

# Off the Cuff

Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

# NANA

www.NEANA.ORG

## Spring 2010

### Officers

#### President

Julie Vaughan, CRNA  
lakeland@huntel.net

#### President-Elect

Ben Huls, CRNA  
bhuls@hotmail.com

#### Vice President

Holly Chandler, CRNA  
Hchandler1562@aol.com

#### Secretary & Treasurer

Sara Theoharis, CRNA  
stheoharis@charter.net

#### Ex-Officio

Larry Finley, CRNA  
lsfinley@gmail.com

#### Director, Region 4

Dennis Bless, CRNA, MS  
dennisbless@yahoo.com

#### Board of Directors

Matthew Petta, CRNA  
matthewpetta@gmail.com

#### Eric Troutd, CRNA

Troutd@q.com

#### Melissa Tufford, CRNA

mnstufford@gmail.com

#### Amy Graham, CRNA

gasmearmy@yahoo.com

#### Robin Alexander, CRNA

rbenson22@yahoo.com

#### Matthew Oliver, CRNA

mattamyoliver@gmail.com

#### Student Representatives

##### Jessica Mort

mort\_jessica@yahoo.com  
jessica.mort@mtmc.edu

#### Brad Wilber, SRNA

bradley.wilber@bryanlghcollege.org

## From the NANA President



Julie Vaughan,  
CRNA

I hope you are surviving the winter, and have electricity. The board of directors has been working very hard on a variety of issues. The latest from AANA on Medicare cuts is on the website, [aana.com](http://aana.com), front page. As of March 1, they are recommending everyone hold their billing statements for 10 days. By the time this is printed things may have changed, so again, refer to the website. I know AANA is working very hard to have the cuts reversed, hopefully that will happen.

IPGE is again conducting our spring meeting in Omaha in April; refer to Ben's update and [www.neana.org](http://www.neana.org) for more information on the meetings. (See page 3 for Spring meeting information.) I am sorry there was so much confusion about the dates. I hope to see you all there. Look for changes to our fall meetings beginning this year, Ben Huls and the board members had some tough decisions to make regarding our state meetings, I appreciate everyone's input across the state. Stay in touch through the website on upcoming meeting dates and topics.

Midyear Assembly in Washington, D.C. falls the week after our spring meeting this year. If there is anything pressing regarding health care reform or any other issues Nancy or I will send out a blast email. Please also continue to visit [www.aana.com](http://www.aana.com) for more information on health care reform.

There is some discussion in Lincoln this session regarding the medical malpractice cap, specifically raising the amount of the cap. Jensen associates, Ben Huls, and I are watching things closely on this and if anything develops, we will keep you advised. No legislation introduced yet, just legislators discussing the issue at present.

Several Nebraska CRNA's just returned from Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Thank you to all of the volunteers and future volunteers. There is a link on [aana.com](http://aana.com) of CRNA's across the nation that have volunteered. Feel free to submit your names or confer with other volunteers at the national level.

Also at the national level, Phil Powers continues to serve on the national Bylaws committee. Nancy Gondringer remains the chair of the AANA Foundation. 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. The student scholarship deadline is approaching, if you know of any interested students that meet the criteria, please remind them to submit their applications.

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.

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

Respectfully,  
Julie Vaughan, CRNA

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Robin Alexander, CRNA  
rbenson22@yahoo.com

Melissa Tufford, CRNA  
mnstufford@gmail.com

**PUBLICATIONS**

Matthew Oliver, CRNA  
mattamyoliver@gmail.com

**NANA/IPGE PROGRAM**

The Institute for Post-Graduate Education,  
Inc.

Ben Huls, CRNA  
bhuls@hotmail.com

**FEDERAL POLITICAL DIRECTOR**

Nancy Gondringer, CRNA  
ngondr@aol.com (H)

**LIAISON**

Julie Vaughan, CRNA  
lakeland@huntel.net

**FINANCE**

Sara Theoharis, CRNA  
stheoharis@charter.net

**BY-LAWS**

Amy Graham, CRNA  
gasmemy@yahoo.com

**STATE GRC DIRECTOR/NANA-PAC**

Larry Finley, CRNA  
lsfinley@gmail.com

**WEBSITE DIRECTOR**

Robin Alexander, CRNA  
rbenson22@yahoo.com

**AANA Foundation-Nebraska Advocate**

Celeste Hinzmann  
cahinzgas@yahoo.com

## Upcoming NANA Meetings

Ben Huls, CRNA, NANA President Elect  
Meeting Coordinator

The NANA Spring meeting is just around the corner. IPGE has expanded its meeting to 20 credits for all attendees this year. The meeting dates are April 23 to April 25th and will be held at the Embassy Suites LaVista. IPGE should have already sent everyone a meeting application in the mail. If you are without an application, please visit IPGE's website at [www.ipge.com](http://www.ipge.com) for more information. We look forward to seeing you there.

