

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists CRNAs

- Represent nearly 150 years of quality anesthesia
- Safely administer approximately 43 million anesthetics in the US every year
- Represented by 50,000 CRNAs nationwide and over 1300 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

Five Monkeys, Opioid-Free Anesthesia and Enhanced Recovery!

by Barry Cranfill, CRNA, MHS, MBA, FAAPM



There is a modern day parable (or fable if you will) about an experiment with five monkeys in a room. The room has a single, tall step ladder with an enticing bunch of "monkey bait" bananas hanging just out of reach from the ceiling. Monkeys being monkeys, one of the hungry primates climbed the ladder and reached for a banana. As soon as the monkey reached for the banana, the researchers opened a porthole into the room and discharged a fire hose on the four other monkeys, drenching them to the bone. After a few minutes, one of the other monkeys (angry, hungry and wet) climbed the ladder. As this monkey reached for a banana, the researchers doused the other monkeys again. After a few moments a third monkey made a move for the ladder and all the other monkeys grabbed him and beat him away from the ladder. After that, none of the five monkeys even tried to climb the ladder.

The next day, the researchers shook it up a bit! They removed one of the original monkeys and replaced him with a new, "unconditioned," hungry monkey. Of course, this little fellow decided to go straight for the bananas and as he reached for the ladder, the other four monkeys snatched him down and beat him. The next day another monkey was replaced and, as expected, the new monkey clamored for the ladder. The other monkeys opened a can of whoop-ass on him too! This cycle continued for a few more days. As each new monkey was introduced, replacing a monkey that had been soaked with the fire hose, the new monkey was assaulted as he tried to get lunch from the top of the ladder.

But on day six, a strange thing happened. The new monkey raced for the ladder hoping to get a banana snack, and he was dutifully beat up by the all other monkeys...even though none of the monkeys knew why? None of these monkeys had ever been subjected to the fire hose!

Imagine asking these monkeys why they wouldn't let other monkeys climb the ladder for the bananas. I suspect (assuming the little simians could speak) that they would say "Because we have always done it that way!"

CRNAs are no different than these monkeys. We do lots of things just because it is the "way it has always been done." We are creatures of habit, resistant to change, stubborn in our ways, comfortable in our routines and hesitant to "fix what ain't broke." We know how to do our jobs. We protect our patients with an unequalled passion. Just don't try to tell us what to do. We KNOW what and how to do anesthesia!!

But, my fellow monkeys, we need to open our minds. Not all new ideas are good ones, but many are. Six years ago, my practice colleagues and I started looking at opioid-free anesthesia (OFA) options and the enhanced recovery (ERAS) protocols coming out of Western Europe. Given that one of our practice locations was a tertiary cancer treatment facility, we were looking for alternatives to opioids and traditional anesthesia. I won't lie to you! We were ALL extremely skeptical. How could you possibly avoid opioids in an opioid tolerant/dependent cancer patient? With PAIN as the fourth vital

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Report from the President-Elect

Roll with the Change

by Wallace S. Phillips CRNA, MSNA



As I sit down at the computer today to work on this report, I put Pandora on in the background and REO Speedwagon's 1978 song "Roll with the Change" was playing. I instantly realized this should be the title of my article. This title describes what the GANA is experiencing with the recent retirement of our longtime *outstanding*, Executive Director Christy Dunkelberger, who retired in January of 2018. As GANA's front person for the membership, Christy ran the day-to-day operation of the association and served in this role for over 20 years. The Board of Directors knew that it was going to be a difficult task to fill her shoes when looking for a replacement to run the everyday operations of the association.

In the fall of 2017 when the Board of Directors (BOD) received the news of Christy's upcoming retirement, we began searching for a replacement. The BOD immediately began looking for a replacement Executive Director and also started looking into association management companies that could provide the types of services we needed. As the board began its search process we reached out to the AANA's State Government Affairs department and learned of a new pilot program that was about to be launched.

