



ALANA News

A Publication of the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Bulletin

Notice

Patti Case, CRNA has withdrawn her name from the ballot as a candidate for ALANA Board of Directors. Patti served the ALANA tirelessly over the past two years as an active member of the ALANA Board of Directors and chairman of the program committee. Patti will continue to serve the ALANA membership through her committee work. Thanks Patti for your service to ALANA.

Volume 22, Number 3, 2004
Jim Henderson, Editor

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Ballot Information

Ballots for the 2004-2005 ALANA Election of Officers will be mailed shortly. In the event that you have not received a ballot by September 15, 2004, please contact Tom Nichols, CRNA, Chairman of the Teller's Committee at 205-642-0405. He has the authority to issue a duplicate ballot.

All active members of ALANA are eligible to cast a ballot. The membership list for mailing this ballot was the most recent list available from the AANA. If you recently had a change of address, please notify the AANA and the ALANA NewsBulletin Editor. In order to be considered valid, your ballot must be returned in the enclosed envelope, stamped, and postmarked no later than **September 30, 2004**. Results of the election will be announced at the business meeting at our Annual Fall Meeting at the Wynfrey and will be published in the December Issue of the ALANA NewsBulletin.

ALANA 2004 Candidates

President Elect (select one)

Brent Ledford, CRNA (Huntsville)
(unopposed)

V/P and Secretary (select one)

David Neal, CRNA (Birmingham)
Frank Saliba, CRNA, JD (Montgomery)

Treasurer (select one)

Jay Strickland, CRNA (Birmingham)
Joe Williams, CRNA (Birmingham)

Board of Directors at Large (select four)

Tracy Hall, CRNA (Birmingham)
Ken Langley, CRNA (Boaz)
Shannon Scaturro, CRNA, MSN (Mobile)
Michele Snow, CRNA (Birmingham)

Nominating Committee Chairperson (select one)

Patsy Randall, CRNA (Alabaster)
Jason Wilson, CRNA (Birmingham)



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From the Office of the ALANA President *Brent Ledford, CRNA, MS*

I have recently discovered just how dependent I am on the immediate availability of a mindless, or at least heartless electronic device known in my household as the 'puter (pronounced pooter). This cold, often-antagonistic heap of wires, plastic, and aluminum sits on a desktop in my sunroom beckoning me to sign on and experience levels of frustration normally reserved for extended voice mail option menus, or midnight experiences with painfully slow OR Coordinators. This same 'puter was absent from my home for a month while it was undergoing behavior modification at the technical service center. I know for a fact that this had absolutely nothing to do with my 8-year-old playing 3 games at once while surfing the Disney Channel site for Lizzie Maguire info. I don't own a PDA or laptop, so I was forced to endure computer interruptus cold turkey. I found myself sneaking over to friends' homes, sitting conveniently close to their computers with a "sad puppy" look on my face, searching for avenues that would allow me to keep up with the business of our association. Now, I find myself sitting in a coffee house in Seattle banging away on a foreign computer trying to do the same thing.

I am a pen and paper kind of guy. I keep lists on the back of business cards, my wallet and shirt pocket are bulging with scraps of EKG paper with scribbled notes on the back, and I have to squint every time I pull my micro schedule out of my wallet to see where I am supposed to be on any particular day. I know there are many of you out there that have your PDA wirelessly linked to your desktop which is synchronized with your cell phone that communicates with your oven and probably even opens your garage door for you. My response to you folks in the past has always been that I may not always have all the data I need at my beck and call, but if I drop my notes on a hard floor, or lose them in a hectic OR, I haven't stressed myself out because my PDA screen is broken, cost myself any money, or lost a years worth of data in one quick moment. Since I have never been shy about giving you computer savvy people a hard time, I must now confess that I am beginning to desire the abilities you have with these devices that are so quickly becoming more ingrained in our lives. As I viewed all of the latest computer driven anesthesia charting equipment at the AANA Exhibit Hall in Seattle, I became more convinced that a working knowledge of computer applications would shortly become a necessity if you want to remain viable in the workplace.

I have witnessed what the introduction of computer charting has done to the nurse-patient relationship in the OR, and I must say that the nurses are being forced to nurse the computers instead of the patient. As this technology slowly invades our anesthesia space, I hope we are able to stay focused on what we do best, and strive to retain that bond we quickly form with each patient that entrusts their outcome to us.

I attended a lecture yesterday that discussed the "FISH" philosophy of

having fun in the workplace while increasing customer satisfaction. This model was named after the Pike Place Fish Market here in Seattle, and it is a living, working model of how you can transform your work environment. The FISH philosophy relies on four tenants: play, make their day, be there, and choose your attitude. There are several of us at work that have become known as practical jokers, though I assure you my reputation is completely undeserved. We make an attempt to have fun with our coworkers, and with our patients in so much as they are willing to participate. Humor, coupled with your direct intent to make each patient's day, can go a long way in allaying their fears. Let each and every patient know that you are there for them, and give them eye contact and all of your focused attention as you speak to them. Finally, choose your attitude for the day, before you get to work. Make a conscious decision that you are going to be happy, and that you are going to infect others with this. Talk about a PR campaign, not to mention what it would do for the relationships we develop with our patients and with each other if each of us decides to practice these four behaviors.

