

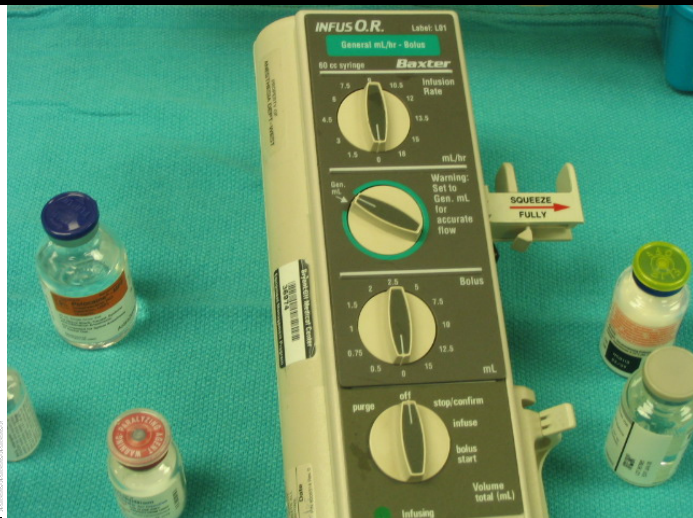
Off the Cuff



NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION
OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

Spring 2008

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Presidents Message Spring 2008
Larry Finley CRNA

Welcome to the Spring 2008 addition of Off The Cuff. I would like express my appreciation to Mr. Tim Glidden for serving NANA as past-president for the last two years. I would also like to express my gratitude to those that are serving on the board of directors with me. You can find a complete pictorial directory on www.neana.org

Last November I traveled to Colorado Springs for the Fall Assembly of States with Nancy Gondringer & Julie Vaughn. This program reiterated the importance of government relations & leadership development. I want to thank Bob Bush & Nancy Gondringer for updating the NANA legislative contact list. I would also like to thank those of you that have agreed to be key contacts for Nebraska senators.

The Health and Human Services Committee amended and advanced LB 48 to general file on Wednesday, March 19. LB 48 will allow nurse anesthetists to utilize fluoroscopy in performing procedures within their scope of practice in conjunction with a licensed medical radiographer. The bill as advanced will require CRNA's wishing to utilize fluoroscopy to complete radiation safety training requirements to be developed jointly between the Board of Advance Practice Registered Nursing and the Radiation Control section of the Division of Public Health. The requirements will be promulgated into regulation by the Division.

Last fall, the NANA-PAC campaign was a huge success. I appreciate your willingness to contribute. This "professional liability insurance" will help promote relationships with present and future legislative staff and maintain our current standard of practice as CRNA's in Nebraska. The plan is to have a NANA-PAC campaign once a year in September.

I hope to see many of you at the NANA spring meeting in Omaha at the Marriott Regency. The meeting will focus on regional anesthesia (specifically ultrasound and peripheral nerve blockade). Please refer to www.neana.org for meeting details. The board meeting is open to membership and will be on Friday, April 25, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.



AANA Region 4 Update
Gary D. Clark, EdD CRNA

These last several months have been quite busy. As always, I would like to thank all of you for your support and participation in your state organizations. Your state leaders and I meet during the Fall Assembly of States and had some very open and good discussions. Just to highlight some of those discussion included how the AANA can improve communication to states, expanding membership participation, developing an agenda for PAC, how to improve state educational meetings and student participation and understanding. Understanding the issues are important for every CRNA and the AANA would like to make sure that the dissemination of information to the states is both accurate and timely.

As a result, of some of these discussions, several of the States in Region IV are collaborating to schedule an AANA media training session with your state leaders. The media training sessions are an excellent way to learn good communication skills that can be employed anywhere, be it with membership, media, or classroom. Having been through the sessions I strongly feel that I have gained a lot of insight and they have been very helpful. I recommend that all State Boards and Committee Chairs take advantage of this wonderful experience.

