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## President's Message

Michael Stefonetti, CRNA, President

### "EYE ON THE FUTURE"

I want to thank members of this great association for the opportunity to lead CRNAs through the next year. I anticipate this year to be very busy with challenges concerning "Conscious Sedation" and propofol use by non-anesthesia personnel and resolutions from the AMA/ASA focused on defeating 'Scope of Practice' legislation throughout the nation and restricting non-physician practice.

The PANA Fall Meeting was held in historic Gettysburg. The 2006-2007 PANA Board of Directors were seated. Allow me to introduce them: President Elect Art Zwerling, Vice-President Joe D'Amico, Treasurer Margie Darbut, Secretary Fred Ackler, Trustees Bettina Dixon, Bianca McNulty, Jim Woomer, Mitch Oblak, Guy Hornig, Jay Thomas, Diana Davidson and Kelly Wiltse. The Student Representative is Maria Thomas, a student from the University of Scranton/Wyoming Valley Healthcare System program. Christine Allen-Sanders is our Federal Political Director. Skip Lamoreaux is the PAC-Chair and Mike Loomis is the association webmaster.

The November election changed the landscape in Harrisburg. The Winter Group, the PANA lobbyist, will reinforce allegiances with our friends and warmly greet the newest members of the state legislature. The 'Scope of Practice' will be one of the hot topics of the upcoming year. Changes in committee makeup and leadership should create a fresh approach to introduce this legislation. The PANA is still awaiting the release of the Board of Nursing proposed regulation on 'Conscious Sedation' and the administration of propofol by non-anesthesia providers. We have presented comments before the BON *stressing* patient safety and the importance of having those trained in the administration of general anesthesia administering these drugs. Steve Anderson, CRNA, Chairman of the BON, continues to emphasize this point to the board. When the regulation is released there will be a period of public comment and the PANA will present written and oral statements.

As the New Year approaches we are met with challenges to our practice by resolutions from the American Medical Association and supported by the ASA. Resolution



902 and 904 are geared to restricting practice of non-physicians. They are asserting that the practice of Nurse Anesthesia and other Advanced Practice Nursing specialties are in some part the practice of medicine and therefore should only be performed or directed by a licensed physician. The goal of

the resolutions is to create or stop regulation or legislation that would create a 'Scope of Practice' statute. Once a 'Scope of Practice' law is in place, control or restructuring practice becomes difficult, but not impossible. The AANA has been very clear these resolutions are not appropriate or necessary and therefore should be retracted. To date no response to the letters from Terry Wicks, President, AANA has been forwarded to the state associations.

The AANA Fall Assembly was held in Salt Lake City, Utah in November. I attended with Kelly Wiltse, Trustee; Maria Thomas, Student Representative; Elsie Murray, Past President and Darlene Homa. Emphasis was Leadership and GRC initiatives for the upcoming year. Our vigilance to protect our practice on a national and state level needs to go into high gear. Our established practice of safety and excellence of care to our patients must continue to be communicated to our legislators. Your board of directors will continue to fight to maintain our proven, safe practice of Nurse Anesthesia. As the healthcare paradigm changes, the PANA will continue to meet the challenges. When called for, it will be incumbent to every CRNA in Pennsylvania to contact their legislators to protect our practice. We control our destiny.

The PANA Lobby Day will be held in January. Watch the web site for the date! Don't miss this opportunity to meet your legislator. CRNA Week will be the week of January 21, 2007. Nurse Anesthesia informational material is available from the AANA.

I look forward to working for the CRNAs of Pennsylvania over the next year. Together we can create a great future.

Michael Stefonetti, CRNA  
President PANA

## Legislator Spotlight

### Senator Joseph B. Scarnati



The newly elected Pennsylvania Senate President Pro Tempore is Senator Joseph B. Scarnati. The Pennsylvania Constitution provides for the President Pro Tempore to perform the duties of the President of the Senate (Lieutenant Governor) in case of the President's absence or disability. In addition, he appoints the chairmen, vice chairmen, and members of the committees, both standing and special.

State Senator Joseph B. Scarnati is a native of Brockway in Jefferson County. A Graduate of Penn State University at DuBois, the Senator was a third-generation business owner in the Brockway area and

carried on the long family tradition of working to better his community through involvement and civic leadership.

