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## Thanks for Showing Up

Susan Humes, CRNA  
PANA President

Every president of the PANA, in my experience, has begun their final report by stating how very busy their year as president had been. This year has been no exception. The job of president of PANA would be impossible without the many people who have "showed up" to help. The PANA Board has been exceptional. The president-elect, who I respect immensely, Mary Wojnakowski, has been a fabulous support person and a valuable resource. Her partnership in this undertaking is very much appreciated. She, past-president Joan Cahill and I spent many hours on the phone discussing issues relative to CRNA practice in PA. Treasurer Betty Abrams did her usual outstanding job of keeping a close watch on the association's finances. Secretary Deb Myers kept the records of our meetings and coordinated correspondence activities with our executive director, Rich Scotti. Vice-president Fred Ackler kept the history. The trustees this past year have all been a contributing hard working group but I would especially like to recognize Marge Darbut for her work with the PANA investments and Thomas Kelly for his work with the public relations activities. I would also like to thank my daughter Lauren for understanding the amount of hours that I devoted to the PANA activities and my friend and CRNA colleague, Linda Houseal who was invaluable as my sounding board and personal advisor. I could never have been able to do this job without the support of my boss, Bob Ehle and all my colleagues at Lehigh Anesthesia Associates who were always willing to adjust their schedules to allow me to attend to the meetings and duties of the PANA. And finally I would like to thank all the CRNAs of the state who showed up at meetings, wrote letters and otherwise helped to promote the profession of nurse anesthesia. It is truly a group effort to maintain all the work of this organization.



I would like to highlight some of the activities that I have been involved with this past year.

House Bill 823 has consumed my consciousness and my unconsciousness constantly this past year. Within days of assuming the office of PANA president, I attended the Senate Consumer Protection / Professional Licensure Committee meeting where HB 823 was scheduled to be voted out of committee. Because of powerful lobbying that was done by PANA lobbyists Ted Mowatt and Stan Rapp, PANA board members and legal counsel Lou Dell'Aquila, and most especially by CRNAs from Senator Jeff Piccola's area, Senator Piccola requested that HB 823 be held over for public hearings. I am very grateful to Senator Piccola and the CRNAs that rallied to encourage him, for his role in preventing this bill from being voted out of committee. As of this writing HB 823 remains on the table in the Senate Consumer Protection / Professional Licensure Committee and we are continuing to keep a very close eye on this bill. This legislative session will end on November 30, 2002 and this bill will die if we are successful in not allowing it out of committee.

PANA has been a member of Medicare's Anesthesia Advisory Committee and I have attended all of the quarterly meetings that have been held. CRNA Joe D'Amico has been assisting and will continue to be involved with these meetings. A wide variety of issues have been discussed at these meeting but of particular interest has been the development of the MAC policy. Most recently there has been discussion regarding the development of standards for office based anesthesia for Medicare patients. We have been involved in these initial discussions.

I have had many discussions with CRNAs regarding reimbursement and malpractice issues. PANA has been successful in assisting to obtain reimbursement for non-medically directed CRNAs with PA Blue Shield and Medical Assistance. Worker's Compensation reimbursement continues to be a problem for independent practicing CRNAs in PA. I have taken the concern of PA CRNAs to AANA insurance and to the AANA president. I have also met with a representative of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health held a meeting on February 22, 2002 to discuss issues relative to the Ambulatory Surgical Facilities regulations and office based anesthesia practice. PANA was the

**President's Message, Continued , Page 3**



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For more information, contact PANA at the address below

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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. 15<sup>th</sup> Street, MS 501, Bellet Building, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1192

**President's Message, Continued from Page 1**

only anesthesia group in attendance. I reported my interpretations of the discussions from that meeting in the Tiding's and received many e-mails from CRNAs stating their concerns. This issue is far from clear and every CRNA in the state should determine their liability exposure with their insurance carrier. PANA has continued to attempt to engage in further dialog with the Department of Health on this issue.