Why media training? As CRNAs you are considered experts in your profession. When the movie 'Awake' was introduced several months ago, CRNAs across the nation were asked for an opinion. Legislators ask questions about nurse anesthesia when lobbying and during National Nurse Anesthetists Week. All of these experiences require you to be prepared to answer even the most difficult of questions, in a professional manner. CRNAs are asked questions frequently about their specialty of anesthesia. The AANA has produced an informational site for you on the AANA members section.

As many of you may know by now, there has been a major outbreak of hepatitis in Nevada resulting from syringe and needle reuse. The AANA clearly condemns the unsafe practice of reusing syringes, needles, and single dose vials as it violates the AANA Standards of Practice. The AANA, in fact, proposed that this practice needed to be further discussed by the AANA, CDC and other organizations in 2002 but received no response. Within the last several days the CDC has taken action to clearly identify needle and syringe reuse as an unsafe practice.

The AANA BOD has approved the activation of the Commission on Anesthesia Economics and Reimbursement. The purpose of the Commission is to look at all practice and reimbursement models and then make recommendations to the AANA regarding the best practices keeping in mind patient safety. The Commission has enlisted some of the most experienced and influential CRNAs and people having served in the Federal Government to assist in this project. Please visit the AANA website frequently to see the profiles of those on the Commission.

As you may have read by now, Louisiana District court ruled that pain management is strictly the practice of Medicine. The judge gave no rationale, analysis, or other explanations for her decision. The AANA strongly disagrees with the judgment and is assessing future strategies. It is important for CRNAs to remember that this judgment applies only to those CRNAs practicing in Louisiana and no other state.

Aetna Insurance Company has developed a new policy which denied routine payment for GI Endoscopy. AANA is of the belief that this policy puts patients at risk and should be withdrawn. AANA has responded to Aetna by noting that millions of patients benefit from early detection of cancer from endoscopic procedures annually. Denying anesthesia by a qualified provider for endoscopy would deter the early detection of colon cancer and put patients at risk if there is not a qualified anesthesia provider available.

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Recently, the Congress has reversed the proposed cuts and the Medicare agency has issued a correction of its published 2008 anesthesia conversion factor (CF), resulting in a nearly 10 percent boost for anesthesia payments in 2008 instead of nearly flat payments, following a request from AANA President Wanda Wilson, CRNA, PhD

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. **HR 1932** has been successful in generating a number of cosponsors thanks to states' grassroots efforts. Check to see if your Congressman has supported the legislation because any reduction in Medicare payments will discourage education and reduces the availability of anesthesia care.

Our membership grows significantly each year (26% in 2006-2007) and so do the issues surrounding our practice. As you can see, the AANA BOD has been very active in addressing these issues and putting into place solutions that will last into the future.

The Washington DC offices are now up and running preparing for the Spring Assembly. In view of the growing responsibilities of the Washington DC staff and lobbyists it was determined to move the offices to 25 Massachusetts Ave, NW. This new office space allows the AANA staff to have adequate working conditions and record keeping, small receptions for legislators and guests and provides adequate conditions for working with visiting guests. The location of the new office is near the Capital Building and in close proximity to Union Station. Please visit them when in Washington, DC

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<p style="text-align: center;">Public Relations Sara Theoharis, CRNA</p>
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This Spring on March 29-30, Larry Finley, Phil Powers, Julie Vaughan and I attended a Media Spokesperson Training Session offered by the AANA Communications Department. We learned how to speak to the media in any future event in an effort to get our point across while discussing anesthesia related topics. If anyone is interested please be aware the training is offered annually and open to NANA members.

Nurse Anesthesia Week was a success in the Tri-City area. Kudos to Ben Huls for taking part in a live interview on NTV. The Hastings Anesthesia group hosted "Anesthesia Jeopardy" at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital. We staged two games. The first involved employees outside of the surgery department. The second game included staff from surgical services. Contestants posed questions to acronym answers such as MH or RSI, or answers like "paralytic that facilitates emergent intubation." We also had games for kids, prizes and refreshments. Local TV and newspaper covered the event. The local radio station also ran an interview piece during our NNA Week. Hopefully some of you across the state heard our sponsorship on NPR that week as well. If anyone made an effort to celebrate NNA Week, big or small, please let me know. If every CRNA in the state told one person about what we do, that would be about 255 better informed people. Take care all and may your phone not ring in the middle of the night. See you in Omaha.
Sara Theoharis, CRNA,MNA

