

Off the Cuff

NANA

Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

www.NEANA.ORG

Spring 2009

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From the NANA President

I hope you had an enjoyable CRNA week, and heard us on National Public Radio. I have enjoyed serving as your President. Your board of directors has been working very hard on our long range goals, and we are also doing some long range planning. As an organization we are continuing to grow, 302 members as of this fall. As such we are experiencing growing pains as well, and we are trying to do some common sense practical planning as our organization increases in numbers. All of our new members are active and involved and full of great ideas. The future looks good.



Julie Vaughan, CRNA

I am pleased to report that after a lengthy process the Health and Human Services committee has approved our fluoroscopy guidelines as submitted by the APRN board. NANA would like to again extend our sincere appreciation to Steve Wooden for all of his hard work representing us on the APRN board. A copy of the HHS rules and regulations should be available on their website. We are still hoping to have that information presented formally at one of our upcoming meetings as well as radiation safety guidelines in general.

I am in the process of organizing another meeting between Blue Cross/Blue Shield and NANA leadership. This would be an informational meeting, continuing the dialogue we started with them a year ago. NANA hopes to continue meeting with BC/BS annually to discuss CRNA practice and reimbursement in Nebraska.

I am excited about our spring meeting; we are hoping to have record attendance. It is April 25-26 at the new Embassy Suites in Omaha. This new hotel and convention center is located next door to Cabela's. Don't forget that the registration flyer will be the blue and white brochure with IPGE's logo on it. It does say NANA spring meeting in red letters. You may also go to our website; there is a link for the IPGE website there. You can download a registration form, or register on line. We have excellent speakers and topics, Jackie Rowles, AANA President is presenting. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there.

The board is busy planning for the Spring Assembly in Washington, D.C. We are taking a record number of students this year. It should be interesting with the new administration to see what issues we take to the Hill. Nancy Gondringer, Federal Political Director of the Year Award winner, is working very hard coordinating our Capital Hill visits. We appreciate Nancy's dedication and time. The board will have a full report from that meeting at our Spring Business Meeting. Hope to see you there!

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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Federal Political Director Report

Nancy Gondringer, CRNA

Another Spring Assembly meeting is rapidly approaching and we have several Nebraska CRNAs and SRNAs who are planning to go to Washington DC for the annual meeting April 18-22, 2009. This is the time when we have the opportunity to meet with our Senators and Congressional representatives to address practice and reimbursement issues that are causing issues both on a state and national level.

In preparation for our visit Holly Chandler was able to attend the FPD conference to meet with AANA Federal Staff members to learn about lobbying and what we will be discussing during our congressional visits. I want to Thank Holly for her taking time from her family and busy schedule over Valentines Day to make this very important meeting as I was unable to attend.

Two major factors we will discuss while in DC will be:

- reimbursement issues for CRNA services
- educational support for the students

If you have had concerns or issues regarding either of the topics, please let me know and I will be glad to include your concerns while visiting with our representatives and senators. I want to thank Ben Huls, Holly Chandler and Tim Glidden who are also members of the FPD committee as they will be assisting with the meeting schedules and making the visits.

I have been blessed to represent such a great group of CRNAs as well as SRNAs for several years as your FPD from Nebraska. I look forward to a very successful visit and will give a full report at our Spring Nebraska Meeting.

Public Relations Update Spring '09

Melissa Tuford, CRNA and Robin Alexander, CRNA

This year for Nurse Anesthesia Week NANA worked to promote the profession of Nurse Anesthesia. We would like to say thank-you to Sara Theoharis, for her continued PR efforts. She worked with Nebraska Public Radio NANA served as the underwriters for their programming for more than a week in our celebration of Nurse Anesthesia Week. In addition Sara recorded a radio spot supporting our profession, spoke to local rotary and brownie groups and was interviewed on television and by her local paper. WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR EFFORTS!

Locally Robin and I covered our hospital and cafeteria with the AANA Nurse Anesthesia Week posters and displayed them at our Hospital's annual awards banquet. KRVN radio station played a promotional ad that explains how CRNA's have been providing safe, professional care of our patients for more than a century. The ad was played on both their FM and AM stations for the entire week reaching a broad audience.

We would like to thank Troy Kluthe of Kearney for speaking with a group of high school students and their parents about the profession.

Please let us know of any activities that you participate in that promote our profession. REMEMBER each and every day you promote our profession with the work you do, but if you do not identify yourself as a Nurse Anesthetist your patient doesn't know who kept them safe and comfortable during their time of need!

Nominations

It's time to nominate! Please submit your nominations for the three NANA BODs by email before Friday, April 24, 2009 to lsfinley@gmail.com or you can submit your nominations in person at the spring NANA business meeting on Saturday, April 25, 2009.