Outgoing AANA President Tom McKibban announced yesterday a new wellness initiative aimed at helping CRNA's develop healthier lifestyles through education. The AANA Foundation will manage the Jan Stewart Memorial Fund, and the monies collected will be used to fund speakers and other initiatives related to areas specifically pertinent to the overall wellness of CRNA's. The Medical Director of the Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center delivered the first lecture in this series yesterday. Did you know that almost 10% of anesthesia practitioners admit to diversion of drugs? Your state association places a high priority on this problem, with lectures devoted to this at at least one meeting a year, as well as several pages on our website. If you ever have any questions related to this, please visit our site, or feel free to call me personally. The ALANA gave a donation in the amount of \$1000 to help fund this much-

needed initiative.

I have just a couple of quick tidbits from the meeting. You may recall that AANA members used to receive the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) newsletter, but this was discontinued when it became a political forum instead of a patient safety venue. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Rodney Lester (recent past AANA President) has been appointed to their editorial and advisory board, as well as other notable CRNA's after reviewing the APSF newsletter for the past 18 months, the AANA will again begin distributing this to its members. This was always an interesting read, and I hope you will spend a few minutes looking it over when it arrives. Also, thanks to all of you who participated in the Sponsor-A-Student Programs throughout the year.

If anyone is interested in a trip to Switzerland, the 8th World Congress for Nurse Anesthetists is going to be held June 10-13, 2006, in Lausanne, Switzerland. Information may be obtained at their website, which is www.wcna2006.ch. If Switzerland is too far away, or too expensive, why not come on over to Birmingham October 8-10 for our Fall Meeting at the Wynfrey Hotel in the Galleria. There will be a class open on Friday for those interested in recertifying in ACLS and/or PALS, and those elusive 6 pharmacy hours will be available as well.

Thanks for reading this, and please vote in our upcoming election for ALANA officers. If you have any interest in serving on any of our committees, please email me or the committee chairperson listed on our website. This does not have to be a time consuming endeavor. Please take time each day to pray for our colleagues that are wearing a uniform and away from their families. These CRNA's really understand sacrifice in ways we cannot.

Sincerely, Brent

Obituary

Jackie Bolden, CRNA

Jackie Bolden, CRNA passed away on August 12, 2004. Jackie spent most of her career at UAB and Eye Foundation Hospital in Birmingham and was retired after 36 years of service teaching and practicing as a CRNA. Jackie was a perfectionist in her work and as a student anesthetist you had better not have a messy cart when working with her. She was thorough and tough, however, she had the patience of Job and we were better trained CRNAs for having spent time with her. In 1978, I did my first intubation as a student with

Jackie at my side. Later, I was honored that she came to me to handle some legal matters on her behalf. Thank you Jackie for what you have done, as you will be missed by so many. --- Joe Knight

The ALANA has made a contribution to the ALANA Scholarship Fund at the AANA Foundation in her memory. Those wishing to do the same can contact the AANA Foundation at 847-692-7050, ext. 3070.



From the Office of the Executive Director

Joe Knight, CRNA, JD

As we enter into the dog days of summer, we realize that another change in Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists' leadership is about to unfold in the next few weeks. It will be left up to each of you to decide who it is that will lead you over the next two years.

Looking back, Mr. Brent Ledford, CRNA has done a great job in representing you in the state of Alabama as well as at the national level. Well done, Brent. The versatile Jim Henderson, CRNA, will take over the reigns at our October meeting in Birmingham. Jim has been very actively involved with the ALANA for quite some time and is responsible for the publication of the excellent ALANA news bulletin, which is second to none when compared to other states' publications.

Although we have had some great leaders, the presidents cannot accomplish this task alone. The ALANA president relies on elected officers and an elected board of directors in order to "steer the ship." The president relies on the President-Elect, the Vice-president/Secretary and 7 Board of Director members to conduct the business of the ALANA. The Officers and board members serve two-year terms. Board member elections are staggered so that 4 at-large members are elected in the even years and three regional directors on the odd years. Rounding out the board are two student representatives, one from UAB and the other from Samford.

The officers and board meet approximately four times per year. Sometimes these meetings last for hours depending on the nature of the business or issue facing the ALANA or the AANA. Some think the board is about pomp, circumstance, fine dining and travel and are envious of those that serve. This is quite a myth and I would invite any ALANA member to sit in on the open board meetings and see the process at work.

