

Now Is The Time To Get Involved

**Mary Wojnakowski, CRNA
President
Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists**



A Busy First Quarter

The first quarter of 2003 has proven to be a very busy time for the PANA Board. We started the year off with a very successful public relations campaign for National Nurse Anesthetists Week. Hopefully every CRNA in Pennsylvania had the opportunity to hear one of the radio public service announcements that played across the State during the week. Board members were also interviewed on radio talk shows in Scranton, PA and Harrisburg, PA. CRNA's from Erie to Philadelphia celebrated the week with display tables and a variety of public service programs designed to educate the public about the safety of anesthesia and the role of the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. Check out the PANA web site at www.pana.org to see pictures of CRNA's from across the State celebrating Nurse Anesthetists Week.

With the start of the new year also came the escalating debate over the rising cost of medical malpractice insurance. CRNA's across Pennsylvania have also been faced with the same issues and concerns over increasing insurance premiums. Numerous pieces of legislation have been introduced to address this very complicated issue. The PANA Practice Committee is monitoring this issue very closely to ensure that CRNA's are included in any legislation that is passed. Also, on January 21, 2003, Governor Rendell issued an Executive Order creating the Office of Health Care Reform. The purpose of this office is to coordinate the Commonwealth's Health Care Reform Agenda such that its citizens have accessible and affordable health care, and the redundancy of the agencies responsible for delivering the care can be eliminated.

Willingness To Serve Forms Available

Nomination/ Willingness to Serve forms for the 2003-2004 PANA Board are now available on the PANA web site or from the PANA office. Nominations are being sought for President Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, and Trustees from Districts 5, 6, and 7. The success of CRNA's in Pennsylvania is dependent upon the viability of the PANA. Now is the time to get involved. The practice of Nurse Anesthesia is being attacked from all angles in the State of Pennsylvania. Your PANA Board has worked tirelessly to ensure that CRNA's continue to be a viable provider of anesthesia services in the Commonwealth, although, it takes more than the 13 members of the Board. It takes the participation of every one of the 2300 CRNA's in the State. Please consider running for a PANA office today.

Advance Practice Nurse (APN) Alliance Lobby Day

Mark your calendars now! Monday, June 2, 2003, will be this year's APN Lobby Day in Harrisburg, PA. I can not strongly enough encourage every CRNA and Student Nurse Anesthetist to make an effort to participate in this event. Advance Practice Nurses, including Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives, and Clinical Nurse Specialists, will be at the Capital to discuss issues with their Legislators. This is one way in which Pennsylvania CRNA's can get involved and support their state organization. We will meet at 9:00 am in the East Rotunda of the Capitol Building, where you will be briefed, and the day will end back in the East Rotunda with a reception for the Legislators. We ask that everyone wear a white lab coat. For additional information, you can go to the Members section of the PANA web site.

Thanks to all of you who attended this year's Conference April 4-6, 2003!



In Memory

Mary Kay Stefaniak- Priolette

July 6, 1945 – February 1, 2003

Mary Kay passed away after a long battle with Cancer. So many of us remember all the great years that she was very active in the PANA. Her leadership compared to her ability to have fun. Laughing, dancing, having a cocktail, were the things that went along with the sweat, tears and long meetings, that she helped all of us to keep our organization going in the right direction.

Mary Kay worked at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh from the time she graduated nursing – first as an OR nurse and then as a CRNA who became Chief Anesthetist. She moved to California in 1988 and worked at the Kaiser Medical Center Vallejo until her illness prevented it.

A scholarship fund will be set up at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School of Nurse Anesthesia in the near future.

Nancy Jo Scott Olivo 1937 – 2003

Nancy Jo passed away on January 27, 2003, from an infection. She is remembered for her dedication to her profession, her loyalty to her patients, and her love of Irish dancing.

Nancy worked at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center at Braddock for 33 years, of which she was the manager of the anesthesia department for the last 20 years.

She received her registered nurse credentials from Mercy Hospital School of Nursing and went on to become a CRNA at Montefiore Hospital.

Her volunteer involvement included the Ladies of Charity at North American Martyrs Church in Monroeville.

LOBBY DAY EVENT FOR JUNE 2, 2003 – Harrisburg

Lobby Day for Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) will be on June 2, 2003 at 9:30 am in Harrisburg at the Capitol Building-East Wing. The big Rotunda will have a 1:00 pm rally and press conference. Later, a reception in the East Wing Rotunda will be held from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm.

