

# To & Fro

A Publication of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists • Volume 86

### Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists CRNAs

- Represent nearly 150 years of quality anesthesia
- Safely administer approximately 45 million anesthetics in the US every year
- Represented by 53,000 CRNAs nationwide and over 1,300 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**

## Member Engagement is Paramount to Our Success



by Eddie Thomas, MSNA, CRNA

I am not sure if I am just on call away from home a lot, or maybe I just become particularly reflective when I have time to myself at the hospital. Either way, here I am again writing to you all from my call room and thinking about how it is truly my honor to serve the CRNAs and SRNAs of Georgia and what all that entails. I can attest that your board of directors (BOD) for Fiscal Year 2020 and I have already been hard at work. The Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists advances patient safety and CRNA practice through advocacy, member engagement, and education. In this letter I hope to show you how we are fulfilling these principles.

Recently the BOD assembled for our board orientation meeting, among the topics discussed a considerable amount of time was devoted to the GANAs strategic plan. This plan was formulated with our mission statement as its guiding principle and is the backbone infrastructure we reference when setting our agenda for the year. Legislative issues and advocacy are regularly at the forefront of what your GANA BOD attends to. The BOD, specifically the government relations committee, is constantly working to protect our profession. However, they absolutely cannot do the job alone; we need all of our CRNAs in Georgia working together! We encourage all our members to build relationships and be involved in advocating for your profession. Even though the Georgia legislature is not currently in session, your senators and representatives are holding town halls, meet-ups, and fundraising events in YOUR districts. These are the perfect opportunities to engage them while also getting to spend time with your fellow GANA members. In this type of setting it is easiest to build a rapport with your representative. This allows us to reach out when they are in session and more difficult topics, such as fending off certain legislation or improving our practice rights, need to be discussed when our voices aren't being heard for the first time and we have an established relationship.

Member engagement is paramount to our success as an organization and profession. The Association has been putting on some really amazing events all over the state in an effort to attain this goal by being more accessible to everyone. Last spring in North Georgia we held an educational and networking meeting on opioid free anesthesia that was a big success

continued on page 13 >

# To&Fro

#### GANA Officers 2019-2020

Eddie Thomas President Newnan, GA Phone: 616-446-3711 bethomas.bet@gmail.com

Wesley Karcher President-elect Woodstock, GA Phone: 770-833-1422 Email: wkarcher04@yahoo.com

Wallace S. Phillips Past President Athens, GA Phone: 706-424-1633 Email: wphillips@ theccaagroup.com

Kristina Hooson, Secretary Roswell, GA Phone: 240-994-1299 Email: hoosonk@gmail.com

Ryan Ford, Treasurer Canton, GA Phone: 770-375-6797 Email: rfordcrna@gmail.com

#### GANA Directors 2019-2020

Traci Bryan Cartersville, GA Phone: 770-789-6220 Email: htbryan@yahoo.com

Kimberly Kimble Augusta, GA Phone: 770-891-4352 Email: KKimbleCRNA@gmail.com

Mary Clare Girard, GA Phone: 706-831-2146 Email: mclare72@gmail.com

Cindy Holt Statesboro, GA Phone: 912-531-7452 Email: cindyannholt@gmail.com

#### Representatives for GANA

Wesley Karcher Federal Political Director Woodstock, GA Phone: 770-833-1422 Email: wkarcher04@yahoo.com

Christy Dunkelberger, Esq. Legal Counsel Peachtree City, GA Phone: 770-841-3980 cadunk@dunkelbergerlaw.com

Monty Veazey, Lobbyist Tifton, GA Phone: 229-386-8660 Fax: 229-386-8662 mveazey@gach.org

Garry Brydges AANA President gbrydges@aanabod.com

Angela Mund AANA Region 2 Director amund@aanabod.com

GANA Website: www.gana.org

#### **Report from the President-Elect**

## **Rise to the Occasion**



#### by Wesley Karcher, MSNA, CRNA

As I sit here thinking about what to write for my first article as President-Elect, I can't help but ponder about this past weekend where, we as a new board, descended on Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain to have a new board orientation. It was wonderful to see everyone, new and old, that have risen to the occasion to take the next step forward on their journeys with GANA.