The AANA Board of Directors approved the implementation of a 2-year pilot program to offer selected association management services for up to five state associations. The pilot study will be conducted from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2019. It will serve as the study group for the AANA's research and development efforts in continuing to improve the performance of our state associations.

This seemed too good to be true: the AANA was looking for state associations to participate in the pilot program and GANA was looking for someone that could provide the services we need. We are happy to report that GANA has contracted with the AANA to be a part of the pilot program.

With this new arrangement, I am pleased to introduce to the membership GANA's new executive team that will be managing the day-to-day operation of the association:

Coura Badiane, MA, MBA, CAE

Account Manager, State Management Affairs

gana@aana.com or cbadiane@aana.com or (847) 939-3520

Coura joins AANA with approximately ten years of experience in association management with the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) as an International Affairs Specialist, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) as Manager for Committee, Council and Section Administration, and as a manager for International Affairs, Section on International Child Health. She has also worked at the World Bank in Washington D.C., and Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Coura holds a BA in Economics and Spanish, a MA in International Development and a MBA with a concentration in Project Management. She can be reached at cbadiane@aana.com and by phone at 847-939-3520.

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AANA Mid-Year Assembly 2018

by Steve Smith, CRNA, MA



This year's AANA Mid-Year Assembly held in Washington DC on April 21-25 was another huge success with over 1000 CRNAs/SRNA attending from every state and close to 40 of us from Georgia attended. Our issues this year were supporting changes to the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) process of issuing local coverage determinations (LCDs), the opioid crisis, ensuring veterans access to high quality care, restoring rural access to nurse anesthesia services and supporting nurse anesthesia workforce development. As always, our #1 message was to let our legislators know that we provide safe, high quality, cost-effective anesthesia and increased access to care, particularly to those in rural America.

Thirty-one students from Augusta University plus one student from Wake Forest and one from Duke, and eight CRNAs made the trip to DC. We were able to visit with our 14 US Representatives and Senator Perdue. Unfortunately, after much effort to set up an appointment with Senator Isakson, we were never given an appointment time. We went by his office and attempted to visit with him without any luck but did leave him a wealth of information about CRNAs.

We had one of our more productive meetings with Representative Buddy Carter from the Savannah area in district 1. He is on the Energy and Commerce Committee and is a strong supporter of HR 3692, the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act, which would allow all advance practice registered nurses, including CRNAs, to prescribe buprenorphine and other medication-assisted treatments (MATs) that help individuals end their addiction to these harmful drugs. Unfortunately, here in Georgia, because CRNAs practice under the protocol (Medical

Practice Act OCGA 43-34-23) that does not allow CRNAs prescriptive authority, it would not apply to us. It would apply to all other Georgia APRNs. However, it is still a very positive move that would expand qualifying practitioner status to CRNAs and other APRNs around the country, increasing the availability of opioid addiction treatment, especially in rural and underserved communities.

During my visit with Congresswoman Karen Handel's health legislative assistant, while discussing the opioid crisis, she extended an invitation to us to attend an opioid summit hosted by Representative Handel that took place on May 1 at the Dunwoody City Hall. Kay Argroves and I had the good fortune to attend. It was an invitation-only event that brought together government officials, industry and health professionals and community leaders to develop a shared understanding of the problem in our community and to identify specific next steps. During this first summit,

... the AANA CRNA-PAC will be undertaking a peer-to-peer fundraising pilot program known as the "PAC Ambassador Program" this summer. This program will seek to increase new first-time donors and help to increase the overall participation percentage ...



Steve Smith and Kay Argroves attended the Opioid Summit on May 1, 2018 at the Dunwoody City Hall, hosted by Congresswoman Karen Handel

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Healthcare Legislation

by Monty Veazey



I want to begin by thanking all the CRNAs who came to the Capitol this year; do not underestimate how effective it is. Developing a relationship with your legislator makes an incredible difference.

The 2018 Legislative Session began January 8th and ended March 29th. We monitored over 80 healthcare legislative bills including SB 351 by Senator Renee Unterman, which would have expanded the scope of practice for advanced practice nurses ("APRN") allowing them to order x-rays and CTs. The bill introduced was significantly trimmed down due to strong opposition to increasing APRN's authority. Many, including myself, did not anticipate this bill coming out of the House Health Committee, chaired by Representative Sharon Cooper.

