

# Off the Cuff

# NANA

Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

www.NEANA.ORG

Fall 2009

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## From the NANA President



Julie Vaughan, CRNA

I hope you are enjoying what is left of summer, now that it actually feels like summer outside. The board of directors has been working very hard on our ballot; I hope everyone will vote, either on-line or by paper. IPGE is again conducting our fall meeting in Lincoln

in October; hope to see you all there. Look for changes to our fall meetings after this year, Ben Huls has been working very hard planning our state association meetings, and has some terrific ideas and new concepts. Stay in touch through the website on upcoming meeting dates and topics.

I am pleased to report that after a lengthy process, fluoroscopy education is now available to any interested CRNA's in the state. The APRN board approved this program at their last meeting, and so the final pieces have just been put into place. Certification is a four-step process; please contact Steve Wooden or me if you would like to become certified. These guidelines need to be strictly adhered to, no exceptions. Steve needs to make sure every CRNA is adhering to these guidelines, for your safety as well as your patients. You are also able to view the final fluoroscopy regulations on line through the Nebraska state government website. If any interested CRNA's have any questions, please contact Steve Wooden or me.

Several Nebraska CRNA's just returned from San Diego and the national meeting. It was a pleasure to see Steve Wooden receive the Ira Gunn award. An article by Ira Gunn inspired Steve to become a CRNA. I think winning this award meant a lot to him on a personal as well as professional level. Steve has worked very hard for a number of years at both the state and national level for our profession. I may be biased, but I do think he was most deserving out of a field of many qualified nominees. Look for pictures from the national meeting in our picture gallery. Also at the national meeting, the new board of directors was installed. Phil Powers continues to serve as chair of the national Bylaws committee. Nancy Gondringer assumed the chair of the AANA Foundation. Also at the national level Wendell Spencer still serves on the Council for Public Interest in Anesthesia, and Steve Wooden serves on the Finance committee. Their contact information is available on aana.com if you need it. I hope you all will continue to support the AANA Foundation, as they make research and education possible, which is the backbone of our profession. A student from Iowa received the foundation scholarship this year. The Midwest, and Region 4, won several awards this year, you may view updates from the national meeting on the AANA website.

*It's time to Vote!  
Candidates for the  
NANA  
Board of Directors  
on pages 6-7.*

continued...

**Committee Chairs**

**Public Relations**

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**Publications**

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At the national and local level, health care reform is still a big issue. Look for communication from the AANA on any reform issues that may concern us. The AANA continues to be vigilant and involved, and is happy to act as a resource for the myriad government agencies involved in policy decisions. Again, I urge you to visit [aana.com](http://aana.com) to keep abreast of current information regarding health care reform.

Sadly, prescription drug abuse is again making headlines in this country. I am sure many of you are being questioned by your patients daily about the safety of the medications we use in anesthesia. Continue to do the best job of P.R. that you do every day, by continuing to give them reassurance, and the safest and best anesthesia possible. Always remember the very best monitor available is a vigilant anesthetist. In addition, CRNA's continue to lead the country in wellness and peer assistance issues, many other groups both within and out of healthcare, are starting to follow the trail we blazed in dealing with substance abuse issues. I also urge every CRNA around the state to continue with the very safest and best anesthesia practices, to protect yourselves and your patients. Look for propofol to be classified as a schedule II drug, you will have to account for it similar to narcotics. I don't think that is a big surprise for anyone in light of current events.

I would like to thank everyone on the board, and also Jensen Associates, for all of their support and hard work. I appreciate your commitment to NANA.

