

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 50,000 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

Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes*

by Jo Sineath, CRNA



Few of us race to embrace change when it occurs in our lives, and I may be one of the world's worst. I recently retired from a large teaching hospital where I was a staff anesthetist for more than 19 years. Every time something new appeared on my cart or in my room, I fought it tooth and nail. (Can you remember your first experience with electronic charting?) These changes, most always, proved to be improvements... they just took some getting used to. In this place, I reached and assumed my "comfort zone." But change was in the wind.

For the first time in my nearly forty-year career I am now working in an all CRNA practice. My husband and I have always enjoyed the beautiful mountains and slower pace of life in north Georgia. So when a CRNA colleague was looking for some help, I was happy to join her. I now find myself in a very different situation, even occasionally missing some of those things that I struggled with before. (See "electronic charting," above.) The change that I have made, professionally speaking, has been immense. I have gone from a large teaching institution where we often had more bodies in the room than we needed, to small county facilities where I am frequently the only anesthesia provider in the building. These times remind and make me appreciative of the many CRNAs who have been practicing in solitary situations for years. But, I must tell you that when I travel to work in the morning and see the sun peeking over the mountains, and when I meet new and such

friendly and welcoming people, I know that this change is a good one.

What hasn't and will not change is how blessed I feel to be doing what I do. Nurse anesthesia continues to be an incredibly rewarding profession.

So what does this have to do with our organization? Well, like us in our personal lives, organizations undergo change. In October, we will welcome in a new slate of officers headed by the very capable Barry Cranfill. Effective on January 31st, we will lose the services of our Executive Director and Legal Counsel Christy Dunkelberger. For many years, Christy has been an integral and valuable part of the GANA. We will miss her greatly and speak more of her contributions in days to come. When these changes come about, we can reflect with fondness on the past, but should eagerly look forward to what is to come.

Yes, change can be challenging. But, this time, I chose to view it as a door of opportunity. I invite you to be a "change agent" yourself. Join with your colleagues in the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Raise your hand. Accept a position in the organization to keep the practice of nurse anesthesia the wonderful profession that it is.

As always, I would like to express my gratitude to all the current and past members of GANA

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Report from the Executive Director

The Challenge of Change

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



Change

It should be obvious to you that GANA is currently undergoing some changes. As you can see on the cover page of this newsletter, GANA has a new logo. Thanks to the Communications Committee chaired by Steve Smith, we now have a fresh, bright, updated, modern logo for our Association. We hope you like it. We will also have a new website that will be probably be operational by the time you receive this issue. Please visit www.gana.org and take a look around and let us know what you think. We hope you will join us and embrace these changes and the ones that will be coming over the next year.

It seems like a common theme throughout this issue is "change". The President's message talks about change, the Lobbyist's message discusses change. In reality, it is everywhere. Some changes are deliberate and planned and thus welcomed, and some changes are forced on us. Either way, change is challenging and we always have a choice about how we will handle it. I have made a deliberate decision to drastically change my life. I am going to retire after working outside the home for more years than I want to admit. My husband is in a state of disbelief and convinced I will come to my senses any minute and reverse my proclamation to join the silver sneakers club. But he is wrong. I am planning for it and I am excited. I will be leaving GANA at the end of January 2018. There is plenty of time to for both of us to make a smooth transition and start our new journeys. For right now, however, we are looking at a busy year and a lot of work to accomplish, so let's get to it.

Advocacy

As you know by now, SB 106 passed during the 2017 session of the Georgia General Assembly. GANA members and staff worked diligently to advocate for our members to get SB 106 passed and remove the restriction on CRNAs' practice that occurred with the passage of the Pain Management Clinic Act in 2013. Senator Greg Kirk, District 13, sponsored the Bill and fought off resistance from the GSA and the Interventional Pain Society. Senator Kirk did a magnificent job in getting this legislation passed in a swift and efficient manner. Monty Veazey worked his magic at the Capitol. He was a step ahead of everyone else throughout the session. He called the shots and orchestrated every move from the people, the timing, the language, the opposition, the committees and the leadership. It would not have gotten passed without Monty.