Along with the many hours spent defending the rights of CRNAs to practice in Pennsylvania, the PANA has been involved in some very proactive activities that I am proud to report on my involvement. Under the momentum of PANA Public Relations Chair, Thomas Kelly, PANA hired the firm of Communications Solutions to make the public and government officials aware of who we are and what we do. They have made some positive efforts this year (see the PR committee report) and we are anxiously looking forward to having their activities become more focused next year. The PANA PAC had a successful year and Lisa Ritter from the firm of Boles, Groves and Metzger has been hired to assist PAC treasurer George Byrnes with the required report preparations. The PANA has continued to be an active member of the Alliance of Advanced Practice Nurses and 25 CRNAs and SRNAs attended a very successful Lobby Day held on March 12, 2002 where I presented an AED to Representative Pat Vance. On August 14, 2002, I met with lobbyists Peg Moyer and Mark Singel from Public Affairs Management group

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regarding their role in helping the PANA to defeat HB 823 and prepare for a pro-CRNA legislative initiative next session. A reception is scheduled for October 8, 2002 at their office. More information on the legislative initiative will be available soon.

I represented the PANA at the AANA Fall Assembly of States (November 9 – 11), the AANA Mid-Year Assembly (April 27 – 30) and the AANA Annual Meeting (August 2 – 8). I am very proud to be a part of such a dynamic organization. I hope that any of you who may have an interest in being a part of this organization will make yourselves known to next year's nominating committee. I believe that it takes a village to raise a child and it takes an entire organization of protect and further their right to practice. Professional apathy is our biggest threat. Thanks to all of you who "showed up" this year. I needed every one of you.

# FROM THE CAPITOL

TED MOWATT, CAE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONSULTANT

## Sue Humes States the Case at HB 823 Hearing

The Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee held a public hearing on HB 823, which amends the Health Care Facilities Act to provide for CRNA administration of anesthesia under the supervision of a physician. Testifying before the Committee was Susan Humes, CRNA, President of the PA Association of Nurse Anesthetists and the Carol Rose, MD, Past President of the PA Society of Anesthesiologists and the PA Medical Society.

Ms. Humes stated that PANA opposes the bill, saying that the bill was not about setting the regulations into statute but rather about physician control. She said that problems could develop if the bill were to pass, because of the disparity in the language between the Dept. of Health's regulations and the State Board of Nursing's regulations. The State Board of Nursing regs. state that CRNAs and the physicians should work in "cooperation with" (as partners) one another. The Department of Health hospital regulations state that CRNAs work under the "supervision of" (doctor has final authority) a physician. Sue outlined the following specific problems with the legislation:

- the bill sets up an unclear relationship with the existing State Board of Nursing regulations
  - the bill provides no transition period
  - the impact on the issue of "physical presence" is harmful, and unnecessary
  - the bill will serve as a deterrent to CRNAs coming to practice in PA
  - the bill is not about patient safety but about physician control
- Dr. Rose said that the bill is about patient safety. Committee members were told that:
- physicians have about twice the training (approx. 12 years)
  - physicians should be there to handle any medical problems, which may arise
  - physicians have the final responsibility
  - the bill will not change current practice

In the Q&A portion with the Committee members, Democrat Chair Lisa Boscola asked Dr. Rose, "what is this bill REALLY about?" If, indeed, as the PSA insists, they are only interested in codifying the regulations, and the Department of Health has said they are not planning to change the regulations, then what is the PSA afraid of? Sen. Jeffrey Piccola asked the follow-up question, what is broken that needs to be fixed? Are people being hurt under the current situation? Dr. Rose had to concede that the answer is, "NO."

The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Mario Civera, also testified at the hearing, saying that the original bill was introduced in need of a lot of work, and his committee did attempt to rectify many of the problems, but conceded there was not agreement on all points. He said he hopes to resolve the remaining issues with the CRNAs and pass a bill that is workable and agreeable to both sides, even as time is running short.

The bill was not voted on at the meeting, and no future Committee meeting has been scheduled as of this writing. The Senate is in recess until after the election.

