

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists CRNAs

- Represent nearly 150 years of quality anesthesia
- Safely administer more than 50 million anesthetics to patients each year in the United States
- Represented by 57,000 CRNAs and SRNAs nationwide and over 1,500 CRNAs 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

GANA is an active, networked, and diverse community of CRNAs. We achieve success at all levels and provide value to our members through advancing anesthesia practice and contributing to Georgia's overall healthcare environment.

Report from the President

GANA: Progress Through a Pandemic

by Wesley Karcher



It has been over a year since the last *To & Fro* was published, and so much has happened in a short amount of time. Nothing has made me prouder, as GANA President and as a Georgia CRNA, than to see how our members rallied in the midst of a terrible pandemic to provide top-notch care to their patients.

During the height of the pandemic, we had CRNAs pivoting to become critical care unit leaders, also serving on respiratory care teams, and even traveling to different states to help out in areas that were harder hit than Georgia. I was encouraged by the conversations I had with many Georgia CRNAs, outlining the ways that they were utilizing their skills in non-traditional ways to better serve their hospitals and community. Georgia CRNAs came out to bat and they hit hard!

In that light, the pandemic also made it harder for the GANA board to do its necessary work in the traditional way, providing in-person board meetings and events and providing opportunities for advocacy that typically require face-to-face meetings. Just like Georgia CRNAs pivoted

into new roles, your GANA board, and committees, pivoted to find ways to offer membership benefit, albeit virtually. From virtual board meetings and legislative events to virtual regional events and an all-online GAS conference, we got it done! I don't think I'm alone when I express how excited I am to attend in-person conferences again! Our Programs Committee has been working hard to create some in-person meetings that will be really great. We will have a regional event in July at Chateau Elan where I will be presenting the lecture "Ketamine: Old Dog, New Tricks." Also, in October, we will be having our annual GAS conference, in Savannah, where we have many great speakers and networking events lined up. The AANA Annual Congress will be held in August in Austin and will have both a virtual and in-person option. I hope

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Report from the AANA Region 2 Director

Making Great Flyers

by Jan Setnor, MSN, CRNA



About this time last year, a phone call from AANA President Kate Jankys informed me I'd just been lucky enough to be elected AANA Director for Region 2. (All Hail #RR2!!) However, our World was in the midst of the greatest pandemic since 1918, our nation was in virtual lockdown and untold numbers of our profession had been laid off, or lost their jobs outright. When I told my fighter pilot husband about my new role and how I found the circumstances we all found ourselves in to be daunting to say the least, he gently reminded me that great flyers are not made in fair skies and sunny weather ... but in storms.

During the "storm" of 2020 & 2021, it has been more than inspirational to watch the members of our profession, not only rise to the occasion, but to soar! CRNAs consistently volunteered to serve at the tip of the spear of this battle against COVID 19. Those who were already in the hardest hit areas worked double and triple shifts without complaint. Those outside, volunteered to relocate and work where they were needed most. When my daughter, a regional coordinator for Florida's Division of Emergency Management, called December 23rd and told me she had an urgent need for vaccinators, I put her in touch with a good friend and former president of FANA. By the end of Christmas day, she had over 150 CRNA volunteer vaccinators ... by the following Friday, over 800 ... by the end of the following week, over 3,300 Florida CRNAs and APRNs had stepped forward and simply said, "Where do you need me most?!"

The pride we can all derive from the many, many examples of our CRNAs putting service before self, is an extremely well deserved pride ... in the finest sense of the word. After 26 years of wearing an Air Force uniform and 22 years in scrubs, I take words like, "pride," "service" and "honor" very seriously. So, allow me to say, that I am proud to be one of you and it has been an honor to serve with you. ▲



Emory University

Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing

Nurse Anesthesia Program Report



*By Erica Moore, DNP, CRNA and
Kelly Wiltse Nicely, PhD, CRNA*

The past year has been challenging for all healthcare providers, but despite the immense challenges we have all faced, we are proud to say that the Emory CRNA DNP program is stronger now than ever before. This achievement was only possible because of our phenomenal clinical partners and their championship and dedication to SRNA learning. The tireless energies of faculty and staff and the tenacity of our students have led to successes even in the face of such extreme challenge.

We graduated our first cohort of students in August 2020 and are preparing an exciting graduation for our next group of graduates in two short months. In addition, we are preparing to welcome the Class of 2024 this August and have applications open for the cohort beginning August 2022.

