

www.pana.org

From the Editor:

We, the staff and board members of the Tidings, hope you are pleased with our new look. The changes that will be instituted with this issue include the one time publishing of the new board and their contact address, in the January issue annually. There after the names and addresses will appear on the web site for your convince. Also note the changes in deadlines for articles to be published. In addition, with the new format we feel a table of contents is unnecessary, just feel free to browse!

Now that Tidings will be Quarterly, It will be often be a history, or report of the past quarter, and a reminder of up coming events and happenings in the next quarter. The most urgent and current information will be found on our web site, www.pana.org.

We hope to be expanding our web site with Who's Who amongst Pennsylvania CRNA's using pictures from State and District meetings, and reports on projects or interesting items from CRNA's in the state. We'll be looking for your help in this area with pictorial documentation you forward to us. Again we hope you enjoy our new format, and your comments are always welcome.

Lois Illar, CRNA, BSEd

A New Year Awaits

Mary Wojnakowski, CRNA
President
Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists



PANA Successfully Defeats HB 823!

Congratulations to every CRNA in Pennsylvania. On behalf of the PANA Board I would like to thank every CRNA who wrote a letter, e-mailed, or called their State Representative or Senator, as well as, everyone who graciously donated to the PANA-PAC. The response from the membership to the Boards call for help was overwhelming and demonstrated what 2300 CRNA's can accomplish. I would also like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to Mark Singel and Peg Moyer, PANA Lobbyists, for a job well done. Mark and Peg joined PANA this past September. For more information about HB 823 you can go to the PANA Member page of the PANA Web site.

PANA-PAC Fund-Drive Begins

The 2002-2003 PANA-PAC fund-raising season began in November. PANA has once again teamed with a telemarketing firm to aid in the rebuilding of the PANA-PAC. Last year was our first year trying this and although the learning curve was quite steep we were very successful. I believe most of the bugs have been worked out, so when you receive your PANA-PAC letter in the mail or a telemarketer calls you please be a generous as you are able. It was the PANA Members generosity last year that enabled PANA to mount a winning defense against HB 823 and bring home a victory for every Pennsylvania CRNA. If we are to successfully meet the many legislative challenges that our profession faces in the coming year, we must continue to build momentum and strength. Thank you in advance for your participation and support.

2002-2003 PANA Board Assumes Office

The 2002-2003 PANA Board assumed office on October 20, 2002 at the PANA Annual Meeting in Reading, PA. It is my pleasure to introduce you to the new Board; President-Elect Joan Cahill, Vice-President Elsie Murray, Secretary Thomas Kelly, Treasurer Elizabeth Abrams, Past President Susan Humes, and Trustees Susan Clark, Margetta Darbut, Lois Illar, Sorena Ostlund, Diana Davidson, Sheldon (Skip) Lamoreaux, Michael Stefonetti, and Ismay Wilson. Student Trustee is Gina Lederhilger from the Frank J. Tornetta School of Anesthesia at Montgomery Hospital. Christine Allen-Sanders continues to be our Federal Political Director and Wanda Wilson is the new AANA Region VI Director. I am also pleased to tell the Membership that PANA Lobbyist, Ted Mowatt, will also be serving as PANA Managing Director. Congratulations to everyone! I look forward to a busy and productive year. Contact information for PANA Board members can be found at the PANA Web site.

National Nurse Anesthetist Week

This year National Nurse Anesthetist Week is scheduled for January 19-25, 2003. Last January's celebration was a great success in Pennsylvania, with additional planning this year, Nurse Anesthetist Week 2003 should be even more successful. Many hospitals across the State are planning a wide range of activities to celebrate the week. If you have not already requested a promotional kit you can do so by contacting the AANA Bookstore at (847) 692-7050. If your hospital or facility does plan an event please submit a brief report to the PANA office along with any pictures you may have taken for possible publication on the PANA Web site and in future *Tidings*.



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Full Page	\$375	\$335	\$260
Half Page	\$255	\$225	\$210
Quarter Page	\$135	\$120	\$110
Business Card	N/A	\$35	\$25

Classified Ads \$5 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, 908 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102. Telephone: 800-495-PANA; FAX: 717-236-2046; e-mail: info@pana.org; World Wide Web: www.pana.org.

PANA Publications Chair: Lois Illar, CRNA, BSEd

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FROM THE CAPITOL

TED MOWATT, CAE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONSULTANT

HB 823 Dies, Dental Protection Legislation Becomes Law

Session Ends Without a Vote on HB 823!

Despite desperate attempts by the PSA to revive HB 823, the Senate chose not to consider this unnecessary quest for control of anesthesia by physicians. Senators were deluged with letters, e-mails and phone calls from irate CRNAs from across the state in opposition to the bill. And it worked! HB 823 died in the Senate Appropriations Committee as the session ran out before the Committee could vote on it. Congratulations and thanks to all who contacted their Senators over the past two months. Of course, we fully expect another attack in the new session, which begins January 7, 2003. We will have to wait and see what form the new assault will take, but rest assured we are prepared. HB 823 energized our association, and we are ready to take on all comers. Our legislative agenda is being prepared by the Government Relations Committee and the Board, and will take shape as the session progresses. You will be notified when we need to you stand up again.