GANA Annual Meeting

Plans for the Georgia Anesthesia Symposium, "GAS 2017" are well underway. Association Meeting Planners, by way of Laura Moritz, is spearheading the meeting under the direction of the Program Committee and the GANA Board. The meeting will be at the J. W. Marriott Lenox Buckhead (same place as 2016). A stellar line-up of speakers has been arranged including an airway workshop with a hands-on component. Please hold the dates of September 29th through October 1st. See the Ad in this issue and look forward to more information in the near future. ▲



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Advocating for Access to Care, Quality & Cost Effective Anesthesia Care at the 2017 AANA Mid-Year Assembly

by Steve Smith, CRNA, MA



There I was on April 5, 2017 sitting at Hartsfield Jackson Airport waiting for my 1:30 p.m. flight to Washington DC to attend the AANA Mid-Year Assembly for the 12th year in a row when the thunderstorms came rolling in. You may recall, it was on this day that severe thunderstorms covered the Southeast. **As it turns out, I was one of the lucky ones.** I arrived at my hotel in DC that evening around 11:00 p.m. Many of the students would not make it until late the next day. Dr. Jim Masingale, program director of the NAP at Augusta University, was able to make it on the second day of the meeting, but his luggage did not arrive until 8 hours before he was to return home. **We can laugh about it now**, but many folks were stuck at the airport for around 36 hours.

I'm proud to report that 6 CRNAs and 30 Augusta University SRNAs and 3 SRNAs from out-of-state nurse anesthesia programs made it to Capitol Hill for our legislative visits. We had another successful year of advocating for all Georgia CRNAs back home giving high quality, safe and cost effective anesthesia care. In fact that was our #1 message to legislators this year: "CRNAs can provide the needed access to safe, cost effective anesthesia care if allowed to practice to the fullest extent of their education and training."

The five specific topics we touched on during our legislative visits this year were:

- protect provider non-discrimination and essential health benefits in any healthcare replacement plans;
- support and co-sponsor HR 1783, "Improving Veterans access to quality care act" which would encourage the VHA to recognize CRNAs to their full scope of practice and education;
- restore rural access to nurse anesthesia services;
- support workforce development funding and support; and
- recognize the role of CRNAs in pain care and patient safety.

There were two legislative offices we were not able to visit this year. Congressman Sanford Bishop's office was back in Georgia for a retreat and of course, Representative Tom Price's seat was vacated due to his appointment as Health and Human Services Secretary. As many of you are aware, the District 6th Congressional seat vacated by Dr. Tom Price will be up for grabs during a special runoff election to be held on June 20, 2017. Karen Handel and Jon Ossoff are facing each other. I am a 6th district constituent and plan on visiting both candidates before the runoff. I plan to report my findings back to the AANA office and will ask for the AANA's financial support for one or both candidates depending how friendly they are to CRNA issues. As you are aware, the AANA is nonpartisan and supports those candidates that support us. I encourage all 6th district constituents to do your homework and go out and vote on June 20th.

On Friday morning, April 7 at 8:00 a.m. we CRNAs/SRNAs gathered on Capitol Hill for the 3rd annual CRNA Hill Rally. We spent the rest of the day visiting our Georgia Congressmen and Senators offices with lunch in between at Tortilla Coast, our annual meeting place for lunch. Many of us had an opportunity to visit the new AANA Washington DC office. Again, thanks to the almost 40 CRNAs/SRNAs who made it to DC and made our presence felt on Capitol Hill. I would also like to give a big thanks to Kay Argroves, Wally Phillips, and his wife and daughter, who attended and supported the 2017 CRNA-PAC fundraising event.

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Augusta University Nursing Anesthesia Report

by James Masiogale, 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.

It is with mixed emotions that I share with you that Ms. Melvenia Blanchard, the Program Manager for the past 11 years, retired at the end of March. Melvenia's knowledge of the daily operations of the program has and will continue to be missed. We wish her the best in this new chapter of her life. A new Program Manager should be hired soon.

In March, the program also conducted interviews for the next class that will begin either in August or January (more on that later). The selection committee interviewed over 60 qualified individuals and the letters to the applicants should be arriving as this newsletter goes to print. We had a very competitive group of applicants this year and are excited for 30 of them to join us in the near future.

