



Off the Cuff

Fall 2004

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Presidents Message Fall 2004
Phil Powers CRNA

CHANGE

Webster's dictionary defines change as "passing from one state to another" or "to make different". Roget's Thesaurus devotes nearly half of a page to describing change. We all have our favorite phrases about change. "Change is good". "Some things never change". "Change is inevitable". Change is the word that comes to mind when I consider my last two years as president of the Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists and the future of our association.

The greatest change we've experienced was the "opt-out" from physician supervision for reimbursement from Medicare. The "opt-out" was still new as I began my presidency and we were all a bit apprehensive. Would there be challenges from our opposition? Where would they come from? We knew that we were providing good care and that was our strength. To date, the "opt-out" has never resulted in a change in the care or safety of our patients and the Nebraska Hospital Association wrote a letter to support that fact.

The Medicare "opt out" has not changed the care or safety given our patients

In the area of liability reform and insurance, a number of changes have been beneficial to Nebraska CRNA's. In the past two years, legislation has been passed to increase both the cap on liability award damages and the amount for which participants in the Nebraska Hospital/Medical Liability Fund must insure themselves. The end result is meant to maintain the integrity of the fund that helps to avoid the liability crisis that has affected many other states and keep liability insurance more affordable. And, yes, we have seen a significant and rapid change in insurance carriers through AANA Insurance Services; from Saint Paul to TIG to CNA. The best change with AANA Insurance Services is the ability to renew your policy online. I've done it. It is relatively quick and painless.

NANA and the ASA have agreed to cooperate on issues of mutual interest

The nearly eternal effort to change the way that all advanced practice nurses are recognized in Nebraska is beginning to show some real signs of resolution. The legislation that was introduced during last years legislative session became a victim of the legislative process that had larger concerns to deal with. The legislation, with some small changes, will be re-introduced at the beginning of the next two year session in January. The timing, changes and climate under which the APRN legislation will be brought forward should improve chances for success.

NANA changed our educational meetings to provide 20 hours at each meeting and include our nursing colleagues. We saw the importance of including other healthcare providers during the SLAM workshop. Programs like the fetal monitoring workshop and content for post-anesthesia care nurses have been very well received.

On a national level, a change that has taken many by surprise is the unprecedented cooperation between the AANA and the ASA. The process that began with AANA President Tom McKibban, CRNA and ASA President Roger Litwiller, MD has resulted in our two organizations working together on the things that they agree on. As we made our visits during the AANA Mid-Year Assembly in Washington, legislators and staffers were astounded to hear that the two organizations were working together (after years of bitter debate) to promote patient safety. The meetings between our leaders continue with the anticipation that these efforts will filter down to the state level.

The AANA is an organization that is changing. Executive Director, Jeff Beutler, President McKibban and the AANA Board of Directors have undertaken an extensive strategic assessment of the organization. The result is an organization determined to be more responsive and in a more timely manner to the membership. Many activities are already or soon will be

able to be completed online. Insurance renewal and voting are only the beginning.

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

At the upcoming Annual Meeting, we will be voting on a bylaws change to the status of many of the current “standing committees” to “special committees”. It is felt by the current AANA Board that restructuring committees would allow the Board to adapt more quickly to changing circumstances.

When it comes to things that never change, the Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists continues to remain a force in the future of nursing and anesthesia care both on a state and national level. The single greatest constant is the dedicated, quality care that Nebraska CRNA's are known for. Here in Nebraska, NANA members remain active as members of the Board of Nursing, The Advanced Practice Nurse Coalition and patient safety initiatives. Nationally, Nebraska CRNA's continue to play a role in the AANA. Wendell Spencer serves as AANA Region IV Director and others continue to be active on AANA committees. It is these constants that position NANA to be a part of any changes that may occur and insure that the changes are right for nurse anesthetists.