In between board meetings, the work of the ALANA standing committees gets done. These committees include, Governmental Relations, Nominations, Practice, PAC, Welcoming, Scholarship, Chemical Dependency and Public Relations to name a few. In addition, ad hoc committees are often dictated by circumstances. Over the past several years, I have noticed that the committee work seems to get done with more ease than ever before. This is a testament to the time and efforts of those who have served in the ALANA positions. One of the most difficult committees to chair is that of the Nominating Committee. This committee is responsible for putting together a ballot in order that you will have an opportunity to have a

voice in your leadership. The nominating chair position is often a thankless job, but those who have served in this position usually go on to serve with great contribution on the ALANA board.

Now, comes the easy part. In this edition, CRNAs from Alabama have put together a short bio in order that you can make an informed decision about whom you would have as a leader. Most have included a photograph in order to assist you in putting a name with a face. Jim Henderson has gone through great efforts in order to publish these pictures and hide the facial flaws with his innate ability in the publishing process. Please give these folks a few minutes of your time and vote in your ALANA election.

OTHER NEWS

Physician Assistant Lawsuit -In early July, the Alabama Supreme Court issued a 5/4 decision that ruled Blue Cross must pay for the services of a Physician Assistant (PA). Although this will not allow PAs to direct bill for their services, it is a major victory stemming from a long hard court battle over the issue of whether a physician can bill for the services of his PA. Many have already asked will this give CRNAs the right to bill for their services. On the surface, the answer is no due to the differences in how the PA Statute is written and the facts of this particular case. However, we are examining this opinion in detail in order to explore the opportunities that may be beneficial to CRNAs down the road.

Victory in Florida – CRNAs in Florida scored a tremendous victory at the level of the Appeals Court in July. A couple of years ago, the Florida Board of Medical Examiners (which has some anesthesiologist members) unilaterally decided that it was not safe for CRNAs to put patients to sleep in an office-based setting unless supervised by an anesthesiologist. This new regulation was met by protest from the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists (FANA). An administrative law judge upheld the ruling of the Medical Examiners and prohibited CRNAs from administering a level III anesthetic in an office setting. The FANA attempted to correct this unscientifically supported ruling through the legislature, but were unsuccessful. Finally, an unbiased Appeals Court saw through the smoke and mirrors, reversed this bad decision and ruled in favor of CRNAs on every issue in the case. The Florida Board of Medical Examiners now has the choice to appeal to the Florida Supreme Court, so stay tuned.

~~Joe Knight

Our Student Representatives

From Samford, Chris Campanotta



Even though summer officially began on June 20, to CRNA students at Samford and UAB, we would all likely agree that it began with our summer terms in May/June. The temperature of Birmingham helps in our assessment of summer beginning before June 20, but the long

hot summer refers to long hours in class and in study groups at night. The summer has been challenging for all of us as we continue to delve further into the knowledge that will make us professionals worthy of the designation of CRNA.

However, along with the heat, there have been refreshing moments. Samford's second first year class began in June also. You know how misery loves company! Through our mentoring program, we have tried to extend what little knowledge we have to those first year students as they approach a new road and adventure in their life. I am sure that the UAB students feel the same way as a new class enrolls- it is refreshing and a reminder to all of us on why we chose this career path. We have spoken highly of this organization and the profession and hope that you will welcome these new students as warmly as you recognized us.

Another respite from the heat wave is the thought of beginning our rotations this fall. I am sure you can remember how excited (and nervous) you were as you began your first rotations. I think being nervous is only human as you encounter a new change in your life but it is reassuring to know that you have received quality instruction as you walk into the clinical world. I know I speak for all students in Birmingham when we say that Samford and UAB have definitely provided us with quality instruction. And, it is exciting to us to now have the opportunity to work with you- the CRNAs of Alabama- in a day-to-day work environment.

So, as you enjoy the remaining days of summer, think of us. We are working hard to be an asset to your profession and community. We certainly are not wishing the days away but, I must be honest, we are hoping that fall begins before the official day of September 22. We look forward to the opportunity of working with you but more importantly learning from you in a one on one environment. Thank you for your continued support of all CRNA students. See you in the fall.

Chris Campanotta

From UAB, Christine Carr



When approached last year to be a student representative for the ALANA, I knew I felt honored and humbled. Looking back, I am completely awed at the opportunity given to me. I do hope I fulfilled my role well. Fortunately, my involvement with the ALANA and the

improvement of anesthesia in Alabama will not end here. Thank you to all the CRNAs that generously gave your time to educate my peers and me. Not only are you generous, you are unequivocally passionate about giving the best care possible to your patient. That is why I believe our profession is so admirable. This is why I believe we owe it to ourselves to continue the progress towards unhindered practice.

We represent not only a group of anesthesia providers with the oldest history. We represent what can be the best in the future of U.S. Health Care. A revolution will soon take place within our system. We can be the catalyst that continues to introduce appropriate competition, thereby giving the patient choice and affordable healthcare. However, only those that work in health care or specialize in a health care lobby will likely speak out and try to influence change. Let us join those to be the voice of change and influence a smart U.S. Health Care system. Our influence comes first in our practice; second, in our interaction with the public; third, with our relationships in state and national government.