As I mentioned we are unsure when the next class will start. The application to move the program to the DNP degree has been submitted and we are awaiting the COA's decision as to if we will remain a MSN program this year with a start date of August or make the transition to the DNP with a start date of January 2018. All applicants were informed of this uncertainty prior and during the interview process to ensure they would be able to be flexible with the start date.

The alternates' list was also expanded this year in case some decide to attend another program due to this uncertainty. We are confident that we will have 30 very qualified individuals available regardless of the start date.

The seniors are all doing well in clinicals, starting to explore the job opportunities and are getting excited about getting close to 6 months until graduation. The juniors have one more semester of didactic and then will be heading off to clinicals.

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
jmasiog@augusta.edu ▲



Augusta University Nurse Anesthesia Program Class of 2016

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Cumberland Mall
Georgia Association of
Nurse Anesthetists

Atrium
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Atlanta, GA 30339

Saturday, May 20, 2017
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

To schedule an appointment please visit redcrossblood.org and
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Student Report

by Girah Caraballo, SRNA



Among the myriad equations that have become second-nature for the Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists (SRNAs) in Class of 2017, one stands out among the others. **Spring = Mid-Year Assembly (MYA).** You can find it in textbooks under the chapter titled "Professional Development" and, much like the juniors' Critical Event Simulation during Advanced Principles II, MYA in Washington, D.C. is a milestone event for the senior class of SRNAs at Augusta University (AU).

This year, however, that equation came with several unanticipated variables: severe weather, flight cancellations, and baggage complications at the Atlanta airport, all of which threatened to sideline the student delegation of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists. However, the intrepid SRNAs persisted against more than 30 hours of delays, determined to proudly represent their school and profession on Capitol Hill.

Trending topics this year included "#crnasforvets" and "crnasforaccess" both of which included coordinated online efforts to educate lawmakers on the implications of the recent Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) ruling against full practice authority for Nurse Anesthetists at VA facilities. SRNAs from AU met with the offices of fourteen different legislators from both the House of Representatives and the Senate as a part of these ongoing initiatives. Several students, including myself, enjoyed the privilege of attending the MYA as a part of the Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists (AVANA) Leadership Program for SRNAs. This program encourages educational, advocacy and leadership activities as an important part of its broader, non-partisan effort to foster increased engagement and representation for CRNAs within the country's largest integrated healthcare system.

In closing, the Class of 2017 would like to extend a special "thank you" to Stephen Smith, GANA's Federal Political Director, and all the lead CRNAs who made this event possible. The experience helped us to grow as professionals and we look forward to attending next year's MYA – our first as CRNAs! ▲

GANA Calendar 2017

May 20, 2017

GANA Blood Drive – Cumberland Mall
in Atlanta (see notice in this newsletter)

August 18, 2017

GANA BOD meeting – TBA

September 8-12, 2017

AANA Annual Congress in Seattle, WA

September 29 – October 1, 2017

GANA Annual
Georgia Anesthesia Symposium
in Atlanta
(see notice in this newsletter)

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.

Next *To & Fro* Publication for 2017:

November

FROM THE COVER
Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes

who continue to advocate for patients and the practice of nurse anesthesia.

Voting in AANA elections opened April 25th. Please take the time to get to know the candidates and vote. It is your best opportunity to choose the leadership, and hence, the direction of the AANA.

* Thanks to the late David Bowie for the use of his lyrics from "Changes," a hit some of you may remember from 1971. Yes, it was *that* long ago. ▲

FROM PAGE 3
Advocating for Access to Care

As I always do, I would like to encourage all of you to attend, sooner rather than later, the wonderful AANA Mid-Year Assembly meeting held every April in Washington DC. It's about giving back to our great profession and advocating on behalf of all Georgia CRNAs and those throughout the country. If you think you might have an interest in getting involved at the grassroots level with your US Representative please contact me and I will show you the way.