State Governmental Relations Committee
Bob Bush, CRNA

“The Long and Winding Road” is not only a song title but it describes the path of (LB48). The original text in January of 2007 read, “Revise statutes of Nebraska to exempt [CRNA’s] from certain radiation-use qualification and to repeal the original sections”, one sentence. Those of us who are old enough will think back and remember that in the 1970’s no one imagined CRNA’s would have a need to use fluoroscopy for selected pain management techniques. So when the Unicameral passed statute that specifically stated who could use fluoroscopy, CRNA’s were excluded. It makes no difference whether you agree with the notion that nurse anesthetists should be doing chronic pain management because in Nebraska CRNA’s can and do. For some techniques, fluoroscopy is a safe way to insure both needle and thus medication placement. The intent of LB48 is to repeal the prohibition and thus allow CRNA’s to use fluoroscopy.

Fast forward fourteen months, a public testimony in front of the Unicameral, a directed 407 review that produced three public hearings, an opinion by the Board of Health and a separate opinion by the Director of the Board of Health. Add to that the realities of only 210 legislative days in two sessions, water rights, capital punishment, concealed guns, the state fair grounds, the budget and something different comes out.

Currently LB 48 has been revised and attached to LB 928 which is a health clean-up bill. LB 48 now know as amendment 2405 and it reads as follows, “[CRNA’s are allowed] use of fluoroscopy in conjunction with a licensed medical radiographer in connection with the performance of authorize duties and functions upon (1) the successful completion of appropriate education and training as approved jointly by the department (Dept.of Health & Human Services) and the board (APRN) and (2) a determination regarding the scope and supervision of such consistent with subsection (3) of this section.” Sub section 3 goes on to state that medically delegated duties (in this case fluoroscopy) are then joint responsibility of the hospital governing board, medical staff and the CRNA. Or if in an office or clinic the joint responsibility is shared by “the duly licensed practioner and CRNA”.

This is an **assumption** at this time but when LB 928 with AM 2405 passes the three salient changes are: 1) CRNA’s can supervise x-ray tech’s, 2) there will be an education/training program developed and administered by the state (Dept. of Health and Human Services (?)), and 3) one’s local hospital and medical staff will credential CRNA’s that wish to use fluoroscopy. Again thinking positively we need to thank those who have worked so hard over the past fourteen months. To name just a few they are; Steve Wooden CRNA, Ron Jensen (our lobbyist), past NANA president Tim Glidden, current NANA president Larry Finley, and the many others who in the spirit of volunteerism took there own time to make this happen.

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PAC donations have had a tremendous impact by assisting 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 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.

Federal Governmental Relations Committee
Nancy Gondringer, CRNA

It is spring time in Nebraska and not only do my thoughts turn to warmer temperatures and spring flowers but also to the annual trip to Washington D.C. This trip is to lobby on the hill during the AANA Spring Assembly of States. The meeting this year will be held from April 12-16th and will be at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. We have several NANA members and students planning on attending.

We will be discussing several topics in detail with our elected representatives. Paramount will be Medicare reimbursement and educational funding for Nurse Anesthesia.

The trip will be filled with many lectures and time on the hill but we will also be treated by the Federal Political office in D.C. to a night at Mount Vernon. We will get to tour the President's mansion overlooking the scenic Potomac River followed by dinner at the historic Mount Vernon Inn.

Along with your NANA Board of Directors, I continue to monitor the national scene for future political representatives, especially for those that are up for election this fall. If you have special concerns or have relationships with the current or potential candidates please let me know, remember my email address is on the Ne-ANA.org webpage. This will help as we look to support candidates who are sympathetic toward nurse anesthesia issues. I know that several will be having fund raising activities and there are federal PAC monies available for candidates. So please let me know if you are aware of special activities.

If you are interested in attending in the upcoming years please let me know as it not only is a fun trip but a very educational meeting. I want to again say thank you to my Nebraska CRNAs for allowing me to be your Federal Political Director. It is not only an honor but an activity that gives me the opportunity to protect our practice rights as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.