Lobby Day is a special event that every CRNA in the Commonwealth should attend. Today more than ever we need CRNAs to support and get involved with the political legislative process. This will be a good way to get acquainted with your legislators and get your feet wet. So, please join us! Lets jump right in and together lets make it a day to remember. We are all looking forward to seeing you there.

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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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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.

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**PANA Chemical Dependency
Contact Person**

Art Zwerling, CRNA, MS

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TIDINGS

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FROM THE CAPITOL

TED MOWATT, CAE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONSULTANT

Summary of Legislation

PA General Assembly Passes Budget, Delivered Only One Week Earlier; Governor "Blue Lines" Education Budget

Budget hearings, Governor's tax and gambling proposals upcoming

The Senate approved Governor Ed Rendell's \$21 billion budget proposal, agreeing to minor changes inserted in the House, on March 12, and sent the spending plan back to him for his signature and enactment into law. The Governor, in a virtually unprecedented move, exercised his "line item veto" power, and struck out nearly \$4 BILLION in basic education funding for school districts, and some other programs, lighting a fire for a second budget, which he presented on March 25. Rendell had unveiled the proposal in reaction to House and Senate Republican claims that the projected \$2.4 Billion budget deficit did not really exist until the Governor proposed that level of spending. The Rendell budget had what he and his own Cabinet members described as "draconian" cuts in virtually every part of the document, with an overall 10% across the Board slice. The Governor made the unusual move of presenting his budget, and asking that the Legislature NOT pass it as he presented it, as he was required by law to present, but allow him to come back on March 25 to present his "real vision" for Pennsylvania.

The General Assembly's approval of House Bill 648 is not the end of the process. Governor Rendell is expected to announce a series of proposals — including tax increases and expanded gambling in Pennsylvania — during a joint session of the General Assembly on March 25, and the Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a series of budget hearings within a few weeks.

Myers Resolution Would Bring Action To Avert PA Nursing Crisis

"Pennsylvania needs to get a grasp on the growing shortage of nurses before it becomes a calamity that endangers many lives," said state Rep. John Myers March 14, as he announced the introduction of legislation that would spur the Commonwealth into action to confront the problem.

The Myers resolution (H.R. 128) would direct the Health and Human Services Committee to determine the magnitude of problems that would result from the diminishing number of nurses and investigate strategies for the recruitment and retention of nurses in the Commonwealth.

"Not only do we have trouble retaining skilled nurses in jobs directly involved with providing services to individuals, but from 1995 to 2000, the number of registered nurse graduates dropped by 26 percent," said Myers. "It doesn't take a nuclear scientist to see that if we don't do something, and do it soon, there's a terrible crisis on the horizon."

Myers added that while the General Assembly has instituted student loan forgiveness programs for nurse graduates who remain in Pennsylvania, a more comprehensive approach is crucial to averting the acute shortage of nurses and the resulting health care crisis that would threaten the well being of every Pennsylvanian.

The resolution, which has 49 cosponsors from both parties, currently is under consideration in the House Committee on Rules.

Vance Introduces Nurse Workforce Planning Bill Creating PA Center For Nursing

Adequate and appropriate nursing resources in Pennsylvania will be closer to reality under legislation sponsored by Rep. Patricia Vance (R-87).

HB 264 creates a Pennsylvania Center for Nursing to ensure sufficient and suitable nursing resources to meet the health care needs of Pennsylvanians.

The Pennsylvania Center for Nursing's primary mission will be to assist nursing schools, nursing service organizations, health care organizations and other workforce development groups and agencies to initiate concerted efforts around the creation of long-term strategies to increase the number of registered nurses working in Pennsylvania.

The legislation is patterned after the successful North Carolina Center for Nursing, established in 1991 and charged with nurse workforce planning, addressing issues of nursing supply and demand, and recruitment and retention. The North Carolina Center maintains a database on nursing supply and demand, and brings together policymakers and representatives from the fields of nursing and other health care organizations, business and community leaders, educators and lawmakers to assess its research and develop solutions to problems based on their findings. It also develops and evaluates initiatives that promote recognition, reward and renewal for nurses.

