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President's Message

Michael Stefonetti, CRNA, President

Since the last Tidings the PANA has been busy. The Annual Spring Meeting was held at the Hershey Hotel and was a huge success. There were over 500 attendees, including a large number of students. There were also many out of state CRNA attendees.

Congratulations to the Program Committee for an outstanding job.

Governor Rendell's Prescription for Pennsylvania, H.B. 700, has started to move. During transcription there was an apparent typographical error that affects the 'Scope of Practice' language. The transcription substituted "*Collaboration*" for "*Cooperation*". This language seems harmless yet it can produce a huge change for CRNA practice in PA. Collaboration is not defined and can generally be accepted as working with someone with the same or similar expertise. The only providers that fit this description are Anesthesiologists. This would mean that an *Anesthesiologist* would have to be involved with *every* anesthetic. The term '*Cooperation*' comes from the Nurse Practice Act that describes both parties contributing their own level of expertise to a common end. The language for the 'Scope of Practice' legislation comes directly from the Nurse Practice Act. As described in the NPA, we are required to work in cooperation with a licensed physician, not necessarily an anesthesiologist. Collaboration can lead to decreased services because we will be unable to practice in office based settings, endo centers and sites where CRNAs now provide services without an anesthesiologist.

Recent changes to H.B. 700 have taken this massive bill and broken it down into manageable sections. Our bills are now H.B.1256 and 441 and were introduced by Rep. Gergely and Rep. Baraar. We do have support for these bills, but still need all CRNAs to contact their legislators and ask them to sign on to support this

legislation. Unfortunately the language was introduced incorrectly in H.B.1256 (collaboration instead of cooperation) and will be

amended. We have support of the Governor's office to correct this error. Further information will be available on the PANA web site.

We have not heard any information from the State Board of Nursing concerning the 'Conscious Sedation' regulation. I have been communicating with The Department of Health to bring resolution to the restriction of SRNAs from freestanding ASCs. I have not received an answer to our request to correct this situation. We continue to pursue these issues.

Lobby Day was held on May 8th and a large number CRNAs and students from across the state visited the Capitol building to discuss our 'Scope of Practice' legislation and encourage support. The professional image presented was outstanding. I was proud to be among my current and future colleagues. Congratulations to Mark Singel, Peg Moyer, Angie Armbrust, Natalie Boyland and the entire Winter Group for a job well done.

I was invited to discuss H.B.700 at the University of Scranton at a PSNA meeting and how it will affect CRNA practice in PA. Registered Nurses and students were in attendance along with Representatives James Wansacz and Ken Smith. Rep. Wansacz followed my presentation and discussed healthcare legislation affecting nursing and its impact in PA. I thank Dr. Margaret Lieb Zalon, PhD, RN and Patricia Sweeney, MS, CRNP, for the opportunity to discuss this topic.

The AANA National Meeting is in Denver, CO this AUGUST; I hope to see many PA CRNAs there!



Legislator Spotlight

Rep. Marc Gergely, D-Allegheny



Rep. Marc Gergely, D-Allegheny, is a graduate of McKeesport Area High School and attended the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He brings years of public service to the state legislature. In 1996, at the age of 26, Gergely became one of the youngest school board presidents in the state, and served on the board for six years.

He was previously employed by former state Sen. Albert Belan, and worked as a legislative assistant to state Sen. Sean Logan. Gergely has also served as an Allegheny County Democratic Committeeman.

He is very active in his community and belongs to many local organizations, including the Yough Rivers Bass Association, Allegheny County Young Democrats, Polish National Alliance Lodge No. 352, Sons of the American Legion No. 361, McKeesport Hungarian Club, Firearms Owners Against Crime, Free and Accepted Masons Lodge No. 582 and the White Oak Local Economic Development Corp. Gergely is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys fishing and bow hunting. He and his wife, Debbie, have three children, Nicole, Andrew and Olivia.

Gergely's legislative priorities include economic development, completion of the Mon-Fayette expressway, and property tax reform.