Senate Bill 334 was sponsored by Senator Unterman and would have moved the Board of Nursing from the Secretary of State to the Department of Community Health. This bill passed the Senate with little opposition but again, couldn't get out of the House Health Committee because of opposition from the Chair.

The election on May 22nd and subsequent run-offs will determine the new Governor and Lieutenant Governor in addition to many legislative seats because of retirements and resignations for higher offices.

Healthcare will remain the top issue as we head into the 2019 legislative session. I believe the scope of practice will also remain a priority moving forward as we continue to address the healthcare workforce in rural communities across the state.

The more member involvement, the better the outcome. Become active now to have an impact and seat at the table as we debate these issues. Make an investment in your profession by donating to the PAC fund that supports your legislators. Campaign contributions has become increasingly competitive. You must invest for a favorable outcome. ▲

FROM PAGE 3

AANA Mid-Year Assembly 2018

they examined existing data, available resources and gaps in treatment and prevention. There will be several more in the future which I plan on attending as a representative of all Georgia CRNAs.

On a final note, the AANA CRNA-PAC will be undertaking a peer-to-peer fundraising pilot program known as the "PAC Ambassador Program" this summer. This program will seek to increase new first-time donors and help to increase the overall participation percentage. Georgia, along with 9 other states has been chosen as a pilot program state and, as your state's FPD, we hope that you will agree to participate as a PAC Ambassador. We are hoping to recruit a total of 13 Ambassadors in Georgia. In the last fiscal year, only about seven percent of AANA members contributed to CRNA-PAC—we can do better! The stronger our PAC, the greater impact we can have on the U.S. Congress—advancing legislation that supports the profession, stopping our opponent's legislation, and electing pro-CRNA members to federal offices. ▲



ANA REGIONAL MEETING

July 14, 2018

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Wolf Mountain Vineyards

Dahlonega, GA

www.wolfmountainvineyards.com

Contact Sarah Phillips
to make reservations –
sarah8888@hotmail.com

Free lunch and 1 CE will be offered

Augusta University Class of 2018 Student Report

by Jessica Galloway, SRNA



And just like that it is already spring, and the Augusta University Class of 2018 will graduate this December! This will be the final Augusta University class to graduate with their Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with a Major in Nursing Anesthesia. The inaugural Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) with specialization in Nursing Anesthesia program began in January of this year; the newly minted doctoral candidates are scheduled to graduate in December of 2020.

The Class of 2018 has been out of the classroom since last August, and has been rotating through various clinical sites across Georgia. We are learning a lot and gaining confidence in our skills as we put them into practice. Time management is essential during this stage of our training. Balancing clinical learning opportunities with required class readings can be challenging, but our CRNA preceptors have been both helpful and understanding. The value that is gained by participating in hands-on training cannot be overstated. Many thanks to all of the clinical sites for helping to coordinate this valuable aspect of our program.

With graduation quickly approaching, the Class of 2018 has begun preparing for the National Certification Exam. We have known it is coming so we are creating our study plans and putting on our game faces early. We welcome any and all advice and encouragement!

Last but not least, the Class of 2018 recently attended AANA's Mid-Year Assembly in Washington, D.C. We enjoyed taking part as CRNAs and SRNAs from all over the nation came together for the advancement of the nurse anesthesia profession. We are excited about what the future holds for our class, and look forward to becoming permanent contributors to the anesthesia profession. ▲

Shadow a CRNA

Contact the GANA
office by email at
gana@aana.com

GANA Calendar 2018

July 14, 2018

GANA Regional Meeting
Wolf Mountain Vineyards – Dahlonega, GA

August 18, 2018

GANA BOD meeting – Emory University
Nurse Anesthesia Program

September 21-25, 2018

AANA Annual Congress in Boston, MA

October 5-7, 2018

Georgia Anesthesia Symposium
Savannah, Georgia

GANA Board Meetings: Conference calls will be at 8:00 pm; in-person meetings will be at 10:00 A.M. unless otherwise announced. Call 847-939-3520 or email gana@aana.com if you would like to attend a meeting. All Board meetings are open to GANA members.