We, as a new board, have decided to think more strategically about the things we want to accomplish, both in the short and the long term. Our new strategic plan has been in place for a few months now and we are all moving forward to meet its goals head on. Energized by the new mission and vision of the organization, we strategically planned our board retreat at Callaway Gardens knowing that the entire State Senate Republican Caucus would be there at the same time.

This turned out to be a great decision! We got to meet most, if not all, of the Senate Republicans as well as a surprise visit to our meeting room by none other than Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan. Individual members of the board and chairmen of committees were all able to have some quality one-on-one time with the senators and get to know them a little better. There were no "asks" on the table, but we wanted to have face time with these individuals so that when they see us "under the golden dome" there is more of a personal connection.

The first thing Lt. Governor Duncan said to us at our meeting was that he has informed his caucus that healthcare, especially rural healthcare, will be the #1 topic and priority for this coming session. What a fantastic opportunity for us to capitalize on this, hopefully, changed mindset of our state government! We, as a board, plan on using this opportunity to further our legislative agenda and be a voice for our GANA members at the State Capitol to make Georgia a state where ALL CRNAs have the opportunity to choose how they want to practice.

This is where you come in. We must all, as Georgia CRNAs, rise to the occasion and give our very best. The board can't (and doesn't want to) do it all. We need everyone to do their part. This does not just mean your money (although we need that as well), but encompasses everything including

continued on page 7 >

# AANA Update

by Angela Mund, DNP, CRNA



#### GANA CRNAs,

I hope everyone is having a great fall season and preparing for the holidays! The AANA Board is working hard on your behalf on a variety of projects and initiatives many of them member driven. Here are just a few:

- Your AANA Board continues to give highest strategic priority to President Trump's Executive Order on Protecting and Improving Medicare for our Nation's Seniors. It can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-protecting-improving-medicare-nations-seniors/. Take a moment to read the Executive Order and note section 5. The opportunities for CRNAs to achieve removal of physician supervision for Medicare Part A are now. Please pay attention to emails from the AANA and act! As we saw in the CMS ruling allowing CRNAs to provide anesthesia risk evaluation in Ambulatory Surgery Centers, comments are important. Keep the momentum going!
- Membership engagement forums will be held at upcoming AANA meetings as well as other venues throughout this year. We had two very successful well attended forums at the Leadership Summit: Nurse Anesthesiologist and the Governance Research Taskforce (GRTF).
- I am honored to chair the GRTF. In FY20, the GRTF will be focused on continuing to research and create recommendations related to the governance goals from the cultural assessment survey. We will be facilitating several membership engagement sessions for the next several months. Please join us at upcoming events where we will ask you questions

about streamlining AANA bylaws, leadership development, improving elections, leveraging committees, and regional representation and alignment.

- The Board approved a taskforce to educate members and study the options of an alternate recertification entity. A survey will be developed and distributed to AANA members and CRNA non-members. Stay tuned for updates.
- The staff in our DC office continue to work diligently on reimbursement, veterans affairs, and pain management issues. In addition, our advocacy staff are actively engaged in combating the effects of the ACOG guidelines on CRNAs and patients in level II maternal care facilities. Please contact me if you are having any issues with these guidelines.
- Due to member requests to be able to engage in discussions supporting the CRNA-PAC, the DC staff have developed a Facebook Page for AANA members only to discuss important federal advocacy efforts. You can join the group here: https://www.facebook.com/ groups/CRNAdvocacy/

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as AANA Region 2 director. Looking forward to seeing everyone at a future AANA Meeting ! As always, feel free to reach out to me with any concerns or comments.

amund@aanabod.com 🔺

#### **Report from the Federal Political Director**



by Wesley Karcher, MSNA, CRNA



Hello all! I am excited to be given the honor of being your next Federal Political Director. I'm ready to hit the ground running and I'm excited about the years to come.