## PA Senate Passes Venue-Shopping Bill

From an article By Martha Raffaele - Associated Press

The state Senate unanimously passed a bill October 9 requiring plaintiffs in medical-malpractice cases to file suit in the county where the alleged

malpractice took place. **SB 138**, which now goes to Gov. Schweiker for his signature, is supported by doctors who say that excessive jury awards are driving up the cost of malpractice insurance and forcing them to leave the state. Schweiker intends to sign the bill into law, his spokesman said.

The legislation seeks to eliminate "venue shopping," which refers to plaintiffs' seeking courts that are most likely to favor their cases.

Sen. Jay Costa Jr. (D., Allegheny) unsuccessfully sought to have the Senate rule the measure unconstitutional, although he did not oppose the bill's final passage. Costa cited constitutional language that gives the courts the authority to change venue in civil and criminal cases.

"It's ironic that the proponents of this legislation wish to statutorily overturn a useful and historic procedural rule originally adopted to favor defendants being forced to defend themselves in a foreign jurisdiction," he said.

Sen. Mary Jo White (R., Butler), a member of a special commission that reviewed the issue of venue, said commission members, including legislators, lawyers and judges, had discussed questions of constitutionality.

"While there was not unanimous agreement, it was the consensus of that body that these provisions concerning venue could be changed either by the court or by the legislature... I would suggest that forum-shopping is not a constitutional right," White said.

## Legislative Activity

**HB 823 RE:** Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (by Rep. Mario Civera) Amends the Medical Practice Act. Further provides for definitions. Provides for certified registered nurse anesthetists.

**Passed House, 6/6/2001.**

**Referred to Senate Cons. Protection and Prof. Lic. Comm., 6/14/2001.**

**Tabled for public hearing, 10/23/2001.**

**Public Hearing held in Senate Cons. Protection and Prof. Lic. Comm. 10/8/2002.**

**HB 1285 RE:** False Claims Act (by Rep. George Kenney)

The False Claims Act prohibits false claims to PA or local government units. The intent of the bill is to eradicate fraud in government contracts by allowing a DA, AG or private person to bring a civil action against an entity holding a contract with PA or a local government unit where a claim presented under the contract is fraudulent. The bill was amended with language proposed by the health care industry which reduces the interest rates, adds a new section regarding reduced assessments and several other changes. The bill was additionally amended with language relating to what is and is not a claim regarding a filing made with an agency of PA.

**Passed House 12/11/2001**

**Reported as amended from Senate Judiciary Committee, 10/1/2002**

**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.

**Removed from table, read second time, and rereferred to House Appropriations Committee, 9/25/2002.**

**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.**

**Referred to House Professional Licensure Committee, 10/9/2002**

**New Legislation Introduced**

**HB 2850 RE: Medical Care Availability** (by Rep. Ellen Bard)  
Amends the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act of 2002. Further provides for medical professional liability insurance, for Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error Fund and for extended claims. Provides for filing of rates. Further provides for filing of rates. Further provides for actuarial data.

**Referred to House Insurance Committee 9/30/2002.**

The House will be in session on the following days through the end of the session:

November: 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, and 27

The Senate will be in session on the following days through the end of the session:

November 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, and 27

**Session ends officially on November 30**

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

## Classified Advertisements

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
on **Saturday, February 22, 2003**

Registration form to be published in the December 2002 issue. For more information contact: Kathy Marks, Anesthesia Department, Magee-Womens Hospital, 412-641-4260.

**Note: Onsite Registration Will Not Be Available**

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## AANA Events

**Fall Assembly of States:** Nov. 8-10, Colorado Springs, CO

## State Board Meetings

- Medicine:** November 19, Harrisburg, PA
- Nursing:** November 21-22, Harrisburg, PA
- Medicine:** December 17, Harrisburg, PA
- Nursing:** January 9-10, TBA
- Nursing:** February 13, TBA
- Nursing:** March 20-21, TBA

- Nursing:** April 24, TBA
- Nursing:** May 29-30, TBA
- Nursing:** June 26, TBA
- Nursing:** July 28-29, TBA
- Nursing:** September 18-19, TBA
- Nursing:** October 23, TBA
- Nursing:** December 1-2, TBA

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# STUDENT VOICE

## Thank You

Dennis Phillips, SRNA

Well, this will be my final article and I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to represent the students of Pennsylvania. I have learned a great deal over the last year and will be staying active in PANA. The most beneficial part of my experience was getting to know the board members and seeing the hard work that they put forth to protect Pennsylvania CRNA's.

