frequently what changes will occur with the move to DNP. The most notable changes that our clinical sites will notice is all clinical will be 4 days per week to allow time for the students to do their online classes. The program will remain front loaded didactic, but DNP online courses will be taken while in clinical. There will be an additional semester of clinical and an additional semester of didactic to bring the program to 36 months in length. All didactic courses will increase in rigor to reflect the doctorate level of education.

The goal of the DNP project is to use evidence based practice to guide change in practice. If you have ideas or need some new protocols for your department, let us know. One example of a project I served on was implementing a PONV protocol. The student involved designed preop checklists and provided poster sessions to the anesthesia department.

Our desire is to continue to graduate students who are prepared to pass boards and function as beginning CRNAs. The students will continue to refer to themselves as either SRNA or student CRNA. They will continue to be instructed not to refer to themselves as "anesthesia resident" to prevent patient confusion. There will probably be a couple of learning opportunities for the program as we make this transition so I ask that you please bear with us. If you have comments, suggestions or concerns please email or call.

As always I want to thank all of the clinical instructors. You are the heart and backbone of our program and without you we could not exist. Taking the time to share your knowledge, experience, and skills is one of the greatest gifts you can give back to this wonderful profession. You are true heroes in the eyes of the students and didactic faculty, and we are forever grateful to you. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to send me an email or give me a call.

(706) 721-8215
jmasiong@augusta.edu ■



SRNAs of the Augusta University NAP attend GAS2016

Emory School of Nursing DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program Update

by Kelly L. Wiltse Nicely, PhD, CRNA
Program Director



As many of you know, the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University is launching a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Nurse Anesthesia program. We are in the process of finalizing our self-study report for accreditation to the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA) and will host the COA site visit in January, 2017. We continue to recruit high quality critical care nurses for our first cohort of students to begin August 2017. Applications are being accepted through January 1, 2017. Additional information about how to apply can be found at: <http://www.nursing.emory.edu/crna>.

It is my great privilege to be named the inaugural Program Director for the Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing DNP Nurse Anesthesia program. I will begin full-time at Emory starting December 1st and bring with me my husband Tom, and two children Addison and Thomas. I come from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where I served as the Program Director for Penn's Nurse Anesthesia program and was responsible for transitioning Penn's program from a master's to DNP degree program. In addition, I am a PhD trained health outcomes researcher with a solid track record of funded research. My most recent research focused on the cost effectiveness of various anesthesia delivery models in California before and after the opt out of physician supervision. I am committed to maintaining an active clinical practice. My expertise has been focused on cardiac anesthesia and I look forward to new practice opportunities as I move to Georgia.

Professionally, I am a two time past President of the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists, have served on multiple committees at the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), and currently serve on the Closed Claims research team for the AANA Foundation. I look forward

to getting to know the Georgia CRNA community and am excited for the opportunity to work with such an esteemed group of practitioners!

For those who have not heard about the Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing DNP Nurse Anesthesia program, here is some key information about the program. Emory's nurse anesthesia program is one of only two programs in the state of Georgia and the first to offer the DNP entry. This 36-month, 88-credit hour, full-time program is designed to provide the solid clinical and academic foundation necessary to produce competent, professional, advanced nurse practitioners in the field of nurse anesthesia who are able to implement and translate existing knowledge into practice and lead care improvements. One unique focus will be to prepare students for both business and practice realities. Pathways to Practice will educate students on both the business and financial considerations related to anesthesia practice. Students will gain extensive experiences through clinical training in the greater Atlanta area, rural Georgia and beyond. Adding the anesthesia track to our already existing DNP program is in line with the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA) requirement that students enter a DNP-based program starting in 2022. Our inaugural class size will be 10 students with the first class beginning in August 2017 pending COA approval.

For practicing CRNAs wanting to expand their education and earn their terminal degree (DNP), Emory also offers a post-master's DNP program. A hybrid model of delivery is used for this post-master's DNP program which involves online coursework and three on-campus Saturday sessions each semester. This program accepts full and part-time students.