I want to thank **Steve Smith** for his decade of service in this role. He has been, and still is, a great mentor to me and no one was more deserving of the **2019 Daniel D. Vigness Federal Political Director (FPD) of the Year** award. I have some tough shoes to fill but I'll do my best to be worthy.

I believe we are living in VERY exciting times for CRNAs and I believe that has been evidenced in just the past few months by all of our "wins" on the federal side.

On October 8, President Trump signed Executive order #13890. Of importance to us are sections 4 and 5 of the executive order which call on the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to make several reforms to Medicare within one year and to propose a regulation that would eliminate burdensome regulatory billing requirements, remove costly and needless physician supervision requirements, and all other licensure requirements of the Medicare program that limit physicians and non-physicians from practicing at full scope.

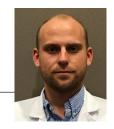
"I believe we are living in VERY exciting times for CRNAs and I believe that has been evidenced in just the past few months by all of our 'wins' on the federal side." The order also directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar to conduct a comprehensive review of regulatory policies that create disparities in reimbursement between physicians and non-physician practitioners and to propose a regulation that would, to the extent allowed by law, ensure that items and services provided are appropriately reimbursed in accordance with the work performed rather than the clinician's occupation.

Next, in the summer of 2018, the VHA made unreasonable and unsubstantiated revisions to the anesthesia handbook via VHA Directive 1123. In response, AANA and AVANA met with VHA leadership to discuss how they believed these edits to the handbook were irresponsible, demonstrate bias against CRNAs, and will lead to reduced access, higher costs and less efficiency in anesthesia care for our nation's veterans. In early November we learned, because of their tireless advocacy efforts, they were able to get the language substantially changed in the VHA Handbook to come more in line with how CRNAs function in the current VA system. This is a BIG win for all of our CRNAs serving in the VA system and one step closer to full practice authority!

Finally, on November 1, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) recognized a CRNA's ability to perform pre-anesthetic assessments in Ambulatory Surgical Centers as part of the final rule made on the Physician Fee Schedule.

continued on page 14 >

# Augusta University Class of 2020 Student Report



by Will Howell, SRNA

Greetings from the Augusta University Class of 2020!

These past few months have been both exhilarating and tiring. In May we finished the didactic portion of our CRNA program and entered the clinical setting. Since then we have immersed ourselves in hundreds of anesthetics, intubations, line placements, and all other aspects of the field. We have traversed thousands of miles across the state to hospital sites and spent many nights and weekends working or on call.

All of this hard work has been worthwhile and we are excited to continue our hands-on experiences. In just a few months we will enter our third and final year of the CRNA program at AU. It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of our journey.

As we start our final year, we are diligently working on our DNP projects and talking about presenting them at various conferences. We also will be teaching the first and second year students by presenting case studies at on-campus immersion days starting in January.

Our class also participated in the Georgia Anesthesia Symposium in October. The educational lectures and fellowship among our friends was the highlight of the event. Our class is also looking forward to the upcoming Capitol Day and advocating for our profession. We also would like to thank all of the clinical sites and preceptors who work with us on a daily basis across the state. Without you all we would not be able to receive the world-class education that we do. It is a pleasure to work and learn with each of you.

Look out for our next update in the Spring edition of the newsletter.

# GANA Calendar 2020

**January 10-12** AANA Region 2 Meeting – Charleston, SC

February 19-22

Assembly of Didactic and Clinical Educators Chateau Elan Winery and Resort, Braselton, GA

March 7 GANA Board Meeting – Emory University

April 18-22 AANA Mid Year Assembly – Washington, DC

**August 14-18** AANA Annual Congress – San Diego, CA

August 22 GANA Board Meeting – Augusta University

October 2-4 GANA Annual Meeting – Savannah, GA

For more information on GANA events, please visit the calendar page on the GANA website.



