

Off the Cuff

Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

NANA

WWW.NEANA.ORG

Fall 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
gasmeamy@yahoo.com

Robin Alexander, CRNA
rbenson22@yahoo.com

Matthew Oliver, CRNA
mattamyoliver@gmail.com

Student Representative
Tasha Hunke
thunke@hotmail.com

From the NANA President



Julie Vaughan,
CRNA

I hope you are enjoying what is left of summer; it always seems to go so fast. Ann Haasch and Phil Powers have been working very hard on our ballot; I hope everyone will vote, remember it is on-line now. Separate e-mails have been sent to you with instructions. We

are also hoping to have the candidate's position statements available on the website. You have approximately six weeks to vote, and you may vote for two OR three candidates. The new board will be introduced at the fall meeting in Grand Island. The fall meeting is in Grand Island October 23, a Saturday morning, at 1030; hope to see you all there. Ben Huls has been working very hard planning our state association meetings, and has some terrific ideas. There are association members that are looking at planning a fall education meeting again, I appreciate everyone's feedback. Please contact Ben Huls if you are interested in planning a fall education meeting. The spring meeting will be in Omaha, it will offer 20 continuing credit hours. The information for the spring meeting is available on our and IPGE's website. 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. 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 myself.

Several Nebraska CRNA's just returned from Seattle and the national meeting. Over 1000 CRNA's and SRNA's attended it. Several bylaw revisions were voted on this year, it was over a seven hour business meeting. The minutes are available on the website. Also available on aana.com are two articles published on quality and cost effectiveness. Very interesting articles, appearing in the May issue of Nursing Economics, and the August issue of U.S. Health Care Workforce. The AANA continues to monitor health care reform; any new information will be available on the website. Also at the national meeting, the new board of directors was installed. Phil Powers is to be commended for the excellent job he did as chair of the national Bylaws committee. The committee was extremely busy reviewing and updating the organizations bylaws this past year, a monumental task as the bylaws had not been thoroughly reviewed and updated for quite some time. At the meeting, the

NANA

Members

It's that time to vote!

Please review the candidates' bios by [clicking here](#). Vote Now.....the polls closes on Friday October 15 2010 at 9:00AM (CDT).

[Click here to vote!](#)

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

LIAISON

Julie Vaughan, CRNA
lakeland@huntel.net

FINANCE

Sara Theoharis, CRNA
stheoharis@charter.net

BY-LAWS

Amy Graham, CRNA
gasmearmy@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

AANA board of directors continually stressed transparency and accountability to the membership as being primary goals, and the new board reinforced this as well. Nancy Gondringer also had a busy year at the national level; at the meeting she relinquished the chairmanship of the AANA Foundation. She will however, remain involved with the Foundation this coming year. I hope you all continue to support the AANA Foundation, as they make research and education possible, which is the backbone of our profession. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in the past. Look for pictures from the national meeting in the picture gallery. You may view updates from the national meeting on the [AANA website](#).

At the national, state, 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 to keep abreast of current information regarding health care reform. The Medicare reimbursement issue continues to be addressed, the November cuts will hopefully be postponed as health care reform negotiations continue.

Anesthesia medication and inhalational agent shortages have been a problem nationwide. If you persist in having shortages I would encourage you to contact your pharmaceutical representative, as production has increased and the shortages are being addressed. I am sure many of you are questioned by your patients daily about the safety of the medications we use in anesthesia. Continue to give them reassurance, and the safest and best anesthetic 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 urge every CRNA around the state to continue with the very safest and best anesthesia practices, to protect yourselves and your patients.

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 the NANA.

Respectfully,
Julie Vaughan, CRNA
NANA President

Mark Your Calendar!

National Nurse Anesthetists Week

January 23-29, 2011

National Nurse Anesthetists Week is celebrated the last full week in January on an annual basis. 2011 will mark the 12th National Nurse Anesthetists Week, which began in 1999.

AANA Region IV Director

Dennis Bless, CRNA, MS



As I write this update, I am in Chicago to attend the Joint Committee Conference meeting of the AANA. This joint meeting of all AANA committees and the AANA Board of Directors sets the agenda for the year and focuses on addressing issues of importance to AANA members. This year President Santoro is bringing in Bernd Schmitt author of the “Big Think Strategy”. He will speak to the members

on “How to Leverage Bold Ideas and Leave Small Thinking Behind”. Also, the board and various committees will meet individually to prepare for the upcoming year’s activities.

Two new AANA staff positions have been budgeted for and will be filled this fall. They are the Deputy Executive Director and the State Association Relations Specialist.

The Deputy Executive Director will support the AANA by assisting the Executive Director in 1) attaining organizational goals and objectives that advance the profession of nurse anesthesia for the betterment of AANA members and the patients they serve, and 2) providing leadership, management, and vision to ensure that the proper policies and procedures are in place to promote the Association’s growth and secure its financial strength and operating efficiency.

The Deputy Executive Director will also support the AANA through his/her role in the Washington, D.C., office by 1) maintaining a structured yet creative work environment, 2) ensuring effective communication between the Washington and Park Ridge AANA offices, and 3) working with the Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs to develop political strategies and lobbying efforts that advance the interests of AANA members and the public at large with regard to anesthesia services, as well as to establish and maintain relationships with key Washington decision-makers.