Our practice continues to improve its safety record. We must work to maintain all our skills (manual and academic) at the highest level possible. Our work with the public has left much to be improved. Hopefully, those volunteered for the Career Day Teams will be able to report significant progress in educating students, teachers, and school administrators. Please contact me if you would like to be a part! Few of us know our representatives in state and national government. We must not only be informed of our representative's identity, we need to recruit ALANA members in each district to establish an ongoing rapport with their representative. Just think what strides we would make if only one or two CRNAs in each district communicated through letter, phone call or personal visit several times a year to their legislator! I propose we establish such a group to commit themselves to this effort.

Whatever the activity, I want to express how much I appreciate the efforts made on behalf of all ALANA members thus far. We are an excellent profession and, I believe, wonderful group of people. Thank you for allowing me to serve, and I am honored to soon be your peer.

God Bless, Christine Chilton Carr



From the Office of the Federal Political Director

John Morris, CRNA

Department of Defense Issues Final Rule Authorizing Reimbursement for AA's Under TRICARE

The TRICARE health system for some 8 million military personnel and dependents has changed its standards for anesthesia care by publishing a final rule May 21 (69 FR 29226, 5/21/2004) authorizing reimbursement for care involving "anesthesiologist assistants" working under the direct supervision of anesthesiologists. While the agency's recognition of "AAs" was strongly opposed by military retirees and Veterans groups, members of Congress, and by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), the final rule includes important patient safety provisions that opponents of the proposal had sought. **The final rule also repeals physician supervision of nurse anesthetists under TRICARE, so that TRICARE would operationally mirror Medicare Part B.**

"Because AAs are neither Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) nor anesthesiologists, we believe in the interest of patient safety that AAs should not practice without close direction by an anesthesiologist who is immediately available," said Tom McKibban CRNA MS, president of the 30,000-member AANA. *"While we continue to oppose this action by TRICARE, it does take into account many of the concerns that CRNAs had."*

The final rule:

States "direct supervision" of AAs follows the Medicare TEFRA rules for medical direction. The proposed rule included no language defining "direct supervision" of AA. The final rule states, "We will use that standard in general, but we will also require that if a state has a more stringent requirement, the state's requirement must be followed.

It does not directly expand the number of states where AAs may practice, which was unclear in the proposed rule.

It includes language stating it is not the intention of the final rule to introduce AAs to military hospitals (MTFs) serving our men and women in uniform. According to the explanatory statement,

"AAs will not practice in MTFs; they will not be commissioned, nor will they deploy in support of our troops."

In addition, the final rule repeals the physician supervision requirement that TRICARE had imposed on nurse anesthetists. Language preceding the rule states, *"TRICARE recognizes the increased training required by certified registered nurse anesthetists compared to AAs, and as a result, authorizes CRNAs to practice independent of physician supervision in those states where the licensure permits. TRICARE is publishing a provision in this rule to clarify CRNAs' authority to practice independently."* **This portion of the final rule takes effect with the rest of the rule, and is subject to public comment to the agency through June 21, 2004.**

Three Healthcare Bills Passed in House of Representatives (Medical Liability Limits Again Introduced)

The House on Wednesday (May 12th) approved three separate health-related bills that would alter health insurance regulations to allow small businesses to form association health plans across state lines, address unused funds in flexible savings accounts and would cap awards in medical malpractice lawsuits. These, and similar bills, have previously passed the House but been blocked in the Senate.

The malpractice legislation (HR 4280), mimics HR 5 introduced last year, and would cap at \$250,000 no economic damage awards in medical malpractice suits and AANA has backed HR 4280, recognizing the impact the medical liability insurance crisis has had on patients' access to healthcare, and the impact it might have in the future on CRNAs' liability premiums. The House has approved this bill by a 229-197 margin; however, prospects for Senate passage of the package "appear dim".

Reauthorization of Higher Education funding by Congress – Includes Provisions Expanding Responsibilities

and Burden of Council on Accreditation

A new bill reauthorizing the federal government's massive higher education financing programs includes several provisions expanding the responsibilities and burdens of specialized educational accrediting organizations like the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA).

The bill, HR 4283, was introduced by House Education and Workforce Committee Chairman John Boehner (R-OH). It would require accreditors like the COA to increase their information collections and reporting to include student learning outcomes, institutional governance, records of student complaints, public reporting of accreditation and denial decisions, distance education, transfers of credit, and institutional information for the public and for students.

In addition the AANA and other nursing organizations are offering support for a final bill that would include provisions of HR 934 (McCarthy, D-NY), **the Teacher and Nurse Support Act**. If included this act would authorize additional student for loan forgiveness for CRNAs and other nurses. The House Education and Workforce Committee plans to hold another hearing on the legislation the second week in June.

House Panel Approves Spending Bill

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Related Agencies on Thursday voted 18-0 to approve a \$492.3 billion fiscal year 2005 appropriations bill for Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Labor and Education departments, despite concerns from some Democrats and researchers that the legislation would not provide adequate funds for the National Institute of Health (NIH) and education programs for children with disabilities.