To read more about the Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing's DNP, Nurse Anesthesia program, visit: <http://nursing.emory.edu/crna>; or for the post-master's DNP option visit: <http://nursing.emory.edu/admission-and-aid/doctoral-programs/dnp/index.html>. We are committed to keeping the community of CRNAs in Georgia apprised of our progress. Should you wish to reach out to me directly, please email me at any time at Kelly.Wiltse.Nicely@emory.edu. ■

Shadow a CRNA

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

Student Presentations from GAS2016



Jessica Wooten and Rose Synsmir



John Ohanu and Jessica Wooten



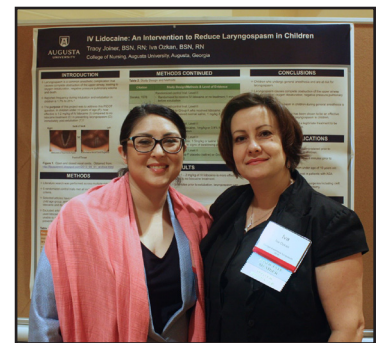
Alyson Lamb and Lindsay Anderson



Sean Ussery and Philip Knauer



Amy Morales and Emma Autry



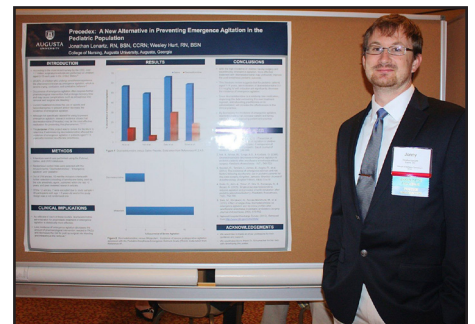
Tracy Joiner and Iva Ozkan



Rohit Avula and Kyle Calhoun



Whitney Lyles



Jonny Lenartz



Mid-Year Assembly

Washington, DC

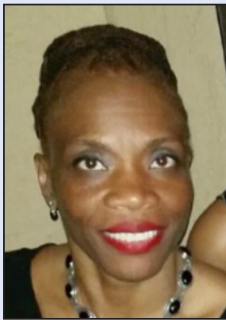
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Rose Synsmir – 2016 Rosalie McDonald Award Recipient



The GANA is proud to announce this year's winner of the Rosalie McDonald Award, Rose Synsmir. We know Rose to be smart, hard-working and a credit to our profession and to the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Rose embodies all that this award stands for, which is her contribution of excellence to the practice of nurse anesthesia and sustained support for CRNAs.

Colleagues, in describing Rose, have offered the following:

- “Rose is very smart and is always willing to offer help.”
- “Rose exemplifies the standard of care. She sets an example for our practice and makes each anesthetist strive to be better.”
- “Rose Synsmir is punctual and professional.”
- “As Chief Anesthetist, Rose conducts staff meetings in a clear and direct way. She is focused, informing staff of new challenges and offering support and encouragement in dealing with those challenges.”

Rose is a dedicated and committed member of GANA. She has served our state organization and AANA in numerous positions over the years. She currently serves as our archivist/historian and is Co-Chairperson of the #GAS2016 Program Committee. She has served GANA as a Director, Vice President, President-Elect, President and Immediate Past President. For many years, she served as Program Chairperson. Rose has been instrumental to GANA by attending Fall Leadership Academy, Mid-year Assembly and the AANA Annual meeting on a regular basis.

She has been involved from the beginning in the State Strategic Planning Process and continues to offer valuable input into that process.

Rose is a very disciplined individual and committed to her own wellness. This is evident by her daily yoga routine and healthy life style. This, along with her “can do” attitude and encouraging manner, make her a role model for and mentor to many.

Congratulations and thank you, Rose, for all you do and have done over the years for the GANA and CRNAs throughout Georgia.



Augusta University SRNAs Michael Kruesi, Nadia Franz, Lauren Parker and Krizel Roque recently exhibited and presented a breakout session during the Georgia Association of Nursing Students Convention in Athens. Not pictured is GANA President Jo Sineath, who coordinated and attended the event.



Alana Boling-Aldaco and Natalie House lecturing on their State of Science poster presentation at GAS2016



Let's Get Ready

by Wallace Phillips, CRNA, MSNA



As the cool nights have finely arrived in Georgia and the fall season is upon us, we have just past the 2016 General Election for a new President of the United States and newly elected and incumbent Federal, State and Local Leaders that will take office in January 2017. This is the time for all Georgia CRNAs to begin to reach out to their elected representatives to make contact with them, to introduce yourself, and to congratulate them on their new or current positions. Now is the time for us to start forming a relationship with these individuals to educate them on who CRNAs are and what we do. Our state representatives are all part-time legislators that come from the same communities and towns that we work and live in, but many don't know who we are or what we do. It is so important for us all to establish and to have these relationships when the 2017 legislative session begins.