Legislative Activity

HB 264 RE: Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act. (by Rep. Pat Vance, et al) Establishes The Pennsylvania Center for Nursing as a legislative agency governed by a Board of Directors. The Center will address issues of supply and demand of the nursing work force, including education, recruitment, retention and utilization of nurse personnel resources. It will develop a statewide nursing work force consortium to plan and implement models that enhance educational and career mobility for nurses, and establish a mechanism to keep the consortium in place over the long term. **Reported as committed from House Health and Human Services Committee, 3/5/2003. Rereferred to House Professional Licensure Committee, 3/5/2003**

HRes 3 RE: "National Nurse Anesthetists Week" (by Rep. Pat Vance, et al) A Resolution recognizing the week of January 19 through 25, 2003, as "National Nurse Anesthetists Week" in Pennsylvania. Introduced and Adopted, 1/27/2003 (196-0)

SB 234 RE: Domestic Violence Health Care Response Act (by Sen. Jane Orie, et al)

Amends the Domestic Violence Health Care Response Act further providing definitions and for the program. The bill adds "primary care providers, emergency medical services organizations and nurses" to the list of those entities and professionals who are subject to the provisions of the Domestic Violence Health Care Response Act. **Referred to Senate Public Health And Welfare Committee, 2/7/2003**

SRes 13 RE: CRNA Week (by Sen. Hal Mowery, et al) Resolution recognizing the week of January 19 through 25, 2003, as "National Nurse Anesthetists Week." **Introduced and adopted, Jan. 22, 2003**

SRes 15 RE: DOH Nursing Shortage Study (by Sen. Lisa Boscola, et al) A Resolution requesting the Department of Health to study the underlying causes and impact of the shortage of nurses in this Commonwealth. **Referred to Senate Public Health And Welfare Committee, 1/29/2003**

Bills Introduced

HRes 128 RE: Nursing Shortage (by Rep. John Myers, et al) A Resolution directing the Committee on Health and Human Services to investigate and consider the problems associated with the shortage of nurses in this Commonwealth. **Referred to House Rules Committee, 3/6/2003**

House and Senate Session Days Schedule

2003 House Spring Session Schedule:

April 1-4 (Budget Hearings), 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 28, 29, 30.
May 5, 6, 7, 12, 13.
June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30.

2003 Senate Spring Session Schedule:

April 1, 2, 7, 8 (Budget Hearings), 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30.
May 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14
June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 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>

STUDENT VOICE

Mark the Month for Mid-Year

Gina Lederhilger, SRNA

Frank J. Tornetta School of Anesthesia at Montgomery Hospital

April 27- 30 is the time of the year when the AANA provides an opportunity to meet with state and national AANA leaders, as well as learn of issues relevant to CRNA lobbying. CRNAs and SRNAs may also have the privilege to meet, greet, and speak with some members of the United States Congress. This time of year when the weather is better, cherry blossoms bloom, and people come together to discuss politics is known as the Mid-Year Assembly.

As the current Student Trustee of PANA, I had the honor of interviewing past Student Trustee and current Chair of the Student Activities Committee, Timothy Lyons, regarding his experience as a student who attended the Mid-Year Assembly.

Gina: What is the Mid-Year Assembly?

Tim: The Mid-Year Assembly is an annual AANA meeting designed to demystify the political process. You learn who is piloting the political machine and how to effectively convey your ideas to other people.

Gina: What do you think you gained from the experience?

Tim: An understanding of how our government works and an incredible sense of empowerment. Politicians do read the letters you send them. They rely upon feedback from their constituents to guide their decisions.

Gina: How does the Mid-Year Assembly help protect the future of CRNAs?

Tim: The assembly teaches you techniques to have your ideas recognized by the powers that be. You will be able to collaborate with lawmakers and guide future healthcare policy.

Gina: One last question, why is it important for students, as well as CRNAs, to get involved politically?

Tim: Today's SRNAs are tomorrow's guardians of the profession. It is never too early to learn about healthcare policy and ways to influence it.

I do not think I could have said it better myself. Any student who is able and willing to participate in the Mid-Year Assembly definitely should. It would not only be a great learning experience but also an honor and privilege to meet those people who are our present guardians.

Community Service Project

National Nurse Anesthetists Week

In celebration of the AANA National Nurse Anesthetists Week, the students at the new Crozer Chester Medical Center/Villanova University School of Nurse Anesthesia (formerly Lankenau Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia) decided to



do something to benefit the members of their new community. The students identified a local community agency, CityTeam Ministries, as the recipient of their project. This rescue mission provides many services to the needy members of the local

community. The mission also supports a Mothers and Babies program that helps underserved moms and infants. Once a week these moms can come to CityTeam and receive donations of baby formula and food, diapers and wipes, bath supplies and other disposable items.

