

WWW.PANA.ORG

Dear Colleagues, By Kelly Wiltse, CRNA, President, PANA

It is my great honor and privilege to serve as President for the members of the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists in the upcoming year. For those of you I have not yet had the opportunity to get to know, I will share a little of my background and how I came to serve the PANA. My educational background includes a BSN from the University of Pennsylvania, a MSN with a focus in nurse anesthesia from the University of Pittsburgh, and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. I am currently an Assistant Professor of Nurse Anesthesia at the University of Pennsylvania, and divide my time between clinical practice, research and education. I first became involved in serving the profession as a nurse anesthesia student when I was elected as the student representative to the AANA Education Committee. Since that time, I have served on two other national committees for the AANA, and served four years on the PANA Board of Trustees. I am simultaneously excited and very humbled by the challenges CRNAs in our Commonwealth face, and I promise to work diligently with the PANA board and the membership to promote and advance our profession.

The upcoming year holds both great changes and challenges, but also a plethora of new opportunities. Since November we have seen a drastic change in the legislature in Harrisburg. This month, our new representatives will be taking office. These representatives may or

may not be aware of who CRNAs are, what we do, and how they, as our legislative leaders, can improve the health of thousands of Pennsylvanians by supporting our mission of affordable, accessible, quality care. To this end, it is *imperative* that each and every CRNA in Pennsylvania take the time to meet their representatives to the Pennsylvania House and Senate, both old and new, in their District office. Take the time to introduce yourself, explain who CRNAs are and what we do, and create a personal connection with your representatives. These relationships are invaluable!

Although the legislative body in Harrisburg may be new, the PANA is continuing to struggle with many of the same issues we have contended with for years. A law defining scope of practice for CRNAs has been denied for multiple legislative sessions. Although progress has been made over the course of years on this front, we are still far from our goal. Similarly, Medicaid in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not recognize or reimburse non-medically directed CRNAs. This struggle is not Pennsylvania's alone, as CRNAs in other states are plagued by the same issue. Nonetheless, if we are to continue to be providers of anesthesia services to the more rural populations in need of anesthetic services in Pennsylvania, then we must be appropriately recognized and reimbursed for the care we



Legislator Spotlight Stephen E. Barrar



In his eighth term as a state legislator serving Chester and Delaware counties, Rep. Stephen E. Barrar has earned a reputation as a dedicated public servant whose foremost concern is the advancement of the 160th District and improving the quality of life for the families of Pennsylvania.

Constantly guarding the best interests of the people of Pennsylvania, Barrar has worked to make significant reforms

to our election system, including the passage of legislation to guarantee that overseas military personnel are given the opportunity to have their absentee votes counted while they are actively defending the democratic system of government synonymous with America. His acclaimed work in this area has led to his appointment on the American Legislative Exchange Council's Committee on Election Reforms.

A champion of those who risk their lives to preserve our way of life and protect our communities, Barrar advocates for policies to aid first responders, especially volunteer fire and ambulance companies; assist veterans; and recognize the hard work of active military personnel. Barrar, a U.S. Navy veteran, understands the sacrifice and reward that comes with taking the ultimate risk to safeguard our community and our country.

Another legislative interest Barrar has pursued is combating rising energy prices and their impact on the Commonwealth's families, small businesses and the overall economy. He intends to continue his fight to establish fair and reasonable fuel prices so Pennsylvania's families can continue to heat their homes and drive to work without diminishing their quality of life.

Barrar is a graduate of Interboro High School. He is an active member of his community and is involved in several local groups. He has also been named an honorary member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart for his support of disabled veterans.

Representative Barrar has been a longtime supporter of nurse anesthetists in Pennsylvania. He has been a legislative champion of scope of practice legislation for CRNAs in past sessions and will once again be introducing scope of practice legislation for CRNAs in Pennsylvania in the 2011-12 legislative session.

Advertise in Tidings

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.

	1 Time	2 Times	4 Times
Half Page	\$305	\$550	\$1,040
Quarter Page	\$185	\$340	\$640
Business Card	n/a		
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 and advertising are the first business day of the following months: December, March, June and September.

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; email: info@pana.org; Word Wide Web: www.pana.org.

PANA Publications Ann Culp, CRNA

PANA, the Editor or any person working on behalf of *Tidings* assumes no responsibility or liability for the content of the articles with regard to the source or any errors of publication.

Chemical Dependency or other issues affecting your practice?

PANA Peer Assistance Advisor
Art Zwerling, DNP, CRNA, DAAPM, AANA PAAC
Home: 215-635-0183 (Anesthetists in Recovery)
Cell: 215-872-6821
a.to.z@comcast.net

AANA Peer Assistance WebPages on:
<http://www.aana.com>
Hotline—800-654-5167

CAPITOL INSIGHTS

Angie Armbrust, Winter Group

Session Update

January 2011 marks the start of a new era in Harrisburg. Governor-elect Tom Corbett will be sworn in on January 18th. The House and Senate report back to the Capitol on January 4th for their own ceremonial swearing in. They return for the Governor's Inaugural festivities and the 2011-12 session begins. Republicans will enjoy comfortable majorities in the House (112-91) and Senate (30-20) as well as a Republican-led administration.

Legislative leaders gathered in Harrisburg after the November election to appoint new leaders for the coming session. Results are below:

House Republican Caucus Leaders

- ◆ Speaker nominee: Sam Smith (R-Jefferson)
- ◆ Leader: Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny)
- ◆ Appropriations Chairman: Bill Adolph (R-Delaware)
- ◆ Whip: Stan Saylor (R-York)
- ◆ Policy Chair: Dave Reed (R-Indiana)
- ◆ Caucus Administrator: Dick Stevenson (R-Mercer)
- ◆ Caucus Chair: Sandra Major (R-Susquehanna)
- ◆ Caucus Secretary: Mike Vereb (R-Montgomery)

House Democratic Caucus Leaders

- ◆ Leader: Frank Dermody (Allegheny)
- ◆ Appropriations Chairman: Joe Markosek (Allegheny)
- ◆ Whip: Mike Hanna (Clinton)
- ◆ Policy Chair: Mike Sturla (Lancaster)
- ◆ Caucus Administrator: Ron Buxton (Dauphin)
- ◆ Caucus Chair: Dan Frankel (Allegheny)
- ◆ Caucus Secretary: Jennifer Mann (Lehigh)

Senate Republican Caucus Leaders:

- ◆ President Pro Tempore: Joe Scarnati (Jefferson) elected unanimously
- ◆ Leader: Dominic Pileggi (Delaware) reelected
- ◆ Appropriations Chairman: Jake Corman (Centre) reelected
- ◆ Whip: Pat Browne (Lehigh)
- ◆ Caucus Secretary: Bob Robbins (Mercer) reelected
- ◆ Caucus Administrator: To be determined at a later date
- ◆ Policy Chair: To be determined at a later date

Senate Democratic Caucus Leaders:

- ◆ Leader: Jay Costa (Allegheny) elected
- ◆ Appropriations Chairman: Vince Hughes (Philadelphia) elected
- ◆ Whip: Mike O'Pake (Berks) reelected
- ◆ Caucus Chair: Anthony Williams (Philadelphia) elected
- ◆ Caucus Secretary: Christine Tartaglione (Philadelphia) elected
- ◆ Caucus Administrator: Lisa Boscola (Northampton) elected
- ◆ Policy Chair: Richard Kasunic (Fayette) reelected

Republicans leaders in the House held a press conference shortly after the election and have stated goals of *“fiscal responsibility, improving the business climate, and making sure there is an open and accountable government.”* While Governor-elect Corbett pledges on his campaign website to *“work to reduce the tax burden on Pennsylvania families and employers. Make meaningful regulatory and legal reform to fix our economic climate. Put together a budget that is on time and cuts waste and abuse.”*

Point of Clarification:

The October 2010 issue used the title “Student Liaison” to identify SRNAs serving on PANA committees through the Student Mentorship Program. Note the title “Student Liaison” is reserved for those students who are the primary contacts between their anesthesia programs and the PANA. The term “Student Committee Delegate” is the title that designates those students serving on PANA committees.

STUDENT VOICE

By James Gensch, SRNA, PANA Student Representative

Well we are off to a great start! Since I have begun my term in October as State Student Representative I have met many great SRNAs that are enthusiastic and ambitious with similar vision and goals as me. This is truly inspiring as I have come to realize that many of the projects and initiatives I have been envisioning are on the table for development and have tremendous support.

We moved forward in the planning of our holiday initiatives like stuffing stockings, toys for tots, and filling in other voids that have been identified in our respective communities. CRNA week is also around the corner and we will be signing up SRNAs to help for food drives in their local communities. There will undoubtedly be some new initiatives unveiled as well that will require all of the tremendous resources that we have so successfully utilized in the past.

The coauthored project for this year's Spring Symposium in Hershey is starting to take form as well since it seems that our topic has been decided. We will chronicle and highlight the vastly rich history of Pennsylvania's nurse anesthetists, as well as nurse anesthesia practice and education within the Commonwealth. We are in the stages now of trying to recruit coauthors from each anesthesia program in Pennsylvania and our goal is, as it was last year, to have up to two SRNAs from each of the 13 programs represented on the project. We will be given the honor of presenting the project at Spring Symposium this year in Hershey which promises to be an exciting night for all PANA members.

I would like to discuss a few ways for SRNAs to become involved with student projects and initiatives. First and foremost you can always contact me to ask questions at: jgensch@gmail.com.