Of specific importance to CRNAs, the bill provides the modest increase to nursing education requested by the President's

budget, while reducing his proposed \$15 million cut to advanced practice nursing education. The bill provides \$53.6 million for advanced education nursing, down \$5 million from last year's level but \$10 million above the Administration's budget request.

Historically, about 9 percent of advanced education nursing funds or \$3 million is allocated for CRNA education. About \$1 million of that devoted to student nurse anesthetist traineeships and \$2 million funds competitive grants to strengthen CRNA schools. However, this subcommittee-passed bill does not include language specifying this historical set-aside, so the impact of the advanced practice nursing cut on CRNA education is not clear.

In a general sense the bill increases discretionary spending for the departments by 2.2% over FY 2004 to \$142.5 billion, \$202 million more than the amount requested by President Bush. The legislation also would provide \$349.8 billion in mandatory spending for federal entitlement programs such as Medicaid. Under the legislation, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) would receive \$4.2 billion, a \$138 million decrease from FY 2004 but \$15 million more than the amount requested by the President. NIH would receive \$28.5 billion, the amount requested by Bush and a \$727 million increase from FY 2004.

The full House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to consider the bill on Wednesday, July 14th. As the Bill moves through the Senate there are certain to be deep partisan discussions which could alter the proposed allocations. The funding bill must be passed by the House and Senate, agreed-to in a conference committee, then adopted again by both the House and Senate and signed by the President before it becomes law.

FPD report
Submitted by
John E. Morris, CRNA
July 16, 2004

President-elect

Brent Ledford (unopposed)



Brent Ledford, CRNA MS
Brownsboro, Alabama

Birmingham-Southern, BS Biology 81
University of Alabama Huntsville, BS Nursing 85
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, MS Anesthesia 94
Huntsville Hospital, Staff Anesthetist
The Cosmetic Surgery Center of Huntsville, Anesthetist

Position Statement

I appreciate the great support I have enjoyed from the current and past Boards of Directors, as this job would be impossible without their ideas, input, and initiative. There are several qualified candidates running this year, from a wide geographical area. This geographical diversity is representative of the desire of members from throughout the state to get involved with the ALANA. I welcome your motivation and look forward to your ideas for our organization.

I will continue the work we are doing toward promoting nurse anesthesia practice in Alabama. I have worked closely with Jim Henderson, your President-elect, and look forward to a seamless transition as he begins his term in October. We will continue to work together on several projects, such as Blue Cross reimbursement issues, updating and upgrading our communication systems with our members and within the Board itself, continuing to promote dialogue with the officers of the Alabama State Society of Anesthesiologists, and providing excellent education opportunities for our members at our two state meetings. We will, as always, continue to be vigilant in monitoring legislative and regulatory activities nationally and on a state level.

I have often said that you are not my first priority, as my God and my family come first. I do, however, appreciate the trust you have placed in me, and I want you to know that I will do my best to serve you in a manner that will benefit our association, and cast a positive light on CRNAs across Alabama. I continue to welcome your input, and look forward to representing you again in the near future.

Nominating Committee Chairman

Patsy Randall & Jason Wilson

Patsy Randall, CRNA
Alabaster, Alabama

Position Statement

It is my pleasure to be nominated as Nomination Committee Chairman for the ALANA. To promote our professional organization within the state, it would be an honor to search for candidates with the same values and beliefs that I feel are crucial to our success. The public should be educated regarding the duties and safety of care given to them by certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA) and that the CRNA training and education supercedes that of Anesthesiology Assistants. The student registered nurse anesthetists (SRNA) should be taught first hand the indwelling pride and responsibility felt by all CRNAs. We should all foster the training of SRNAs, for we too will be their patients one day.

Jason Wilson CRNA, MS
Birmingham, Alabama

Clayton College and State University, BS Nursing 97
UAB, Masters of Science Nurse Anesthesia 2000
Anesthesiologists Associated, PC
Staff CRNA

Position Statement

I will consider it an honor and a privilege to become politically involved and represent nurse anesthetists in the state of Alabama. It will be my goal to further the practice of nurse anesthesia, and to encourage other CRNAs who share this goal to dedicate some of their time and effort in some capacity to the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Vice President - Secretary

David Neal & Frank Saliba



David Neal, CRNA, MNA
Birmingham, Alabama

Auburn University School of Nursing,
BSN, 1994
UAB Nurse Anesthesia Program, 1999

Children's Hospital, Birmingham
Staff Nurse Anesthetist

ALANA Positions:
Nominating Committee Chairman
Member, Board of Directors

Position Statement

At the heart of every strong profession is an active professional organization. As CRNAs, we have excellent leaders at the national level that promote our profession and ensure that we are able to continue to practice and provide quality anesthetic care to our patients. We have also been blessed in this state with strong and active leadership. To be a leader in this state it is important to be focused on the well being and interests of the entire membership. This focus starts with encouraging ALL CRNAs in this state to be active members in our organization, and also by promoting awareness of our profession to the general public so they know who is caring for them on a daily basis. I believe our state leadership has done a great job in these areas, and it has been a privilege over the past years to be a part of this. If elected to do so, I will continue to promote your profession and represent your interests to the best of my ability.