The State Association Relations Specialist will provide consultation on association management and referral services to assist state associations in strengthening their organizational infrastructure. This individual will also help state associations identify and procure services necessary to more effectively achieve their mission, vision and goals. This person will also work with state association leaders

in developing strategies to assist associations in need of operational, management, financial or leadership assistance. The State Association Relations Specialist will report to Luis Rivera, Senior Director of Executive Affairs.

These two new positions will be vital in helping the states and the AANA meet the increasing workload as provisions of the Affordable Care Act are implemented.

This has been an exciting summer with the publishing of two major studies confirming the value and quality of CRNA services.

The first study, titled “Cost Effectiveness Analysis of Anesthesia Providers,” considered the different anesthesia delivery models in use in the United States today, including CRNAs acting solo, physician anesthesiologists acting solo, and various models in which a single anesthesiologist directs or supervises one to six CRNAs. The results show that CRNAs acting as the sole anesthesia provider cost 25 percent less than the second lowest cost model. On the other end of the cost scale, the model in which one anesthesiologist supervises one CRNA is the least cost efficient model. The study, conducted by Virginia-based “The Lewin Group”, was published in the May/June 2010 issue of the *Journal of Nursing Economics*.

The study’s authors also completed a thorough review of the literature that compares the quality of anesthesia service by provider type or delivery model. This review of published studies shows that there are no measurable differences in quality of care between CRNAs and anesthesiologists or by delivery model.

On Tuesday (August 3), the preeminent, peer-reviewed journal *Health Affairs* published the second study. It was conducted by RTI International and showed no differences in patient outcomes when anesthesia services are offered by CRNAs, physicians, or CRNAs supervised by physicians. The RTI findings demonstrate that the Medicare physician supervision rule for CRNAs is obsolete and unnecessary. The study compared patient outcomes in states where the supervision requirement is in place with patient outcomes in the 14 states that had opted out of the requirement between 2001 and 2005, and found that patient outcomes did not differ.

Now it’s CRNAs’ turn to help ensure policymakers have this critical information in hand. Find out how you can help by visiting the CRNAAction Center page (link below, AANA member login and password required). The CRNAAction Center provides copies of the Lewin Group and RTI studies,

Continued...

background materials related to both studies, a link to complete an online form to share your stories and those of your colleagues to help build and demonstrate support for modernizing Medicare anesthesia rules that impair patient access to care, and links to support the CRNA-PAC and AANA Foundation. Take a couple of minutes to take action and be a part of this exciting initiative of the nurse anesthesia profession!

Visit the [CRNAAction Center](#), (Requires AANA member login & password)

This year promises to be an exciting one and I am honored to represent the CRNAs of Region 4. Thank you for all of the support you have given me this past year and I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the year. Please feel free to contact me anytime at dbless@aanabod.com.

Upcoming NANA Meetings

Ben Huls, CRNA, MS
NANA President Elect

Just a quick reminder regarding upcoming meetings. There will be an open board meeting October 23 in Grand Island at the Holiday Inn Express at 10:00. The new board and officers will be presented at this board meeting. There will be no CEU's offered. Anyone interested in running for a board position is encouraged to attend. The meeting will also demonstrate the decision making process of the board and how it arrives at making crucial decisions affecting Nebraska CRNAs. All, of course, are welcome to attend.

Our spring meeting will again be conducted by IPGE on April 15-17, 2011 at the Omaha Marriott Hotel. The number of CEU's offered will again be between 18-20 credits. IPGE has some very nice topics and speakers planned for this meeting. Please feel free to email a board member with any topics that are of particular interest to you. IPGE would gladly consider entertaining any ideas you would have. We hope you have had a good summer and look forward to seeing you at the fall and/or the next spring meeting.

NANA Public Relations & Website

Robin Alexander & Melissa Tufford

Hello everyone, this is just a reminder to share anything noteworthy with the NANA Board so we can promote the wonderful accomplishments of CRNAs in our state. Email [Robin](#) about anything that needs to be added to the website.

Robin and I have been speaking with all of the nursing students that have clinical rotations at our hospital about anesthesia and about being a CRNA. We would like to thank Amy Graham as she recently spoke about Anesthesia at the State Meeting of Surgical Technologists.

Remember The Best Public Relations is to always introduce and identify yourself as a CRNA to patients so they KNOW who is providing their Excellent and Safe Care.

Save the Date!

78th Annual Meeting
August 6-10, 2011
Boston

About the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists is designed to update and expand the practitioner's knowledge in the medical, nursing, and sociopsychological sciences related to nurse anesthesia. This highlight of the year features cutting-edge speakers and events that are not duplicated elsewhere.

[Click Here](#) for more information.

Professional Practice Manual

Order a new copy of the [Professional Practice Manual](#) today! For your AANA Member and Associate Member benefit, [log in here](#).

As of 9/14/10 only 27
out of 327 members
have voted!

Don't forget to Vote!

[Click here to vote!](#)