Representative Gergely has introduced HB 1256—Scope of Practice for CRNAs. The bill is currently in the House Professional Licensure Committee, of which Representative Gergely is a member.

MEET YOUR BOARD – Kelly Wiltse

My name is Kelly Wiltse, MSN, CRNA, and I have the honor of serving as a District I representative to the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists Board of Trustees. Currently I serve as the chair for the Student Activities Committee, as well as a serving as a member of the PANA Programs Committee. In addition to working with PANA, I also serve as a member the AANA Programs Committee.

I received my BSN from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and began my career as an RN at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in the Cardiothoracic Surgical Intensive Care Unit. My MSN, as well as a research minor, was earned from the University of Pittsburgh in 2005. Currently I live in Philadelphia and work at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. I also serve as a clinical coordinator for the University of Pennsylvania Nurse Anesthesia Program, and am looking forward to beginning my PhD program at the University of Pennsylvania this fall.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who showed confidence in voting me onto the PANA Board of Trustees, and to my family and friends for their unwavering support. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the amazing CRNAs in both PANA and the AANA who have given me exceptional training in diplomacy and the importance of fighting for what you believe in, and to the CRNAs of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Penn Presbyterian Medical Center for teaching me how to provide the best possible care to our patients. Thank you all so very much!

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PANA Peer Assistance Advisor

Art Zwerling, MS, MSN, CRNA, FAAPM

Home: 215-635-0183 (Anesthetists In Recovery)

Work: 215-728-5714

Cell: 215-872-6821

a.to.z@comcast.net

AANA Peer Assistance WebPages on:

<http://www.aana.com>

Hotline - 800-654-5167



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CAPITOL INSIGHTS

Angie Mellott Armbrust, Winter Group

Session Update

Both the House and Senate spent the month of June occupied with working out compromises on the state budget. Both chambers will return to Harrisburg in the fall to take up numerous legislative issues, including the various bills that make up the Governor's Prescription Plan for Pennsylvania.

Governor Rendell's Prescription for Pennsylvania

This spring Governor Edward G. Rendell offered a "Prescription for Pennsylvania" to increase access to affordable health care coverage for all Pennsylvanians, improve the quality of care, and bring health care costs under control for employers and employees. (For more information visit www.gohcr.state.pa.us).

Because the Governor's Prescription Plan for Pennsylvania and HB 700 (the actual legislation that contained all of his initiatives) was so large, the legislature and Governor worked together to break out several individual bills that deal with pieces of the Prescription Plan for Pennsylvania. The Rx for PA aimed to increase scopes of practice for many health professional groups, including nurse anesthetists. HB 1526, introduced by Representative Marc Gergely (D-Allegheny), is the bill that deals specifically with CRNA scope of practice. A hearing was held on the bill in Harrisburg in June. PANA President Michael Stefanetti testified in support of the bill. The legislature has indicated that they will take up the Rx for PA again when they return in the fall.

Legislation of Interest

HB 1526 (see above)

HB 341—Representative Stephen Barrar (R-Delaware) outlines scope of practice for CRNAs. *Currently in House Professional Licensure Committee.*

SB 891—Senator Mary Jo White (R-Vanango) outlines scope of practice for CRNAs. *Currently in Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.*

SB 214—Senator Patrick Browne (R-Lehigh) Amends the Professional Nursing Law establishing the Nurses Health Program, a Statewide peer assistance program. This program would identify, assist and monitor nurses experiencing mental health, alcohol and drug problems which may impair their ability to practice, so that they may return or continue to practice safe nursing. This would be administered by an independent contractor. *Currently in Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.*

HB 549—Representative Arthur Hershey (R-Chester) The Nurse Licensure Compact Act authorizes the State of PA to join the Nurse Licensure Compact and provides for the form of the compact. *Currently in House Professional Licensure Committee.*