Go to www.gana.org, scroll down and click on the "Social Media" button and then "Like Us" on Facebook!

# **Need Malpractice Insurance?**

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

# 2020 Legislative Session Begins January 13

by Monty Veazey

First of all, I want to begin by thanking all CRNAs who came to the Capitol this year during session. Developing a relationship with your legislator is invaluable and they enjoy seeing you being active.

Please mark your calendar now to visit beginning January 13th until tApril 1st. The more member involvement the better the outcome; we must have a seat at the table.

It is hard to believe the 2020 Legislative Session starts in just two months. It seems like we just finished the previous session. However, a lot has taken place. You may recall many study committees passed this past session and they have been very active meeting across the state., and your GANA board and my team have been busy attending or testifying before them.

We have closely followed the committee on "Evaluation and Simplifying Oversight of Physician Assistants and APRNs Study Committee." While we were concerned to what extent their scope would be, it appears from the very first meeting that CRNAs were not a target.

With the 2020 session starting January 13th, it gives everyone time to reach out to their local legislator. Please do not underestimate how effective this is. Take a moment to either call or email them just to introduce yourself and tell



them how much you appreciate the job they do. This speaks volumes!

The 2019 session became known as the healthcare session. The 2020 session will continue to address healthcare. The main issues continue to be the rising cost of healthcare, rural hospitals, certificate of need, telemedicine and scope of practice to name a few. I believe the budget will become the primary issue with the Governor already asking for a 4% cut.

I want to thank all active members who contribute to the PAC fund. Believe me, it's worth your investment! Together we can be successful with our legislative agenda! Please make that phone call, send the email, and invest in your profession.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

#### Senate

- Sen. Chuck Hufstetler, Chairman
- Sen. Gloria Butler
- Sen. Renee Unterman
- Sen. Ben Watson, MD
- Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, MD

#### House

- Rep. Mark Newton, Chairman
- Rep. Alan Powell
- Rep. Sharon Cooper

"With the 2020 session starting January 13th, it gives everyone time to reach out to their local legislator. Please do not underestimate how effective this is."

#### FROM PAGE 2 Rise to the Occasion

answering surveys, responding to calls-to-action, micro-volunteering for small tasks on committees, attending regional and state-wide meetings, VOTING in GANA elections, and, yes, giving to GANA-PAC.

I am emboldened by this past weekend and the opportunities that we have coming up. In response to this, I plan on *quadrupling* my monthly donation to GANA-PAC. Yes, we have a PAC for our state. Please give to our AANA-PAC, but also remember that we have GANA-PAC for our state-specific issues. As they say, "Politics is money." If you are already giving, thank you. This may be a great time to check your account and think about increasing the size of your donation. If you aren't giving, GANA makes it easy to get started. Just go to https://gana.org/donate to set up your recurring monthly donation to GANA-PAC. I challenge all of you to give at least \$25 monthly. That is nothing in the grand scheme of things but would be substantial for GANA-PAC and our legislative priorities!

I hope I have excited you in some way about the road ahead! Just know that your board is working very hard every day for your practice rights. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime if you have questions or concerns (or praise!) about GANA or CRNA practice in general. I look forward to this year as your President-Elect!

# **Safe Intervention**



By Martha Kral, CRNA

The GANA Peer Assistance Committee was present at the annual Georgia Anesthesia Symposium in Atlanta in October. We had a table in the exhibit room with some pamphlets, books and CDs (all free) about Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and wellness. We had free raffles for a neck massager and two live plants. We had some pens, healthy snacks, not so healthy candy and fruit-infused water, all free of charge. At our table everything is free, even advice.