Hopefully all of you got a recent email from me regarding the Fall 2010 NANA meeting. In lieu of an education based meeting, the NANA Board is inviting all interested CRNAs to an open board meeting on October 23rd. This meeting will be at the Grand Island Holiday Inn just off of I-80 at 10:00 a.m. If anyone is interested in NANA Board business, or in running for a board position, please plan on attending. There will be no fee for attendance. See you all in Omaha on April 23rd.

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## AANA Foundation

Celeste Hinzmann, CRNA, MS

Nebraska Advocate

On September 1st 2009, the AANA Foundation introduced the first-ever State Challenge. According to the Foundation, the state challenge is off to a great start and they continue to watch each states progression in financial contributions. The challenge is instrumental in supporting the Foundation's mission by raising funds for research and education. The state challenge was designed to foster a competitive spirit of giving among the state organizations. Currently, the top ten contending states are: New Mexico, Washington, Vermont, District of Columbia, Wyoming, Maryland, New Hampshire, Virginia, Delaware and Montana. Nebraska ranks in the 11th-15th group. Way to go Nebraska CRNAs! We're getting on the map. The competition will end June 30, 2010. At the 2010 Annual meeting in Seattle, the AANA Foundation will give awards to the top two states.

We will have the 50/50 fundraiser again at our spring meeting, and maybe we can raise more funds to donate to the state challenge and bump up to be one of the top ten states! Remember, when playing 50/50, you can also win 50% of the proceeds we raise.

The Foundation's 2010 Annual Giving fundraising goal is \$443,000. Thus far, we have reached 68% of our goal. From 7/1/2008 through 1/31/2009, Nebraska CRNAs gave \$5770.00 to the Foundation. From 7/1/2009 through 1/31/2010, the Foundation received \$6465 in donations. In 2009, AANA Foundation was able to fund over \$300,000 in anesthesia research. I want to personally thank each one of you for your financial commitment in supporting the Foundation's mission for research education.

The AANA Foundation co-sponsored a cost-effective study to independently evaluate various anesthesia direction models, the cost of educating anesthesia providers, quality of care, and access to care. The study found that the most economical delivery model is CRNAs providing anesthesia independently (i.e. without the presence of an anesthesiologist), and the least economical model is the 1:1 medical direction model (i.e. one CRNA to one anesthesiologist). The study also found that the cost to educate one CRNA is approximately 15% of the cost to train one anesthesiologist. Lastly, the study found that CRNAs help expand access to anesthesia services, particularly in rural areas, and that there is no difference in the quality of care provided by CRNAs and anesthesiologists. (minutes from conference call mtg.)

You can make a tax-deductible donation to AANA Foundation by visiting their website [www.aanafoundation.com](http://www.aanafoundation.com) or you can email me at [cahinzgas@yahoo.com](mailto:cahinzgas@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.



The Institute for Post-Graduate Education

# The Nebraska ANA Spring Meeting in Omaha

April 23-25, 2010  
Embassy Suites La Vista

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

The Nebraska ANA Spring Meeting offers practicing CRNAs an opportunity to update and reinforce clinical knowledge in several important aspects of anesthesia practice. The seminar begins with didactic lectures focusing on the management of patients undergoing robotic radical prostatectomy, the use of rapid sequence induction, the problem of cognitive dysfunction and the perioperative care of the elderly. It continues with a discussion of the issue of VBAC, suggestions for dealing with epidural catheter complications and current thinking in the management of labor pain. The role of the NBCRNA in the recertification process of CRNAs will also be presented. The Nebraska business meeting will be conducted during lunch on Saturday. This includes a legislative update on Fluoroscopy Regulations and Training Requirements.

The Saturday afternoon session is devoted to clinical discussions of common and uncommon problems in anesthesia and suggestions for their management.

On Sunday the focus will shift to a discussion of the current status of brain function monitoring and its role in anesthesia delivery, methods for dealing with anesthesia machine maintenance and malfunction, suggestions for managing the patient who has undergone an organ transplant and a look at the ethical side of organ transplant.

Ample time is provided for questions and discussion.

### Accreditation

Approved by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists for 20 CE Credits. Code Number 32558, Expiration Date: April 25, 2010

IPGE designates this program as meeting the requirements for 4 credits in Pharmacology/Therapeutics.

IPGE is accredited by the California BRN to provide Continuing Education for Registered Professional Nurses, Provider Number 2374.

### Program Agenda

Friday PM; April 23

Richard G. Ouellette, CRNA, MEd	
1650-1700	Welcome Remarks
1700-1800	Anesthesia for Robotic Radical Prostatectomy
1800-1900	Cognitive Dysfunction after Non-Cardiac Surgery
1900-1915	Break -- Visit Exhibits
1915-2015	Opinions on Rapid Sequence Induction
2015-2115	Anesthetic Considerations for the Geriatric Patient
2115-2215	Discussion Period

Saturday AM; April 24

Michael Rieker, DNP, CRNA	
0630-0700	Continental Breakfast
0700-0800	Pharmacology of Labor Analgesia
0800-0900	Managing Epidural Catheter Problems
0900-0930	Break - Visit Exhibits
0930-1030	Current Thinking with VBAC's
1030-1130	NBCRNA Update
Complimentary Luncheon	
1130-1230	Legislative Update: Fluoroscopy Regulations and Training Guidelines
1230-1330	Nebraska ANA Business Meeting

Saturday PM; April 24

Deborah Geisler, CRNA, MHSA	
1330-1430	Obstructive Sleep Apnea
1430-1530	Ischemic Optic Neuropathy
1530-1545	Break
1545-1645	The Physician Supervision/Medical Direction Issue
1645-1745	Negative Pressure Pulmonary Edema - Can you recognize it?
1745-1845	Discussion Period

Sunday AM; April 25

Michael Geisler, CRNA, BS	
0630-0700	Continental Breakfast
0700-0800	Brain Function Monitoring
0800-0900	Anatomy and Physiology of the Anesthesia Machine
0900-0915	Break
0915-1015	Anesthesia for the Organ Transplanted Patient
1015-1115	The Ethical Side of Organ Transplant
1115-1215	Discussion Period

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

### TUITION FEES

Before April 13	\$545.00
After April 13	\$595.00
On Site	\$645.00
Fri or Sat Only	\$275.00*
Sunday Only	\$375.00*After

\*Add \$50 to daily fees after April 13.

Tuition fee includes all lectures and discussions and workshop demonstrations, Electronic Course Syllabus, Continental Breakfasts, Breaks and AANA Credit Recording.

Students are invited to attend at the special rate of \$75.00 until April 13, 2010. Established fees will prevail after this date. Students: [Click Here](#) to download your registration form.

### Faculty

Richard G. Ouellette, CRNA, MEd  
Anesthesia Program for Nurses  
Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

Michael Rieker, DNP, CRNA  
Anesthesia Program for Nurses  
Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

Deborah Geisler, CRNA, MHSA  
Past President AANA  
Private Anesthesia Practice, Ponte Vedra, Florida

Michael Geisler, CRNA, BS  
Anesthesia Transplant Team  
Mayo Clinic at Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra, Florida

Bernard A. Kuzava, CRNA  
President and CEO  
IPGE, Inc., Hastings, Michigan

We hope to see you there!

## AANA Region IV Director

Dennis Bless, CRNA, MS



The AANA Board of Directors has been very busy conducting the business of the association. The following is a summary of the major issues that have come before us. The AANA continues to closely monitor the progression of healthcare reform. Our primary priorities relate to ensuring patient access to care that is of very high quality, at a cost that individuals and our country can afford. Our attention continues to focus on the following four issues:

Promoting provider nondiscrimination, to ensure that patients have access to high quality healthcare from qualified licensed providers

Advancing CRNA and nurse workforce development, to reverse persistent shortages and cost-effectively ensure patient access to care

Securing access to rural anesthesia care, by correcting recent Medicare administrative decisions affecting rural hospitals

Ensuring patient access to care through sufficient reimbursement for CRNA services in plans for the uninsured, and through reversing the dramatic 21.2% Medicare Part B cuts.

Last fall President Walker appointed the Strategic Reserve Fund (SRF) Taskforce. The charge for this taskforce is "To evaluate the effectiveness of past SRF allocations and make recommendations no later than the 2010 Mid Year Assembly Board of Directors meeting for any changes in SRF focus or criteria. If these recommendations require a bylaws change, the task force will recommend language to the Board of Directors". The SRF Taskforce has met and is preparing its recommendations to the board. A related issue has been brought forward regarding the SODC committee composition. The SODC has been charged to review the composition of the SODC and engage the SRF Task Force in this process taking advantage of the work already done by the SRF Task Force as well as the rich knowledge and history embedded in that group. Recommendations are to be presented to the board at Mid-Year Assembly.

As a result of a member inquiry, a board task force was convened to evaluate the policy for notifying AANA committee members of their appointment. It was proposed and adopted to notify committee members of their appointment approximately one week prior to the annual meeting. The intent is to facilitate networking of committee members attending the annual meeting. Please remember that the

deadline for submission of requests for committee appointments for FY 2011 is April 1, 2010. Refer to the member's only side of the AANA website for details on submitting your request.