Respectfully,  
**Julie Vaughan**, CRNA

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## NANA Survey

Colleagues,  
IPGE has been managing our NANA meetings for the last few years. It has been a luxury to have this service. However, starting in 2010, IPGE will only be managing our spring meetings per its request. The fall meetings will again fall into our hands. For those who wanted more credit hours for state meetings, the spring meeting will offer more credit hours for attendance. I have been informed that IPGE will try to offer 18 to 20 hours of credits each spring. The dilemma for the board is how to plan for fall meetings. Meetings through IPGE have actually proved to be profitable to NANA, albeit marginal, but profitable nonetheless. We, as a board, have recognized the importance of high attendance at these meetings. To put it simply, low attendance means that NANA loses money by putting on a state meeting. Meeting fees do not cover the cost of the meeting when attendance is low. Now that NANA will be responsible for the fall meetings, we will want input on how to best suit attendees. Some board ideas have been to make the fall meeting a short 'destination' meeting. We are trying to set up a Saturday morning meeting before a home football game. Get some CEU's in the morning and attend the game later that day. Issues with this scenario include low CEUs and hotels require a two -night minimum stay. Our bylaws state that we are required to have one business meeting a year. In order to maximize CEUs, we could possibly forego a fall business meeting. We are thinking of offering an ACLS or PALS class in the fall. We are in the infancy stages of setting up a fall meeting and ideas are welcome. Feel free to contact a board member with your ideas and/or concerns. Contact information for board members can be found on the NANA website. A survey is attached to this issue of Off the Cuff. Please respond to it. Thank you for your input.

[Click Here to take Survey](#)

**Ben Huls CRNA, M.S.**  
Nana President Elect



The Institute for Post-Graduate Education

# The Nebraska ANA 2009 Fall Meeting and Seminar Current Developments in Anesthesia Practice

(emphasis: new drugs, education techniques, chronic pain, out-patient anesthesia, pediatric issues)

October 3-4, 2009 Prior Approved for 15 CE Credits

Embassy Suites Lincoln, Nebraska

## The Importance of this Meeting to the Practicing CRNA ...

The Nebraska ANA Fall Meeting offers practicing CRNA's an opportunity to learn more about a new antihypertensive drug, the management of cardiac ischemia, controlled hypotension, and the applications of simulation in nurse anesthesia continuing education. The role of opioids in chronic pain will be discussed as well as current thinking in the management of out-patient anesthesia and anesthesia outside the operating room. The Sunday AM Session is devoted to pediatrics and includes sedation techniques and suggestions for managing common problems and mishaps. Ample time is provided for questions and discussion.

## Accreditation

Approved by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists for 15 CE Credits, Code # 31918, Expiration Date: October 4, 2009.

IPGE designates this activity as meeting the requirements for 4 credits in Pharmacology/Therapeutics. IPGE is accredited by the California BRN to provide continuing education course for RN's. Provider number 2374.

## PROGRAM AGENDA

(10 mins of each lecture period will be devoted to Q/A.)

### Saturday AM October 3

#### Bernadette Henrichs

- 0630 Coffee/Tea
- 0700 Preventing Cardiac Ischemia
- 0800 Cleviprex: The Newest Antihypertensive
- 0900 Break — Visit Exhibits
- 0930 Controlled Hypotension in Anesthesia
- 1030 The Anesthesia Simulator and Nurse Anesthesia Education
- 1130 Discussion of AM Lectures
- 1230 NANA Legislative Update
- 1330 State Business Meeting

### Saturday PM October 3

#### Chuck Griffis

- 1400 Chronic Pain, Opioids and Neuroimmune Activation
- 1500 Outpatient Anesthesia
- 1600 Anesthesia Outside the OR
- 1700 Discussion of PM Lectures

### Sunday AM October 4

#### Tetsu "Butch" Uejima

- 0700 Continental Breakfast
- 0800 Pediatric Sedation Techniques
- 0900 Common Problems in Pediatric Anesthesia
- 1000 Break
- 1015 Common Pediatric Mishaps
- (1) 1115 Common Pediatric Mishaps
- (2) 1215 Discussion of AM Lectures

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NANA members [Click here](#) before you register. Or go to [www.ipge.com](http://www.ipge.com).

*We hope to see you there!*

## TUITION FEES\*

- Until Sept 24 \$425.00
- After Sept 24 \$475.00
- On Site \$525.00
- Saturday Only \$275.00
- Sunday Only \$150.00
- After 9/24/09 add \$50 to Daily Fees

- Students in AANA Accredited Programs...\$65.00 until Sept 24, \$95.00 thereafter. Students may register with credit card payment on-line for this program or obtain a registration form from your Program Director

- \*Tuition fee includes all lectures and discussions, Course Syllabus, Continental Breakfasts and Breaks, Luncheon on Saturday, and AANA Credit Recording

## Faculty

- Bernadette Henrichs, PhD, CRNA**
- Director
- Nurse Anesthesia Program
- Washington University, St. Louis

- Chuck Griffis, PhD, CRNA**
- Assistant Clinical Professor
- Department of Anesthesiology
- UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles

- Tetsu "Butch" Uejima, MD**
- Professor of Anesthesiology
- Children's Memorial Hospital
- Northwestern University, Chicago

## Charles 'Chick' Messbarger Administering Anesthesia for 50 Years



After graduation from high school in St. Joseph, MO at age 17 Charles (Chick) Messbarger rode the train to Chicago, IL to enroll in Alexian Brothers Hospital School of Nursing and DePaul University in August 1956. This was an all male nursing school with approximately 60 students per class. After 36 months of continuous study, he graduated at age 20 on Aug. 2, 1959. Chick married 6 days later and enrolled in anesthesia school after a one

week honeymoon. St. Marys Hospital School of Anesthesia in Wausau, WI was a 12 month program and Chick began doing supervised anesthesia cases by the end of August. He passed his nursing boards but could not receive his RN license until he was 21 which were in October, three months after he started anesthesia school.

His first job was as a staff anesthetist at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs Iowa for \$500 per month. He remained there until Nov. 1961 when his brother Gerry who was a free lance anesthetist at Good Samaritan Hosp. Kearney, NE asked him to join his practice. They practiced in a partnership until May 1966 covering Kearney and many of the small hospitals in the area. By now Chick and Judy have five children the youngest 1 month old. The Vietnam War is in high gear and they need all the anesthesia personnel they can find. He was drafted and entered the Army as a Captain and sent to Ft Jackson, SC after officer basic at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. It was in the Army he was trained in regional anesthesia and received too much practice due to the large number of casualties we received straight from Nam. Some days they went 24 to 36 hrs straight with new patients. Due to the shortage of Anesthesia personnel the Army started a program where General medical doctors were trained for six months and then sent to Viet Nam. Chick was an instructor in the program at Ft. Jackson and was eventually sent to Ft. Benning GA to help set up a similar program.

Upon completion of his military duty in May 1968 Chick his wife Judy and five children volunteered as medical missionaries in Georgetown Guyana So. America. He was the sole anesthetist at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. On weekends he worked at Mahika Leprosy Hospital where he actually built a very basic anesthesia machine to do the first general anesthetic in the hosp. While in Guyana he got lots of practice with regional anesthesia since it was felt to be safer and cheaper.

In 1969 he returned to the states and took a job at Lutheran Hosp in Beatrice, NE In addition to his anesthesia duties he established the

Inhalation Therapy Dept. from training he had received in the Army. In 1971 he returned to Kearney, NE where he joined his brother Gerry and George Brown, who had replaced him and they formed Midstate Anesthesia Group. They covered Kearney and multiple towns up to 120 miles away. Chick was able to bring his regional anesthesia skills back to central Nebraska and help teach them to area anesthetists. He established the Inhalation Therapy Dept. and served as the first director at Good Samaritan Hosp. He served as Director of Surgery for eight months and served as Director of Anesthesia for many years. He has volunteered on mission trips almost every year for the past 30 years going to Haiti, Dominican Republic and Guyana with various medical teams. He continues to help out in Kearney and some area hospitals and still loves his work. His love of anesthesia has made 50 years go fast.

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## AANA Region IV Director

*Dennis Bless, CRNA, MS*

Before I introduce myself as the new AANA Region 4 Director, I would like to personally thank Gary Clark, CRNA, EdD for representing Region 4 this past two years. Gary has done an outstanding job and has been very gracious to me as I transition to this new role.

As I said in San Diego, I am honored and humbled to be your new Region 4 Director. For those of you who may not know me, I live in Eden Prairie, MN and work at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, MN. Southdale has approximately 30 anesthetizing sites on any given day and we do about 25,000 anesthetics annually. The practice model is the anesthesia care team and we do all kinds of cases with minimal pediatrics.

I graduated from the Minneapolis School of Anesthesia in 1995 and currently serve as a clinical and didactic instructor at the school. I have served in every capacity at the state level and have also served on the AANA Nominating, Practice and CRNA PAC committees. I am currently the AANA board representative to CRNA PAC.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the next two years and encourage you to contact me with any thoughts or concerns. My email address is [dennisbless@yahoo.com](mailto:dennisbless@yahoo.com) and my cell phone number is 612-239-4304. I don't claim to have all the answers but will definitely direct you to the appropriate resource to address your question or concern.