With our expanding footprint, we also are excited to share that we will have additional space and technologies to support our students. The Emory School of Nursing is renovating 70,000 square feet in Decatur, Georgia to become the Emory Nursing Learning Center. The 20.2M expansion will include a state-of-the-art simulation and skills lab, allowing for experiential and immersive learning for our nurse anesthesia trainees. Included in the space will be an operating room, labor and delivery suite, three additional high fidelity rooms that will allow for simulation of other patient care areas with the hospital, and a four-bed bay area that can simulate a preoperative area, post-anesthesia care unit, neonatal intensive care unit, trauma bay or infusion suite.

“Our students are already demonstrating their leadership and commitment to the profession, even prior to their graduation.”

Our students are already demonstrating their leadership and commitment to the profession, even prior to their graduation. Multiple Emory CRNA students have, or are currently serving in, roles within the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists, AANA Foundation, or on an AANA Committee. This summer, we would like to spotlight Lana Daly, BSN, CCRN, SRNA who serves on the AANA Government Relations Committee as a student member. Recently, Lana was a speaker for the AANA webinar Innovative Ideas for Student Advocacy and Involvement. While traversing a rigorous didactic and simulation curriculum as well as specialty clinical rotations, Lana attends the AANA GRC committee meetings, providing the voice of the future of our profession. Thank you Lana!

Finally, Dr. Wiltse Nicely, Emory’s Program Director, was selected into the inaugural cohort of Fellows of the AANA. Her achievement and forward-thinking contributions were recognized as having had meaningful impact on the nurse anesthesia profession and the role of CRNAs. She will be inducted at the AANA Annual Congress in August. 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) ▲

Report from the Government Relations Committee

Legislative Update

by Maegan Brass, CRNA



We just finished our first legislative session with our new GANA lobbying team of Ray Williams and John Walraven. I have consistently been blown away by their commitment to our profession and desire to know the “ins and outs” of how we provide excellent care in Georgia. While we did not have any bills that directly affect our practice; SB 5 did help implement some patient protective measures for those receiving sedation in out-patient settings. We are very much looking forward to being aggressive during the fundraising season. With our new strategies in place, we would love for anyone who knows or has a connection to any legislators to please email me at maegan.brass@gmail.com. We would love to utilize you! ▲

GANA Calendar 2021

July 17

GANA Board and Regional Meeting
Chateau Elan, “Wine Country”

August 13-17

AANA Annual Congress 2021
Austin, Texas

September 21

GANA Virtual Board Meeting

October 1-3

Georgia Anesthesia Symposium (GAS)
Savannah at the DeSoto, Savannah, GA

November 12-14

AANA Leadership Summit
Fort Lauderdale, FL

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

Report from the President-Elect

A Year of Change

by Reed Halterman, DNP, CRNA



2021 has been a year of change. With all of the changes we saw from the COVID-19 pandemic, nursing and CRNAs in particular really showed our value and versatility. We hope to ride that wave into the future to continue to expand our practice and work to the fullest extent of our training.

We are excited to begin in-person events again, which will be the first time for GANA since January 2020 in Athens. The programs committee has planned our first in-person regional meeting at Chateau Elan on July 17th. Our very own Wes Karcher will be doing a talk on Ketamine titled “Old Dog, New Tricks.” The lecture will be preceded by a GANA board meeting and be followed by a complimentary wine tasting on the terrace. Please RSVP as soon as you see the email to ensure your spot.

We will be back in Savannah for the GAS21 meeting October 1-3. We hope to see a large crowd there as we try some new ideas at this meeting, including a virtual poster session and the first-ever GANA College Bowl. Our schedule is posted on the GANA website now, so make your plans early!

Thank you for the opportunity to represent and work for you in Georgia. I look forward to a fantastic term as President next year. As always, please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for the future. ▲

Revitalizing Our Public Relations Efforts

by William A. Howell, DNP, CRNA



I write this article filled with exuberance. This is the first article I have written for GANA as a CRNA. I had the privilege of serving over the last three years as a student representative to the GANA from Augusta University. The AU Class of 2020 is now a part of the CRNA community and is delivering top-quality anesthesia care.

I write to you all as the new GANA Public Relations Chairperson. Matt Oxford and I have been diligently working over the last few months. In conjunction with the GANA Executive Board and leadership we are striving to revitalize our public relations efforts. We have some exciting new plans that are being put into place and cannot wait to share them with you all.

Our CRNA week and social media extravaganza was a success back in January. We want to continue to highlight the efforts of CRNAs across Georgia. If you have a CRNA story you would like to share with us, please email us at ganapublicrelations@gmail.com. Continue to follow our social media platforms on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Invite your family and friends to “like” and “follow” us on social media.

