

President's Message

Michael Kinslow, CRNA, President



Around this time last year, a President's Message in the *Sentinel* (PSA Summer 2005 newsletter) offered some encouraging words to the PANA. Craig Muetterties, MD wrote about how he and Roger Litwiller, MD (ASA Past President) were invited to the PANA Hershey Spring Symposium and how well received they had been by our members, program committee, and board. Both gentlemen presented, and joined the PANA board for dinner on Sat. evening. In my mind, this was a momentous occasion. It began what could be the turning point in a previously non-productive relationship. We opened the door, invited them in, and they walked through.

Since then, so far this past year, our board has met with Joe Answine, MD (PSA Chair of Professional Relations Committee) at our 2006 Hershey meeting. Your board discussed topics of common interest which are patient care centered, and some topics that are not of common interest. In addition, the current PSA Pres. Robert Early, MD, joined us in a very important State Board of Nursing meeting to comment on Propofol and its usage by non-anesthesia trained nurses. We are grateful for his attendance, and appreciate his input as we strive for patient safety...together. We firmly believe that a regulation in Nursing which reflects our Joint Propofol Statement will go far to protect patients in the Commonwealth from receiving a general anesthetic in absence of an anesthesia provider.

I encourage you to look up the PSA (Summer 2005) *Sentinel* online and read the President's message. More and more, I am beginning to see the wisdom in the words by Muetterties where he says "any healthy relationship between our organizations will be focused on topics that are focused on patient care, and avoiding any issues that are political in nature." Can we learn from the past, or are we doomed to repeat mistakes from it? Even though we may be politically stalemated at times, can we continue to dialogue on all other issues? We must live in this question.

A great big thank you is in order to the PANA Practice Committee especially Joe D'Amico, CRNA who have all worked tirelessly on our behalf over the past few months to protect your practice and keep anesthesia safe and strong for the CRNA's of Pennsylvania. Another acknowledgment is in order for Steve Anderson, CRNA who is on the State Board of Nursing and has written the regulation to be submitted for the Propofol issue.

Since it is Memorial Day weekend that I write this, I feel it is appropriate to mention our military. While recently in Washington, D.C., at the AANA Midyear Assembly, I bought a book entitled Ruff's War. It was written by Commander Cheryl Ruff, CRNA, USN, and signed by her

as well. Although she was signing books at a table for many people who bought her book, I got mine from the bookstore table on the day after, so unfortunately I did not get to meet her. For over 25 years, CRNA Ruff has served her country as first a Navy Nurse, and then eventually as a CRNA. I thoroughly enjoyed reading her account of her service experience, and her participation in Iraq. At this time I would like to offer a salute to all of our military CRNA's who have served and are still serving our country and a special welcome home to Commander Ruff. Your book helped me to better appreciate the conditions which you had to endure for all of us. By the way, she is a native Pennsylvanian. Have a good summer.

Proposed Amendment to PANA By-Laws

Article V-Government Section 1, D (1) e.

D. Duties of Officers

(1) The President shall:

e. Approve bills before payment is made by the treasurer.

Article V-Government Section 1, D (5) e.

D. Duties of Officers

(5) The Treasurer shall:

a. Receive monies of this Association, pay bills, and disburse funds directed by the board. Provide that all checks, transfers and any transactions involving the investments of the Association, must be signed by the Treasurer and provide notification of such to the President.

Article V-Government Section 1, F

F. Indemnification of Officers

- (1) The Association will Indemnify and defend the directors, officers and trustees of the Association in connection with any claim or liability arising or resulting from action taken by any director, officer or trustee within the scope or course of his or her duties and responsibilities as a director, officer, or trustee of the Association.
- (2) Authorize the Filing of Articles of Incorporation to Incorporate the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists as Pennsylvania non-profit corporation and maintaining Section 501 (c) (6) tax-exempt status; and to amend the By-Laws to comply with the requirements for a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation.

The above proposed By-Laws can be discussed at our Annual meeting in Gettysburg, PA October 6-8, 2006. Please attend this meeting for any questions, discussion and voting on the amendments.



Legislator Spotlight Senator Robert D. Robbins



Senator Robert D. Robbins represents the residents of the 50th Senatorial District, which includes all of Crawford and Mercer Counties and portions of Butler and Lawrence Counties.