Blaum legislation protecting dental patients becomes law

Rep. Kevin Blaum's bill to provide additional protections to dental patients, especially children, has become law. Blaum, D-Wilkes-Barre, said "...children and other dental patients not only will be protected by the regulation of anesthesia use in dental procedures, they and their families will be asked for written consent," he continued "Informed written consent will guarantee patients and families are fully aware of the risks and alternatives of general anesthesia in a dentist's office."

Under the law:

Dentists must obtain the signed, written consent for the procedure that details the risks and alternative treatments. Dentists administering anesthesia must perform a physical evaluation, take a medical history of the patient before the procedure is done and keep a record of the results and what procedures were used. Permit-holder dentists who travel to other offices to administer anesthesia must ensure the office has the proper equipment and staff trained to handle anesthesia-related emergencies. Office staff who assist in administering anesthesia would be required to be certified in CPR. Dentists who are not permit holders, but allow anesthesia use in their offices, must complete five hours of anesthesia-related continuing education. Dentists must undergo clinical evaluations and office inspections in order to obtain or renew their permits. Existing permit holders must do so by April 1, 2005, while new applicants must do so beginning April 1, 2005. Permit holders must undergo evaluations and inspections at least once every six years. Equipment used for administering nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia would have to be certified at least once every six years. Permit holders, beginning April 1, 2005, must complete 15 hours of approved continuing education relevant to the anesthesia for which their permit is applicable. The law is Act 135 of 2002.

Legislative Activity

HB 2084 RE: Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program (by Rep. Tom Michlovic)

Amends the Military Affairs Code. Provides for the establishment of a nursing loan forgiveness program for person employed in the nursing profession at veterans' homes and veterans' centers operated by the **Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.**

Passed House, 11/18/2002 (196-0).

Referred to Senate Education Committee, 11/27/2002. Died.

SB 1208 RE: CRNP Licensure (by Sen. Jane Earll et al)

Amends the Professional Nursing Law. Further defines the practice of professional nursing, and provides for the duties of the State Board of Nursing. Repeals provisions in Professional Nursing Law regarding joint promulgation with the Medical Board of regulations of Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners.

Passed Senate, 10/8/2002.

Passed House, amended, 11/26/2002

Senate concurred in House amendments, 11/27/2002

Signed by Gov. Schweiker, 12/9/2002. Act 206 of 2002

Session ended officially on November 30

Copies of bills described above can be obtained through the PANA office, or online at: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/billroom.htm>

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STUDENT VOICE

Greetings!

Gina Lederhilger, SRNA

Frank J. Tornetta School of Anesthesia at Montgomery Hospital

Hello fellow students and PANA members. My name is Gina Lederhilger and I am the student trustee elected for the year 2002- 2003. I am a senior student at the Frank J. Tornetta School of Anesthesia at Montgomery Hospital located in Norristown. I received my RN from Felician College in New Jersey and my BSN from Dominican College in New York. I have worked primarily for the past six years in ICU and PACU.

I am happy to say that as September marked the start of my senior year I was elected to the student trustee position for PANA. I have been made very aware in a short period of time all the issues that plague our profession. My goal is to have the students become more aware of these issues and become more involved in PANA so that we may continue to

protect the future of our practice. It is very important that we realize even though we are students, we are still Registered Nurses in this state and need to get involved.

I have contacted all the Pennsylvania nurse anesthesia schools so that I can personally keep the students more aware of PANA events and opportunities such as the scholarships that PANA awards each year.

I look forward to meeting everyone at the spring conference in Hershey, PA in April and at other various events throughout the year. Feel free to email me anytime at GLederhilger@aol.com and information is always available at www.pana.org

PANA Scholarships Help SRNAs

Joan Martin, SRNA

This year, PANA awarded five \$1000 scholarships to nurse anesthesia students across the state. I was lucky enough to be one of last year's recipients of this scholarship. As my time in anesthesia school progressed, as I'm sure all of you experience, so did my financial worries. This scholarship money could not have come at a better time. Raising a family with loss of a significant income is virtually impossible to plan for, even for the most organized person. This scholarship not only allowed me to finance part of my anesthesia education, but also allowed me to provide some basic needs for my family. I encourage all nurse

anesthesia students to apply for this scholarship. Applications will be accepted in late spring of 2003.

Check the PANA web site, www.pana.org beginning in mid January for downloadable scholarship application packages. Information will also be sent to all program directors as well.

The PANA board looks forward to receiving your applications.

**2003 PANA
SCHOLARSHIP AND
AWARD FORMS WILL BE
DISTRIBUTED ON THE
PANA WEB SITE
START CHECKING
WWW.PANA.ORG
IN MID JANUARY**

ATTENTION ST. FRANCIS ALUMNI 1942-2002

St. Francis Medical Center was sold in October 2002 and will be the new site of Children's Hospital.

The anesthesia school closed, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, Nurse Anesthesia Program generously offered to store the transcripts. They will reply to transcript requests and verify graduation for the purpose of credentialing. All graduates are listed in a data base and can be identified by name or Social Security number. Please use your graduation name. The address is:

The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
Nurse Anesthesia Program
3500 Victoria St.
336 Victoria Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15261-0001
412-624-4860

There is no charge for this service.