It is imperative to have a strong presence to disseminate our message to Georgia’s CRNAs and the patients that we serve.

It is our pleasure to be your GANA Public Relations Committee. If you have any ideas or would like to contact us, please send us an email at the address listed above. Also, if you would like to get involved in GANA and join the PR Committee, please let us know via email as well. We are always on the lookout for new talent on our team.

Thank you for all your hard work and efforts to provide the best anesthesia care to all patients across our great state. ▲

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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.

Developing a Multi-Year Strategic Plan

by Ray Williams



On behalf of John Walraven and myself, I want to thank you for giving us the privilege to represent your membership before the Georgia General Assembly. Both John and I have a long history representing health care interests in this state and we are extremely proud to now advocate for your profession. Working with Wesley, Megan and your leadership team we have developed a multi-year strategic plan designed to educate policy makers on the significant value that CRNA's currently bring to the healthcare delivery system and to convince

"As you probably have heard before, the most effective form of politics is local politics. While the legislators will hear from us as your lobbyists, it is much more powerful for them to hear from you."

them on why the current restrictions should be lifted. Our goal for this first Session was to begin that educational process and to assess the political lay of the land regarding moving potential legislation. With the process well under way, we are moving into the next concurrent phase which includes membership advocacy and ally development. This is where we need your help. It is imperative that members of the General Assembly and the Governor's office hear from you on our issues. As you probably have heard before, the most effective form of politics is local politics. While the legislators will hear from us as your lobbyists, it is much more powerful for them to hear from you. They need to understand what you do, how you do it, the value of it and why the current law should change. I know this may be uncomfortable for some but that is why we are here to help. In the coming weeks, we will be providing talking points to you and can help facilitate and participate in your local meetings.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity and working together we can be victorious. ▲

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>

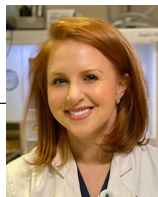
Wellness in the Workplace: <https://www.aana.com/practice/health-and-wellness-peer-assistance/about-health-wellness/wellness-in-the-workplace>

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

Report from the Political Action Committee

Rattle, Rattle

by Maegan Brass, CRNA



"RATTLE, RATTLE". That's the sound of me shaking a coin jar, hoping to entice you to contribute to the PAC! PAC stands for Political Action Committee. The funds that are donated help us to support the campaigns of legislators who are "CRNA Friendly." Did you know that for the first time in Georgia history, we have BOTH an AA and an anesthesiologist in our state senate? If that doesn't scare you and make you concerned that your scope of practice is under the microscope, then you need to check your pulse! We give readily to both Democratic and Republican candidates as well as support. This is called "bipartisan giving."

We have some really fantastic fundraisers planned that you will hear about soon to help build our PAC funds. If you are interested in helping on the PAC committee, helping plan fundraisers, or help with a silent auction, please reach out to maegan.brass@gmail.com ▲



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

Augusta University Student Report

by Matt Oxford, SRNA



The past year has seen its fair share of challenges and achievements. Augusta University's first DNP Nurse Anesthesia class graduated in December, just in time for the class of 2024 to start their first day of school in January. With the class of 2020 out on their own, the class of 2021 is heading full speed towards graduation in December. In addition, the class of 2021 is preparing to present their DNP projects this summer and are diligently studying to take boards.

Many of you have probably seen fresh, eager faces in your ORs. These new faces are AU's Class of 2022. They celebrated their first clinical day in May and are looking forward to all of the knowledge, wisdom, and experience that our clinical partners can bestow upon them.

Learning throughout the COVID pandemic has taught us to cherish each milestone and to continue to strive to be the very best CRNAs we can be for our current and future patients. We cannot say thank you enough to all of the contributions Georgia CRNAs have made during the pandemic, and thank you to all of our clinical partners who take the time to teach and prepare us each semester. ▲

LOOKING BACK ...

Graduating Classes of 2020



Augusta University Graduating Class of 2020



Emory University Graduating Class of 2020

Augusta University's Spring Update

by Shannon Broxton, DNP, CRNA



Greetings from Augusta! Let me start by congratulating all of the CRNAs, students, faculty, and supporting members who endured all that 2020 had to offer.

Despite the many challenges we met last year, I am happy to report that Augusta University's Nursing Anesthesia Program has not only survived but thrived! We are excited to share three major accomplishments that will improve the didactic and clinical experiences of the SRNAs here at Augusta. To a larger extent, we are steadily pushing with an upward trajectory to produce autonomous, skillful nurse anesthetists. This endeavor is both good for our profession and the patients we serve in Georgia and beyond.