The next big change for me will be to see the presidency of the Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists pass to the very capable hands Tim Glidden. I am confident that his experience and skills will guide NANA through whatever changes may lie ahead. It has truly been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your president and I thank you all for your hard work and support. I would also like to say a special thank you to our Executive Director and Lobbyist, Ron Jensen for the outstanding service he provides to our association.

AANA Foundation Update
Celeste Hinzmann CRNA, MS

This year, Jason Peldo, was awarded the 2004 Nebraska Student Nurse Anesthetist scholarship in the amount of \$1000. He is an exemplary student at the Bryan LGH medical center school of nurse anesthesia. Jason received the award at the 2004 annual meeting student scholarship luncheon, which was held in Seattle.

In addition, the AANA foundation surpassed their 2003-2004 \$445,000 Annual Giving goal. Once again, it is through your generous support that we are able to advance our profession by assisting our colleagues and our future CRNA's. Thank you.

Jason Peldo, SRNA

Nebraska Student Nurse Anesthetist Scholarship

If you are interested in any of the programs, that are part of the foundation, you can contact their office at 847-692-7050 ext.3070.

Ad Hoc Committees

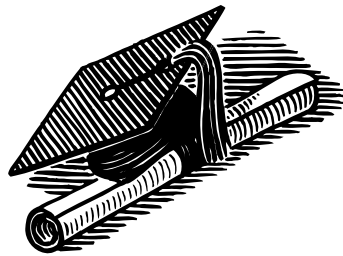
Nursing Liaison Group
Phil Powers – Columbus

Standing Committees

Program
Tim Arthur – Aurora

Federal governmental Relations

Nancy Gondringer – Lincoln



Bylaws

Chuck Frisch – Alliance

Federal Governmental Relations

Nancy Gondringer CRNA

I want to thank Phil Powers, the Nebraska Nurse Anesthetist Board of Directors and the members of the Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists for giving me the opportunity to represent you as your Federal Political Director this past year. I have had an exciting year and believe we (NANA/AANA) have had success in lobbying our Federal Senators and Representatives in Washington D.C. this past spring. I look forward to this opportunity again next year as I have for the past several years.

This year brings a new twist to the Washington scene with the Presidential election as well as our own Congressman Bereuter not returning to Congress. As we move forward we continue to work with the AANA staff to understand the current competitors in the market and their views on Nurse Anesthetist practice. We ask every CRNA in Nebraska to get involved regardless of your political association and support the candidate of your choice. If you need information on how to share your concerns with your Representative or their staff please let me know. I can assist you in getting the information you need to contact your Representative. We also encourage participation in any political action group that would help legislators understand our education, our practice and our professions' needs.

I just returned from the AANA National meeting in Seattle and it is good to know our organization is doing very well. We have had excellent leadership in our elected officers and I commend outgoing President Tom McKibben for his leadership this past year. As we look to 2005 we have elected a new Board of Directors that will serve the membership well. We also have an outstanding AANA office staff that helped orchestrate another excellent National meeting.



State Governmental Relations

Bob Bush CRNA

Summer, for our state senators, is when they work “part time” on the issues for the up coming legislative session and recharge their energies for next years’ long (90 day) session. Other junior senators and senatorial candidates work on their election campaigns. This campaigning becomes a reality for many as term limits force more and more senior senators out of the unicameral. This has become an opportunity for NANA to once again be known in legislative circles. Through our lobbyist, Ron Jensen we have already met with incumbents and challengers alike. We look forward to the approaching election and pledge to work with the unicameral to support those issues that you feel are important.

In my position as the state GRC issues and questions are often put to me. I hope to address and put to bed some of the most recent in the following comments.

I know that. How many times as a parent or even as a practicing CRNA have you heard that? I can tell my son he needs to mow the lawn and I’m sure to hear, “I know that”. Maybe I’ll mention to a colleague that an “add on” case has been moved up and you guessed it, “I know that”. Since I apparently repeat myself get ready to say, “I know that”.