Senator Robbins was first elected to the Senate in 1990 and currently holds the Leadership position of Majority Caucus Secretary. He presently serves as Vice Chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee. He is a member of the Senate Committees on Banking & Insurance, Game & Fisheries, Local Government, and Rules & Executive Nominations. During his service in the Senate, he has chaired the Game & Fisheries, Local Government and Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committees.

Major legislative accomplishments include the creation of the Department of Community & Economic Development and the Center for Local Government Services, the National Guard Education Assistance Program and the Athletic Agent Registration Act. Prior to his election to the Pennsylvania Senate, he served in the House of Representatives from 1983-90.

The Senator graduated from Greenville High School in 1962 and the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1966. The Senator completed two tours of duty in Vietnam and received over a dozen medals for his service to his country including the Soldier's Medal for Heroism, the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Army Commendation Medals for Valor and the Combat Infantry Badge. He served as Company Commander with D Company, 501st Airborne Infantry Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

Senator Robbins is involved in many community and civic organizations including the Boy Scouts of America, Pennsylvania Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (Lt. Colonel), the Kennard Grange, NRA, Adelpic Lodge No. 424, F&AM, American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, Mercer County Vietnam Veterans Association, and La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux. Senator Robbins and his wife, Cindy, reside in Salem Township, Mercer County, Pennsylvania.

In Memorium

Bernardino Fattore
721 Parker Ln
Springfield, PA 19064-1304

Mark Your Calendars!

- Annual Meeting – August 5-9, 2006**
Cleveland Convention Center, Cleveland, OH
- Fall Symposium and business Meeting – October 6-8, 2006**
Gettysburg Hotel, Gettysburg, PA
- Fall Assembly of States – November 10-12, 2006**
Grand America Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Spring Symposium – April 13-15, 2007**
Hotel Hershey, Hershey, PA

For more information or to send registrations: PANA, 234 N. Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101- Voice (800) 495-PANA • Fax 717-909-9563

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Business Card	N/A	\$100	\$160
Classified Ads	\$7 per line		

For more information, contact PANA at the address below

Publishing Schedule and Deadlines

Tidings is published quarterly in the following months: January, April, July and October.

Deadlines for submission of articles or advertising is the first business day of the following months: December, March, June and September.

Chemical Dependency?

Need to talk to someone?

PANA Chemical Dependency Contact Person

Art Zwerling, CRNA, MS

Home: 215-635-0183

Work: 215-829-5691

Pager: 215-998-1241



TIDINGS

Is the official publication of the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists, 234 North 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. Telephone: 800-495-PANA; FAX: 717-909-9563;

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PANA Publications Julie Antidormi, CRNA

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CAPITOL INSIGHTS

Angie Mellott Armbrust, Winter Group

Session Update

Pennsylvania voters took to the polls in the May primary election with change in mind. In the end, this voter revolt led to the defeat of the two top Republicans in the Senate and a host of other incumbents in the House. The sixteen losses combined with thirty retirements will bring an unprecedented number of new faces to the legislature next year. Look for some dramatic changes in leadership, committee chairs and staff.

Legislation of Interest

HB 1066 and SB 452—our scope of practice bills currently remain in the House Professional Licensure Committee and the Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee. The Winter Group continues to advocate for movement on both of these bills. We would like to take a moment to express our thanks to the legislators who support scope of practice for CRNAs, including HB 1066 sponsor Representative Stephen Barrar, Representative Merle Phillips, and all of our other co-sponsors and supporters.

SB 235, sponsored by Senator Patricia Vance—PANA was attempting to amend this bill with our scope of practice language. As a result of discussions with Senator Vance, PANA has decided not to offer our amendment to this particular bill. We still encourage CRNAs to voice their support for SB 235, which amends the Professional Nursing Law, providing for continuing nursing education.

SB 1198, sponsored by Senator Patricia Vance—PANA will be introducing an amendment to this bill soon. SB 1198 amends the Insurance Payment to Registered Nurse Law, adding a definition of “registered nurse first assistant”; and further providing for coverage. Our amendment will attempt to create parity in insurance reimbursements made to CRNAs and anesthesiologists. Please watch the PANA website and the *Flash Emails* for updates on this issue.

Alliance Updates

The Alliance of Health Care Providers continues to meet regularly to discuss items impacting the health care provider community. The AHCP held an Information Day at the Capitol on June 6th.

THE ELECTIONS ARE COMING, the elections are coming...