Secondly, there are several different ways to become involved. You can act in the role of "*Student Liaison*"

which is a direct link between your program and PANA. As an SRNA you will be the go to person for gathering needed information about your program, as well as getting information out to your program regarding PANA activities and opportunities for your fellow school mates. You will be in contact with the State Student Representative on a regular basis to ensure continuity between your program and PANA.

As a "*Student Committee Delegate*" you will function as a committee member on the PANA Board of Trustees. You will be assigned to a specific committee each with their own chair, and your tasks will be to support the specific goals and directives of that committee. You will be mainly functioning in a supportive role as one of the primary goals of the Student Mentorship Program is to prepare SRNAs to transition into the role of a PANA board member once graduated and working as an anesthetist.

Lastly, you can apply to fill the role of "*State Student Representative*" which is the position I currently hold. You will need to send a letter of intent to Angie Armbrust and the incoming PANA president will notify the successful candidate. This responsibility is a tremendous honor and communicating with the student body is paramount. The Student Rep co-chairs the student activities committee, organizes and orchestrates student initiatives, and has a tremendous duty to represent such an ambitious and highly motivated body of students as the PA SRNAs.

Stay tuned for details of the upcoming student initiatives. I will be in touch with everyone via email in the next few weeks to organize our community outreach. I look forward to seeing all of you soon, and I hope all of you and your families had a happy, safe, and productive holiday season!

**Yours truly,
James A Gensch, SRNA**

President's Message....continued

provide. Further, Medicare cuts, which were temporarily suspended in December 2010 are looming in the future. The AANA is working diligently on our behalf on this issue, but each and every one of us will be affected by the decisions of Medicare and have a responsibility to communicate what these potential cuts will mean for the patients we serve. But all is not lost. The PANA Board of Directors are ready to face these challenges head on, but we cannot do this alone. We need the PANA membership to be active participants as we move ahead in our legislative efforts. To that end, we are working to revitalize our Districts and restructure and rethink our previous efforts to make smart, strategically advantageous choices moving forward. I commit to you, the membership, that we will keep you informed and educated on the issues at hand, and that myself and the Board of Directors will be available to each and every one of you to hear your concerns, your suggestions, and answer your questions.

In closing, I would like to again, express my great honor and gratitude to the PANA membership for allowing me to serve as PANA President. I was recently reminded of how truly incredible our membership is and how blessed I am to be a CRNA after attending the Cameos of Caring in Pittsburgh in October. Three CRNAs were awarded Cameos of Caring. Each of those CRNAs had a role in my education – one as my Program Director, and two as clinical preceptors. So to John O'Donnell, Robert Dukic, and Timothy Lyons, thank you for representing our profession and thank you for educating both myself and the great number of other CRNAs whose lives you have changed. Your dedication to your patients, your colleagues and your students is an incredible gift to our great profession.

Kelly

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PANA BY-LAWS ARTICLE V, SECTION I, PARAGRAPH D(6) (g) (a)

EXISTING BY-LAW

- g. Fill vacancies
- (a) In the event of a vacancy in the Office of President, the President-elect shall assume the duties of the President and shall serve the regular term of office as President. All other offices shall be appointed by the President, in accordance with existing bylaws and subject to the approval of the Board.

PROPOSED BY-LAW

- g. Fill vacancies
- (a) In the event of a vacancy in the Office of President, the President-Elect shall assume the duties of the President and shall serve the regular term of office as President. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of President-Elect, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President-Elect, including the right to succeed to the

Office of President. Under all other circumstances, a vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the President, in accordance with existing bylaws and subject to the approval of the Board.

EXPLANATION OF BY-LAW AMENDMENT

The purpose of this By-Law amendment is to resolve a potential conflict within the existing By-Laws and is not intended to result in a substantive change. The proposed By-Law amendment will make Article V, Section I, Paragraph D(6) (g) (a) consistent with Article V, Section I, Paragraph D (3) (c), which presently states:

- (3) The Vice-president shall:

- c. Assume the duties of the President-Elect in the event of the President-Elect's inability to serve; including the right to succeed to the Office of President.



Tidings

234 N. 3rd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 411



American Association
of Nurse Anesthetists

78TH

ANNUAL

MEETING

AUGUST 6-10, 2011
BOSTON, MA



Call for Award Nominations

Please consider nominating someone for the 2011 PANA Annual Awards. These awards will be presented at the Spring Symposium in Hershey, PA on April 28-May 1, 2011. Awards are given in the following categories: Outstanding Student of the Year; Didactic Instructor of the Year; Clinical Instructor of the Year; CRNA Clinician of the Year; Program Director of the Year. Nomination forms can be found online at www.pana.org or by contacting Angie Armbrust at info@pana.org. Nomination forms are due January 14, 2011.