Larry Finley, Ex-officio
Chair, NANA Nominations Committee



The Institute for
Post-Graduate Education

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

The Nebraska ANA Spring Meeting offers practicing CRNA's an opportunity to learn more about quality and safety in anesthesia practice. Core didactic lectures will address various issues related to chronic pain management, quality and standards of care, skills assessment, common errors in practice, OR fires, NMBA Monitoring, Mechanisms of Injury and Managing Unusual Cases. There will be ample time provided for questions and discussion.

Accreditation

Approved by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists for 14 credits, Code Number 31395, Expiration Date: April 26, 2009. IPGE designates this activity as meeting the requirements for 2 credit in Pharmacology/Therapeutics. IPGE is also accredited by the California BRN to provide continuing education course for RN's. Provider number 2374.

The Nebraska ANA 2009 Spring Meeting and Seminar Safety in Anesthesia Practice

April 25-26, 2009 14 CE Credits

Embassy Suites La Vista, Omaha, Nebraska

PROGRAM AGENDA

Saturday AM April 25, 2009

Jackie Rowles, CRNA, MHA, FAAPM

- 0630 ... Registration - Coffee/Tea Service
- 0730 ... Evidence Based Chronic Pain Management
- 0830 ... Patient Safety: The Standard of Care
- 0930 ... Break - Visit Exhibits
- 1000 ... Skill Competency Assessment
- 1100 ... AANA Update - 2009
- 1200 ... Questions/Discussion

1300-1430... Luncheon - NANA State Meeting

Saturday PM April 25, 2009

Brian G. McAlary, MD

- 1430 ... Common Errors in Anesthesia (1)
- 1530 ... Common Errors in Anesthesia (2)
- 1630 ... Break
- 1645 ... Quality in Anesthesia Practice
- 1745 ... Questions/Discussion

Sunday AM April 26, 2009

Charles R. Barton, CRNA, MEd, MSN

- 0700 ... Coffee/Tea Service
- 0730 ... Preventing Fires in the OR
- 0830 ... Managing some Intriguing Cases
- 0930 ... Break
- 0945 ... Mechanisms of Injury
- 1045 ... Critical Analysis of NMBA Monitoring
- 1145 ... Questions/Discussion

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Click here](#) for hotel information and rates; refund policy and other information. Or go to www.ipge.com.

TUITION FEES*

- Until April 16 \$445.00
- After April 16 \$495.00
- On Site \$525.00
- Saturday Only \$275.00
- Sunday Only \$175.00
- After 4/16/09 add \$50 to Daily Fees

- Students in AANA Accredited Programs...\$75.00 until April 16, \$100.00 thereafter.
- Students should obtain a student application from your program director

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

Faculty

- Jackie Rowles, CRNA, MHA, FAAPM
• President, AANA, Indpls., IN
- Brian G. McAlary, MD
• Medical Director
• Program for Nurse Anesthetists
• Rush University, Chicago
- Charles R. Barton, CRNA, MEd, MSN
• Director - Program in Nurse Anesthesia
• University of Akron
• Akron, Ohio

We hope to see you there!

AANA Region IV Director *Gary D. Clark, CRNA, Ed.D.*

Dear CRNA Colleagues,

These last several months have been quite productive. Your state leaders and I meet during the Fall Assembly of States and they have brought forward a lot of issues that are currently being watched and addressed by the AANA. Understanding the issues are important for every CRNA and your participation is extremely important.

As you know by now Mr. Jeff Buetler, Executive Director for the AANA has resigned. Jeff has served as the AANA ED for the last nine years through many difficult times. We wish Jeff the best in the future. John Garde is serving as the interim ED and his transition has been seamless.

Several of the States in Region IV have had successful media training sessions for state leaders. The boot camp for State President-Elects is in full swing and will provide a much needed boost to state infrastructure. In the upcoming meetings there will be a number of lectures on leadership. I would encourage any of you who are interested in participating as a committee member, committee Chair, and/or the Board of Directors for your state to attend these sessions.

The October 23-25, 2008 AANA Continuing Education Dept offering on pain management was a tremendous success and will be repeated again in May at the Orthopedic Learning Center in Chicago. The faculty for this course have been in pain management for a number of years and will provide an excellent hands on opportunity for CRNAs in all practice settings. Be sure to sign up early.

The AANA Standards of Practice clearly reflect the unsafe practice of reusing syringes, needles, and single dose vials. The AANA and CDC and other organizations are continuing to work toward eliminating this unsafe practice. A letter from President Rowles has been placed on the AANA website and sent to CRNAs regarding [**Position Statement 2.13: Safe Practices for Needle and Syringe Use**](#) please review the documents.

The AANA BOD has supported President Rowles letter to the ASA regarding the Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) Statement published on the ASA website. The ASA ACT statement is an attempt to create barriers to and control CRNA education. The ASA responded to President Rowles by stating that their ACT is an opinion and is not enforceable. The AANA is requesting that programs report any difficulty related to clinical sites and student experiences.