The 2017 Georgia legislative session will begin on January 9th 2017 and will run for 40 days. The Georgia Association of Nurses Anesthetist (GANA) and the Government Relations Committee (GRC) are planning for a large CRNA presence at the capital again this year. We know that it is hard for CRNAs to all take off one day in January to come to the Capital, so we are planning a Capital Week to coincide with the National CRNA week. GRC members will be at the capital January 23rd – 27th to meet CRNAs that are able to attend. If you can request a day off or come on a post call day, we will have a GRC member there to give you a tour of the capital and to offer assistance in visiting your representatives and other key members of the State legislator during your visit. We are planning for a signing of a proclamation by the Governor for CRNA week. We are also planning for recognition of current military CRNAs on the Legislative Floor on one of the days during this week. If you are currently serving in the military as a CRNA please contact the GANA so you can be recognized during this event.

In addition to the capital week it is the goal of the GRC to have a CRNA in the capital for every legislative day that the legislature is in session and to have a CRNA at key Health Care Committee meetings held throughout the 2017 legislative term, to report back to the GRC of the activity of these days, we are requesting CRNAs to volunteer to serve at the capital. If you are interested in serving the GANA – GRC please contact the GANA or a GRC member to place your name on a date that you are able to serve.

As we begin to prepare for the 2017 Legislative term I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all Georgia CRNAs to financially support the GANA political action Committee (PAC). The GANA-PAC works hard for all CRNAs to protect your right to practice, and to protect CRNAs' scope of practice in the state of Georgia. ■

GANA CALENDAR 2016-2017

December 16, 2016

Augusta University NAP graduation
in Augusta

January 14-15, 2017

Region 2 Retreat – Nashville

January 22-28, 2017

Celebrate National CRNA Week

January 23-27, 2017

GANA Capitol Week in Atlanta

February 18, 2017

GANA BOD meeting – in conjunction
with regional meeting in Columbus

February 23-25, 2017

AANA Assembly of School Faculty
in Fort Lauderdale, FL

April 5-9, 2017

AANA Mid-Year Assembly
in Washington, DC

May 6, 2017

GANA BOD meeting – telephone

May 20, 2017

GANA Blood Drive – location TBA

August 18, 2017

GANA BOD meeting – location TBA

September 8-12, 2017

AANA Annual Congress in Seattle, WA

September 29 – October 1, 2017

GANA Annual Georgia Anesthesia
Symposium in Savannah, GA

GANA Board Meetings

The conference calls will be at 8:00 pm
and the in-person meetings will be at
10:00 am unless otherwise announced.

Please call (770) 487-3900 or email
ganaoffice@bellsouth.net if you would
like to attend a meeting. They are open
to all GANA members.

To and Fro Publications:

May and November 2017

Reaching Out to GANA Members

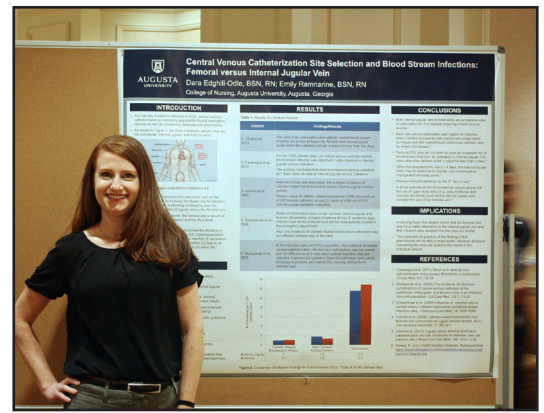
by Sarah Phillips, CRNA, MSN



Greetings! I would like to express how honored I am to serve as the PR Committee Chair once again. We have been very productive this year and we have planned even more for our upcoming year. We will continue to be present in the community by planning another holiday event such as last year's toy drive, participating in CRNA Week, volunteering with Georgia Public Broadcasting, and hosting more blood drives with The American Red Cross. However, not only do we care about our community, but we have a commitment to our members as well.

One of the biggest tasks we have undertaken in recent years has been the regional GANA meetings across the state. We strive to reach all GANA members in order to keep everyone informed on the latest events and issues pertaining to nurse anesthesia practice. We also offer valuable lectures and workshops to attendees the regional meetings. Holding meetings across the state several times a year helps us accomplish this task. Last year we reached Augusta, Athens and Macon area CRNAs and look forward to visiting South Georgia and Columbus in 2017. We have had great success with such meetings thus far and want them to continue to be of value. I'd like to ask for members in our upcoming target areas of Columbus and South Georgia to please offer their valuable opinions and advice on said meetings. It is my priority to make these meetings beneficial and satisfying to all attendees. I look forward to another busy, productive year with you!