In closing, I would like for all of you to do all of us CRNAs a big favor, if you can't get directly involved or attend meetings give generously to our AANA CRNA-PAC fund and please respond to the AANA email alerts. It usually takes less than 5 minutes and it's an easy way to support us all. Remember, our fight is for full practice authority so that we can provide the needed access for our veterans, rural areas and medically underserved areas and provide the most cost-effective anesthesia care. ▲

GAS 2017
Georgia Anesthesia Symposium

Featuring: Airway On Demand
William Rosenblatt, MD
HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

September 29 - October 1
Atlanta, Georgia - Buckhead
Lenox Square



Quality Program by a Non-Profit Provider

Conference Highlights:

Affordable tuition rates
Nationally recognized faculty
Social events and networking



J.W. Marriott Buckhead

Location Highlights:

Across the street from Lenox MARTA station
Steps from Phipps Plaza & Legoland
Surrounded by fine dining, spas & nightlife

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of Nurse Anesthetists

LOOKING BACK ...



GANA 2016 Retreat in October at the Georgian Terrace in Atlanta



Kay Argroves at the CRNA-PAC party at the AANA Mid-Year Assembly



Lisa, Wally Phillips and Chelsea Phillips at the CRNA-PAC party at the AANA Mid-Year Assembly



Kristie Hoch, Debbie Barber, Steve Smith, Mary Nguyen at the CRNA-PAC party at the AANA Mid-Year Assembly

AANA 2017
84th AANA Annual Congress ■ September 8-12, 2017 ■ Seattle, WA

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REGISTER NOW

Don't We All Want To Be Well?

by Martha Kral, CRNA

Wellness. What is wellness? AANA defines wellness as a positive state of the mind, body, and spirit. It should reflect **a balance of effective adaptation, resilience, and coping mechanisms** in personal and professional environments. It should enhance quality of life.

Don't we all want to be well?

Nurse anesthetists, and student nurse anesthetists can experience the occupational hazards of stress, burnout, compassion fatigue, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Self-care is important, along with learning healthy coping mechanisms in both your personal and professional lives.

So how do we achieve wellness? The first thing is we have to care for ourselves. We have to be a little selfish. In our profession, we have to care for others' needs, but we should tend to our own first.

One aspect of wellness is emotional and mental well-being. We experience stress in the form of things that happen at work, perhaps a death in the OR, or workplace bullying, not to mention production pressure. CRNAs experience many of the same symptoms as our patients, such as agitation, cardiac irregularities, confusion, cravings, decreased concentration, GERD, headaches, and sleep disturbances.

We should address these symptoms in healthy ways.

We can exercise or practice mindfulness and meditation. Don't sweat the small stuff. Worry and guilt are two useless emotions and energy wasters and we should lose them. Remember that each new day is a chance to do better and enjoy life. Don't dwell on the past.

Another aspect of wellness is physical well-being. Again, learn how to cope with stress, get plenty of sleep (at least 8 hours recommended), quit smoking or at least decrease, eat healthier foods, learn how to live with and

manage your own chronic pain, be a healthy weight, be active. There's an APP for that!

Strive for Wellness in the Workplace. If you experience an adverse medical event, find healthy ways to cope. Pay attention to Workplace Ergonomics. When looking at the monitors or the computer screen, for maximum neck comfort, adjust the vertical position of the screen. To find the ideal, sit comfortably in your chair, close both eyes and relax, then slowly reopen. Position screen where your gaze initially focuses.

Feel free to stretch in the OR. Stretch your neck. Lower your chin to your chest while keeping your shoulders nice and straight. Hold the stretch for 15 to 30 seconds. Relax and slowly lift your chin to the starting position.

Next, rotate your head to one side while keeping your shoulders nice and straight. Hold the stretch for 15 to 30 seconds. Relax and slowly return to the starting position. Turn your head to the other side and repeat the stretch. Next, tilt

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We have to be a little selfish. In our profession, we have to care for others' needs, but we should tend to our own first.

Legislative Review

by Monty Veazey



With the 2017 Legislative Session complete, every GANA member should be very pleased with the passage of SB106 and with no Balance Billing Legislation. It has been the most successful year for CRNAs to date.

SB106 sponsored by Senator Greg Kirk of Americus (District 13), brought a lot of conversation about the role CRNAs play in the delivery of healthcare in this state. Throughout the Legislative process with various committee hearings both House and Senate, many questions were asked about the Nurse Practice Act and CRNAs' scope of practice. In many respects, this session served as an education process, which is good.