Several years ago in an effort to curb burgeoning medical malpractice costs and preserve practitioner insurability the Nebraska Unicameral enacted a law that both limited the maximum recoverable award and shared malpractice risk with the provider. In a fairly recent change our share of the risk has been increased to \$500,000/\$1000,000 and the state shares the rest up to the new maximum of \$1.75 million. The state gets the money for this “Excess Liability Fund” by assessing the practitioner premiums. Therefore we pay two premiums, one to a commercial insurance company and another to the state. What may be forgotten is a still pending suit (initiated in the mid 90’s) before the Nebraska Supreme Court that challenges the constitutionality of limits.

Insurance carriers look to minimize their risks by insuring those they feel are low risks. If only my son were an Allstate good driver. I’m sorry, back to the point. You as a member of the AANA/NANA are assumed by the insurance industry to practice within the guidelines of that professional organization, in essence a good driver. Go to www.aana.com and check the scope and standards of nurse anesthesia practice. Our scope of practice is not unlimited but it is sufficiently broad and rests firmly on the foundation of the eleven standards of practice. Standard Nine states that precautions will be taken to minimize infection risks to the patient. The IV route, which, in the OR, is directly under our control, is an obvious potential source of infection. The CDC states that IV check valves, extension tubing, three way stopcocks, etc. do not protect patients from cross contamination but “I know that”.

Anesthesia Assistants are not Physician Assistants, however nationally about forty are dual “licensed” (PA/AA’s). Obviously PA’s practice in Nebraska but none are dual “licensed” or practice anesthesia. The question has been asked of me, “Can AA’s practice in Nebraska?” To answer that query we have to look to see how other (9) states have allowed AA’s. These nine states grant practice privileges through either a license or certificate. Authorities for these privileges derive most commonly from specific legislation or infrequently from regulatory statute. NANA, through our legal council, has reviewed both these avenues and concluded that at this time there is no basis for AA practice in Nebraska but “I know that”. As an aside the Nebraska chapter of the ASA has no public position on AA practice. I would caution the reader that AA’s seem to be a non-issue in Nebraska. I am merely answering a question posed to me.



Program Committee

Tim Arthur CRNA

I first want to take a minute to thank all the members who have supported NANA through their regular attendance at the state meetings. Your utilization of this avenue to obtain continuing education credits makes it possible for us to maintain a high level of quality in our speakers and venues. We are constantly striving to bring you the best while keeping the tuition fees as manageable as possible. Costs per person decreases somewhat as attendance rises, so keep coming back.

We have received an overall positive response to the format of scheduling 20 contact hours per meeting, and will continue this practice into the foreseeable future. It allows members to attend one meeting per year and receive the minimum number of hours for re-certification without leaving the state. However, it poses additional challenges. The most difficult task of the Program Committee is to develop an agenda twice a year that keeps the topics fresh and pertinent (can't recycle lectures too often or someone will catch on), and to maintain quality presenters from a limited pool. We strive to select our speakers from the region, avoiding extra costs of travel and related expenses. If we were located on the East coast, that would mean almost unlimited resources. However, in Nebraska we have to widen our regional horizons a bit.

Member input is very important to the ongoing function of this committee. Both your positive and critical comments are important in our planning process. Also, we are very open to suggestions on topics and speakers you have experienced in your travels. Many of our best speakers have come on the recommendation of members who have attended programs elsewhere and let us know of good presenters that we have been able to bring to our state. Please keep the feedback coming.

The Fall Meeting & Workshop will be held at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln the weekend of September 17-19, 2004. We will be scheduling eight CE credits for both Friday and Saturday sessions, and four on Sunday, for a total of 20 hours. As of this writing, we are still working on filling a few hours where we have had cancellations, but they are very near confirmation, and the meeting brochure/registration should come closely on the heels of this newsletter. Watch the mail

I would also like to take another minute of your time to apologize for the fact that the agenda for the upcoming Fall Meeting & Workshop is not complete yet. This involves a number of factors, but primarily poor planning on my part and my failure to get moving on things. My thanks go out to all the people who have helped in planning this meeting and in getting things started. It is due to their work that it has gotten off the ground and will be another quality event. I hope that we will see many of you in Lincoln next month, and mark your calendars for April 15-17, 2005 for the Spring Workshop in Omaha at the Embassy Suites Old Market.