First, we have the final approval of a front-loaded curriculum, whereby the SRNAs will complete and defend their doctoral projects prior to starting their clinical rotations. The first cohort starts this August and graduates August 2024! Next, we have

"We pride ourselves on being Georgia's only public Nursing Anesthesia Program and we continue to welcome feedback."

restructured our skills courses to include innovative acute pain and regional technique modules. To meet this objective, we completely outfitted an ultrasound lab with two Sonosites, two Butterfly IQs, and several ultrasound compatible models. Finally, we have expanded our new low-fidelity lab to include the newest Glidescope with fiberoptic intubation instrumentation. All of these additions are in excess of our two high-fidelity, fully-functioning operating rooms.

Our faculty and staff take great pride in evaluating the evolutionary needs of the students, profession, and the state by eliciting feedback and responding appropriately. With that, we are excited to send our newest cohorts out to our clinical partners to showcase their readiness for direct patient care. We pride ourselves on being Georgia's only public Nursing Anesthesia Program and we continue to welcome feedback. With that, we have committed to pursue excellence in the training of our students and are indebted to the clinical preceptors who volunteer their time and talents. I look forward to seeing many of you face-to-face at various events in the coming months. ▲

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— Meet you —
SAVANNAH, GA
October 1 - 3, 2021



G A S 2021

Georgia Anesthesia Symposium

EDUCATE + ENGAGE + EMPOWER
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

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Discounted Lodging at The DeSoto Starting at \$229

Topics Include: Regional Anesthesia, Pharmacology,
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NEW FEATURES: College Bowl & Poster Session Hall

Conference Coordinator:
Laura Moritz
Laura@AssociationMeetingPlanners.com

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Georgia Association
of Nurse Anesthetists

FROM THE COVER

Progress Through a Pandemic

to be able to meet-up with many of our GANA members throughout these three events.

Your GANA GRC, PR, PAC and Communications committees have been hard at work since December 2020 on creating some major opportunities for advocacy work to take place. In January we transitioned from our long-time lobbyist, Monty Veazy, to a new team of two lobbyists, Ray Williams and John Walraven. We also engaged the services of a campaign manager, Chip Lake, and a PR firm, Arena, to assist us with the many tasks associated with launching a brand-new advocacy campaign. I am excited to see this new campaign launch. You, the members, should see this new campaign bear fruit soon. From a new "Care You Count On" website and multiple PAC events to direct membership informational mailers and legislative meetings, we have a lot coming through the pipeline. This is all to say that there is SO much opportunity for GANA members to get involved over the coming months. From microvolunteerism to serving on a committee or board, we can use all the help we can get. My sincerest desire is for as many GANA members to get involved in this campaign as possible. Volunteer, give to GANA PAC, and let your voices be heard!

I want to say thank you to all of our GANA board members, committee chairs, and volunteers for all of the selfless hours they give in service to GANA. This work can sometimes be thankless and I want you all to know that I see, and appreciate, the work that you put in. I would be remiss if I didn't personally thank a few people that have put in so much work over the last year. Eddie Thomas, Immediate Past President, thank you for your leadership during 2020 and for being a solid sounding board for all

of my ideas. Maegan Brass, GRC and PAC extraordinaire, thank you for the countless hours you have put into building this advocacy campaign. We are so much further down the path with you on board. Reed Halterman, Programs chair and President-elect, thank you for investing your time and really working hard to create some great programs for our membership. Your thoughtfulness and organization help to keep me on track. Our members are in good hands for the 2021-2022 season. Finally, Steve Smith, jack-of-all-trades (current Treasurer, past President, FPD, etc), thank you for your mentorship over the last few years and the countless hours of service you have put and continuing putting in for GANA. Georgia is lucky to have you.

I wish you all continued health and happiness as we come out of this pandemic and move forward. Continue to spread the message of what CRNAs bring to the healthcare landscape and let's continue to prosper through 2021. ▲



Join GANA in person at the Chateau Elan on July 17th for our Summer Regional Meeting! We will start with a board meeting followed with a lecture by GANA president Wesley Karcher, MSN, CRNA. We then invite you to join us for wine tasting on the terrace. Please RSVP and let us know you are coming!

We can't wait to see you there!
RSVP to Alexa@frontlineco.com

Need Malpractice Insurance?

Contact AANA Insurance Services
at 1-800-343-1368
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your contribution
to this worthy
cause for your
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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: **GANAPAC, P.O. Box 631, Marietta, GA 30061**

Forms available at www.gana.org