HB 834—Representative Dan Surra (D-Elk) The Prohibition of Excessive Overtime in Health Care Act states that a health care facility may not require an employee to work in excess of an agreed to, predetermined and regularly scheduled daily work shift. This would not be construed to prevent an employee from voluntarily accepting work in excess of these limitations. The bill states a health care facility or employer may not use on-call time as a substitute for mandatory overtime or a means of circumventing the intent

of this act. The refusal of an employee to accept work in excess of the limitations set in this bill would not be grounds for discrimination, dismissal, discharge or any other employment decision adverse to the employee. *Passed the House 166/31, received in the Senate and referred to the Senate Labor and Industry Committee.*

SB 835—Senator Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia) The Health Care Worker and Patient Protection Act would establish guidelines for mandatory overtime for the protection of patients and health care workers. The bill states that providers could not require full time employees to work more than 80 hours of predetermined and regularly scheduled daily work over a two week period of time. The bill also states that employees can voluntarily accept work in excess of an agreed to, predetermined and regularly scheduled daily work shift. The Act provides for exceptions for unforeseen emergent circumstances including requiring overtime as a last resort to fill vacancies resulting from chronic staff shortages, for situations where employers have exhausted reasonable efforts to obtain staffing and for declared emergencies. Also, employers would have to give employees up to one hour to arrange for the care of minor children, elderly or disabled family members in the event of unforeseen emergent circumstance. Nothing in the Act would supersede or negate collective bargaining or employer/employee agreements that provide greater restrictions on mandatory overtime. The legislation would also not cover employees of long term care or assisted living facilities who reside in the facility on a full time basis or for employees on-call. Employers in violation of this Act would be subject to a fine \$100 to \$500 for each violation. *Currently in the Senate Labor and Industry Committee.*

State Board Updates

PANA continues to monitor the progress of the State Board of Nursing's conscious sedation regulation.

Medical Assistance Reimbursement for CRNAs

PANA continues its work with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare on the issue of Medical Assistance reimbursement for CRNAs in Pennsylvania. We have reviewed a draft the DPW's regulation and made comments. DPW is taking those comments into consideration during the drafting of the final language for this regulation. PANA will continue to monitor and update you as this issue moves forward.

PANA Lobby Day

On Tuesday, May 8, 2007, representatives from the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists and students nurse anesthetists from schools around the state convened in Harrisburg for a Lobby Day. We targeted in on members of the House Professional Licensure Committee and our purpose was simple—to inform them of who CRNAs are, what services they provide for Pennsylvanians, and to inform them Representative Gergely was introducing HB 1256 dealing with CRNA scope of practice.

We split up into three teams of CRNAs and some SRNAs, each led by one lobbyist. Those teams also stopped by numerous other offices and ran into other legislators throughout the day. The remaining CRNAs and SRNAs roamed the House and Senate halls introducing themselves and inviting legislators and staffers to attend a reception that PANA sponsored in the

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STUDENT VOICE

By Maria D. Thomas, SRNA, BA, BSN, PANA Student Representative



Impressive! This seems to be the word used to describe our Pennsylvania SRNAs. We've left a positive impression in Washington, D.C. and in Harrisburg. How did we accomplish this? We displayed unity within our chosen profession as well as support for the AANA and PANA during the AANA Mid Year Assembly and the PANA Lobby Day held recently.

Our legislator's and/or their legislative assistant's were truly impressed by the number of Pennsylvania SRNAs who participated in these events and were even more impressed at how knowledgeable and well-spoken we were. We provided our legislator's with excellent descriptions of what it is a CRNA does. We also apprised them of key issues that impact our profession in a concise manner.

During Lobby Day, we emphasized how CRNAs are a critical component to Governor Rendell's "Prescription for Pennsylvania". We expressed ourselves well and were well-received.

Thank you to all the SRNAs who helped make these events successful. We certainly would not have been impressive if we didn't have the support of our Program Director's/Assistant Director's. Please take a moment to thank your respective Program Director for this privilege and for their support!

