

Dear Colleagues,

It is not often that the President can have an open discussion with our membership to address questions and concerns that you have. In our recent conference held October 3-5 at the Omni William Penn hotel in Pittsburg, I had the opportunity and privilege to do just that. It was good not just for me, but for our board members to address your questions and concerns. Yes, I have done this throughout this past year via email and through our on-line web forum page, but in person seeing the facial expressions, body language and tone of voice can make a huge difference in the presentation of the same question or concern. It brings to light and confirms the direction our board should take when addressing hard issues with legislatures and other association specialties. In hearing your concerns and topics of interest, it confirms our Strategic Plan for this association and how PANA should push forward in the next five years.

The conference was held with a full itinerary that contained excellent topics and speakers. Some of those speakers were our own students. Marie A. De Francesco-Loukas, Kevin Ponder and James Bocchicchio, they all presented with poise and professionalism that was evident by the CRNAs whom were in the audience. As I sat and listened to each of the student speakers, I could not help but feel pride and admiration. My congratulations to the program directors and to all CRNAs whom play a part in educating our students and to Marie, Kevin and James, a job well done.

For those of you, whom could not attend this past conference, let me address some of the items we discussed. If you had the opportunity to view my President's address on our web site and the recent published article in Tidings, most of the topics of discussion dealt with these areas. Items such as the necessity to continue with diligence to protect our scope of practice, the creation of an ad-hoc. committee with the PSA to develop language that will present a law that defines a CRNAs scope of practice in our State, the usage of propofol for procedural sedation by non-anesthesia providers that currently sits as a proposal in the SBON, the alliance PANA has developed with the advanced practice of nursing, the issue of non-medical reimbursement with Department of Public Welfare, the practice of SRNAs in ASF's, and we focused on areas in our state which we can broaden our scope of practice.

Unfortunately, I wished I had more time to elaborate on some of these issues, but there is never enough time to take what your Board has been working on, present it in completeness in just a few hours. It will be my practice that with every meeting we have as a membership, there will be an open discussion period set aside so that I can address and answer your concerns, but most importantly, bring you up-to-date with current issues and concerns we as an association face in our state.

There has been a challenge presented by the students at the Fall conference that at the up coming Spring meeting to be held in Hershey, the students would like to challenge the CRNAs to a college bowl. An invitation is being extended to all faculty administrators to put together their team. Lauren Penn, our newest Student Representative to the Board is contacting students from each of the twelve schools to put their team together. The competition will consists of student members from each of the twelve schools on one side and the other, program directors or faculty of these twelve schools. I am looking forward to this event. With an association that contains the largest number of schools and student population in the country, this is going to be an event you will not want to miss.

For those of you who are planning on attending the Hershey conference, be prepared to discuss the option of placing our voting registration and ballot on-line. PANA will continue to mail the voting ballot, but give the option to vote on line as well.

In this past election there were only 512 CRNAs whom voted and from this 24 were not counted because their CRNA number was not recorded on the ballot thus making their vote invalid. In a state where we represent the largest number of CRNAs in any state, exceeding 2,800 we should be ashamed of the few numbers whom come out to vote and let their voice be heard. Colleagues, there will be issues in the near future that this association will face. Issues that will and can change your ability to practice and be provided the salaries you are accustomed to today. If you do not participate in the voting process or contribute to the direction your association is moving in, how can you effectively address these issues when presented? Each of you must and need to be accountable for how we practice and how our practices affect each other.

Before I close, I'd like to introduce your new board members. This years President Elect- Diana Davidson, Vice President-Guy Hornig, Secretary-Mike Kinslow, Treasure-Margretta Darbut, 2007-2009 Trustees, Elsie Murray, Michael Neft, Mitchell Oblak and James Woomer. The 2008-2010 Trustees are Pamela Kauffman, Jay Thomas, Kathleen Peiffer and Kelly Wiltse. The Student Trustee is Lauren Penn and returning by appointment to chair the PR Committee is Bettina Dixon. Upon my request Skip Lamoreaux agreed to return as PANA's PAC Treasurer, Mike Loomis as PANA's Web Master and Christine Allen-Sanders PANA's-Federal Political Director.

It is a blessing for me to have most of the board members return from last year. I look forward to working with our newest members and already can see growth occurring for your association. I look forward to seeing all of you in Hershey. It is going to be a great conference and one you will all enjoy.

Sincerely,

Joseph D'Amico, CRNA, PhD.
President, Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetist