

PANA Update

Elsie Murray, CRNA, MPM, President

This is a very challenging year for PANA. The Board continues to embark on a very ambitious agenda to promote PANA's interest and to provide communication to the membership. This is accomplished primarily through the ongoing work of the PANA Board Committees chaired by the following members:

- Public Relations- Lois Illar
- Finance Committee- Michael Conti
- Program Committee- Paula Weiss
- Practice Committee- Sue Taylor
- Publications- Sue Clark
- Government Relations- Mike Stefonetti
- Nominating Committee- Julie Antidormi
- Bylaws Committee- Joseph D'Amico
- Strategic Planning- Mike Kinslow
- Student Activities- David Culp
- Website Subcommittee- Michael Loomis
- Ad Hoc Committees- Mike Kinslow and Fred Ackler



There are four main areas on which the Board and PANA membership will focus on in 2005. They are:

1. Political issues that affect CRNAs ability to practice their profession.

This year the PANA Board will be working with the Winter Group as our lobbyist firm. The Winter Group principals are Mark S. Singel, Peg Callahan Moyer, and Angie Mellot Armbrust, who are the same lobbyists that PANA has worked with over the past three years. Currently, the PANA Board and Winter Group are working to get our Scope of Practice Bills introduced with as many co-sponsors as possible in the State House and Senate. Then the most difficult work begins: to get the Bills out of Committee and to a vote. In the meantime, we are also working to get PANA to the table for discussions on Governor Rendell's "Year in Healthcare", as he is proclaiming this year to be. This includes getting in on discussions on the Department of Health Facility Regulations, the Medical Assistance issue, and continual monitoring of all agency and Board regulations that might affect PANA.

2. Educational activities to keep improving our profession.

Paula Weiss, Chair, and her program committee have worked diligently to complete the plans for the PANA Spring Symposium in Hershey, Pennsylvania, April 8 – 10, 2005. The registration forms for the meeting have recently been mailed to the membership. Looking forward to seeing you there.

3. Self-development of the Board and membership.

The Board, at its February Meeting, spent a half-day working on decision/teambuilding processes to help them work better together. Through AANA we were able to obtain the services of ThoughtBridge Consulting Group to facilitate this activity. The Board Members felt it was an excellent self/group development workshop and looks forward to utilizing the ThoughtBridge processes in accomplishing their goals.

The Pennsylvania District Meetings, PANA Spring/Fall Symposiums, and the AANA Fall Assembly/Mid Year Assembly/Annual Meetings provide the opportunities for all members to gain knowledge for personal and professional development.

4. Keeping abreast with national activities through the AANA that affect our membership.

Several PANA members and SRNAs members are planning to attend the Mid Year Assembly (April 24 – 27, 2005) in Washington, DC). This will be an opportunity for CRNAs and SRNAs to interact with their Pennsylvania Congressional Representatives in Washington, DC. The Assembly will have workshops dealing with political activities on the National level. Also, members will spend a day visiting with their state representatives on Capitol Hill. If you are planning to attend the Mid Year Assembly, please make your reservations now and contact our Federal Political Director (FPD), Christine Allen-Sanders, by e-mail (cmascrna2000@cs.com). She will help you to coordinate meetings with your representatives. The FPD, with your cooperation, ensures that all representatives and/or their team members will be contacted during Mid Year Assembly.

As you can see, our focus for 2005 involves the participation of all of PANA's members. We need you to participate at the local and state levels. Willingness to serve information for the state will be available on the PANA Website. Please contact your local District Chair or other District Board Members to participate at the District Level. Your grassroots efforts will assure our Professional future.



Know Your Legislator

State Representative Stephen Barrar Republican—160th Legislative District



A devoted family man, Rep. Stephen Barrar is serving the residents of Delaware and Chester County's 160th District for his fourth term in Harrisburg. His legislative priorities are driven foremost by his desire to improve the quality of life for families

in Pennsylvania. With a wife and two children, Barrar understands the pressures and demands modern society places on today's families.

With his motivation starting at home, Steve continues that perseverance stretching it into the community. A graduate of Interboro High School and a U.S. Navy veteran, Steve resides in Boothwyn with his wife of 25 years, Elena, and their daughters, Stephanie, 20, and Elizabeth, 17.

Prior to his election to the House, Steve served as an Upper Chichester Township Commissioner from 1992 to 1996, and president of the Board of Commissioners from 1994 to 1996. A former local businessman, Barrar owned and operated a retail garden center and greenhouse, the Twin Oaks Garden Mart, in Aston, Pennsylvania. The legislator's development of an active and accessible district office and Internet web site, as well as his personal approach with constituents, have won him the praise of Republican Leadership in Harrisburg.

He has been appointed to serve on the House Appropriations Committee and Education subcommittee, which is responsible for developing the annual state budget and ensuring the quality and funding of our children's education. Currently he serves as secretary of the Professional Licensure Committee and is also a member of the Liquor Control, Computer and Intergovernmental Affairs committees.

Additionally, he serves as treasurer for the House Firefighters Caucus, a special committee formulated to deal with the important needs of our volunteer firefighters. His efforts led to an historic \$25 million budget appropriation for the state's volunteer fire companies, and supported legislation in 2003 that gave an additional \$25 million in state funding.

For the past eight years, Steve has worked to make significant changes to the quality of life for the residents of the 160th district, and for Pennsylvania's citizens as a whole. Steve's groundbreaking legislation to help protect small businesses from unreasonable legal actions by the Commonwealth became law in 1997. The House also has adopted his legislation to repeal obsolete statutes on the books and his resolution to recognize "Community College Month."

An active member of the community, Steve is a member of the Chichester Business Association (since 1984), the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, Bethel VFW Post and the Concord Lodge No. 625, and the National Federation of Independent Business. His dedication towards the protection of Delaware and Chester County's small businessman, has led him to become an Honorary Member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart for his support of disabled veterans. Barrar and his wife are also active members of their Home and School Association and the Chichester Band Parents Association.

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	\$100	\$160

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 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 Susan Clark, 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.

CAPITOL INSIGHTS

Angie Mellott Armbrust, Winter Group

The principals of the Winter Group are Mark S. Singel, Peg Callahan Moyer, and Angie Mellott Armbrust. Their experience with the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists allows them to be the voice of PANA at the Capitol every day. On PANA's behalf, they attend State Board meetings and Senate and House Committee meetings, they monitor legislation and regulations impacting PANA, and they update your Executive Board regularly and sound the alert when action needs to be taken. They also work with your Executive Board and your Government Relations Committee to form the PANA's legislative strategy.

Session Update

January marked the beginning of the 2005-06 Session for the Pennsylvania Legislature. Any bills that were not passed and signed by the Governor from the previous session are now dead. The Winter Group is monitoring all newly introduced bills to identify ones that may impact the PANA.

The Winter Group has been working with your Executive Board and Government Relations Committee to form the PANA's legislative strategy for this new session. Some of the early steps that we have taken include a series of discussions with Senator Mary Jo White and her staff regarding the reintroduction of CRNA scope of practice legislation in the Senate (SB 580 last session). Senator White has drafted the bill and is in the process of getting co-sponsors. Likewise, Representative Stephen Barrar has sat down with us to discuss reintroducing the same scope of practice legislation in the House, as he did for us last session with HB 2313. He, too, is currently in the process of gathering co-sponsors for his bill. Some members of your Executive Board have been particularly helpful towards this cause. They have called their legislators personally and asked them to please sign on as a co-sponsor to one of these bills. Direct contact from you, the professionals whom this legislation will impact, lends credibility and a personal dimension to our efforts here in Harrisburg. We are grateful for their efforts. Some other items on

The Winter Group/PANA agenda for this year include interaction with the Department of Health as they move forward with their Healthcare Facility Regulation updates, and continued interaction with Department of Public Welfare officials on the Medical Assistance reimbursement issue.