As a result of member input and feedback during the Fall Assembly of States, the board of directors has reconsidered its previous decision to discontinue the Fall Assembly of States beginning in 2011. At the January board meeting the board voted to continue hosting the Fall Assembly of States with a strong leadership focus.

As you may recall from the annual business meeting, the association was determined to be out of compliance with a bylaw requiring that all resolutions be reviewed on an annual basis. An emergency resolution was presented to the membership and was subsequently voted down. As a result, the FY 2010 Resolutions Committee was charged with reviewing and making recommendations to the AANA Board of Directors in regard to all outstanding resolutions. Member comments were solicited via the member's only side of the AANA website. The board reviewed the recommendations from the Resolutions Committee at the open session board meeting at the Assembly of School Faculty meeting. The final recommendations will be presented for a vote to the membership at the Annual Meeting in Seattle in August.

At the January board meeting the board considered a proposal from the American Nurses Association (ANA) to offer affiliate membership to AANA members. After much discussion, it was moved that the AANA President appoint a board task force to further research this proposal and to present a report at the Mid Year Assembly Board of Directors Meeting. Member feedback and input will be solicited through a variety of means to assist the taskforce in formulating recommendations to the board.

At the board meeting at the Assembly of School Faculty meeting the AANA Board of Directors voted to accept the following recommendations from the Nominating Committee:

1. That the AANA Board of Directors monitor and evaluate the use of the Online Candidate Forum this year and consider discontinuing its use in the future if there is minimal member participation consistent with last year.
2. That the AANA Board of Directors monitor the use by members of the video-recorded presentations of Candidates' speeches on the AANA website this year and consider the value of continuing with this practice in the future based on membership utilization and return on investment.

The board voted to make a change in which paper ballots are sent to voting members of the AANA. A paper ballot will be sent to those members eligible to vote only if requested in that format. Otherwise the ballot will be sent electronically. An email will go out to all members that have an email address on file asking the

Continued...

member whether they prefer to vote electronically or if they prefer a paper ballot. If a member chooses not to respond to the email, the member will receive the ballot electronically. Members without an email address on file will receive a paper ballot.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Region 4 Director. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. My email address is [dennisbless@yahoo.com](mailto:dennisbless@yahoo.com).

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## NANA Public Relations

Robin Alexander & Melissa Tufford

This year during National Nurse Anesthesia Week, NANA helped to promote our profession. We ran radio ads on both the FM and AM stations of KRVN that discussed the safe and professional care Nurse Anesthetists provide for their patients. We would also like to thank Sara Theoharis, for her continued PR efforts. Again, she worked with Nebraska Public Radio as NANA served as the underwriters for their programming during Nurse Anesthesia Week.

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!

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## Haiti Earthquake Resources

AANA would like to extend its sympathy to those who have lost friends, family members and property in this tumultuous act of Nature. For those who are able to help, AANA offers links to the following resources. Please note: Some of these websites are experiencing heavy traffic and you may have to try several times before you are able to access them.

Please find additional resources on the [AANA Web Site](#).

[American Red Cross](#)  
[American Nurses Foundation](#)  
[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)  
[Center for International Disaster Information](#)

## AANA - National News

### Save the Date!

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

## Anesthesia Drug Shortage Update

AANA representatives, along with other anesthesia and hospital organizations, participated in a teleconference with FDA staff on March 4th, for the purposes of providing an update on the anesthesia drug shortage situation. FDA staff reported that the propofol shortage has become an on-going and long-term problem and stated that there are problems with other general anesthetics and neuromuscular blocking agents as well. They also noted that metoclopramide should be out of back order by the end of this week. According to FDA staff, shortages appear to be occurring with drugs that have gone off patent and have entered the generic marketplace. In such cases, there are a small number of manufacturers that are producing these drugs and when there is a malfunction in their manufacture, shortages can occur. The FDA is looking to form a broader workgroup to include other agencies and organizations like the AANA to make recommendations on this matter. FDA staff is also working to post an update of the drug shortage on its website. Please visit the FDA [Current Drug Shortages](#) and [Propofol Injection Shortage](#) sites.

Propofol shortages must not compromise the safe use of drugs. For further information on the AANA Position Statement on Safe Practices for Needle and Syringe Use, please visit the [AANA website](#).

If you, your practice or your pharmacy are experiencing any drug shortage, difficulties obtaining products, or have any questions, please contact the FDA's Drug Shortage Program at [drugshortages@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:drugshortages@fda.hhs.gov).

Or:

<http://www.aana.com/Resources.aspx?id=24941>