The PANA board elections are coming, and as chair of the nominating committee, I am sending a friendly reminder to those eligible voting members to please send in your votes. Ballots for this year’s executive officers and trustees of districts I, II, III, and IV are on the way, if you have not already received them. Please take the time to review the prospective candidates and cast your vote. Every vote counts. Thank you in advance for your time and effort with this.

Sincerely,
Julie Antidormi CRNA MSN
Nominating Committee Chair

The Alliance of Advance Practice Nurses is continuing its work with Rosemarie Greco, Director of the Governor’s Office of Health Care Reform (OHCR). We expect to meet with the OHCR over the summer to discuss ways that the Alliance and the OHCR can work together.

State Board Updates

The Winter Group continues its monthly monitoring of The State Boards of Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, and Nursing. We attend these meetings monthly on PANA’s behalf and alert your Executive Board when an issue impacting PANA comes before any of these Boards.

The State Board of Nursing is still drafting language for a regulation dealing with conscious sedation. The Board will send draft regulation language to all interested parties once it has a draft in place. The PANA Board will make comments and suggestions to the draft language at that time.

Please Contact Your Legislator

As always, The Winter Group would like to encourage every CRNA in Pennsylvania to look up his or her Representative and Senator and to call, email, or make an appointment to see them. Legislators value input from their constituents. **Summer is the best possible time to see your legislator in his or her district office.** Because they are not in session in Harrisburg, legislators have more time to meet with constituents and will more likely be able to spend valuable time with you discussing your profession. We simply ask that you chat with your legislators about your profession, answer any questions that they might have about your work, and ask them to consider being a cosponsor to HB 1066 or SB 452. Talking points including information on both of these bills are available in the members section of the PANA website (www.pana.org).

Also, if you have not yet done so, please sign up for *Flash Emails* from the PANA Webmaster Michael Loomis (go to www.pana.org to sign up and make sure that PANA has your updated email address). *Flash Emails* are a valuable tool for the PANA to use to contact its membership when a vitally important issue arises.

GET ON BOARD those newly elected in Fall of 2006

Those elected to the PANA board this year are reminded that you will be **required** to attend the orientation seminar at the Fall symposium, October 6-8, 2005 in Gettysburg, PA. This mandatory seminar is designed to bring each member up to speed as to his or her duties and responsibilities as a board member. It is an informative seminar at which you will meet the following objectives:

- Know the board and its strategic plan
- Become familiar with the By-Laws
- Learn the functions of the 10 committees and how they follow the strategic plan
- Learn how to talk to legislators
- Understand the do’s and don’ts of email
- Know how to fill out an expense report

Julie Antidormi CRNA MSN
Nominating Committee Chair

STUDENT VOICE

By Bruce Kilpatrick, RN, BSN, PANA Student Representative

"Learning is not attained by chance. It must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence."

- Abigail Adams

The AANA Mid-Year Assembly....

This meeting is an opportunity for participants to develop competencies in dealing with federal legislative, regulatory issues, and obtain an in-depth knowledge base of the legislative process. It's also at this meeting that you are given the first opportunity to meet the candidates seeking the AANA Board of Directors office and hear firsthand their position statements in an open forum.

A special thanks to those that participated this year for all their hard work in educating our congressional lawmakers about issues pertinent to the future of our profession. We had an awesome turnout that consisted of various Program directors, SRNAs, and PANA board members. This worthwhile event helps keep our Association and profession strong and at the round table during decision making time.

Annual Meeting, Lots of learning opportunities just for you!!!

The Annual meeting, scheduled August 5-9, attracts Associate Members from around the country because of its educational opportunities, as well as its opportunities for networking. The highlights of this year features cutting-edge speakers and events that are not duplicated elsewhere. So come have a wonderful time and support our State Association.

Don't miss the opportunity to vote for next year's AANA Student Representative to the Education Committee at the SRNAs breakfast scheduled for 7:00 am, August 7th. Enjoy a breakfast sponsored by Baxter and hear SRNA candidates present their vision statements. Good luck to all the candidates pursuing student representation at the national level. Kelly Wiltse, CRNA is on hand to answer any

questions you might have about applying for the AANA Education Committee Student Representative position.

Also, the exciting Nurse Anesthetist College Bowl is where SRNAs challenge CRNAs in a Jeopardy style question and answer tournament using board type questions. It is a fun event with lots of camaraderie and at the same time testing your knowledge of anesthesia basics. So come out and support your fellow SRNAs and together lets defeat the CRNA challengers.