When I asked Senator Kirk, to introduce and carry our bill, he knew very little about CRNAs. He took it upon himself to learn and have a good understanding of the role and how the law applies. After many hours of meeting with Christy Dunkelberger and me, he became very knowledgeable about this issue.

I know many of you worked very hard on SB 106 and for that I am very grateful. It is important for me to recognize the commitment of Kay Argroves, Kathy Mann and Christy Dunkelberger. Without their commitment, we would not have been successful.

There were over 100 healthcare related Bills and Resolutions introduced this session, all of which we had to monitor. Many could have impacted the way healthcare is delivered across the state.

In addition, there were two Balance Billing bills introduced this session. SB 8 was introduced by Senator Unterman; and HB 71 was introduced by Richard Smith. I know how important this issue is to many of you, based on the number of phone calls I received from members. I told everyone, don't get overly concerned at the time. I knew neither bill would pass as introduced, and I was not optimistic either bill would pass this session. The differing positions of the House and Senate were just too great to

overcome. While Senator Unterman's bill is the one we worked on, because of her willingness to make changes, she was able to pass it in the Senate and that was as far as it went.

Because it is a non-election year, all Bills will carry forward to the 2018 session. Many could pass in 2018, including SB 8. It is most important to reach out to your Legislators now regarding your concerns with this Bill. It is too late once the session starts.

The more GANA members who are involved in the legislative process, the better outcomes can be accomplished. Healthcare will remain the top issue going into the 2018 session. There will be significant changes in healthcare delivery and payment over the next 5 years. We need to plan now and be sure we have a seat at the table to engineer and implement these changes. Scope of practice will be part of the change and we need to be proactive. It will be necessary to change how we deliver healthcare, especially in rural communities.

I recommend that each of you becomes active now as an investment in your profession, it's the cost of doing business. The Legislative Process will define your future. Do not let third parties make the decisions for you. Give all you can to GANA-PAC. It has become very competitive and expensive to participate in the legislative arena. You have no choice – you must invest if you expect to compete with other organizations, some of which may want more control over your practice. ▲

Shadow a CRNA

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

FROM PAGE 9

your head so that you're moving your ear toward your shoulder. Don't bring your shoulder up to your ear. Hold the stretch for 15 to 30 seconds. Relax and slowly return to the starting position. Tilt your head to the other side and repeat the stretch. When you're stretching, keep it gentle. **Breathe freely** as you hold each stretch, and be careful not to bounce. Expect to feel tension while you're stretching. If you feel pain, you've gone too far.

Also a word about Peer Assistance. CRNAs are not immune to the ravages of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and the opioid epidemic. If you think a coworker is impaired or may become impaired, reach out to that person. If they are already using, you may have to get a manager involved to get them help. Don't be afraid to address the obvious. Just do it in the proper way, to protect the provider and the potential patients. If they are not already using, perhaps a kind word, empathy, or encouragement to seek help can prevent them from succumbing to SUD.

All of this information and more is on the AANA website. Make the world a better place for yourself and others. Take a deep breath. Be well. ▲

*Peer Assistance is alive and concentrating on saving lives.
AANA Peer Assistance Wallet Card
Available at AANA.com*

AANA PEER ASSISTANCE

HELPLINE (800) 654-5167

If you or someone you know struggles with drugs or alcohol, help is available.

www.AANAPeerAssistance.com



If You See Something,
DO SOMETHING!

Warning signs of substance use disorder include:

- Significant change in behavior
- Patterns of inappropriate drug choices and dosages

Complete list and intervention essentials
www.AANA.com/GettingHelp

SHOW YOU CARE. For help, call (800) 654-5167.



CRNAs Leslie Jeter and Keven Keller volunteered for the Georgia Nursing Association Spring Expo



Congratulations to newly sworn in State Senator (District 28) Matt Brass, husband of CRNA Maegan Brass

AANA2017



Nurse Anesthesia Annual Congress ■ September 8-12, 2017 ■ Seattle, WA

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The 2017 Legislative Session

by Wallace S. Phillips, CRNA, MSNA



The Government Relations Committee (GRC) is pleased to report that **SB 106 has passed** the general assembly and is awaiting Governor Deal's signature. This bill was introduced to correct the Pain Management Clinic Act that passed in 2013 to stop pain pill-mill clinics in Georgia. **CRNAs were omitted** in the language of the Act as providers that could be present on-site for a pain clinic to be open and/or provide pain management service.