Franklin A. Saliba, CRNA, MBA, JD
Pike Road, Alabama

Nursing School: UAB
Anesthesia School: UAB
MBA: AUM
Juris Doctor: Jones School of Law

Montgomery Anesthesia Associates

ALANA Positions:
Member, Board of Directors
Vice President-Secretary

Position Statement

I am honored to be a candidate for the ALANA position of Vice President/Secretary. I have had the privilege of serving you the members as Vice President/Secretary for the past year. I would like to continue to serve this great association in this capacity. It is you the membership that has provided quality, cost-efficient anesthesia care to the citizens of Alabama independently and in collaboration with physicians for more than one hundred years. Each one of us maintains and improves the professional position of CRNAs in a rapidly changing healthcare environment. All of us must seek to engage in visionary discussions with other healthcare providers and our elected representatives to improve healthcare delivery in Alabama. Recently the officers of the ALANA have met with the officers of the ASSA in an effort to find areas of common ground in which our two groups could work together in a collaborative manner. I believe this effort needs to continue. It is imperative that our organization continue to educate employers, legislators, insurers and the general public to the fact that CRNAs are experts in quality anesthesia care. It is paramount that every state has an effective state association that is organized and prepared to deal with the potential legislative and regulatory changes that may arise. Our State Association has outstanding leadership and organization and my goal is to make it even better. To facilitate better communication with you the members I would like the ALANA to continue to utilize and expand informational technology. Communication with our membership and to encourage all to participate in all aspects of our profession will be a high priority for me. Thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you all.

Treasurer

Jay Strickland & Joe Williams



Jay Strickland, CRNA
Morris, Alabama

Jefferson State Junior College, ADN
UAB, BSN
UAB Nurse Anesthesia Program
Medical Center Blount, Oneonta, AL

Previous ALANA Positions:

Nominating Committee Chairman - 1995-96
Board of Directors – 1997-99
President-Elect – 1999-2000
President – 2000-2001
President-Elect – 2001-2002
President – 2002-2003

Other Pertinent Qualifications:

Major – US Army Reserves (Retired)
Desert Shield/Desert Storm Veteran
Operation Enduring Freedom Veteran

Position Statement

During the past two terms as President of the ALANA, I have worked very hard to represent CRNA's across the state regardless of their practice setting. I would now like to serve Alabama CRNA's as **ALANA Treasurer**. As President, I worked very closely with the Treasurer to assure accountability of your dollars and to cut expenses as needed to make sure that that ALANA maintained a reserve fund for emergencies that may arise. I also worked closely with the Finance Committee each year in planning a conservative budget that guaranteed representation from Alabama at all national meetings, especially the Mid-Year Assembly on Capital Hill. My experience as President and Director over the past several years, as well as the mentoring of our past Treasurer, John Morris, I believe qualifies me to fill this position.

As I have stated before, direct reimbursement of CRNA's by Blue Cross & Blue Shield is still a high priority to me for the ALANA to address. I formed an ad hoc committee to address this issue as President. I will continue to work toward resolving this issue if I am elected as Treasurer of the ALANA. I would appreciate your vote. God Bless!



Joe R. Williams, CRNA, MS
Birmingham, Alabama

Director
UAB Nurse Anesthesia Program

Professional Association Positions

National AANA Positions: Education Committee;
Closed Claim Research Team
ALANA Positions:
President
President Elect
Secretary Treasurer
Treasurer
Board Member

Past Anesthesia Employment:

U.S. Army: 1971 to 1973
Duke University Nurse Anesthesia Program: 1973 to 1980 (Assistant Program Director)
Medical College Virginia Nurse Anesthesia Program: 1980 to 1982
Manley L. Cummins School of Anesthesia: 1982 to 1986 (Program Director)
UAB Nurse Anesthesia Program: 1986 to Present (Program Director)

Position Statement

I have served as treasurer of the ALANA for the past two years. My primary goal for this term of office was to increase the cash reserves for the ALANA. In attempting to accomplish this goal, I have provided the Board of Directors with suggestions concerning ways to reduce spending and increase revenues. This focus has resulted in a significant increase in reserve funds that might be needed for the preservation of practice rights for nurse anesthetists in Alabama. In fact, at the conclusion this budgetary year the cash reserves should be significantly greater than the annual ALANA budget.

My goal for the next two years is to continue to encourage the Board to spend prudently and maximize revenues. In addition, I hope to work with the Board of Directors in obtaining reimbursement from Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Because of some recent developments within the state, it is time for the ALANA to possibly take a new direction on this issue.