In 1986, at the age of 24, Joe began his career in public service with his election to the Brockway Borough Council. Since being elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 2000, Joe has used his background in economic development and local government to ensure that we have a better quality of life in our rural area.

Joe is continuing to work to reduce property taxes for working families and senior citizens across the Commonwealth. Property tax reform has been a major issue that has been put aside for nearly thirty years, and Joe is pushing to see it finally gets the consideration it deserves.

In addition, Joe is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee where he has, and will continue to have, greater involvement in working with budgets that hold government accountable for its spending.

For two years Joe served as Chairman of the Labor and Industry Committee, where he worked daily to balance the needs of businesses with the desires of employees. In the little time he had spent as Chairman of this highly respected committee, Joe played a more active role in many legislative initiatives that have only acted to benefit all citizens, in all regions of his district. Most recently, Joe had legislation signed into law to amend the Uniform Construction Code to ease the burden of this onerous regulation on the homeowners of Pennsylvania. In addition, Joe was able to gather the support of the General Assembly to make sure there are necessary job training funds for rural areas of the Commonwealth.

Last February, Joe changed positions as he was appointed Chairman of the Senate Majority Policy Committee. This working group provides a forum within the Senate Republican Caucus to develop legislative priorities and agendas, while exploring new ideas for governmental action. Joe is working closely with Caucus members to learn the issues affecting constituents of each member's respective districts. In his new role as Chairman, he hopes to conduct hearings and meetings throughout the Commonwealth on these concerns.

Proudly, Joe has also taken on many other important issues. He continues to work towards reducing the job-crushing taxes, which he believes hinders economic growth. He is also working towards loosening the regulations that have been heavily restraining resource caretakers for many years. Furthermore, Joe is striving to ensure that educational professionals across the state have the proper resources they need to give Pennsylvania's children the education they deserve.

In his spare time, Joe enjoys spending time with his three children Lisa, Kelly, and Michael. Joe and his family are members of St. Tobias Church in Brockway.

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With a circulation of over 2,500, advertising in *Tidings* is your best way of reaching nurse anesthetists, associate student anesthetists, health committees and health care organizations.

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## 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.

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## TIDINGS

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e-mail: [info@pana.org](mailto:info@pana.org); World Wide Web: [www.pana.org](http://www.pana.org).

PANA Publications Jim Woomer, CRNA

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# CAPITOL INSIGHTS

## Angie Mellott Armbrust, Winter Group

### Session Update

The legislature returned to session after the November 2006 election for only a few short days. In that time, the House and Senate addressed many issues, including: identity theft, amending the underground utility law, amendments to the PA Construction Code, Social Security privacy, and passing legislation affecting corrections officers. In addition, the House and Senate passed language adding more capital projects to the state budget. It seemed most legislators, lobbyists and staffs were happy to be ending one of the most unusual sessions ever. In a two year cycle that saw the ill-timed pay raise debacle cost many incumbents their jobs and resulted in control of the House being decided by one vote, most legislators were pleased to be able to head home to their districts and reconnect with local constituents. The next session, which begins in January, promises many new faces (over 50 new legislators) and new leaders.

In one of the most unusual twists of this election cycle, the contest for control of the House of Representatives ended in a dead even tie – 101 Republicans to 101 Democrats. The issue was resolved only when absentee ballots were finally counted and challenges to other ballots were put to rest leaving the Democrat in a Chester County House district with a 23 vote victory. This shifted the balance of power in the House to Democrat control – 102-101.

With one chamber controlled by his own party, the Governor now has additional leverage to carry out his budget priorities and agenda. Still, he faces an entrenched Republican majority (29-21) in the Senate that will have to be reckoned with.

The newly appointed leaders of the Senate are: President Pro Tempore – Senator Joseph Scarnati (Jefferson), Majority Leader – Senator Dominic Pileggi (Delaware), Majority Whip – Senator Jane Orié (Allegheny), Majority Caucus Secretary – Senator Robert Robbins (Mercer), Majority Caucus Chairman – Senator Michael Waugh (York), Majority Appropriations Chair – Senator Gibson Armstrong (Lancaster).