The next *To and Fro* Publication
will be November 2018.



Rachael Williams AU SRNA, Samantha Pollock,
AU SRNA at the AANA office
in Washington, DC

FROM THE COVER

Five Monkeys, Opioid-Free Anesthesia and Enhanced Recovery!

sign, complete with little faces for distressed patients to point at, we were all conditioned to be heavy handed with opioids, particularly in cases that were not well matched for traditional regional anesthetic techniques. We would not allow our patients to suffer, so we did what we were trained to do!

But, we decided to give the new techniques a try. After speaking with our surgical colleagues and discussing it with a few patients, we moved forward. The results were unbelievable...literally. When the first patient woke up in the recovery room, pain free, asking for a Popsicle® (after having their abdomen cut from stern to stern), we thought it was an anomaly. When the next five patients had the same experience, we started looking for the hidden voodoo doctor that HAD to be hanging around and putting spells on our patients. After a dozen equally amazing results, we decided that we must be doing something right. Since those eventful couple of weeks in 2012, we have continued to innovate and improve on our process and the results are amazing. We monkeys decided to climb a new ladder and it paid off handsomely for our patients and surgeons, alleviating pain and significantly shortening hospital admission length of stay.

Over the past year or so, I have seen and heard many of our CRNA colleagues expressing great concern and consternation over the introduction of these new techniques in their practice. Like I WAS, they are skeptical. "Why change?" My question is "why resist change?" The ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, "There is nothing permanent except change." Innovation and improvement cannot occur without change.

As evidence-based practitioners, we need to be open to innovation. Not only open, we need to be innovation change agents! The evidence is coming in and opioid-free anesthesia and Enhanced Recovery techniques do make a difference. With my wife's permission, I offer the following HIPAA compliant (patient authorized) personal experience as the family member of a patient that was fortunate enough to have these new techniques utilized for surgery. Read and judge for yourself!

My wife, Stacia, was scheduled for a robotic total abdominal hysterectomy. Her surgeon had never utilized ERAS or OFA but he was thankfully open to the request. The anesthesia team was less than excited about the

possibility since this was rather new to them, they had only used ERAS occasionally, and did not routinely use the techniques we requested. As we all know, nothing makes anesthesia people happier than telling them how to do their job!! However, they finally agreed. Stacia was admitted for the first case of the day. Overnight, Stacia was administered a high carbohydrate drink right up to 2 hours prior to her arrival time. She took Arnica, Lyrica and Celebrex preoperatively. In the holding area before surgery, she was given 100 mcg of Fentanyl and 2 mg of Versed while she was administered the requested Quadratus Lumborum (QL) block using Exparel. She then received intravenous Tylenol prior to induction. We asked that her crystalloid administration be limited to less than a liter and that she receive albumin for any other volume needs. We requested Ketamine and Propofol anesthesia to be included for maintenance. We also discussed Precedex and Lidocaine infusions during maintenance, but they declined that option. After over three hours of surgery (big uterus), she was moved to the PACU. She was dutifully provided with a Dilaudid IV PCA, which she never touched. She was discharged to the floor because the surgeon wasn't sure how she would be doing. When he came by to see her an hour or so later, he happily discharged his first ever "same day" Robotic TAH patient. Due to the crystalloid restriction and the use of Albumin, she had no swelling or edema even after three hours in steep Trendelenburg.

Before 3 PM we were at home and Stacia was eating and drinking. AT 5 PM we walked up and down the hills of Mountain Park and around the block in the neighborhood. She recovered very quickly and never took a single opioid (although she had them prescribed) for pain. She was pain-free and used only Tylenol and Ibuprofen alternatively on a schedule for a couple of days. The only discomfort was CO2 gas in her shoulders.

I knew this program worked from a provider's perspective ... but from a patient's family perspective, it was a God-send.