The **AANA** will be holding their **74th AANA Annual Meeting** at the Denver Convention Center, Denver, CO on August 4-8, 2007. It's not too late to register. Please refer to the AANA website www.aana.com. The Meeting is educational and fun! While there, be sure to attend the Nurse Anesthetist College Bowl where CRNAs compete against SRNAs on various anesthesia topics. I think the CRNAs will be up against some tough competition with all of our talented SRNAs! Also, it is during this meeting that you'll have the opportunity to listen to candidates running for the office of AANA Student Representative and to cast your vote.

PANA will be holding their **Fall Symposium and Business Meeting** on October 5-7, 2007 at the Sheraton Society Hill, Philadelphia, PA. It is during this Symposium that you'll be able to network with the outgoing and incoming PANA Board of Directors and Committee Delegate Members. This Symposium also offers a great educational component through the various presenters that will be speaking. Additional information is forthcoming and may be found on the PANA website at www.pana.org

Be on the lookout for information that will be describing scholarships available to SRNAs attending Pennsylvania Nurse Anesthesia Programs. PANA will be displaying their continued support of SRNAs by offering scholarship's once again. Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 were awarded to each PA Nurse Anesthesia Program last year. It was the Program Director's discretion to award the scholarship to an individual SRNA they deemed meriting. Congratulations to those of you who were scholarship recipients last year. Details explaining the SRNA scholarships available for 2007-2008 are forthcoming. Keep an eye open for information on the PANA website at www.pana.org

Are you ready to take on a challenge that provides great experiences? PANA will be seeking a new Student Representative for the 2007-2008 term. If you'd like to learn more about this position, please feel free to contact me at mdtsrna@aim.com or contact Art Zwerling, PANA President-Elect at a.to.z@comcast.net

Enjoy your summer!

Maria

Capitol Insights

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Main Rotunda that evening. At the reception we had a good turnout of legislators and staffers. The afternoon of meetings and the evening reception were great opportunities to introduce the members of PANA and their issues to the elected officials.

All in all, it was a successful day. We effectively brought our message to a number of legislators. Also, the fact that we presented a united front at the Capitol on a busy session day also raised awareness of PANA in general.

Please Contact Your Legislator

As always, The Winter Group would like to encourage every CRNA in Pennsylvania to look up his or her Representative and Senator and to call, email, or make an appointment to see them. Legislators value input from their constituents. **Summer is the best possible time to see your legislator in his or**

her district office. Because they are not in session in Harrisburg, legislators have more time to meet with constituents and will more likely be able to spend valuable time with you discussing your profession. 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 being a cosponsor to HB 1256, HB 341 or SB 891. Talking points including information on all of these bills are available in the members section of the PANA website (www.pana.org).

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 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.



Arlene Loeffler, CRNA, PhD (PANA Past President) and James Woomeer, CRNA, MSN (PANA Board Member) visited with Congressman Bill Shuster (R-PA 9th) during the AANA Mid Year Assembly in Washington.

A delegation of CRNAs and students from Pennsylvania, including members of the PANA Board, visited with Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) in Washington during the AANA Mid Year Assembly in April.



Anesthesia for Office Based Dental Procedures

PANA recently received an inquiry regarding state regulations relevant anesthesia services for dental procedures in an office-based environment. The following information can provide assistance in understanding these regulations:

State Board of Dentistry

<http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/cwp/view.asp?a=1104&q=432687>

PA Dental Association

<http://www.padental.org/Template.cfm?Section=Dentists&CONTENTID=5682&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm>

A CRNA can practice with a dentist as long as there is an unrestricted license. The dentist must have a current license, an unrestricted current anesthesia license and a DEA license.

The DEA license is necessary because CRNAs cannot order drugs, especially narcotics, and also any drug that is delivered must be used at the site of delivery (i.e., an oral surgeon's office).

Medicare Medical Policy (A-16) Office-Based Anesthesia clearly states how a CRNA can practice. "Office-Based anesthesia must be personally provided by a qualified anesthesia personnel. These individuals must be continuously present to monitor the patient and provide anesthesia care. Qualified anesthesia personnel include MD's, DO's, and those DMD's, and DDS's with unrestricted anesthesersa permits. And CRNA's under the direct supervision of MD's, DO's and those DMD's and DDS's with unrestricted anesthesia permits. Additionally, any and all anesthesia personnel must be in keeping with the State's scope of practice laws."