Thanks to those who stopped by and talked with us, asked questions and shared your experiences. We learn from you too because while there are many similar stories, no two situations are exactly alike. We are happy to talk with you about issues concerning SUD and Wellness, whether it be your own or someone you know. Don't be shy about approaching us.

We are here to assist you as our name Peer Assistance suggests. We are not the "drug police." We are not scanning the room to see if someone looks like they may be impaired or have some type of trouble. We don't have any facial recognition technology. What we have is readily available information to assist you in assisting yourself or others.

So if you know of someone who you think might need help, you can contact Martha, State Peer Advisor, or AANA to get some answers. It may not be wise to confront an individual unless you have a plan. See Safe Intervention. The important thing is "if you see something, say something." The good part is that you don't have to know exactly what steps to take to get proper help at first, other than to make a phone call and you can be advised what to do. You can also call about other issues in the workplace such as bullying or adverse events. You are not alone.

My contact information is: 912-660-0652 or kralsm12@aol.com

#### AANA has a myriad of resources online.

Adverse events: https://www.aana.com/practice/health-and-wellness-peer-assistance/about-health-wellness/ emotional-and-mental-well-being/adverse-medical-events-critical-incidents---how-to-cope

**Stress:** https://www.aana.com/practice/health-and-wellness-peer-assistance/about-health-wellness/emotional-and-mental-well-being/stress-and-nurse-anesthesia-professionals

**Wellness in the Workplace:** https://www.aana.com/practice/health-and-wellness-peer-assistance/about-health-wellness/wellness-in-the-workplace

If you or someone you know struggles with drugs or alcohol, help is available 24/7. AANA Peer Assistance Helpline – 800-654-5167

# LOOKING BACK ...

Passing of the Presidential Gavel at the GAS 2019 Business Meeting



Past President Wally Phillips and President Eddie Thomas

SRNAs at the Wellness Exhibition 2019 Georgia Anesthesia Symposium in Atlanta, GA October 4-6, 2019





Tara Thomas (wife of GANA President Eddie Thomas) and Wesley Karcher, CRNA, dressed up for AANA-PAC "Gilligan's Island" fundraiser at the AANA Leadership Summit in Naples, Florida



Wesley Karcher, CRNA and wife Kristen Karcher, ACNP-BC, attending the Annual Banquet at the AANA Annual Congress in Chicago

# **Emory University Student Report**

by Shawn Biddle, SRNA



As we begin the fall semester, we would like to welcome our new class of 2022 CRNA/DNP students! Their cohort consists of 15 students and we could not be happier to welcome them to our program.

The inaugural class of 2020 that I am a part of can finally see graduation day at the end of the tunnel. We cannot believe that the past three years are almost behind us. The hours go slow, but the years go fast as we reflect on all that we have accomplished this past year. By the end of the semester, all of our cohort will have successfully defended our scholarly DNP projects. We look forward to disseminating our research so that we can continue to keep our patients safe and informed. We would also like to extend congratulations to one of our very own, Sarah Green SRNA, for being awarded the GANA Outstanding SRNA of the Year!

The junior class of 2021 has entered their second clinical semester. As they embark on this fall semester, they will be encountering new obstacles as they start their DNP projects as well as test their clinical skills during undisclosed simulations. We wish them all the best as they continue to advance their clinical skills in order to keep our patients safe and comfortable during a very scary time in the patients' lives.

Throughout our clinical training, we have truly been lucky to have worked with such excellent preceptors who push us to surmount challenges and grow into safe, confident, and independent anesthesia providers. We cannot thank you all enough for your support, knowledge, and patience. Last, but surely not least, we would like to thank our administrators, professors, and support staff for all they do. We would not be where we are today if it was not for their dedication and investment into each and every one of us.

# **GANA Student Scholarship Winners**

This year's student winners of the three GANA merit-based scholarships are Billie Day (Emory), Laura Gil (Emory) and Emily Tuggle (Emory). Please congratulate these students when you see them in the clinical setting!