Congress has approved and the President has signed into law the AANA proposed teaching rules. Congress has also removed the proposed cuts to Medicare. In the United States, there are 105 accredited nurse anesthesia educational programs, most located in

major universities, with their clinical practice education components taking place in over 1,500 clinical sites. Medicare anesthesia payment teaching rules generally treat teaching CRNAs and teaching anesthesiologists in educational settings in similar ways, reducing the reimbursement of both types of anesthesia professionals when professional education is involved. For all of you who serve as clinical faculty the Medicare Academic Anesthesiology and CRNA Payment Improvement Act, **HR 1932**, ensures that any increase from Medicare in anesthesia reimbursement within academic settings is done so equitably and does not favor one provider over another.

The AANA has gone 'Green'. Our membership grows significantly each year (26% in 2006-2007) and so do the issues surrounding our practice and communication. For the first time in the history of the AANA, the BOD has used electronic communications for BOD meetings instead of paper. All documents are now electronically transmitted to the BOD for each meeting and many are placed on the AANA website.

The BOD and membership have approved an online chat for candidates prior to the AANA election. Membership will have to opportunity to ask questions of candidates and read their response. As a candidate for Treasurer I am looking forward to your participation.

PAC donations have had a tremendous impact by assisting with lobbying and with reversing Medicare anesthesia payment cuts, securing a strong voice on pay for performance, and restoring educational funding for CRNAs just to name a few. For all of you that have contributed to the AANA or State PAC and AANA Foundation, Thank You. Your contributions will provide for a safe future as a CRNA. For those who have not yet taken the opportunity to contribute please consider sending a donation to each to preserve your practice and build for the future.

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings and as always please feel free to stop by or contact me with any concerns. The AANA is an organization providing professional opportunities and leadership and protecting your profession. I continue to encourage you to become informed regarding your profession and continue to ask questions regarding your practice. I look forward to meeting each of you as I travel to each state and hope to provide you with any assistance I can.

AANA Foundation Update

Celeste Hinzmann, CRNA, MS

Nebraska Advocate

At our fall meeting, we played 50/50 as a fundraiser for the Foundation. It actually was quite successful. Individuals purchased either a single ticket for \$5.00 or five tickets for \$20. At the end of the meeting, the proceeds were totaled. A ticket holders' name was drawn and half of the proceeds went to that individual and the other half was sent to the AANA Foundation. The winner at our fall meeting was Paula Loehr, CRNA, from Hastings, NE. Between what we raised with the 50/50 and the personal donations, we collected \$500. I would like to personally thank all of you who played the 50/50 and /or just made a personal donation. We will do the 50/50 again at our spring meeting. So, stop by at my table and purchase a ticket or two. Tickets need to be purchased with cash, no checks.

2009 brings us to hearing a lot of gloom and doom about our economic crisis. It certainly affects the ability for many Americans to make charitable donations. But, I hope you will consider making even a small gift to the Foundation, which could become a habit of regular giving. As CRNAs take a more proactive role in research and educational development, we place ourselves in the forefront of new advances in our practice that are essential in this volatile healthcare environment. Each of us CRNAs is concerned with our right to practice, professional fulfillment and recognition of our worth.

The Foundation's Annual Giving Goal for this fiscal year is \$470,000. Thus far, we have reached 61% of our goal or \$288,249. The total giving for this fiscal year from Nebraska is \$6055.00. I hope you will take the time now to make a personal commitment, through financial support, for our student nurse anesthetists and our fellow CRNAs involved in research. All CRNAs benefit if all CRNAs help.

Thank you and look for me at the spring meeting. I would love to talk to you about our AANA Foundation and you can come play 50/50.

NANA Student Report

Katrina Longe, NANA Student Representative

Gratitude. It doesn't seem like a strong enough word to express my feelings toward the NANA members for their donations to the Foundation. Yet that seems to be the only word I can find to describe how thankful I am for your contributions. At this time last year, I received the AANA Foundation scholarship from the Nebraska members. I didn't imagine three years ago in August when I started this program that I would be writing a letter thanking the NANA members for their assistance in completion of this program, let alone be 2 months away from the "Big Day." Where has the time gone!

The initial work that it takes to gain entrance to and begin this program is overwhelming, and yet I had faith that the monetary support would appear if I looked in the right places. That's where your donation to the Foundation comes in. It's more than buying books and paying tuition. The scholarship support allows for the extras, such as a trip to the annual AANA convention or Valley Review courses. The Foundation scholarship helps me and other students like me take advantage of these opportunities and make the most of our education. Just like a home budget there are always more uses for you money than dollars in your pocket, but without your contributions I would have missed out on some valuable experiences.

As graduation approaches, I'm pleased to join the ranks of practicing nurse anesthetists across Nebraska and plan to contribute to the Foundation which has so strongly supported me in my educational endeavors. Thank you!



**American Association
of Nurse Anesthetists**

**76th
Annual
Meeting**
San Diego, CA
August 8-12, 2009