Fellow monkeys, do not despair. Yes, we have always done it the same way and it works ... but sometimes you gotta swing to a different branch! Keep an eye out for GANA educational opportunities that will provide you with more details on OFA and ERAS! Be innovation change agents!

As for the *President's Report* for this issue, please know that all is well with the GANA. We have an excellent leadership team (with lots of new faces) that are motivated and ready to lead. All is well! ▲

LOOKING BACK ...

Emory field trip to the Centers for Disease Control



Rear: Brandon Smercansky, Taylor Courtner, Dr. Michael Conti, Assistant Program Director, Noelle Shaw, Lindsay Dixon, Dr. Kelly Wiltse Nicely, Program Director, Sarah Green, Abby Walker and Shawn Biddle; Front row: Margie Schneider and Kelly Winter

Diversity CRNA Workshop



Dr. Robert Hawkins CRNA from the NBCRNA and Emory Program Director Dr. Kelly Wiltse Nicely with 4 attendees at the Diversity CRNA workshop



The Augusta University Nurse Anesthesia School Class of 2017 graduated in December

AANA Update

by Angela Mund, DNP, CRNA



Happy Spring! I had the opportunity to network and meet with your GANA leadership during the Mid-Year Assembly in Washington, D.C. Georgia continues to have strong CRNA representation and leadership on the national and state level. 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:

- Cultural Assessment Task Force is working hard with our consultants SortSol to get information collected to provide a blueprint for moving forward on improving the culture of the AANA. The next phase will be implementing the plans then evaluating the outcomes. Please be on the lookout for any emails requesting your input – it is critically important that we hear from everyone.
- CMS Medicare Administrative Contractors (MAC) – our Federal Government Affairs staff continue to work on a legislative answer to dealing with the issues of MAC refusing to pay CRNAs for procedures that they are legally approved to provide.
- The Membership Engagement Task Force is looking for your feedback on how the AANA can provide members with the services that they want and need. Surveys have been sent to members and I am confident that the task force will continue to ask for your assistance.
- The Nurse Anesthesiologist Task Force will be providing their recommendations to the Board in July and we will provide information to the members. This task force is chaired by Georgia's own Dr. Janice Izlar.
- The Reimbursement and Innovation Task Force is working with the AANA Healthcare Research and Policy staff to develop resources for members related to MACRA, MIPS, and APM. Please visit the AANA website for more information. These groups have done an amazing amount of work to assist members in obtaining the highest levels of reimbursement. <https://www.aana.com/advocacy/quality-reimbursement/quality-payment-program/2017-mips/macra-quality-payment-program>
- Our Federal Government Affairs staff continue to meet with the VHA leadership and with our legislative champions to push for Full Practice Authority for all VA CRNAs. We are all watching the selection of a new VA Secretary very closely.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with any concerns or comments. And please remember to vote in the AANA Election.

amund@aanabod.com ▲

FROM PAGE 2

Roll with the Change

Penelope (Penny) Evans

Account Manager, State Management Affairs
gana@aana.com or pevans@aana.com or
(847) 939-3519

Penny joined the AANA in August 2017. Prior to joining the AANA, she served many roles in the nonprofit sector, focusing mainly on healthcare professional societies. Penny's knowledge, experience, insights and skills have been acquired over a successful 20+ year career with the Joint Commission, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Board of Medical Specialties and the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. She has progressive experience in the successful management of nonprofit organizations, projects, budgets, volunteer leadership, committees, and accreditation programs. Penny received her Bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University and is currently working on her Master's degree in Nonprofit Administration at North Park University. She can be reached at pevans@aana.com and by phone at 847-939-3519.

I would also like to acknowledge Luis Rivera who is the Senior Director of AANA's State Management Affairs Department. Luis's leadership has been very instrumental in the development of this pilot study. Luis has been exceptional in providing valuable services to all the AANA state associations.