The students, together with the members of their clinical affiliations, conducted a needy infant drive to collect these items. The students provided cartons labeled with posters from the AANA National Nurse Anesthetists Week and donations were gathered. On February 25th, 2003, the student coordinators, Therese Brady and Lisa Trochimowicz, delivered the cartons to CityTeam. The mission was delighted with the donation and sent their "heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the moms and babies to all those who participated in this worthwhile project."



Medical Malpractice – Things to Ponder

by Susan Humes, CRNA

CRNAs, especially those who have been hospital employed, have frequently taken their malpractice insurance coverage for granted. Historically, CRNAs have had high limits - \$1 million / \$3 million coverage with occurrence policies. I'm sure everyone has heard about the physician malpractice issues, but now would be a good time to review what coverage you have at this time. Hospitals have gone to being self-insured – private carriers are lowering limits or dropping coverage entirely – policy limits have been lowered. CRNAs can no longer afford to be complacent about their liability coverage.

The following are the advantages and disadvantages of purchasing Claims-Made coverage:

ADVANTAGE: Premium Savings. The premium for a claims-made policy is lower than the occurrence during the first several years. However, the premium will eventually equal the occurrence premium.

DISADVANTAGE: Potential Tail Expense. Claims-Made coverage requires a tail, also known as “extended reporting period coverage”. This tail needs to be purchased when you cancel the policy. It is calculated as a percentage of your premium at the time the policy is cancelled. The tail premium is waived upon death or permanent disability. The tail charge is also waived if you have been continuously insured with the same insurance company for five or more years and have reached the age of 55.

The theory of the claims-made coverage is that you are to invest the savings of the first few years' premiums and eventually use the savings (with interest) to purchase the tail, if necessary. The ideal scenario is that you remain with the same company until retirement and qualify for the free tail coverage.

Don't be surprised by what malpractice insurance coverage you have. Investigate and ask questions now. Find out what type of coverage you have and what the limits are. Your future may depend on it.

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CANDIDATE FOR
**AANA Region 4
Director**

William “Bill” Miller

EXPERIENCE

AANA

- Small State Ad Hoc Committee, 1999 - 00
- Ad Hoc State Organizational Health Committee, 2000 - 01
- Ad Hoc State Organizational Development Committee, 2002 - 03
- PAC Committee, 2001 - 02

STATE

- President, Iowa Association, 1998 - 01, 2002 - Present
- Vice President, Iowa Association, 1996 - 98
- Treasurer, Iowa Association, 1994 - 96
- Board of Directors, Iowa Association, 1992 - 94
- Program Chair, Finance Chair
- Nominating Committee Chair, State GRC Chair
- PR Chair, Pac Committee, Director Student Development
- State “Opt Out” Liaison

OTHER

- State Board of Nursing, Board Member
- Iowa Rural Health Assoc., Board Member
- State Public Policy Group, Member
- Liaison Governors Office
- Clinic Instructor, Rural Rotation, University of Iowa

GOALS

1. Assure the continued growth and direction of service to the members!
“The Primary reason for a Professional Organization is to serve the members”
2. Improve the organizational health of the state associations!
“Individually we are special, bonded together we are spectacular”
3. Encourage the utilization of student energy thru out the association!
“If you influence a student, you change the path of the future”

Thank You for Your Vote!



DEBORAH HAIGHT

for AANA TREASURER

“I have a Personal and Professional Commitment to Nurse Anesthesia. . .”

As AANA Region 5 Director these past two years, I have traveled to most of the 13 western states to talk with the state leadership and members about CRNA practice and patient safety issues. This has been both a challenging and gratifying experience. Balancing the financial solvency of the AANA with the financial expenditures needed to address the issues continues to be an important focus for AANA Treasurer. My work on various AANA and California ANA committees and my years on both the AANA and the California Board of Directors have given me the necessary experience to serve as your next AANA Treasurer. I am excited about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for nurse anesthetists as we continue to provide that safe and high quality anesthesia care.

AANA Offices and Committees:

Region 5 Director 2001-present; Federal Political Director for California, 1998; State Government Relations, 2000; AANA CRNA-PAC Fund, 2000; Strategic Planning Committee 2001-present.

State Offices and Committees:

California Association of Nurse Anesthetists Board of Directors, 1995-1997; CANA Vice-President, 1997; CANA President-Elect, 1998; CANA President, 1999; CANA Three-Year Director, 2000; CANA Public Relations, Chair 1993-1997; CANA Government Relations, 1989-2001; Government Relations, Chair 1997-2001; CANA Governance, 1998-2001; CANA Finance, 1999-2001.



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