Alliance Update

The Alliance of Advanced Practice Nurses held a meeting in January to discuss legislative initiatives for all of the groups for the upcoming year. Most of the groups plan to reintroduce legislation that did not pass last session, including: Clinical Nurse Specialists' scope of practice legislation; CRNP legislation allowing them to verify disability claims and fill out certain teacher qualification forms. There was a discussion about the Alliance of Advanced Practice Nurses Lobby Day. It was decided that the Lobby Day should be held in the fall of this year.

State Board Updates

The State Board of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine currently have several regulations at various stages of the regulatory process. The Winter Group is monitoring these and any new regulatory items that come before these Boards. The State Board of Nursing is in the process of setting its goals for this year. We will continue to monitor their agendas and report to your Executive Board monthly on their actions.

Contact Us

Again, we can't stress enough how important it is for you, the professionals that are impacted by the legislation and regulations that we bring to your attention, to weigh in with your elected officials to voice your opinion, answer questions, and just let your voice be heard. If you have questions about how to contact your legislator, please check out the Government Affairs link on the PANA website or contact us at The Winter Group.

Looking For a Few Good Men and Women

by Julie Antidormi, CRNA, MSN

Just as Uncle Sam's tax season is here once again, the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetist Board is holding its annual elections for the Executive positions of President-Elect, Vice President, and Treasurer. Do you know a few good men or women interested in any of these positions? All Executive candidates must have served on the PANA board for a minimum of two years.

The PANA board is also looking for a few good candidates from districts 5, 6, and 7 for the position of Trustee. Do you know of anyone from these districts that would be interested in this position? It is a great segway into becoming familiar with PANA and its purpose for Pennsylvania CRNA's. Included in this inauguration will be a training session for all newly elected Trustees.

Kindly submit all names and qualifications no later than May 6, 2005, to the PANA office by ground mail or online by email at the PANA website. Go to PANA Home Page and through the Members only menu once logged in.

All candidates must be of active status to be considered. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact any Board member or myself. Contact information for PANA's current Officers and Trustees can be found at <http://www.pana.org>. Thank you in advance for your time and nominations.



STUDENT VOICE

By Mikel Foster, SRNA

GET INVOLVED!!!

What can I do to be more involved in the future of my profession? As a graduate nurse anesthesia student, you should be asking yourself this question. What aspects of nurse anesthesia are you interested in? The state that you live and work in controls certain issues regarding your profession, so if you are uninformed, do something about it.

The Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists plays an active role in nurturing the growth of our profession. PANA is expecting up and coming students to step into the activist role for CRNA's in Pennsylvania. So if you are not involved or not concerned about the state of your profession, you might want to start. No one else is going to push for CRNA goals but CRNA's.

A great place to begin is with your interests. For instance, I was curious about the legislative process and how CRNA's strengthen their practice through federal legislation. This led me to the student representative position. Once you have a goal in mind, you should search for more pertinent information on the subject. The PANA web site pana.org is a good place to start your search. It will keep you up to date on the latest legislation, education, publications and community involvement. The website describes what your state association PANA does for you.

Read up on the latest issues concerning nurse anesthesia in your state. Initiate communication with Board members to see what is being done, and they can educate you about the legislative process. If government and legislation is your interest you may be able to lend support to help a bill be passed. The Midyear Assembly is a perfect opportunity to become involved in the legislative process and educate yourself on the political climate of your profession in Pennsylvania. It is also an excellent opportunity to meet your Board members. You are allowed to sit in on parts of their meeting to get information on the state bills we are trying to pass, information on changes in policy and other issues that impact the future of

your profession. Some lectures teach you how to effectively communicate with your legislator.

Continued education is crucial to the CRNA's strength. Educating the community includes junior high school students to undergraduate nursing students, as well as the general public. The more the public knows about how vital CRNA's are to health care, the more likely they will support us in the future. The PANA website is also great for information on reaching out to the community. If your graduate program does not implement a community education plan of some kind, you could initiate the effort. To ensure the continued growth of our profession, students must prepare themselves to step into leadership positions in education and government. Eventually you may aspire to be a PANA board member, or sit on a committee that passes a crucial bill for CRNA's in your state.