PANAs Fall Symposium.....

Mark your calendars to attend this year's Fall Symposium, October 6-8, 2006 located in Gettysburg, PA., hosted at the Gettysburg Hotel. Come out and meet newly elected PANA Board of Directors and Committee delegate members! Those financially savvy PANA members interested in perusing the 2007 budget, the treasurer will present the fiscal year financial report. The SRNA scholarship awards will be distributed at the financial meeting, congratulation to those individual winners!! I know you'll enjoy the outstanding speaker lineup, so don't miss out, register today!

SRNAs be on the look out!!!

The PANA Board of Directors has increased their budget to better correspond with their mission statement. A \$1,000 SRNA scholarship will be awarded in September to each Pennsylvania Nurse Anesthesia program. It is at your program director's discretion to award the scholarship to an individual SRNA they deem meriting.

Looking for future PANA Student Representative!!

Information and application about the PANA Student Representative position can be downloaded from www.PANA.org. Please feel free to email me with any questions, concerns or suggestions.



Hazel Currier, PA CRNA
103 Years Old!

Insurance Updates

News from Tricare

Be sure to visit the Health Net web site at www.healthnetfederalservices.com to view the latest Tricare provider news newsletters and bulletins. Find information about Tricare and learn about the changes to the program.

Effective June 17, 2005, all anesthesia services must be billed with one of the following modifiers to receive the appropriate payment rate. (The exception is CPT 01996.) Claims billed without the appropriate modifier will be denied.

AA - Anesthesia services performed personally by the anesthesiologist

AD - Medical supervision by a physician; more than 4 concurrent anesthesia procedures

QS - Monitored anesthesia care service

QZ CRNA service without medical direction by a physician

QK - Medical direction with 2, 3, or 4 concurrent anesthesia procedures involving qualified individuals.

QX - CRNA service with medical direction by a physician. involving qualified individuals

QX CRNA Service with medical direction by a physician.

QY - Medical direction of one certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) by anesthesiologist.

Celebrations



Pennsylvania Nurse Anesthetist Week '06



University of Pennsylvania Class of '07 Nurse Anesthetist Display



Meet Your Board

Hello. I am Mitchell Oblak, CRNA, MSN, and I am serving as one of your PANA trustees for 2005-2007. I am active on the Finance and Public Relations Committees. I am very proud to be a representative for the CRNAs of Pennsylvania!

My career started as a nursing student at the University of Pittsburgh. After graduation, I gained experience in the Liver Intensive Care Unit (where I met my wife) followed by the Cardio-Thoracic Intensive Care Unit. I was then a Flight Nurse for the STAT MedEvac helicopter system in Pittsburgh. The helicopter experience not only improved my clinical decision making skills, it also gave me the opportunity to work autonomously. It also allowed me to “see outside the box” by viewing care from various perspectives such as the ICUs, emergency departments and pre-hospital settings.

My wife Christie is also a CRNA. She began her anesthesia training prior to me. You would think that I would automatically follow her into anesthesia school, but I was not interested in going into a “boring” job inside the OR! My interest to become an anesthetist began after going to an AANA meeting with Christie. I made my decision to become an anesthetist the night of my wife’s graduation.

Bored with my career? Of course not! I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh’s Nurse Anesthesia Program in 2000. I have to thank John O’Donnell, the program director as well as the rest of the staff, didactic instructors and clinical instructors for a very rewarding experience.

I am a staff anesthetist at one of The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s hospitals. The UPMC Presbyterian Hospital is a Level 1 Trauma Center. There are 42 OR rooms with specialties including cardiothoracic, neuro and transplants. In addition, the anesthesia department also staffs the GI, electrophysiology, interventional radiology and bronchoscopy labs, litho and ECT suites. At UPMC Presby, I am a Clinical Instructor for Pitt’s anesthesia program, primarily specializing in Neuro-anesthesia. I also serve on the Quality Improvement Committee, the hospital’s Blood Safety Committee and the Peri-Operative Process Committee.

I have to echo the thoughts of many who served prior to me on the PANA board. It is indeed an eye opening experience to our profession. Additionally, *I now understand how important it is to have all of the CRNAs of Pennsylvania support the PANA to help further our profession.*

Mid-Year Assembly Washington, D.C.



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