2007 Annual PANA Awards—See www.pana.org for Further Info!

Nominate the CRNA or SRNA you feels exemplifies the best the PANA represents! Deadline for submission August 1, 2007. Awards are presented at the Fall Symposium. Award categories are: Outstanding Student of the Year, Program Director of the Year, Didactic Instructor of the Year, Clinical Instructor of the Year, CRNA Clinician of the Year. Find further information on how to nominate someone at www.pana.org or by calling Angie Armbrust at 1-800-495-PANA.

PANA members in the News

Congratulations to PANA members Cara Malcotti, MSN, CRNA and Eric Petrunak, MSN, CRNA on their publication of "Thoracoabdominal Aneurysm Repair: A Case Report", *AANA Journal*, April 2007. Cara and Eric, along with co-author Lisa Adams, MSN, CRNA, are graduates of the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program. Cara is a Staff CRNA at Mount Nittany Medical Center in State College and Eric is a Staff CRNA at Altoona Regional Health System.

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS – PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

The following amendments to the PANA By-Laws will be presented to the membership at the business meeting in October, 2007:

Article V - Section 1, Paragraph E - New subsection (4) - Upon written request to the President of the Association, any member of the Board may participate in any Board Meeting by telecommunication equipment, whereby the member and all those physically attending the meeting will be able to speak to and hear each other at all times during the meeting.

Article VII - Old By-Law

C. Election shall be by mailed ballot; a plurality shall elect all officers and trustees. The ballot shall be mailed to the members qualified to vote ten (10) weeks prior to the annual meeting, said ballots are to be tabulated and official results mailed to the Chief Teller within five (5) working days after the deadline for ballot return by the designated external agency. The official election results will be mailed by the Chief Teller to the President no later than three (3) weeks prior to the annual business meeting. In the event of a tie vote, the tie shall be broken by a written ballot at the annual meeting.

D. A vote may be cast for a person not on the ballot by writing in the name. Names may be written in on a mailed ballot if written consent of the qualified candidate has been received by the Chief Teller four (4) weeks prior to the annual business meeting. One letter of consent is sufficient to cover all write-in votes for a designated candidate.

E. The Chief Teller shall make an official election report at the annual meeting to the members present. Two (2) or more additional tellers shall be appointed by the President and shall be responsible for counting other votes on any business transacted at the business meeting. Matters submitted for vote at the business meeting shall be determined by the majority of the voting body present, unless otherwise specified.

Article VII - Proposed By-Law

C. Election shall be by mailed ballot; a plurality shall elect all officers and

trustees. The ballot shall be mailed to the members qualified to vote ten (10) weeks prior to the annual meeting, said ballots will be tabulated by the designated external agency and the official results will be mailed to the President, Secretary and Managing Director of the Association within five (5) working days after the deadline for ballot return by the designated external agency. In the event of a tie vote, the tie shall be broken by a written ballot at the annual meeting.

D. A vote may be cast for a person not on the ballot by writing in the name. Names may be written on a mailed ballot if written consent of the qualified candidate has been received by the President, Secretary and Managing Director of the Association four (4) weeks prior to the annual business meeting. One letter of consent is sufficient to cover all write-in votes for a designated candidate.

E. The designated external agency shall make an official election report at the annual meeting to the members present. Three (3) or more additional tellers shall be appointed by the President and shall be responsible for counting other votes on any business transacted at the business meeting. Matters submitted for vote at the business meeting shall be determined by the majority of the voting body present, unless otherwise specified.

Article XI - Amendments - Old By-Law

These By-Laws may be amended at the annual meeting of this Association by two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting, provided notice of the proposed amendments has been appended to the call for the meeting and mailed at least thirty (30) days prior to the date thereof.

Article XI - Amendments - Proposed By-Law

These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the membership of this Association by two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting, provided a quorum of 40 active members are present and provided written notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting.



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