The 2017 Regular session of the Georgia General Assembly has come to an end. On Friday morning March 31st at 12:54am, the Georgia General Assembly adjourned its 2017 legislative session. Again, this year was very busy for all Legislators and the GANA GRC.

The GANA GRC started the year off with CRNAs and SRNAs from all over Georgia convening in Atlanta at the Capitol on January 23rd for National CRNA week. For the first time, the GANA and the GRC decided to be at the Capitol for an entire week instead of holding one Capitol Day. The goal was to have a repeated presence at the Capitol and more exposure to the legislators. It also provided more opportunities for hard working CRNAs to participate.

To briefly recap the week, on Monday, January 23rd, our military CRNAs were recognized in the House Chambers by Representative Dave Belton (112th) who chairs the Military Affairs: Working Group. These Military CRNAs were well received by all legislators. On Tuesday, January 24th, CRNAs at the Capitol met with legislators and attended the Health and Human Services Committee meeting. On Wednesday, January 25th, the junior students from Augusta

University (SRNA) and CRNAs were at the Capitol for the proclamation signed by Governor Deal recognizing CRNA Week. A photo with the Governor was also taken. Later Monty Veezy, our lobbyist, met with the students to discuss the lobbying process and the importance of advocacy. On Thursday, January 26th the senior students from Augusta University were at the Capitol for a photo with Governor Deal and to meet with their legislators. We later attended the Senate HHS committee meeting where the GANA presented a birthday cake to Committee Chair Renee Unterman (45th) for her birthday. GANA and CRNAs were recognized, and cake was served to all in attendance. On Friday, January 27th, the legislators took the day off and we did as well. It was a very successful week and I would like to thank all who participated.

This year the Government Relation Committee (GRC) had a CRNA at the Capitol on most days that the legislators were in session and at most HHS meetings. We, along with other APRN groups, were very visible at the Capitol for the 2017 legislative session. We believe that this was instrumental in getting SB 106 passed this year, along with other bills such as the Nursing Compact bill (SB 166) that passed this year. We were able to monitor many other pieces of legislation that could have affected APRNs and health care providers.

SB 106 was introduced by Senator Greg Kirk (District 13, Americus, GA) on behalf of CRNA's that practice pain management in Georgia. This Bill was essentially the same as HB 212 which

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For the first time, the GANA and the GRC decided to be at the Capitol for an entire week instead of holding one Capitol Day.

GANA Regional Events

by Sarah Phillips, CRNA, MSN



I am pleased to announce that our regional GANA events seem to be a big hit! As promised, our most recent event took us to Columbus, where Eddie Thomas, CRNA, presented a very informative and interactive lecture and workshop on quadratus lumborum blocks under ultrasound, followed by lunch and a Board meeting. The meeting was well attended and attendees received one Class A continuing education credit.

We will sponsor our 3rd annual blood drive with the American Red Cross Saturday, May 20th at Cumberland Mall in Smyrna, just west of Atlanta. Please consider coming out and donating blood with us! Did you know that every 2 seconds, someone in the United States requires a blood transfusion? Approximately 38% of the U.S. population is eligible to donate; however, less than 10% actually donate each year. These blood products help not only our surgical patients, but patients with sickle cell disease and cancer as well. If you are interested in donating, please visit www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code CUMBERLAND to access appointment times for that day. Walk-ins are also welcome. GANA will be raffling gift cards to donors throughout the day. If you are unable to donate, stop by to show us your support for Nurse Anesthetists!

Our next regional event will take place in southern Georgia Saturday, July 8th from 12 noon-3:00 PM at Horse Creek Winery in Sparks, GA. Reed Halterman, CRNA, is a fantastic speaker and he will present his lecture on Sugammadex. We will provide a GANA update, tasty food, and of course some exceptional beverages as well! This will be a fun meeting! Space is limited, so please reserve early. The meeting is open to all GANA members and attendees will receive a Class A CEU.