Mid Year Assembly

Each year the AANA holds a meeting called the Mid Year Assembly dealing with federal legislation issues pertinent to CRNA's. It will be held April 24-27, 2005, in Washington, DC. This meeting also serves to educate SRNA's and CRNA's on the legislative process and how to talk with your representative. There will be speakers discussing issues relevant to nurse anesthesia practice, as well as educating CRNA on how to communicate with their legislator.

The Mid Year Assembly is a great learning experience for SRNA's. One can learn about lobbying to pass legislation specific to your future practice. To quote a past Student Trustee, Tim Lyons, "The Midyear Assembly is designed to demystify the political process". Nurse Anesthesia programs in PA receive funding to assist interested students in attending this event.

This assembly gives us a chance to inform State Representatives of the importance of CRNA's in health care and the legislation needed for safe, efficient and cost effective anesthesia care.

CRNA Week Happenings

Sewickley Valley Hospital had a display on CRNA career information and equipment used by CRNA's. They also raffled off a spa basket for viewing the presentation. Dunkin Donuts were provided to the OR staff from the anesthesia department as a big "THANK YOU". Pictured left to right - West Penn Anesthesia Associates CRNA's - Susan Clark, Nancy Gallick and Chrissy (Dorsch) Wittebort.



UPMC Braddock Hospital proudly celebrated CRNA week. For the fifth consecutive year, a large bulletin board was exhibited outside the cafeteria for visitors and employees to view. Photos of the departmental CRNA's were shown surrounded by the sun, moon and stars. Articles on anesthesia patient safety, and the fact that CRNA's are with the patient throughout surgery, were also included. This annual exhibit is always positively received.

A New Experience

Margie Darbut, CRNA, BS, PANA Treasurer

Please enter the door of a first year Treasurer with me. Upon taking office, my arms were filled with boxes containing years of PANA finances. Shortly, my mailbox was overflowing with PANA monthly invoices, statements, and expenses from our joint fall state meeting with NJANA.

Organization is the key to success, or so I thought!

My desktop quickly disappeared, but the floor offered unlimited expansion. All I needed was a path. Meanwhile, I proudly installed the financial software containing the PANA accounting information.

In the interim, lurking was the upcoming Board meeting, and multiple financial reports needed to be created. The daily mantra became "I am nearing a meltdown"! Arising at 4:00 am during the workweek afforded additional hours. The war with Excel continued, yet I was determined to win!

As the months passed, the daunting learning curve became manageable. Accounting, reconciliations and budgeting became a second career. My public relations endeavor with PNC bank tellers was successful; they now are familiar with the term nurse anesthetists.

For me, the greatest impact as Treasurer was receiving our dues check from the AANA, which includes the names of the PA CRNAs. Each dollar equals a CRNA. The reward of fiduciary and moral responsibility is evident.

The sooth-sayers predicted a one-year learning curve. Spoken words were never so true.

The baby was successfully delivered and is now walking!

Who's Who on the Board



I am Joe D'Amico, CRNA, PhD, a newly elected Trustee member to the PANA Board. I am presently the C.E.O. and President of Professional Anesthesia Services of Eastern Pennsylvania, P.C. My education in nursing started at Community Medical Center and Marywood College in 1983. I entered anesthesia school at Reading Medical Center School of Nurse Anesthesia in 1991. Finished my Masters at St. Joseph's University in 1995 and my PhD. at La Salle University in 2000. Since that time I have been active within our association in the Practice Committee. There are many changes that will face us this next coming year, this being the year of "Health Care." Look for these changes on our Web site and the *Tidings* as they occur. There is much work ahead for us. It is imperative that those individuals who have a direct impact on the decision-making for our reimbursement of funds be educated in the practice of nurse anesthesia. This includes professional anesthesia billing companies! Let's make this a positive one for US.

Mark Your Calendars!