Billie Day



Laura Gil



Emily Tuggle



# Augusta University Nursing Anesthesia Program Report

by Dr. Shannon Broxton, CRNA, DNP

Fall fever is upon us, and that's just for the faculty! December is usually very busy in Augusta as we plan for graduation and the admission of the new incoming class each in January; all of this amidst the day to day of academia. This December is a little different, however, since we transitioned to the DNP degree. For this first time, we will not have a graduating class this year as our first DNP cohort will graduate December of 2020. But rest assured, we will continue to answer the need for autonomous anesthesia providers by graduating a class every year after.

In that same vein, our program is on track to grow by approximately ten additional students over the next 10 years. We are fortunate to have strong alliances with clinical partners here in Georgia and now we are reaching beyond state boundaries to ensure that our university continues to produce highly qualified CRNAs.

I will never miss an opportunity to thank you all for the clinical training you provide our students. On behalf of our faculty, staff, and students we would like to offer our sincerest appreciation. Training students in the clinical setting is a critical part of their learning and we are aware of each of your selfless giving of your time and energy. You are giving a priceless gift to our program, students, and mostly to our great profession.

I look forward to connecting with all of the members at the events come. Your feedback is always welcome. Happy Holidays and blessings to you and yours for a prosperous New Year!



Eddie Thomas (and children), Maegan Brass and Wesley Karcher meeting with Renee Untermann at Callaway Gardens Lodge and Spa



Wesley Karcher meeting with State Senator Renee Untermann at Georgia GOP conference in Savannah

# www.aana.com/ peerassist.aspx

Helpline Peer Assistance 800.654.5167 Anesthetists in Recovery (AIR) 215.635.0183



# CRNA CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS

#### CELEBRATE | NATIONAL CRNA WEEK | JAN. 19-2

As highly educated and skilled anesthesia experts, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) stay with patients throughout their procedure to ensure their comfort and safety.

For CRNAs, providing patient-centered, holistic pain management and anesthesia care is both their profession and their passion. CRNAs work in all practice settings, including rural and military, to provide safe and effective anesthesia care for every patient.



© 2020 American Association of Nurse Anesthetists

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.* 





- 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.

JAN. 19-25, 2020

# \_\_\_\_\_*Meet you in \_\_\_\_\_* SAVANNAH, GA

# October 2 - 4, 2020

**GAS2020** 

Georgia Anesthesia Symposium

# EDUCATE + ENGAGE + EMPOWER

Register by September 1, 2020 to enjoy discounted tuition rates: GANA Member - \$575 Non Member - \$650 SRNA - \$250 Daily rates available

The three days will include twenty hours of conference and poster session time.

**Discounted Lodging at The DeSoto** Starting at \$229

**Conference Coordinator:** Laura Moritz Laura@AssociationMeetingPlanners.com





Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists

#### FROM THE COVER Member Engagement is Paramount

- and a lot of fun at a winery! Then in October, the programs committee put on a world-class anesthesia conference in Atlanta with the Georgia Anesthesia Symposium. This event drew a big crowd and offered 16 credit hours towards your continuing education requirements. To round out the year we have a social networking PAC event planned on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. This is a festive holiday affair where GANA members are encouraged to bring family and friends for a night of fun exploring the Garden Lights, Christmas displays, and special Holiday Nights activities. We have sold over 150 tickets - so I hope to see many of you there! If you have not been to one of the GANA events recently, these meetings can be tremendously beneficial to all members and we highly encourage you to attend. In the future we aim to expand our educational material base and offer a wider variety of networking and educational events.

Anesthesia is a field that not only requires but demands lifelong learning. It is my sincere hope that the GANA can aid our members in this endeavor, but we must not just be passive learners! I challenge all of you to also be teachers. One way to achieve this is by fostering our SRNAs' education across the state. We need to advance the profession and continually require more from ourselves and our students to move this great career along. If you do not have students at your facilities, I strongly encourage you to consider reaching out to Augusta University and Emory University to see about getting students into where you work and teaching the next generation of providers all it means to be a CRNA.

I hope in reading this you can tell that I am a tireless advocate for the profession of Nurse Anesthetists. To paraphrase our AANA CEO Randy Moore – I am unapologetically PRO-CRNA! ▲

# Outstanding SRNA of the Year Award

This year, the GANA scholarship committee was pleased to award **Sarah Green, RN, BSN** as the 2019 Outstanding SRNA of the Year! She is currently a student in the inaugural Emory DNP class who will be graduating in 2020. Sarah had glowing nominations from multiple preceptors and we are sure she will continue to make a big difference in the Georgia anesthesia community.

# Important Dates

NATIONAL CRNA WEEK January 19-25, 2020

GANA REGIONAL MEETING July Location and Date TBD

GANA ANNUAL MEETING October 2-4 Savannah, Georgia

#### **Report from the PAC Chair**

# **Record-Breaking Fundraising!**

by Dr. Shannon Broxton, CRNA, DNP



Let me begin by saying THANK YOU! The membership showed up and showed out this year at the GAS 2019 PAC Fundraising table. In less than 24 hours, our organization raised nearly \$7,000. That figure is record breaking! These funds are so important to the preservation of our profession. In order to have a voice on Capitol Hill and in our state, we have to continue to lobby at the level of our competitors. Your commitment to our cause was clear at our annual symposium.

Be ready to continue your support of the PAC at GAS 2020 and other regional events scheduled throughout the year. We will be bringing a lot of merchandise to sell and the raffles next year will be legendary. Special thanks to Reed Halterman and Maegan Brass for their help in making this year so monumental.

#### FROM PAGE 4 Advocacy Tidal Wave

The final rule also includes a provision that finalizes broad modifications to CMS' documentation policy for evaluation and management services so that CRNAs, along with other APRNs, physicians, and physician assistants, can review and verify, rather than re-document notes in a patient's medical record. The preamble related to this provision of the rule recognizes Medicare Part B payment to CRNAs for evaluation and management services as defined by a state's scope of practice. Although this change doesn't do anything to change the current practice of CRNAs in Georgia or nationwide, I believe it creates a stronger narrative for all CRNAs when they, invariably, must have a conversation with a surgeon about their perceived liability when working with a CRNA, at least as it relates to the pre-operative assessment.

As you can see, there is a lot happening for CRNAs on the federal side. I would be remiss as your FPD if I didn't inform you that AANA Mid-Year Assembly will be held in Washington, DC at the Renaissance Washington from April 18-22, 2020. I believe this coming Mid-Year Assembly will be one of the most important we've had over the last 10-20 years! I hope to see MANY of my fellow Georgia CRNAs and SRNAs at the meeting. Together we can all unleash an advocacy tidal wave the likes of which Washington, DC has never seen. Advocate for the change you want to see! ▲

# **Board Retreat at Callaway Gardens**

November 16, 2019 • Pine Mountain, GA



GANA leadership with Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan and Senator Matt Brass



Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan and GANA leadership



State Senator Republican Caucus an GANA leadership at Callaway Gardes Lodge and Spa



Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan and State Senator Matt Brass cracking jokes with GANA leadership



Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists 222 South Prospect Avenue Park Ridge, IL 60068-4037 FIRST CLASS U.S. Postage PAID Permit 466 SUWANEE, GA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists PAC	I am contributing \$ the legislative efforts o	v	
Name			Thank you for your contribution
Address			to this worthy
Home Phone #	Best time to call		cause for your profession!
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: Krystal Toledo, GANA-PAC Treasurer, P.O. Box 887, Tifton, GA 31793			
Forms available at www.gana.org			3
			······································