As always, if you are interested in becoming involved with GANA, please do not hesitate to reach out! We have plenty of opportunities available, big and small. We love new faces. I welcome any questions or comments. If you are interested in any of these events, please email me sarah8888@hotmail.com, or the GANA Office ganaoffice@bellsouth.net. ▲

Important Dates

GANA BLOOD DRIVE

May 20, 2017

(See details on page 5)

GANA BOD MEETING

August 18, 2017

Time and Location TBA
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 and SRNAs.

COMING SOON ...

We are excited to announce that a new and very improved **GANA website** will be unveiled in the very near future.

Watch for it!



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

**Helpline
Peer Assistance
800.654.5167**

**Anesthetists in
Recovery (AIR)
215.635.0183**

Capitol Week – Atlanta

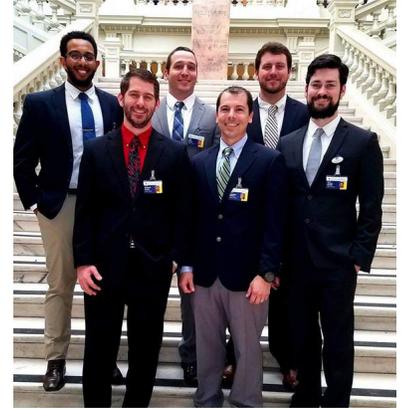
January 23-26, 2017



SRNA Whitney Huffingham with State Senator Jack Hill



Visiting with Senator Matt Brass before preparing for our legislative visits at the State Capitol



Bilal Hussien, Ben Hanner, Brett Mason, JD Hydrick, Aaron Conner and William Darnell



Steve Smith, Wally Phillips, Taushera Westbrook, Senator Matt Brass, April Culler and Kay Argroves



Whitney Conner, Caitlin Thompson and Caroline Woodall Overgaard



Representative Dave Belton, Wally Phillips, April Culler, Kay Argroves, Taushera Westbrook, Representative Brian Prince and Captain Girah Carballo, US Army Reserves, SRNA at Augusta University NAP



Augusta University Junior Class



Augusta University Senior Class

Mid-Year Assembly – Washington, DC

April 5-9, 2017



Emily Fuller, Rep. Buddy Carter, Hollie White and Martha Kral



Krizel Roque and Angie Dixon



Leanne Heberling, LA Mary Beal for Congressman Drew Ferguson, Matt McLay and Steve Smith



Beautiful morning in DC, preparing for our legislative visits



Terrica Harris, SRNA from Wake Forest, Samantha McDaniel, SRNA from MUSC and Solo Koipaton, SRNA from Augusta University



Steve Smith, John Roberts, Senator Perdue's Legislative Assistants Lindsay Maxwell and Drew Robinson, Shawn Radford, Sarah Lewis and Emily Fuller



Kay Argroves, Kate Chang, Aleshia Edwards, Angie Nixon, Congressman Lewis' Legislative Assistant Thomas Dorney, Krizel Roque, Lauren Debarge and Steve Smith



Congressman David Scott's LA Martha Cramer, Solo Koipaton, Samantha McDaniel, Shannon Monteleone Terrica Harris, Jenny Dunson, Leanne Heberling and Kay Argroves



Nadia Franz, Kate Chang, Sarah Lewis, Congressman Doug Collins, Legislative Assistant Robert Burkett, Lauren Parker and Steve Smith



Max Watson, Shannon Britt, Taushera Westbrook, Legislative Assistant Susannah Johnson for Congressman Barry Loudermilk and Elizabeth Watson



Congressman Hice's office with Legislative Assistant Tim Reitz and Caryn Hamner, Krizel Roque, Angie Nixon, Mike Asher, Kay Argroves, John Roberts and Taushera Westbrook



Hollie White, Alicia Stafford (LA for Rep. Tom Graves), Martha Kral, Holly Barnlund and Mike Asher



Solopian Koipaton, Shawn Radford, Heidi Jaszczyszyn, Michael Kruesi, Cameron Bishop (Health LA), Hollie White and Martha Kral

FROM PAGE 13

was introduced in 2014 by Tom Weldon that failed to pass. HB 212 passed both the House and Senate, but with an amendment added in the House on the last day, it did not make it back to the Senate before the end of the 2016 session and it died. Therefore, a new bill was introduced in the 2017.

