

Off the Cuff

NANA

Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

www.NEANA.ORG

Fall 2008

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From the NANA President

Welcome to the Fall 2008 edition of *Off the Cuff*.

We as CRNA's are adaptable to tough situations and will persevere to the challenges we face now and into the future.

In March, LB 48 was amended into LB928 and approved by Gov. Heineman on April 21, 2008. This legislation allows CRNA's to utilize fluoroscopy in conjunction with a licensed medical radiographer after successful completion of appropriate education and training. This education and training is being developed by the APRN board and Department of Health and Human Services. NANA members should expect to have access to the education and training requirements by the end of 2008. NANA hopes to have this education and training offered at the Spring 2009 NANA meeting in Omaha, NE. I want to personally acknowledge Steve Wooden, CRNA for his sincere and devoted representation of CRNA's on the APRN board and throughout the fluoroscopy process.

April brought another visit to Capital Hill. I was privileged to serve you along side several CRNA and SRNA colleagues. We were able to visit with all of our Representatives and Senators. The visit to Capital Hill was very rewarding and breath taking as we had the opportunity to educate our legislators about CRNA interests. I am very encouraged by the willingness of the SRNA's to participate. They are truly our future!! A special congratulations goes to Nancy Gondringer, CRNA for receiving the 2008 Federal Political Director of the Year award!!

In June, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Nebraska (BCBSNE) defined all non-physician providers as mid-levels and announced a 15% differential (reduction in reimbursement) starting on July 1, 2008. NANA leadership acted on behalf of you and met with BCBSNE officials. We had a great opportunity to educate them regarding the many different practice schematics that CRNA's are involved in throughout the state. The face to face meetings and conference calls lead to a reversal of their application of this differential to CRNA's. NANA will continue to meet with key officials biannually to discuss CRNA practice & reimbursement in Nebraska.

I traveled to Minneapolis in August to attend the AANA national meeting. NANA was again very well represented by CRNA's and SRNA's. I appreciate everybody's professionalism and representation of Nebraska CRNA's. Congratulations to Sara Theoharis, CRNA, and her colleagues from Hastings, NE for winning the Best Public Relations Effort by an Individual, Small Group, Organization, or Company Not Affiliated with a State Association!!

August also brought the departure of Bob Bush, CRNA. Bob served as State Government Relations Chair, NANA-PAC chair, and publisher of *Off the Cuff*. I personally want to express my gratitude to Bob for his many years of service to NANA.

Finally, please plan on attending the Spring NANA 2009 meeting in Omaha, NE on April 25-26 at the new Embassy Suites Omaha - La Vista/Hotel and Conference Center. Information

Larry Finley, CRNA



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President's Message continued from page 1.

on the meeting and other future meeting dates can be viewed online at www.neana.org.

I want to personally thank Sharon, Matthew, Thomas & Faith for their patience with me during this presidency. Also, I want to express my appreciation to the NANA BOD's, my partners with North Central Anesthesia Services, other NANA mentors, and of course Ron Jensen & Associates for their willingness to allow me this opportunity to serve you.

I am honored to hand the gavel to Julie Vaughn, CRNA from UNMC. Julie has been serving on the NANA BOD's since 2002.

Respectfully,
Larry Finley, CRNA

NANA "Off the Cuff" is Going Green!

The Fall 2008 publication will be delivered to your email address as an e-newsletter. You will also be able to view the e-newsletter on line at www.neana.org under the "Off the Cuff" link. REMINDER: NANA's contact database is only as current as what you have submitted to the AANA, therefore, email updates need to be sent to:

Cathy Loughran, AANA Membership
Email: cloughran@aana.com

NANA Proposed Bylaw Changes

Please take a minute to review the following proposed changes for the bylaws as we will be voting on them at the upcoming business meeting in October.

BYLAWS:

- Pg 2; Opening paragraph – 2 Senior students
Section I: B.1 – change annual meeting to Fall NANA (Annual Meeting)
Section I: B.3 - 2 SRNAs (Bryan & Mount Marty)
- Pg 4, Section 2: B.1.d – strike except nominating committee
- Pg 6, Article VI: Appointed Committees (please add or amend the following)
By-laws & Standing Rules
Finance committee (NANA-PAC drive yearly in September)
Website
- Pg 8, Article VII: Elected Committees
Section 2. Election Process (change to)
Nominations committee shall be composed of (2) active members
(Ex-officio & NANA member).....

Federal Political Director Report

Nancy Gondringer, CRNA

NANA Federal Political group has not since we all attended the Spring Assembly of States. Activities that have been occurring over the summer include monitoring federal Senatorial and Representative Races in conjunction with our AANA office staff in Washington DC.