Verification of graduation can also be requested from:
COA/AANA
222 So. Prospect Ave
Park Ridge, IL 60068-4010
847-692-7050

Practice Committee News

Susan Humes, CRNA

The practice committee for 2002 – 2003 held their first meeting on November 7, 2002. The committee members are Sue Humes, chair, Fred Ackler and Joe D'Amico. The PANA guideline book was reviewed for accuracy. The committee discussed and developed the following goals for this year:

1. Develop a program for CRNAs on the valuation of anesthesia services. Plans are to develop a brochure and present a workshop for interested CRNAs to be presented at the PANA spring meeting. This will also be marketed to student nurse anesthetists because we feel it is very important for them to be aware of this aspect of their practice.
2. Plan to have the AANA office based standards adopted by a Pennsylvania regulatory board.
3. Continue to monitor practice issues affecting CRNAs in PA.

Issues surrounding worker's compensation reimbursement and medical assistance reimbursement are also being addressed. Please feel free to contact a member of the committee with any practice concerns. We will do our best to assist you.

PANA Bylaw Revision In Place

As reported in an earlier issue of *Tidings*, a bylaw change effecting the frequency with which this publication is produced was proposed for approval at the annual meeting this past October. As those who attended will remember, the revision did pass and was accepted. Following is the text of the bylaws as they appeared before the revision and as they now appear after the revision.

ARTICLE IX – OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

SECTION 2. Date of Issue

(Before Revision)

The Pennsylvania Tidings shall be issued at least six (6) times a year.

(After Revision)

The Pennsylvania Tidings shall be issued at least four (4) times a year.

Get Involved!

Message from the President-Elect

Joan Joyce Cahill, CRNA, MS

The recently done eloquent PAC Letter from our President Mary Wojnakowski sums up the activity this organization's officers have been working on. To repeat it would be boring and repetitious.

I do applaud the membership for voting on the Bylaw change to reduce the number of *Tidings* to Four. This frees up funds for the bigger fish and allows us to spend money on alerts as needed. The cost of mailing and paper continues to rise and if PANA sends too much, it ends up in the same file as in my house that is in the garage and never hits the inner house.

Along these lines then is the long-term viability of PANA. Nominations for this year will be for President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer and Trustees from Districts 5,6,7. You will receive additional information from Skip Lamoreaux concerning nominations in your district. People who see Skip need to personally thank him for stepping up to the plate when others who initially agreed to serve backed down.

Your right to practice would have long been yanked out from under you without the commitment and vigilance of volunteers. All of the recent literature suggests the younger age group possess "different priorities" having not had to work as hard as their predecessors to keep their profession. Well, let's put a different spin on that and ask yourself what you would do if you could not practice nurse anesthesia the way you were accustomed to? Also ask yourself if most understand how close we were with HB 823 and it's long term ramifications?

I fail to understand why some people relegate the status of their professional obligations to the same status as doing taxes. Really, is it that painful to participate?

OK, so now I'm just killing trees because if you read this you already are one of those who care. Maybe if all of us nudge all those who can't seem to find the forest a little harder, we can make a united effort to accomplish more.

One of my favorite colleagues tells me "you can't change behavior of others, you can only change how you feel about it." I frankly find that hard to accept; if I loose hope that we will get people energized to serve, you'll see me at the next career change seminar.

Oh, by the way, I'll be teaching it, do you know what you'll do?

**PANA Board Nominations/Willingness to Serve Forms for
2003-2004 President-Elect,
2003-2004 Vice-President,
2003-2004 Treasurer and
2003-2005 District 5,6,7 Trustees
will be distributed on the PANA web site.
Check out www.pana.org beginning in mid January.**



Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions Nurse Anesthesia Program (formerly MCP Hahnemann University) located in Philadelphia, PA is accepting applications for a fulltime CRNA university faculty position. Minimum qualifications include a MSN, documented evidence of clinical competence and eligibility for licensure in the state of PA. Previous teaching experience in a nurse anesthesia program is desirable. Major responsibilities assigned to this faculty position include significant classroom teaching and overseeing several of the program's off-campus clinical sites. The University offers a competitive salary scale and an attractive benefit package. Applicants should send a resume to Michael J. Booth, CRNA, MA, MSN at Drexel University Nurse Anesthesia Program, 245 N. 15th Street, MS 501, Bellet Building, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1192

Philadelphia, PA is accepting applications for a fulltime CRNA university faculty position. Minimum qualifications include a MSN, documented evidence of clinical competence and eligibility for licensure in the state of PA. Previous teaching experience in a nurse anesthesia program is desirable. Major responsibilities assigned to this faculty position include significant classroom teaching and overseeing several of the program's off-campus clinical sites. The University offers a competitive salary scale and an attractive benefit package. Applicants should send a resume to Michael J. Booth, CRNA, MA, MSN at Drexel University Nurse Anesthesia Program, 245 N. 15th Street, MS 501, Bellet Building, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1192

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