With the passage of SB 106, there are many people the GRC would like to recognize and thank for their hard work and commitment to getting this bill passed:

- **Senator Greg Kirk** for sponsoring SB 106
- **All the CRNAs** who contacted or visited their legislators to request support for this bill
- **Christy Dunkelberger**, GANA Legal Counsel/Executive Director, and **Monty Veazey**, GANA Lobbyist, who worked diligently to keep this Bill moving and to prevent unwanted and harmful language from being added to the bill. Thank you for the hard work you do for GANA.
- **All GRC members** who worked so hard at the Capitol this year.
- **Kay Argroves, CRNA** (GRC Co-Chair) for the hard work and many hours you spent at the Capitol this year.
- **Taushera Westbrook** for working the Capitol during Capitol week.
- **Steve Smith, CRNA and Wallace Phillips, CRNA** (GRC Co- Chair) who testified along with Christy Dunkelberger before the Senate Health and Human Services Committee to move this bill to the floor for a vote.
- **Kathy Mann, CRNA**, who met with Speaker David Ralston (7th) and House HHS Chair Sharon Cooper (43rd) to move this bill from her committee to the floor for a vote.
- **All CRNAs and SRNAs** who wrote letters and/or visited their legislators.

Thank you for your hard work and support of CRNAs throughout Georgia. ▲



Nominations for the 2017 Rosalie McDonald Award Now Being Accepted

GANA is seeking nominations for a CRNA to receive the 2017 Rosalie McDonald Award. Please nominate a worthy CRNA for this prestigious award. All nominations must be submitted by August 5th to the GANA office. Nominations should be prepared in narrative format and submitted by mail, fax or email to:

GANA, 1832 Highway 54 W. Fayetteville, GA 30214;
or facsimile: 770.632.1625;
or email: ganaoffice@bellsouth.net.

Rosalie McDonald spearheaded the GANA in 1938. She was the first GANA President, and the 6th AANA President. GANA provides an annual award to an outstanding CRNA who demonstrates leadership and professionalism in nurse anesthesia practice. Be proud of your profession. Honor a fellow CRNA by nominating him or her for their contributions to our profession. The honoree will be presented with the award during the GANA's Georgia Anesthesia Symposium on September 30, 2017 in Atlanta Georgia.

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of the home page and then
"Like Us" on Facebook!

Regional Board Meeting in Columbus, GA



GANA Regional Board Meeting in Columbus with lunch and a Quadratus Lumborum lecture and hands on workshop with special guest Eddie Thomas



Obituary

**Col. Mary Louise Regus
GANA Life Member**

Col. Mary Louise Regus USAR RET, passed away on Monday, July 11, 2016, at the age of 94. Beloved daughter of the late Henry J. Regus and Madeline Ramp Regus. Sister of Margaret Christine Regus and Henry Charles Regus (Mary Frances Solis Regus). She is survived by nephews, Henry Charles Regus, Jr. (Gail) and Robert Joseph Regus (Kelly); nieces, Mary Frances Hamlin (Steve) and Susan Hammer Burden (David); and numerous great-nieces and -nephews.

She was buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 16, 2016.

Nominations for GANA 2017 Outstanding Student Nurse Anesthetist of the Year Award Now Being Accepted

One award will be given at the 2017 Georgia Anesthesia Symposium to honor an outstanding nurse anesthesia student enrolled in a Georgia nurse anesthesia program. The administration of this award will be handled by the Scholarship Committee.

The purpose of the award is to provide recognition for outstanding accomplishment as a nurse anesthesia student.

The award is available to all nurse anesthesia students currently enrolled in a nurse anesthesia program in Georgia. Any clinical preceptor, classroom faculty, GANA Board of Directors member or any full status active GANA member may nominate a candidate for this award.

The award is presented during the Annual Business Meeting of the GANA and announced during the graduation ceremony of the nurse anesthesia program. The recipient will receive \$250.00, an individual plaque, and name on a perpetual plaque that will remain at the school of the winner until the next award is given.

For details and the nomination form, please visit www.gana.org.

To&Fro

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**Georgia
Association of
Nurse
Anesthetists
PAC**

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone # _____ Best time to call _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Do you work in an office based setting? a rural hospital? a surgery center? an urban hospital?

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

Are you interested in lobbying with the GANA during the 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