I met with Congressman Fortenberry to discuss the need to have support in Federal legislation regarding teaching rules, fair and equitable payments to CRNA from Medicare. He was supportive of our views and would take our concerns back to the congress.

I want to thank all the NANA members for their continued support and donations to the AANA PAC funds and hope you will again support our local PAC fund in this Presidential election year.

If I can be of assistance to anyone in helping to explain any Federal health care issues please call me at home 402-489-6970. I also want to thank everyone who attended the Spring Assembly of States last April to support our legislative agenda. I have truly enjoyed being the Nebraska State FPD.

NANA – PAC

625 S. 14th St – Suite A

Lincoln, NE 68508

402-436-2165

September 17, 2008

Dear NANA Member:

The NANA-PAC needs your 2008 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,
Larry Finley, 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

2008 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.

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 there are a lot of issues being watched and addressed in several states. Understanding the issues are important for every CRNA and your participation is extremely important.

Several of the States in Region IV have collaborated to schedule an AANA media training session for your state leaders. The media training sessions are an excellent way to improve communication skills. 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.

October 23-25, 2008 the AANA Continuing Education Dept is offering an extensive pain management course using cadavers 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

The Commission on Anesthesia Economics and Reimbursement was given at the AANA Annual meeting in Minneapolis. The Commission has worked hard to offer recommendations for the AANA's future and had a very successful outcome. I would encourage all members to read the CAER report on the AANA member's website. The Commission is also requesting all AANA members to answer two questions on the AANA website regarding their type of practice model and the advantages and disadvantages of that model. We look forward to the continuation of the Commission and their work.

The AANA BOD has supported the teaching rules for physicians and CRNAs to be the same. 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.

Our membership grows significantly each year (26% in 2006-2007) and so do the issues surrounding our practice. The AANA has gone 'Green'. 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.

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.

The Washington DC offices are running with a full agenda. In addition to their other charges the Washington Office is involved with the creation and development of rules and regulations for the new teaching rules for CRNAs and anesthesiologists. Please visit them when in Washington, DC

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. Unfortunately, there is only a small percentage of CRNAs contributing and carrying the load for all CRNA practices. 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 or contact me with any concerns. The AANA is a valuable organization providing professional opportunities and leadership as well as 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

The Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists would like to congratulate Katrina Longe SRNA for being awarded the 2008 Nebraska Student Nurse Anesthetist scholarship. Katrina attends the Bryan Nurse Anesthesia program in Lincoln, NE. The AANA Foundation student scholarship program is celebrated every year at the Student Luncheon held at the AANA Annual meeting. Katrina and other scholarship recipients were invited and recognized at the 2008 AANA Annual meeting Student scholarship luncheon held in Minneapolis in August.

Each year, the AANA Foundation awards scholarships to exemplary nurse anesthesia students to help offset expenses while attending school. This scholarship is funded by donations from both individual CRNAs in Nebraska and from NANA. The Foundation then provides

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Continued from page 4.

the marketing, administrative support, and application and review management. The criteria that NANA established for eligibility in receiving the \$1000 scholarship is: a student must be in their second year or have completed 12 months of their program and have their clinical experience in Nebraska.

Also, I would like to recognize and thank James Cuddeford, CRNA, MA, Program Director of the School of Nurse Anesthesia at Bryan LGH Medical Center in Lincoln, NE for becoming a 2008 Friend for Life, which is a planned gift program through estate giving. He joins other Friends for Life from Nebraska, who are Nancy Gondringer, Gerald Messbarger and Wendell Spencer. Research and education in nurse anesthesia will continue to thrive because

of their thoughtful cash and planned gifts through the Friends for Life program.

Other scholarship recipients I would like to recognize are Angela Hamilton and Ann Kabes. Angela received the Darrel Perry Scholarship in the amount of \$1000. This scholarship is given to a member of the US Army or Army reserves. Ann was awarded the AANA Staff Scholarship in the amount of \$1000. Both are from Omaha, NE. Congratulations!

As always, I would like to sincerely thank all of the members of NANA for your support of the Nebraska Student Nurse Anesthetist Scholarship and the AANA Foundation. It is this support of research and education that helps us to be able to practice as CRNAs and to give us credibility.



The Institute for Post-Graduate Education

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

The Nebraska ANA Fall Meeting offers practicing CRNAs an opportunity to learn more about the recognition and management of difficult airway situations. Core didactic lectures will address various issues related to managing the difficult airway including definitions, pathological conditions, the ASA Algorithm, interventions above and below the cricothyroid, new devices available to facilitate difficult intubation and sedation techniques for awake intubation. The "Hand's-On" workshops present an opportunity to simulate intubation with many of the various devices available as airway adjuncts. This will include a pig trachea lab to simulate retrograde intubation techniques. Ample time is provided for questions and discussion.