Luis Rivera, MBA, CAE

Senior Director, State Management Affairs
rivera@aana.com or (847) 655-1152

Coura and Penny are the primary contacts for the membership and they are eager to assist you as a member of GANA. As you can see, they have extensive experience in providing services that will keep GANA a great association. They assist with several direct services such as board development and administrative support, and also indirect services including organizing meetings, communications and public relations.

Members may contact Coura and Penny using the addresses and phone numbers listed previously. We look forward to working closely with the AANA in this aspect. Together, we look forward to serving you as we "Roll with the Change" in 2018. ▲



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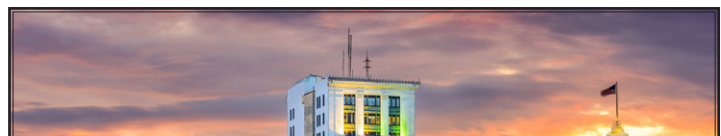
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Conference Coordinator:

Laura Moritz

Laura@AssociationMeetingPlanners.com



GANA
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of Nurse Anesthetists





Nominations for the 2018 Rosalie McDonald Award Now Being Accepted

GANA is seeking nominations for a CRNA to receive the 2018 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 or email to:

Georgia State Association of Nurse Anesthetists (GANA)
222 South Prospect Avenue • Park Ridge, IL 60067-4037
Email: gana@aana.com

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, October 5-7, in Savannah, Georgia.



Ben Hanner AU SRNA, Bilal Alaji AU SRNA, Brett Mason AU SRNA, William Darnell AU SRNA at the 2018 AANA Mid-Year Assembly in Washington DC

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Emory University Nell Hodgins Woodruff School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program Report

By Michael Conti, PhD, CRNA, Assistant Program Director

Since our last update from fall 2017, the Nurse Anesthesia program at the Nell Hodgins Woodruff School of Nursing has been busy! Some of our program highlights include:

1. A visit to the Georgia State Capital for Lobby Day during Nurse Anesthesia Week.
2. Weekly simulations to prepare for clinical entry into the operating room.
3. Our students had the opportunity to collaborate with third and fourth year surgical residents in the co-management of operating room emergencies (CORE) program.
4. The nurse anesthesia program hosted the CRNA Diversity workshop the weekend of April 13th. We were pleased to have record number of registrants, approximately 180 individuals locally and nationally.
5. The program faculty hosted their first Nurse Anesthesia program advisory board meeting with leaders in healthcare, marketing/development and business. We look forward to working with these community leaders to meet our strategic goals.

6. The week of May 14th, our students will begin their clinical experience at their assigned clinical sites. The students and our clinical partners are excited to begin this phase of their education.

This summer, we welcome our second cohort of 10 DNP nurse anesthesia students and will begin interviews for our third cohort.

Any inquiries regarding the program can be directed to: crnaquestions@emory.edu.

To stay up to date on the daily activities of Emory's Nurse Anesthesia DNP Program, follow the program on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EmoryCRNA/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EmoryCRNA>

Instagram: [Instagram.com/emorycrna](https://www.instagram.com/emorycrna) ▲



In the News

Congratulations to CRNAs Leslie Jeter and Justin Gianniny on obtaining their DNP from the Nell Hodgson School of Nursing – Emory University!

From the Nominating Committee

The GANA Nominating Committee is currently requesting suggestions for candidates for President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors.

Nominees for President-elect must have served for a full two-year term as a member of the Board or a full one-year term as an officer on the board.

Please contact any member of the Nominating Committee with potential candidate information:

Jo Sineath – jtsrna@hotmail.com

Taushera Westbrook – tpwestbrook@gmail.com

Wesley Karcher – wkarcher04@yahoo.com

The 2018 Legislative Session

by Kay Argroves



The legislative session ended on March 29th . It was a very short legislative session as many legislators are running for re-election and they cannot fundraise while the session is in process. Disappointingly, none of the four nursing bills that we supported, passed. The gutted nursing scope of practice bill was not allowed by the House leadership to be voted upon on the House floor. The House of Representative members had been lobbied prior to the last day, and it was felt that if many of the bills had been allowed on the floor, they would have passed.