*Continued...*

Region 4 is well represented at the national level and I would like to highlight the CRNA PAC committee. Susie Dufek, CRNA has just finished a 3 year term on the committee, Don Roesler, CRNA, MS is in his second year on the committee and Steven Mund, CRNA, MS is in his first year. We are also represented by Mark Bjornstad, SRNA, BAN as the student representative on the committee.



*Region 4 in San Diego, 2009.*

The CRNA PAC Beat-the Clock campaign is in full swing for this year and the PAC has an ambitious goal of 1.75 million dollars for this current election cycle. Region 4 won the first two quarters as the top grossing region and has beaten our goal for each quarter as well!! As you can see from the picture, Region 4 was well represented at the PAC event at the San Diego Zoo. If you have already donated to CRNA PAC, thank you, if you have not please consider a generous donation. The CRNA PAC is your voice in Washington and is crucial to the success of our legislative agenda. Consider giving at one of the recognition levels. The Presidential level is awarded with a donation of \$1000 or more and the Congressional level is awarded with a donation of \$200-999. Recognition is given in the form a ribbon for each level and at the presidential level special events are held at the Mid-Year Assembly and the Annual Meeting.

Again, I am honored to be representing Region 4 and look forward to meeting many of you over the next two years.

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## National Nurse Anesthetists Week

January 24-30, 2010

National Nurse Anesthetists Week recognizes the profession of nurse anesthesia. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) across the country promote the profession with posters, billboards, table tents, passing out brochures and buttons, seeking out the media to bring awareness to the profession, and requesting proclamations from local and state government officials. The pages linked below provide ideas and record of what CRNAs have done to promote nurse anesthesia over the years. [Click Here](#) for information.

## AANA Foundation

*Celeste Hinzmann, CRNA, MS*

### Nebraska Advocate

We would like to congratulate Lydumyla Lysenko SRNA for receiving the Nebraska Student Nurse Anesthetist scholarship. She attends the University of Iowa College of Nursing Anesthesia program. Part of Lydumyla's clinical rotation was at the Nebraska Medical Center. We would also like to congratulate two other

SRNAs, who received scholarships from the Foundation. Ann Kabes received the \$1000 AANA Staff scholarship. This is her second year of receiving this award. Ann currently is doing her clinical rotation at Immanuel and attends Mount Marty College of Nurse Anesthesia. Tiffany Olson was awarded the Ruth Wright CRNA Memorial scholarship in the amount of \$1000. She is currently doing her clinical at the Nebraska Medical Center and also attends Mount Marty College. These students were very grateful and appreciated that our CRNAs were willing to help them.

At the fall meeting, we raised a total of \$280 from the 50/50 fundraiser and from personal donations. The winner of the 50/50 fundraiser was Angela Hamilton. I want to thank all of our NANA members who played the 50/50 or gave a personal donation to the Foundation. It is you who make it possible for our state and for the Foundation to provide scholarships to our students and to our CRNAs. As you can see, your gifts make a difference!

This brings me to introducing the AANA Foundation first-ever **State Challenge**. The goal of this event is to increase the financial support by challenging states to increase their giving to the AANA Foundation. By participating in the **State Challenge**, we can raise funds necessary for the Foundation to assist CRNAs and student nurse anesthetists in their research and anesthesia programs. The **State Challenge** was kicked off with the first donation received during the Annual meeting. The competition will run from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 through June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 and will include all cash donations. Every time someone from our state makes a donation to the Foundation, whether it's through our Annual Giving Fund, scholarship sponsorships, personal donations or major gifts, our state will get the credit. Remember, your donation is tax deductible. Before the **State Challenge** began, Nebraska was in the top 4 states in the percent of CRNAs contributing to the Foundation. So, kudos to Nebraska CRNAs! Throughout the year, the top ten states will be featured monthly. Finally, at the 2010 Annual meeting, the AANA Foundation will recognize and provide awards to the top two states. So, let's show them what we've got here in Nebraska and **get on the map!**

## Candidates for the Board of Directors Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists *For the term 2009-2011*

[Click Here](#) to Vote!

It's time to vote! Click the link below to begin your voting. You will need to validate yourself by your last name and 5 digit AANA membership number. You can only vote one time and you must vote for three people. Read their bios below! If you vote for less, your ballot won't be accepted. Remember, vote for three!