Friday, 9-17-04

0700	Registration / Rolls & Coffee		
0800	Prevention Of Medication Error	J	John McDonough, CRNA, PhD
850	Evaluation of the Cardiac Patient for Non-cardiac Procedures		John McDonough, CRNA, PhD
0940	Stretch / Coffee Break		
1000	Prevention and Treatment of Perioperative Nausea and Vomiting		John McDonough, CRNA, PhD
1050	Anatomy & Physiology of Pain		Angie Rakes, MD
1140	Luncheon		
1300	Cancer / Terminal Pain Management		Angie Rakes, MD
1350	Control of Blood Pressure in the Perioperative Period		John McDonough, CRNA, PhD
1440	Break in Exhibit Hall		
1530	Management of Acute Pain		John McDonough, CRNA, PhD
1620	Regional Techniques in Pain Management		John McDonough, CRNA, PhD
1710	Refreshments / Reception in Exhibit Hall		

Saturday, 9-18-04

0700	Registration / Continental Breakfast		
0800	(Tentative) Hypnosis for Pain Management		Speaker TBA
0850	(Tentative) Pre- & Postoperative Hypnosis		Speaker TBA
0940	Break in Exhibit Hall		
1030	Regional Techniques for Upper Extremity		Vonn Roberts, MD
1120	Regional Techniques for Upper Extremity & Torso		Vonn Roberts, MD
1210	Luncheon / NANA Annual Business Meeting		
1330	Specific Nerve Blocks for Acute and Chronic Pain		Dennis McGowan, MD
1420	Specific Nerve Blocks for Acute and Chronic Pain		Dennis McGowan, MD
1510	Stretch / Refreshment Break (20 min.)		
1530	Continuous Catheter Technique for Femoral Block		David Pederson, CRNA
1620	Use of Femoral Nerve Block in "Rural" Practice		David Pederson, CRNA
1710	Closing - Evening on your own		

Sunday, 9-19-04

0745	Coffee & Rolls		
0800	AANA Update		Wendell Spencer, CRNA
0850	Retrobulbar Block		Louis Deluca, CRNA
0940	Stretch Break (20 min.)		
1000	Regional Anesthesia for Foot & Ankle (Ankle Block)		Chad Summay, CPM
1050	Hands-on Demonstrations of Ankle Block Technique		Chad Summay, DPM
1140	Closing Remarks, Receive Certificates of Attendance		
1200	Post-workshop NANA Board Meeting		



Registration: Workshop fees for this event are listed on the enclosed registration form and must accompany the registration application. Fees paid after the beginning of the workshop are higher. These fees include all refreshment breaks, continental breakfast and luncheons. Make checks payable to NANA and send c/o Tim Arthur, 214 West L. St., Aurora, NE 68816. Master and Visa Cards are also accepted.

Hotel Accommodations: The Cornhusker Hotel, 333 So. 14th St., Lincoln, NE can be contacted by phone (402) 474-7474 to reserve rooms at \$91.00 for a single/double room per night. Other nearby hotels include: Embassy Suites ph (402) 474-4111, Holiday Inn (402) 475-4011 or Town House Mini-Suites (402) 475-3000.

Name _____

Address _____

Full Workshop	\$375.00
CRNA Friday Only	\$200.00
Saturday Only	\$200.00
Sunday Only	\$100.00
SRNA	No Charge
Non-CRNA (Fri. only)	\$60.00

Phone _____ AANA # _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Check

Signature _____

Visa

Cancellations after Sept. 16, 2004 will result in the full forfeiture of registration fees.

MasterCard