The Preceptor bill, since it could not get out of the Senate HHS, was moved to another legislator's bill in the final days of the session without success. However, SB 364 did pass, sponsored by Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R), himself an AA. It does allow that no primary supervising physician shall have more than eight physician assistants who have completed a board approved anesthesiology assistant (AA) program licensed to him or her at a time. According to legal and those legislators that created the bill, it remains that AAs in Georgia must be supervised at a ratio of no greater than 4-to-1. The supervision ratio does not change.

I attended the Mid-Year Assembly of States meeting in D.C., while simultaneously attending AARP's Leadership Summit (AARP's version of our Mid-Year) scheduled at the same time in D.C. with identical lobbying days. AARP was instrumental in the 2010 IOM Consensus Report "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health" in supporting advanced practice nursing on many levels. Hopefully these two organizations will be working toward some mutually beneficial healthcare interests in the future.

I encourage all members to read as much as possible about those running for political office in Georgia and their legislative districts before going to the polls to vote. The May-July 2018 issue of *Georgia Nursing* newspaper published by the Georgia Nurses Association (GNA) has a very enlightening section of articles written by those candidates running for the Governor's position on why they believe they should be selected as the next Governor of Georgia. I encourage all GANA members to read it. We currently have about seven individuals running for the hotly contested Governor's seat in Georgia.

According to the Georgia Secretary of State's office, the general primary, non-partisan general election/special election date was May 22, with the general primary, non-partisan general election and special election runoff date of July 24, 2018. The general primary runoff date for federal races is July 24, 2018, and the final general election/special election date is set for November 6, 2018. If there is a general election/special election runoff that will occur on December 4, 2018, and if there are any further federal general election runoff races these will occur on January 8, 2019. We should all have opportunities to make our preferences count. Happy voting! ▲

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to read as much as possible
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2018 Regional Meetings

by April Culler, CRNA



Thank you to those who continue to support GANA's regional meetings by attending the February meeting at Maggiano's in Buckhead, Atlanta! I hope everyone enjoyed the meeting as much as I did. It was one of our best regional meetings to date, in my opinion.

We were educated about a new calcium channel blocker, clevidipine (trade name: Cleviprex) that exists as a lipid emulsion IV infusion and is useful for multiple surgeries including CEAs, direct laryngoscopies, etc.

Senator David Shafer, who is running for Lt. Governor this year, came by to visit with us as well. He verbalized his support for CRNAs, told some funny and personal stories, and advised us on how to effectively reach out to our district representatives.

Our next regional meeting is on Saturday, July 14th from 11-2pm at Wolf Mountain Vineyard in Dahlonega, Georgia. We'll have a lecture on opioid-free anesthesia and we are hoping to offer a Class A CEU to attendees. Please come enjoy an amazing lunch and a glass of Wolf Mountain wine with us! ▲



Steve Smith CRNA and Samantha Pollock SRNA at Brenau University talking about becoming a CRNA. We talked to a predominantly freshman class of pre-nursing majors about who CRNAs are and what we do. It was wonderful to see young students so engaged.



Mehul Patel AU SRNA, Brigitte Bennett AU SRNA, and Mallory Harris AU SRNA at the AANA MYA in Washington, DC

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GANA Regional Meeting

Cleviprex Update • February 10, 2018 • Maggiano's in Buckhead



Emory SRNAs Brand Smercansky, Margie Schneider, Senator Dave Schafer, Shawn Biddle, Lindsay Dixon and Assistant Program Director Michael Conti



Regional Meeting attendees



Bilal Hussien and Jessica Galloway with State Senator David Schafer

2018 GANA Capitol Week

January 23-25, 2018 • AANA National CRNA Week



State Senator Matt Brass visiting with the Emory SRNAs



Emory Students and CRNAs at the Georgia Capitol with Governor Deal During AANA National CRNA and GANA Capitol Week



Augusta University NAP Class of 2018 with Governor Deal lobbying at the State Capitol



GANA Government Relations Co-chairs Kay Argroves and Wally Phillips with Governor Deal at the Capitol