### **Amy Graham, CRNA, MS**

*Kearney, Nebraska*

**Current Practice:** CRNA, Kearney Anesthesia Associates, Part time Locums in rural Nebraska.

**Education:** MS, Bryan/LGH Medical Center/Kansas University Medical Center

**Professional Memberships:** Member AANA, NANA.

**Position Statement:** I graduated December 2005 from Bryan LGH/ KUMC School of Nurse Anesthesia. I am currently 1 of 14 partners in practice in an all CRNA group in Kearney serving the hospital and 5 surgery centers. I am married and have 3 children ages 20, 13 and 8. I really enjoy the autonomy of working independently and want to contribute to the board in any way I can to help maintain and improve the CRNA situation in Nebraska. I am also the liaison in Kearney for Bryan LGH anesthesia students. I see education and relationship building with other CRNAs and students as imperative for further growth in our field.

### **Josh Hill, CRNA, MS**

*McCook, Nebraska*

**Current Practice:** CRNA, Sole Proprietor in Southwest Nebraska.

**Education:** MS-Mount Marty College, BSN-Nebraska Wesleyan, Diploma of Nursing-Bryan Memorial School of Nursing,

**Professional Memberships:** Member AANA; Member NANA.

#### **Position Statement:**

Thank you for allowing me to participate in the running for a position on the NANA Board of Directors. I have always wanted to be involved in the issues that mold and affect CRNAs in Nebraska.

Medicine as a whole is facing uncertain times, specifically the many changes that have been proposed by President Obama. It's important that Nebraska CRNAs keep open lines of communication with our government representatives, both on the state and national platforms. Communicating our concerns, as well as our goals, has brought our level of practice and independence to the levels we enjoy today.

It is vital that we protect our independence, and promote ideas for the future.

If elected, I want nothing more than to promote the ideas of the AANA and NANA with the help of other members. Building awareness of a CRNA's role in Nebraska will help to educate those that do not recognize our profession.

### **Marcia Jensen, CRNA, MS**

*Omaha, Nebraska*

**Current Practice:** CRNA, University of Nebraska Medical Center; BryanLGH School of Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Instructor/Simulation Coordinator.

**Education:** MS-Mount Marty College, Yankton SD. BSN- Augustana College

**Professional Memberships:** NANA, Current member, AANA member

**Position Statement:** Last year, the impetus to change my professional focus to education grew out of concern for the current state and future of nurse anesthesia. During the past year, I have had the opportunity to meet with many CRNAs throughout the state of Nebraska and nationally. At the same time, I have been exposed to many challenges facing nurse anesthesia as a profession. I feel political involvement is the key to protecting our profession. By serving on the NANA Board of Directors, I would continue to monitor the concerns of nurse anesthesia, inform the membership of the concerns, and represent the views of the members to meet the concerns. My continued exposure to the population of CRNAs throughout the state would be an advantage in representing the views of the membership. During the past year, I have been extremely impressed with the competency and high standards of the CRNAs with whom I've worked and met. It would be my privilege to represent such a group of professionals.

*continued...*

## Jacque Kroenke, CRNA, MS

*Omaha, Nebraska*

**Current Practice:** CRNA, University of Nebraska Medical Center.

**Education:** MS, Bryan/LGH Medical Center/Kansas University Medical Center; RN/BSN, University of Nebraska Medical Center.

**Professional Memberships:** Member AANA, NANA.

### **Position Statement:**

As a student I had the opportunity to attend the mid-year assembly in Washington, D.C.. This experience opened my eyes to the importance of CRNA involvement in order to maintain our practice. The ability to be involved at an entry level as a student created a desire in me to continue to serve my profession as my career as a CRNA grows. I would like to begin my involvement as a member of the Board of Directors and I commit to working diligently for the betterment of CRNAs in the state of Nebraska. Thank you for your consideration.

## Matt Oliver, CRNA, MS, BSN

*Grand Island, Nebraska*

**Current Practice:** CRNA, St. Francis Hospital. Grand Island, Ne.

**Education:** MS, Bryan/LGH Medical Center/Kansas University Medical Center, BSN, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Kearney, Ne.

**Professional Memberships:** AANA, NANA

**Position Statement:** Hello all. As I sit here in San Diego with many of my fellow CRNAs, I am very encouraged about where our profession has come from. But even more so where it is headed.