The NANA Presidents Club
Current president Larry Finley, past presidents Phil Powers and Tim Glidden share a moment, Fall 2007

Holly Talkington, CRNA with NANA-Pac

This is a unique opportunity to purchase premium pharmaceutical grade products while contributing to the NANA-PAC fund

Arbonne International

Arbonne International is a health and wellness company offering Swiss formulated products that are pure, safe, and beneficial. We provide proprietary formulations using cutting edge science resulting in top of the line botanically based anti-aging skin care, nutritional supplements, weight loss support, aromatherapy and so much more. Thirty-five percent of all purchases will be donated to NANA-PAC. Enter to win one of several gift baskets with every \$50 purchase or \$100 donation to NANA-PAC.

35% of all purchases will be
become a NANA-Pac donation

nanaPAC

Contributors for 2007

-Governors Gold Club-

Jim Cuddeford	Julie Davis	Larry Finley	Tim Glidden
Connie Hill	Kevin Loeker	Tom McKenny	Phil Powers
Wendall Spencer			Steve Wooden

Kearney Anesthesia Associates

-Senators Silver Club-

Bob Bush	Amy Graham	Nancy Gondringer
Stan Hinzman	Matt Petta	Kathy Scheer

-Supervisors Bronze Club-

Annie Belatti	Susan Bruening	Lorraine Carter	Holly Chandler
Paulette Clark	Timothy Evans		Celeste Hinzman
Randall Hoepfner	Tracy Holsing		Wayne Johnson
Corey Kaven	Micheal Kirwan		Mike Lawler
Todd Luedeke	Bernie Manley		Paul Mayo
Charles Messbarger	Paula Norby		Shirley Ortman
Sharron Pecka	Christy Teetor		Karen White

The committee would also like to thank those who contributed but choose to remain anonymous

NANA Spring, 2008 State Meeting
April 25-27 at The Omaha Marriott
Program Description

This eighteen credit hour program offers a “Hands On Workshop demonstrating the applications of ultrasound guidance for regional block techniques. This approach is the future of regional anesthesia.

The didactic lectures will focus on Pharmacology, Anatomy, Techniques of Upper Extremities, Lower Extremity, Knee, Ankle, Spinal and Epidural Blocks.

The design of the program is such that ample time is provided for faculty and participant interaction”

Faculty includes:

Chris Brown, MS, CRNA
Charles Reese, PhD, CRNA
Loren Spitzer, MSNA, CRNA
Terry Wicks, MS, CRNA

Program Agenda

Friday, April 25, 2008

1400-1500	Registration
1500-1530	Principles of Ultrasonography
1530-1600	Applications of Ultrasound for Regional Blocks
1600-1730	“Hands-On” Upper Extremity Techniques
1730-1900	“Hands-On” Lower Extremity Techniques

Saturday Morning, April 26, 2008

0600-0700	Registration/Continental breakfast
0700-0800	Pharmacology of Local Anesthetics
0800-0900	Brachial Plexus Anesthesia Anatomy
0900-0930	Break
0930-1030	Upper Extremity Block Techniques
1030-1130	Q&A
1130-1300	<u>Lunch and NANA Members State Meeting</u>

Saturday Afternoon, April 25, 2008

1300-1400	Anatomy for Lumbar Plexus Blocks
1400-1500	Lower Extremity Regional Techniques
1500-1530	Break
1530-1630	Knee and Ankle Block Techniques
1630-1730	Ultrasound Guided Regional Techniques (Review)
1730-?	Q&A

Sunday, April 26, 2008

0700-0730	Continental Breakfast
0730-0830	Techniques of Spinal Anesthesia
0830-0930	Clinical Applications of Spinal Anesthesia
0930-0945	Break
0945-1045	Techniques of Epidural Analgesia
1045-1145	Clinical Applications Epidural Analgesia
1145	Discussion/Questions/Answers

This program is approved by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists for 18 CE Credits, Code #30371, Exp. Apr. 28, 2008.