Emory students lobbying at the Georgia State Capitol

2018 AANA Mid-Year Assembly

April 21-25, 2018 • Washington, DC



Caitlin Thompson AU SRNA, Abbey Holley AU SRNA, Whitney Walls AU SRNA, Caroline Overgaard AU SRNA, Sujitha Manoj AU SRNA, Jessie Galloway AU SRNA



Ben Hanner, Brett Mason, Bilal Alaji, Congressman Austin Scott, Amy Frank and William Darnell



Congressman Lewis' Health LA Thomas Dorney, Amy Frank, Lisa Catudal, Brigitte Bennett, Annmarie Bodnia, Edurne Sarmiento, Terrica Harris, Jennifer Palombo, Michael Conti and Jessica Galloway



Director of AANA Federal Government Affairs Ralph Kohl, Michael Conti and SRNA Shawn Biddle



Denis Sviridenkov, Congressman Rob Woodall, Edurne Sarmiento and Steve Smith



41 SRNAs and CRNAs from Georgia attended the 2018 AANA Mid-Year Assembly in Washington DC

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*Be sure to vote by
June 5th at noon (CST)!*

ANA Board Meeting

The next ANA Board Meeting will be held on August 18, 2018 at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing.

If you would like to attend,
please RSVP to gana@aana.com
or 847-939-3520.

These meetings are open to all
members and we encourage
your participation.



*Shawn Biddle Emory SRNA, Chelsea Grey Health LA to
Representative Hank Johnson, Jo Sineath CRNA,
Whitney Walls AU SRNA, Ben Hanner AU SRNA*

Nominations for GANA 2018 Outstanding Student Nurse Anesthetist of the Year Award Now Being Accepted

One award will be given at the 2018 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 contact:
GANA Office
222 South Prospect Avenue
Park Ridge, IL 60067-4037
Phone: 847.939.3520
Email: gana@aana.com



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Support our GANA PAC at GAS2018 in Savannah – ESCAPE SAVANNAH!

Get into the Savannah spirit! Come join the GANA PAC after GAS lectures on Saturday for a night at Escape Savannah, rated the #1 Family Activity in Savannah by Trip Advisor. This year, we will be selling tickets to GANA members, family, and friends to escape from the Ghost and Pirate-themed rooms right down the road from our GAS event.

If you've never participated in an escape room before, you have one hour to decipher the clues and puzzles in the room that will help you escape. Your group will be locked inside a fully immersive game room by your ghost or pirate guide.

Tickets include a ride to and from the Desoto Hotel on a traditional Savannah trolley as well as entrance to one of the two Savannah themed escape rooms. We are planning for 40 slots so space is limited! Final prices and times will be released soon. Proceeds will go to support our GANA PAC to continue to advance patient safety, practice excellence, and our great profession.



Need Malpractice Insurance?

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AANA website.

2018 AANA Mid-Year Assembly

April 21-25, 2018 • Washington, DC



*Rachael Williams AU SRNA,
Jennifer Palombo AU SRNA,
Annmarie Bodnia AU SRNA,
Samantha Pollock AU SRNA*



*Wesley Karcher with
Representative Barry Loudermilk*



*Bilal Alaji AU SRNA, Rachael Williams AU SRNA,
Samantha Pollock AU SRNA, Ben Hanner AU
SRNA, Brett Mason AU SRNA,
Will Darnell AU SRNA*



*Bilal Alaji, Sujitha Manoj, Health LA Elizabeth Conklin
for Congresswoman Karen Handel, Asma Agad,
Steve Smith and Aaron Conner*



*Terrace Harris Wake Forest SRNA, Jennifer Palombo AU SRNA,
Edurne Sarmiento AU SRNA, Annmarie Bodnia AU SRNA, Brigitte
Bennett AU SRNA, Lisa Catudal AU SRNA, Jessie Galloway AU SRNA*

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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: **Allison Suggs, GANA-PAC Treasurer, P.O. Box 887, Tifton, GA 31793**

Forms available at www.gana.org

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