I have learned very much in my first two years serving the CRNAs in the state of Nebraska as a board member. There are many things changing and growing in the field of anesthesia. It is important that we continue to educate and work with the public, our representatives, and co-workers to keep our profession healthy and ensure our position for ourselves and future CRNAs. I look forward to continuing my service as a board member and advocate.

## Jessica Staben, CRNA, MS, BSN

*Louisville, Nebraska*

**Current Practice:** CRNA, The Nebraska Medical Center.

**Education:** MS, Mount Marty College, BSN – Nebraska Methodist College.

**Professional Memberships:** Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Action Council, AANA, NANA

**Position Statement:** I view being elected to the Nebraska Board of Nurse Anesthetists as a great opportunity for me to be in a position to advise and make recommendations regarding issues that impact all of us. Working at The Nebraska Medical Center has given me a good perspective of what it takes to be a good CRNA

with a full workload. It's also opened my eyes to the challenges we face.

As a student, prior to coming to the Nebraska Medical Center, I had opportunities to work in both rural and larger metropolitan facilities. Both environments have similar, as well as unique, challenges for CRNAs. I also was fortunate enough to attend the Mid-year Assembly in Washington, D.C. where we had an opportunity to interact with Government officials and our peers and discuss CRNA issues. This experience sparked my interest toward someday becoming more involved in the administrative/political side of being a CRNA. I hope you will give me an opportunity to represent you.

## Eric Troutt, CRNA, MS, BSN

*Gretna, Nebraska*

**Current Practice:** CRNA, The Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Ne.

**Education:** MS, Mount Marty College, BSN – University of Nebraska Medical Center. Omaha, Ne.

**Professional Memberships:** Member AANA, NANA.

**Position Statement:** I first became very interested in the NANA two years ago when I was able to attend the mid-year assembly in Washington, D.C. As a student I had no idea of how much was involved at the state/political levels of our profession. It was then that I made a promise to myself to give back to our profession sometime in the future. After watching many of my colleagues be active on the NANA board over the last one and a half years, I feel that this is an opportunity I would like to play an active role in. I feel now more that ever it is extremely important for everyone in our profession to be active and involved, and to inform new CRNAs as they start their careers.

## Kyla Zehr, CRNA, MSN

*Beatrice, Nebraska*

**Current Practice:** CRNA, Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center, Beatrice, Ne.

**Education:** MS, University of Iowa, BSN – Hawaii Pacific University, Nursing – Mary Lanning School of Nursing

**Professional Memberships:** Member AANA, NANA.

**Position Statement:** I am a strong believer in being active in your professional organizations, and I am honored to be nominated for this position. I feel that continued proactive leadership is necessary to move our profession forward while maintaining our rights to practice as autonomous providers of anesthesia in the state of Nebraska. I look forward to serving NANA on the Board of Directors and learning what I can in the process.

## Federal Political Director's Report

*Nancy Gondringer, CRNA*

As I write this note I find myself thinking how lucky we are as CRNAs to have such a wonderful organization as the Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists as well as the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Our Board of Directors on a local level as well as a national level are always there working on our behalf. Our lobbyists and staff continue to support our practice to provide excellent patient care not only in Nebraska residents but also citizens across the United States.

I hope you all have written you Congressional staff members regarding the teaching rules for anesthesia payment. Congress enacted Medicare anesthesia payment teaching rule reform last year to help ensure patients have access to anesthesia services. The intent was that the rules be equitable for CRNAs and anesthesiologists. Because CRNAs and anesthesiologists provide Medicare patients the same services, Medicare payment rules must be made equitable between CRNAs and anesthesiologists. There should not be any disincentive for anyone to educate our students over another provider. Please check out the AANA website for additional instructions on writing your Senator/Congressman.

I was able to attend the National Convention in San Diego this year. It was a great meeting and you had excellent representation from the state of Nebraska. President Julie Vaughn represented you well in many meetings. She does an excellent job in helping Nebraska keep up to date on the many activities required by National.

It was a sad meeting having lost John Garde as the AANA executive Director just prior to the meeting. John was an amazing man and so very supportive of our professional.