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| April 8-10, 2005 | PANA Spring Symposium-Hershey, PA |
| April 23-27, 2005 | AANA Mid Year Assembly-Washington, DC |
| August 6-10, 2005 | AANA Annual Meeting-Washington, DC |
| October 21-23, 2005 | PANA Fall Symposium-Atlantic City, NJ |

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
Nurse Anesthesia Program
presents
2005 Summer Anesthesia Seminar
Saturday, June 4, 2005
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Early Development of Artificial Organs & the Evolution of High Frequency Jet Ventilation
Miroslav Klain, MD, PhD

Overview of Valvular Disorders
Christopher Troianos, MD

Dynamic Left Ventricular Outflow Tract Obstruction
John Caldwell, MD

Third World Anesthesia
David Rymer, MD

Pediatric Difficult Airway
Lawrence Borland, MD
William Teskey, MSN, CRNA

Legal Issues for the Anesthesia Provider
Frederick Bode, Esquire

Anesthetic Management Strategies for Radiofrequency Ablation of Atrial Fibrillation
Joseph Goode, Jr., MSN, CRNA
Rende Taylor, MSN, CRNA

Clinical Precepting & Professional Mentoring in Anesthesia
Sandy Sell, MSN, CRNA

Peripheral Nerve Blocks
Jacquet Chelly, MD, PhD, MBA

Coagulation & the Anesthesia Provider
Franklin Bontempo, MD

Fee (before May 27th) CRNA/MD-\$100 • Students-\$50
Fee (after May 27th) CRNA/MD-\$130 • Students-\$75

registration information:

www.pitt.edu/~pittsas • naperna@pitt.edu • (412)624-4860

Public Relations 2005 Charitable Project

This year we will be working with the United Services Organization (USO) to show support of our US troops and their families. The campaign will run from its "Kick Off" at our state meeting in Hershey, PA, April 18th, on through June of 2005. This will be a great opportunity for CRNA's across our state to get involved in many ways. There will be opportunities to become a pen pal for a person in military service over seas, or to purchase phone cards to be used to call home, or to buy "Support Our Troop" wristbands, and much more.

By helping with this worthy effort, we can at the same time gain recognition for our profession as the caring selfless group I know we are. And if you join in and support the USO project, or have a favorite charity that you would rather work

with, that will be fine. I ask only that you please acknowledge yourself as CRNA. Wear a CRNA T-shirt, or CRNA pin, or CRNA emblem when you're doing your good work. Then when someone asks what is a CRNA, I hope you will answer proudly.

After our Hershey State Meeting in mid April, watch our Web site, (PANA.ORG) or call the PANA office direct for more information on our USO project.

**Lois Illar,
PR Chair, Dist. 5 Trustee**

HELP SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBOR IN NEED NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS- (NJANA) THEIR CAUSE IS OUR CAUSE

You can help by making a donation to:

NJANA Legal Defense Fund
Angie Richman, CRNA
Executive Director
671 Sun Haven Drive
Clayton, NJ 08312

Interested persons should visit the website at: <http://www.nj.gov/lps/ca/bme/privilege/altpriv.htm> or contact alternativeprivileges@lps.state.nj.us or 973-273-8080

New Mexico Association of Nurse Anesthetists present: Sharon K. Hensley, CRNA, MS Candidate, Region 5 Director



Immediate past President, NMANA 2002-2004
Board of Directors, NMANA 2000-2006

AANA State Organizational Development Committee 2003-2006

Project leader, 2001 Public Relations booth
Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Proven leadership at the state level:
Removed supervision from Nurse Practice Act
Became the 6th state to Opt-Out
Restricted AA practice to one hospital in the state
Resolved adverse Board of Pharmacy language
Eliminated supervision - Decreased surcharge fees
in Patient Compensation Fund

Passionate for our Profession
Dedicated to Protecting CRNA Practice Rights
Advocate for students - our future!

Committed to working on behalf of all CRNAs

Make your voice count! Please take the time to VOTE in this years AANA elections.

Graduate of Westmoreland-Latrobe School of Nurse Anesthesia, La Roche College, Pittsburgh, PA



Tidings

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