As always, I welcome any questions, comments, or concerns. If you are interested in any of these events please feel free to email me at sarah8888@hotmail.com, or the GANA Office ganaoffice@bellsouth.net. ■



Emily Ramnarine with her student presentation at GAS2016



Regional ultrasound workshop in Watkinsville



AANA President Cheryl Nimmo with AANA Past President Janice Izlar

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From the Executive Director

(continued from page 2)

Advocacy – As you know, during the 2016 session of the Georgia General Assembly, GANA worked diligently to advocate for its members trying to pass pain management legislation to remove the restriction on CRNAs' practice. We will continue that effort. The GANA GRC Committee is already planning strategies for the upcoming Georgia legislative session. First and foremost is the need for legislators to know us. If you have any interest in the legislative process or politics, please contact the GANA GRC Co-chairs, Kay Argroves and Wally Phillips. They are coordinating an all-out effort to make CRNAs known at the Capitol and particularly by every member of the health committees. The groundwork has been laid in past years and it is incumbent upon us to continue the effort.

GANA Annual Meeting – The Georgia Anesthesia Symposium, GAS 2016, was a huge success. Please see the #GAS2016 article in this edition for the details. The program Co-Chairs, Janice Izlar, Leslie Jeter and Rose Synsmir pulled off a monumental task to bring the excellent inaugural program to the GANA members. Turn out of in-state members was higher than previous years and we had a record number of exhibitors. GANA is committed to continuing its endeavor to provide a high quality annual program for its members and thus the GANA Annual Meeting remains as one of the Board's tactical initiatives. ■



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: _____

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Surviving and Thriving in the Consolidating Anesthesia Market

by Barry A. Cranfill, GANA President-Elect
GANAsate Reimbursement Specialist
GANAs Practice Committee Chair



It usually happens without warning. One day, you walk into the locker room, don your scrubs and head out to find that all important caffeine fix to get your morning off to a proper start. As you scan the schedule to find your assignment for the day and begin your mental preparation for the cases that will occupy your time, you overhear folks discussing the “mandatory meeting” scheduled for the afternoon. You shrug off the inconvenience and make a mental note to let your spouse know that you may be a few minutes late getting home.

As the OR schedule grinds on, you feel a tension in the air. The senior anesthesiologists are huddled together more than usual. They stop talking as folks wander by, and continue their hushed discussions when out of earshot. The CRNAs are talking and wondering and genuinely worried about why the anesthesiologists have mandated an afternoon meeting. They never hang around that long unless they are on call! The newer anesthesiologists on the staff have the same concerns.

When you walk into the meeting it is clear that this isn’t going to be a quick affair. All of the senior folks are there at the front of the room. As the meeting begins, you finally hear the news. Thankfully, the current president of the group is kind enough to rip the band-aid off quickly! “Our practice has been acquired by ...” HOLY CRAP, BATMAN! There is stunned silence, followed by a wave of murmurs in the crowd. The “meeting” is continuing and the words bounce off the dead walls and fall to the floor: “details to come”... “don’t worry, all is well”... “this is a positive change” ... “everyone’s job is secure” ... blah, blah, blah ... But few hear anything more than the adult voice from the Peanuts television shows: Wah, Wah, Wah, Wah...

The crowd isn’t hearing. They are quietly whispering and feverishly texting their families, co-workers and colleagues at other facilities. Some are trying to remember when they last updated their CV. Others are wondering if that job across town that was on Gaswork is still available. Many are recalling conversations with friends that have shared horror stories about how things went when their practice was bought by another company. Some are mad. Some are just stunned. All are worried.

It’s stressful to say the least. It is the unknown. It is unpredicted change. It is your livelihood.

Unfortunately, given the current anesthesia market place, this scenario may be inevitable for many of our GANA members. Anesthesia practice acquisitions have been on the rise for years and they don’t seem to be plateauing, much less

declining! Georgia has been a prime target for buyers and many of the larger practices in our state have been gobbled up by large anesthesia management companies. As the larger groups have sold, the market has turned to average and even smaller anesthesia practices, offering even those anesthesia practice owners a chance to cash in and monetize their sweat equity.