We should all be very proud of our own Steve Wooden who received the Ira Gunn award for outstanding service to the profession. Steve not only has worked to promote CRNAs on a national level but has always been there to help fight and win the battles on a local level. Please send Steve a note of congratulations on his outstanding accomplishments.

As your FPD I continue to monitor the activities in Washington DC. My work usually begins when we start planning the Spring Assembly of States in the held in Washington DC. It is always a great meeting and if you are interested in attending please let me know.

Again thank you for allowing me to represent you as the Nebraska's Federal Political Director. If I can offer any assistance please let me know at 402-489-6970

## Public Relations

*Melissa Tufforn, CRNA*

Hello everyone, this is just a reminder to share any noteworthy news with the NANA Board so we can promote the wonderful accomplishments of CRNA's in our state. Please remember that the Best Public Relations is to always introduce and identify yourself to your patients so they KNOW who is providing their Excellent and Safe Care.

## AANA - National News

### Save the Date!

77th AANA Annual Meeting  
August 7-11, 2010  
Seattle

## Swine Flu Information and Resources

### What is swine flu?

Swine Influenza (swine flu) is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by Type A influenza viruses that cause regular outbreaks in pigs. People do not normally get swine flu, but human infections can and do happen. Swine flu viruses have been reported to spread from person-to-person, but in the past, this transmission was limited and not sustained beyond three people.

[Click here](#) for additional information and resources.

Check out the AANA [web site](#) for more national news.

Don't forget to vote!  
Candidates for the NANA  
Board of Directors  
on pages 6-7.

# NANA – PAC

625 S. 14<sup>th</sup> St – Suite A

Lincoln, NE 68508

402-436-2165

August 28, 2009

Dear NANA Member:

The NANA-PAC needs your 2009 personal contribution NOW! The NANA-PAC is non-partisan and will support current and perspective Nebraska senators that share the goals & interests of the nurse anesthesia profession. Your contribution is invaluable to help the NANA members that spend countless hours developing political networks that facilitate communication with our state government.

During the past 30 years, Nebraska CRNA's have fought and won many legislative battles impacting the practice of nurse anesthetists in our state. The NANA BOD's and its staff are constantly monitoring legislative issues of other medical and allied health professions in our state as they pertain to CRNA's.

During the last 12 months, NANA-PAC has contributed to 34 different office-holders or seekers. NANA-PAC's ability to assist good individuals with the cost of attaining and holding public office is a vital part of our advocacy efforts on behalf of the nurse anesthesia profession. While no public official worthy of the title would grant favor to us, or any organization, in exchange for a campaign contribution, our willingness to support campaigns, as we do, says to office-holders that we understand the sacrifices that are a part of public service, and that we are happy to assist good public officials and qualified candidates in discharging those sacrifices.

To be a CRNA means you will be involved in politics. When issues arise that impact our practice rights, we need to have strong allies in the Nebraska Unicameral. Someone once said, "if you are not at the table, you will be on the menu!" If you are unable to commit your time, than PLEASE consider a monetary commitment to support your NANA-PAC. This is your "Professional Liability Insurance" that allows you to PRACTICE your profession the way you do today and wish to do tomorrow.

The NANA-PAC is 100% funded by Nebraska CRNAs voluntary contributions and governed by your NANA BOD's & NANA-PAC committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration in keeping the NANA-PAC alive!

Sincerely,

**Julie Vaughan**, CRNA, NANA President

## NANA - PAC Time Line

1974-1981	Efforts to include CRNA's in the Nebraska Liability Fund (NLF)
1982	Legislation passed to include CRNA's in the NLF
1989	Jensen & Associates hired to be lobbyist for NANA
1993	Legislation passed to remove physician supervision
1996	CRNA appointed to BON & BOH
2001	Gov. Johanns signs opt-out with CMS
2007	Legislation passed to develop the APRN board
2008	Legislation passed to allow CRNA's to utilize fluroscopy

## 2009 NANA-PAC Commitment Form



**Yes, I would be willing to help with NANA** (please mark your interest below)

BOD nomination  PR committee  PAC committee  Other

**No, I am not willing to help with NANA but please accept my contribution to the NANA-PAC**

Governors Gold Club  \$500 - \$1000

Senators Silver Club  \$250 - \$499

Supervisors Bronze Club  \$100 - \$249

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, you can publish my name on the NANA website.**

**I do not wish my name to be published on the NANA website.**