ACCREDITATION

Approved by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists for 13 credits, Code Number 30637, Expiration Date: October 19, 2008. IPGE designates this activity as meeting the requirements for 1 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 2008 Fall Meeting and Seminar
Difficult Airway Management Workshop**

October 18-19, 2008 13 CE Credits

The Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska

PROGRAM AGENDA

Saturday AM October 18, 2008

Tony Chipas and Wayne Ellis

- 0630-0700 Registration/Continental Breakfast
- 0700-0800 Airway Definitions
- 0800-0900 Pathological Conditions of the Airway
- 0900-0930 Break — Visit Exhibits
- 0930-1030 The ASA Algorithm and its Applications
- 1030-1130 Techniques for Awake Intubation
- 1130-1230 Questions/Answers/Discussion
- 1230-1400 Luncheon - NANA State Meeting**

Saturday PM October 18, 2008

Tony Chipas and Wayne Ellis

- 1400-1500 Interventions above the Cricothyroid Membrane
- 1500-1600 Interventions below the Cricothyroid Membrane
- 1600-1700 New Devices to Facilitate Intubation
- 1700-1800 Questions/Answers/Discussion

Sunday AM October 19, 2008

Tony Chipas and Wayne Ellis

- 0700-0800 Continental Breakfast
- 0800-0900 Sedation Techniques for Awake Intubation
- 0900-0930 Break
- 0930-1130 "Hand's On" Workshop
- 1130-1230 Final Questions/Discussions

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

TUITION FEES*

- Until October 8 \$395.00
- After October 8 \$445.00
- On Site \$495.00
- Saturday Only \$250.00
- Sunday Only \$145.00
- After 10/8/08 add \$50 to Daily Fees

- Students in AANA Accredited Programs...\$45.00 until October 8, \$85.00 thereafter.
- Students should obtain a student application 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

- Tony Chipas, PhD, CRNA**
Director - Nurse Anesthesia Program, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
- Wayne Ellis, PhD, CRNA**
Director - Nurse Anesthesia Program, Mountain State University, Beckley, WV
- Bernard A. Kuzava, CRNA**
President, The Institute for Post-Graduate Education/Hasting, MI

We hope to see you there!

Public Relations Update Fall '08

Sara Theoharis, CRNA

Another exciting year for Nebraska, as again the national PR Award for best promotional effort going to a small organization, not associated with the state association was won. Hastings Anesthesiology Associates was given this award for its effort in hosting "Anesthesia Jeopardy". The games involved two rounds, each round had four teams. The first round contestants were employees of the hospital in various departments. The second round contestants pitted OR staff and surgeons against anesthesia staff. Prizes, donated by drug reps and local businesses, were handed out to participants. Kids' games and activities were also included. Media coverage included two local TV stations, the local newspaper and two radio stations. Fun was had by all. The iMovie that was entered will be available for viewing in Lincoln at the Fall NANA meeting. Kudos to that Hastings Group! (Allyn Friesen, Roger Soucek, Troy Swayze, Larissa Rossow, Paula Loehr, Nancy Harris, Shane Kryzsko and myself)

I would also like to thank the CRNAs across the state who were involved in promoting our profession, that's basically all 225 of you. With each quality anesthetic you give, that ensures our professional respect, so be sure to introduce yourself to each

patient as a "Nurse Anesthetist". Thanks also to Todd Leudke from Wayne who emailed me community recognition his group received as CRNAs, although I was unable to enter it in the national award, due to lack of other public relations efforts from the state as a whole. Congrats to Ben Huls of Kearney who pinched hit for our group during National Nurse Anesthesia Week. He was in an interview promoting CRNAs at his local TV station. (His interview can be seen on the iMovie too).

With that said and done, I hesitantly am stepping down from PR Chairperson. If I am elected as Sec/Treasurer, I believe that will hold enough for me to do. I do plan to continue to play a less active part on the PR Committee. That's right, we are forming a new Committee! Robin Alexander has expressed an interest in serving on the committee, but we will still need more volunteers. If you have any interest in public relations, please let me know before, or at, the meeting (Oct. 17-18). We have some new ideas and promotional products in the works, so NOW is the time to sign up.

That's all for now, remember to jot down any public relations you do in your community and better yet, snap some photos, and email it to me, or your new committee members (to be announced). See you in the BIG RED City!

Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

625 South 14th Street, Suite A
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Mark Your Calendar!

The Nebraska ANA 2009

Spring Business Meeting & Seminar

April 25-26, 2009

[Click here](#) for more information or go to www.jpge.com.