I was also exposed to the inner workings of PANA and of legislation. I now have tangible evidence that the PANA board is made up of people like you and me that care deeply about our profession! Furthermore, I am aware that the few people doing all of the work need your help. Even if you can write a few letters and/or make a few phone calls every year to your representatives it would be very beneficial to PANA. It is intimidating at first, but you will find that it does not take much more than being a registered voter and caring about the issues that will get results.

Remember that procrastination is really lost opportunities and that the time is now. The work you do for PANA is work for yourself in the end. Look out for yourself, your patients and your fellow CRNA's. Stick together and fight for what is yours. In the clinical arena remember that eyes are on you to be professional, knowledgeable, and motivated. You all represent the CRNA's of Pennsylvania every day.

To the students who are graduating I would like to say congratulations. You did it! Once you've become settled in your new positions as CRNA's please get involved, it really does not take much. Please also remember that the patient is the most important part of your work and nothing you do can compromise them. Leave politics at home and in Harrisburg. Be vigilant and regimented in all of your actions to bring the best to them. After all they deserve it!

## And the Winners Are...

The decision is never and easy one, and it is made even harder when there are as many applications as there were this year; but the PANA Student Activities Committee tackled the tough task and has awarded the 2002 PANA Awards and Student Scholarships.

The award recipients include Outstanding Student of the Year, Joan Martin, SRNA of Pennsylvania Hospital; Didactic Instructor of the Year, Karen Clow, CRNA of Montgomery Hospital; Clinical Instructor of the Year, Maria Magro, CRNA of Pennsylvania Hospital; and CRNA Clinician of the Year, Sue Kelly, CRNA of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Five Student Scholarships were also awarded, recipients include Francis Price, SRNA of MCP Hahnemann University; Elizabeth Holmes, SRNA of the University of Pittsburgh; Mariquit Johnson, SRNA of Pennsylvania Hospital; Susan Favorite, SRNA of Allegheny Hospital/LaRoche College; and Joanne Bellerby, SRNA of Nazareth Hospital.

PANA wishes to extend a sincere word of thanks and appreciation, as well as encouragement and best wishes to everyone that made a nomination of application for this year's award and scholarship program.

University of Pittsburgh's Summer Anesthesia Seminar  
 Saturday, June 7, 2003  
 School of Nursing (Victoria Building)  
 List of Speakers to be announced!  
 Topics will be *clinically applicable* to anesthesia practice!  
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*Steve Greenleaf, SRNA at PHSNA adjusts aprotinin infusion for patient undergoing aortic arch repair.*

*SRNAs from PHSNA and Montgomery Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia having dinner with Cathy Hodson, Web Editor, for the AANA and Art Zwerling, program director of PHSNA in Orlando during AANA Annual Conference August 2002.*



*PANA Members gather at the AANA Annual Conference in Orlando in August.*

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Camp Hill, PA 17011-2288,  
e-mail: lpeabody@hsh.org,  
Fax: 717-763-2351,  
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# KWIK-SKAN®

LIQUID CRYSTAL TEMPERATURE MONITOR

The best features of a strip and oval monitor combined to reduce your cost while maintaining accuracy and dependability

Unique design

Bright green display is quick and easy-to-read

Fahrenheit and Celsius in one monitor

Latex Free Materials

Manufactured In The USA

Call for Your  
**FREE  
SAMPLE!**

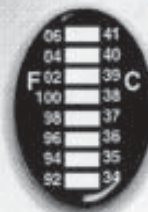


\*Range from 92° F–106° F and 34° C–41° C

\*plus or minus 0.5 degrees.

Can be used to detect the onset of regional block

Convenient dispenser carton attaches quickly and securely to walls and equipment



The monitor  
of choice  
in anesthesia

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