Anesthesia acquisitions are complex. They take many months to accomplish and often require over a year of planning and positioning to match the right buyer and the right seller. Private equity is plentiful right now and public companies are relentlessly seeking opportunities to expand their market share. Hundreds of practice acquisitions have occurred since 2009 and there is no indication that the trend is slowing. A CRNA that works for a private anesthesia group can rest assured, that there has

... It’s stressful to say the least. It is the unknown. It is unpredicted change. It is your livelihood ...

almost certainly been discussions amongst the owners of their group regarding the possibility of selling the practice. Every ASA meeting is attended by third party deal brokers trying to make a living by positioning practices for acquisition. The ASA Practice Management meeting is filled with lectures and round table discussions on acquisition strategies for practices. In many cases, practices are fielding several cold call offers at a time from both brokers and principals seeking to strike a deal. It is a seller’s market right now. But the seller’s should recognize that they are playing ball with professionals. This isn’t the sandlot and some practices are ill-prepared for the big league negotiations that are required.

The insider baseball on the WHY practices are selling and WHY companies are buying them is varied. For the practices, the owners are worried about the future of healthcare. They struggle to get market rates in their commercial managed care contracts and they fear the ever present specter of another company displacing them from their facilities. They have sweat equity and they see an opportunity to normalize their salaries and take a cash buy out all at once. They are willing to relinquish control for a sum. The buyers see opportunity. The buyers have excellent reimbursement contracts that often far eclipse the value of the acquired practice’s payer contracts. The buyers know, that with the flip of a switch... billing under their contracts...they will gain an immediate return on investment over and above what the practice is currently

generating. Buyers protect their interests, when they can, with earn out provisions and the ability to claw back portions of the purchase price if the practice does not perform or loses contracts. The buyers seek market share and they seek the publicity that comes with growth as they do their quarterly “road show” to entice investors to give them more capital for more acquisitions.

So, if you haven’t been part of an anesthesia acquisition/transition, you certainly may be in the future.

My goal is to provide you with a little bit of advice on how to handle this situation if and when it knocks on your door. Please know that the experiences of our CRNA brethren have been positive, negative and neutral. There is no way to predict with any accuracy how a given transaction will play out for the CRNAs. Each of the large acquiring entities have had good and bad transitions. The key for CRNAs is to be able to weather the storm regardless of the outcome.

Here are the Six Steps for Success When Your Practice Announces an Acquisition!

Step 1: Breathe. The world hasn’t ended. You are a professional and your services are needed and in demand. You will be OK. Your family will not starve. You have a history of overcoming obstacles and dealing with change. This is just another opportunity for you to become a better human being. That’s the only way to view it! Breathe.

Step 2: Recognize that the acquisition was not personal. This was a business decision. You are part of a business. The entrepreneurs that took the risk are now trying to materialize a reward. They are not trying to kill the business. They are not trying to abandon the practice. They often have a stake in the success of the transition. They want the transition to succeed and they want you to succeed within the transition.

Step 3: Do not devolve into “group think” and allow yourself to be dragged down into an abyss filled with CRNAs flagellating themselves with self-pity and victimization. Avoid participating in the mob mentality that breeds contempt and fear. There may genuinely be issues that you should be concerned about as you learn more about the deal. Do yourself a favor. Do more listening than talking. Ask questions, but be sure to ask the right people. This is not the time to trust the rumor mill. Be your own person. Make your own decisions.

Step 4: Educate yourself and make realistic comparisons. Things may change or they may not. If your practice environment, contract, schedule, compensation or benefits will change, review the changes carefully and compare them to your existing situation. It may be different, but without careful and thoughtful consideration of the entirety of the changes, you will not be able to determine how the changes may affect you personally. Be careful to not focus on a perceived negative change and fail to recognize a positive change that may adequately offset the negative!

Step 5: Recognize opportunity BEFORE it knocks! Unlike many smaller, closely held, private anesthesia practices, many of the larger acquiring entities provide significant opportunities for CRNAs to advance their careers into leadership and management positions. Position yourself and market yourself for promotion. This is your opportunity to show how you can make a difference. Model leadership and professionalism, be a positive change agent, volunteer for additional responsibilities and search for opportunities to excel. You would be surprised how many CRNAs serve in VP or higher level positions in these companies.

Step 6: You ALWAYS have options. If, after careful review and consideration, you have doubts or concerns, keep your powder dry and your options open. Do not lament the loss of a stable and comfortable position, celebrate the opportunity to seek your fortune in another venue. If it doesn’t look like the new situation will work for you ... let it go, and smile as you do. As always: Improvise, Adapt and Overcome. ■

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