Committee chairs and members will be appointed once the new session begins in January. The Winter Group will focus in on the key committees that deal with health care and professional licensure issues to ensure that the leaders and members of these committees are aware of the issues that CRNAs in Pennsylvania face.

As a reminder, each session runs for two years. We just ended the 2005-06 session. All bills that did not pass in both chambers and get signed by the Governor are dead and must be reintroduced in this session, which begins in January 2007 and runs through November 2008.

### Legislation of Interest

**HB 1066 and SB 452**—our scope of practice bills did not make it out of the House Professional Licensure Committee and the Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee in the 2005-06 session. The Winter Group will work with the PANA Board to determine the best plan of action for these items in the new session.

**HB 2883**, sponsored by Representative Merle Phillips—would have amended the Insurance Payment to Registered Nurse Law, further providing for coverage. This bill attempted to create parity in insurance reimbursements made to CRNAs and anesthesiologists. The Winter Group backed away from this topic at the request of the PANA Board at the end of the 2005-06 session.

**Senate Resolution 378**, sponsored by Senator Mary Jo White and **House Resolution 905**, sponsored by Representative Merle Phillips—resolutions designating the week of January 21 through 27, 2007, as “Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists Week” in PA.. The Winter Group also obtained a **Governor’s Proclama-**

**tion** claiming January 21-27 as CRNA Week in Pennsylvania. This coincides with the National Nurse Anesthetists Week.

### 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 is planning a public comment session to allow stakeholders in the conscious sedation discussion to publicly state their views. The PANA Board will participate in this event and as soon as the State Board of Nursing publishes a draft of its proposed regulation the PANA Board will make comments and suggestions to the draft language at that time.

### Medical Assistance Reimbursement for CRNAs

The Winter Group and the PANA Practice Committee continue their discussions with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare on the issue of Medical Assistance reimbursement for CRNAs in Pennsylvania. This complex discussion has been ongoing for the past couple of years, but all parties involved remain committed to seeing a change in policy. We will continue to keep you posted on any new developments on this issue.

### PANA Lobby Day

The date for the 2007 PANA Lobby Day has not yet been set. It will most likely occur in mid-spring. Please be sure to watch the PANA website and the *Flash* emails for further information!

### Please Contact Your Legislator

This is a very important time to contact your legislator! With so many new faces coming to Harrisburg in January, it’s very important for a CRNA in each and every district to call, make an appointment with your legislator, and discuss your profession face to face with your Representative and Senator. Legislators value input from their constituents. 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 supporting any legislation that PANA may introduce in the new session. The newly elected legislators, especially, will be looking to their constituents to see what issues are important in their districts. Now is the perfect time to meet with your legislator and establish a cordial relationship at the beginning of what promises to be a very busy session.

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](http://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.

CRNA wanted , part time at Ambulatory Surgery Center in Cranberry Township. Superior working environment. Please call @ 724-772-1766 and ask for Mary Beth or Linda.

# STUDENT VOICE


Maria D. Thomas, RN, BA, BSN, PANA Student Representative

By Bruce Kilpatrick, RN, BSN, PANA Student Representative



Fellow student registered nurse anesthetists, take pride in yourselves for the commitment, dedication and effort you are putting forth towards your education in the pursuit of becoming a certified registered nurse anesthetist. The profession you have chosen to pursue has consistently proven to administer safe, high-quality anesthesia care. It has been noted that CRNAs have a long and proud history of meeting the challenges of a changing health care delivery system. It seems that the common theme overall is pride; pride in ourselves and of our chosen profession.

PANA takes pride in recognizing the talents of our SRNAs, didactic and clinical instructors, as well as CRNA clinicians. The PANA Fall Symposium, held October 6-8 in Gettysburg, PA, provided the format to recognize the following people: **Outstanding Student of the Year:** Carrie Kaylos SRNA, BSN; **Didactic Instructor of the Year:** Bette Wildgust CRNA, MSN and Joseph Goode Jr. CRNA, MSN; **Clinical Instructor of the Year:** Rebecca Stoudt CRNA, MSN; **CRNA Clinician of the Year:** Mary Lou Taylor CRNA, BSN.

PANA welcomes and encourages all SRNAs to get involved. How could we do this? It's as easy as going to your Internet browser and typing in, [www.pana.org](http://www.pana.org). The PANA website is full of interesting information. You'll find links to things like: calendar of events, online resources, peer assistance, PANA publications, Officers/Committees, as well as a government affairs link. There is also a link for PANA Members, which allows for SRNA access, which houses some very important information. If you need help accessing the Member's page, please contact PANA via email at: [info@pana.org](mailto:info@pana.org). As SRNAs, we are encouraged to learn and understand more about legislative issues that impact our practice. PANA has made it easy for us to learn about these issues along with easy access to write to our legislators regarding key issues. Within the PANA Members link, take the time to look for this symbol:  Contact My Legislator. This is the PANA Legislative Contact page that allows us to send an email message to our respective legislators.

PANA will be announcing the upcoming Lobby Day in Harrisburg, PA. Lobby Day is a unique opportunity for CRNAs and SRNAs to meet with respective legislators to discuss key legislative issues impacting our profession. PANA states that this is

perhaps the most important PANA Government Affairs Event of the year. Discuss the opportunity of attending this key function with your Program Director. It's a great way for SRNAs to unite for an ever-important cause. Wouldn't it be incredible for many SRNAs to participate in Lobby Day to show our support of PANA and CRNAs?

Did you know that there are approximately 36,000 CRNAs in the United States? Be sure to recognize and thank those CRNAs that you have the privilege of being exposed to during **National Nurse Anesthetists Week, January 21 - 27, 2007**.

PANA will also be hosting its Spring Symposium 2007: April 13-15, 2007: Hotel Hershey, Hershey, PA. Mark your calendars and plan on attending this event if you can. It's a great educational and networking opportunity for SRNAs. Information regarding this event is also posted on the PANA website. I hope to see you there!

I would like to recognize our outgoing PANA Student Representative, Bruce Kilpatrick, for all the positive contributions he made throughout the year in his role. Best wishes for success to Bruce as he exits the role of being a SRNA to becoming a CRNA!

Congratulations to our newly elected PANA President, Michael Stefanetti. Michael is a strong and talented leader who is sure to continue to lead us in the right direction. Thank you to our outgoing PANA President, Michael Kinslow. Michael persevered with some key issues throughout this past year that continued to move PANA and the CRNA profession forward.

It is a privilege and an honor to serve my fellow SRNAs through the role of the PANA 2007 Student Representative. I am proud to be able to represent you in this capacity and to represent PANA. Please feel free to contact me via email at [mdtsrna@aim.com](mailto:mdtsrna@aim.com) with any questions, thoughts or suggestions.

Best Wishes!

## A PITTSBURGH TRADITION!!!

Mark your calendars for the 33rd Annual Pittsburgh Symposium for Nurse Anesthetists, to be held on Saturday, February 17, 2007. The Symposium will be held at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As in the past, this all-day seminar will be approved by the AANA with an expected 10-11 CE credits.

The registration form will be available on-line at [www.pana.org](http://www.pana.org) in January, 2007. For more information, contact Mary Jo Lynch at 412-641-4228 or [mlynch@magee.edu](mailto:mlynch@magee.edu).

## Mark Your Calendars!

Spring Symposium – April 13-15, 2007  
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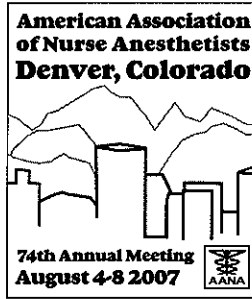
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# PLAN TO ATTEND THE 2007 AANA ANNUAL MEETING

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# Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws of the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists

## Current Bylaw

### Article V - GOVERNMENT

#### SECTION I. OFFICERS

##### B. Terms of Office

- (5) The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be announced in alternating years at the annual meeting for a term of two (2) years and shall be eligible for re-election, but shall not serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

## Proposed Bylaw

### ARTICLE V - GOVERNMENT

#### SECTION I. OFFICERS

##### B. Terms of Office

- (5) The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be announced in alternating years at the annual meeting for a term of two (2) years and shall be eligible for re-election.



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