Board of Directors

Tracy Hall, Ken Langley, Shannon Scaturro, Michele Snow



Tracy R. Hall, CRNA
Birmingham, Alabama

Clayton College and State University
ADN, 1984
Clayton College and State University
BSN, 1998

UAB: Master's Nurse Anesthesia, 2001

ALANA Positions:

Student Representative to ALANA 2000-2001
ALANA Board of Directors, 2002-2004
Chairman, GRC

Position Statement

Greetings, fellow CRNA colleagues of Alabama. I am addressing you to seek your vote for re-election to the ALANA Board of Directors (BOD). In my short tenure as a CRNA in Alabama, I have had the privilege of serving my fellow CRNAs, first as student representative and currently as a member of the ALANA Board of Directors at large. Presently I serve our membership as chairperson of our association's government relations committee (GRC) as well. As such, I have attended training offered by the AANA on how to run an effective GRC. I help monitor proposed legislation and regulations in our state, being ever alert for anything that might impact our practice as nurse anesthetists. I have advocated for our profession in the past with governmental bodies in the legislative and regulatory arenas on a state and federal level.

Nurse anesthetists have faced many challenges in the past and we are sure to face many challenges in the future. We must be ever vigilant in our efforts to monitor and proactively respond to threats to our right to practice as we have been trained. Please allow me to continue to help protect and defend these precious privileges on behalf of the great nurse anesthetists of this state by offering me your vote for ALANA Board of Directors.



Ken Langley, CRNA
Boaz, Alabama

Southern Union School of Nursing,
1990
Jacksonville State University School of
Nursing, 1995

UAB School of Nurse Anesthesia, 1999

Marshall Medical Center South- Boaz, Alabama
Staff Anesthetist

ALANA Positions:

ALANA Nominating Committee Chairman, 2001-2002
ALANA Board of Directors, 2002-2004

Position Statement

Once again I find it an honor to be considered to serve our state association if elected to the Board of Directors. I have been on the Board for the past 2 years and have found the job to be rewarding in that I have served with some of the state's most passionate CRNAs that strive to make our association one of the nations best.

I have had the opportunity to serve as the Public Relations Chairperson, which has allowed me to gain a small amount of insight of what goes on with the remaining states organizations. If re-elected, I still believe that there are items on the table that need our attention these to include:

- 1.) The issue of the "AA" and where they will fall in the staffing of our state's surgery departments;
 - 2.) The continuing issue of reimbursement for CRNA services by BCBS.
 - 3.) The issue of "Medical Direction" and making known who actually provides the majority of the anesthetics provided each year.
 - 4.) Making myself available to our state's Nurse Anesthesia Programs as I have a strong desire to see well educated CRNAs in our medical facilities as they are the ones that make our association so strong.
- If re-elected, I will provide my utmost attention to the Board of Directors and provide the best leadership I can.

Board of Directors

Tracy Hall, Ken Langley, Shannon Scaturro, Michele Snow



**Shannon J. Scaturro, CRNA, MSN
Mobile, Alabama**

University of South Alabama College
of Nursing, BSN, Cum Laude
University of Tennessee-Nurse
Anesthesia option, Honors

President-United Anesthesia Resources, Inc.
Staff and locum tenens CRNA- throughout AL, MS, and
the FL panhandle

Position Statement

The long history of strong ALANA leadership representing the interests of CRNAs and the rights of patients is the reason that I am choosing to serve as a member of your ALANA board. I believe that an honest representation of the many members of our association dictates diversity, leadership, vision, communication, and proactive involvement. It is my view that your ALANA board of directors exists to serve you. It will be my pleasure to help ensure your issues are not just heard, but acted upon.

Some issues across our state that require direct attention include the following:

- The struggle with direct reimbursement to CRNAs by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama and other private payers
- The need for fair reimbursement by Medicare for Alabama anesthesia providers
- Meaningful tort reform
- Manpower issues
- The increasing threat of AAs to our practice and the safety of our patients
- Improved communication among our association and its members
- The need for increased political involvement by members to protect interests important to our profession
- Continued leadership on building a collaborative relationship between our state association and that of the anesthesiologists to conquer issues of mutual interest.

As your elected ALANA board member, I pledge to stay involved in these issues, show vision and leadership by actively working toward practical solutions, and to communicate our ongoing progress to our members. It would be my honor and privilege to bring additional leadership and vision to the ALANA board of directors and to serve the 1000+ members of our state association. I humbly ask for your support.



**Michele Snow, CRNA, M.N.A.
Alabaster, Alabama**

B.S. Biology, University of Alabama
B.S.N., University of Alabama (1994)
M.N.A., University of Alabama at
Birmingham (1999)

Anesthesiologists Associated, Inc.
Shelby Baptist Medical Center

ALANA Positions:

Nominating Committee Chairman

Position Statement

In today's fast-paced working world, it's easy to be part of the apathetic majority that sits on the sidelines when asked to participate in anything that requires our most valuable commodity, time. I feel we owe much to the hard work of others who have gone before us and to that end must be prepared to do the things that will allow for the continued growth and awareness of our vocation. Together we can work to embrace change and challenge the thinking of educators, legislators, and others who have interests in learning more about the roles we fulfill in the medical workplace today. I am committed to being a positive force and to doing my part as we continue to work to broaden public awareness while seeking to discover new and better ways to care for the lives we touch. In an effort to give back to the Nurse Anesthetist community, I am interested in contributing my time and talents to being part of the solution, by serving as a member of the Board of Directors. I would appreciate your vote and will strive to give nothing less than my best.

Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
February 7, 2004

Call to Order:

President Brent Ledford called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Brent Ledford, Frank Saliba, Joe Williams, Patti Case, Tracy Hall, Jim Henderson, David Neal, David Osborne, Michele Snow, Joe Knight, Tom Mallory, Christine Carr

Members Absent:

Ken Langley, Leigh Stevens, Chris Campanotta

Approval of Minutes: A **motion** was made by Jim Henderson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the November 15, 2003 board meeting. (The minutes had been sent to all board members prior to the meeting). The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. Patti Case made a motion to accept all minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports:

Bylaws: No Report.

Chemical Dependency: Tom Mallory is planning on having Gennel Lee from the Alabama Board of Nursing to speak on chemical dependency at the State Educational meeting in Sandestin.

Finance: Joe Williams informed the board of the current financial status of the organizations and invited questions from the board members. Joe expressed the need for association finances to be reported in a detailed manner.

PAC: Christine Carr discussed the telephone fundraiser for the PAC to be conducted by the students of UAB and Samford Nurse Anesthesia Schools. The phonathon will be held in Birmingham, Mobile, and Dothan on February 29, 2004.

Government Relations: Tracy Hall reported to the board the legislative packets are ready to be hand delivered to each state legislator at a date to be determined.

Nominating Committee: Michele Snow reported to the board she is actively recruiting members to run for statewide office and encouraged each board member to help her in this effort.

Program: Patti Case discussed the educational meeting to be held in Sandestin April 30 – May 2, 2004. Patti is trying to obtain more vendor sponsors for the meeting and asked all board members to inform her if they were aware of any vendors willing to help sponsor the meeting.

Public Relations/Publications: Brent Ledford informed the board that Ken Langley sent an information packet to the Alabama Press Organization regarding National Nurse Anesthesia week January 25-31. This letter was made available to all Alabama newspapers.

Scholarship: No report.

Welcoming: No report.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

BC/BS: Jim Henderson discussed the most recent activity that this committee has had with Blue Cross.

Executive Director's Report: Joe Knight read to the board the Proclamation from Governor Bob Riley designating January 25-31 Nurse Anesthesia Week in Alabama. Brent Ledford made a **motion** to authorize Joe Knight to be the Registered Agent for the ALANA and to record this with the Secretary of State. The **motion** was seconded and passed unanimously. Jim Henderson made a **motion** to accept the PAC Charter as submitted by Joe Knight. The **motion** was seconded and passed unanimously.

Student Representative Report: Christine Carr discussed her proposal for having CRNA's participate in career days at high schools and nursing schools. Christine presented to the board a proposal for students to meet with board members to discuss the professional world of Nurse Anesthesia.

Unfinished Business

Brent Ledford informed the Board the Mid-Year Assembly in Washington D.C. would conflict with the Spring Meeting in Sandestin. Brent asked Jim Henderson, Tom Mallory, Christine Carr and Joe Knight to attend the Mid-Year Assembly. All agreed to miss the meeting in Sandestin and attend the Mid-Year Assembly. Joe Knight will attend the meeting in Sandestin and will meet the group in Washington on Sunday.

New Business

Brent Ledford reported to the Board he had received an invitation from Dr. Gosney of the Alabama State Society of Anesthesiologists to participate in a dinner meeting with the officers of both associations. Brent accepted the offer at a to be determined date.

Executive Session:

Brent Ledford made a **motion** to enter into executive session. The **motion** was seconded and passed unanimously. The Board entered executive session at 11:53 a.m. Brent Ledford made a **motion** to exit executive session. The **motion** was seconded and passed unanimously. The Board exited executive session at 12:34 p.m.

Upcoming Board Meeting: The next scheduled meeting of the ALANA Board will be Friday, April 30, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. at the Sandestin Hilton.

Adjournment: President Ledford entertained a **motion** to adjourn. A **motion** was made by Patti Case to adjourn the meeting. The **motion** was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

ALANA FALL MEETING

The Wynfrey * Birmingham * October 8 - 10, 2004

INFORMATION

You are cordially invited to attend this Annual Fall Meeting of the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists, held each year in Birmingham at the luxurious Wynfrey Hotel. The Wynfrey has proven to be the perfect venue, offering comfortable accommodations, excellent meeting rooms, great dining, and convenient shopping within and around the Riverchase Galleria.

This year's meeting features a number of exciting changes. Two special sessions have been added on Friday: ACLS will be offered in the morning and PALS in the afternoon. These special sessions are limited to 50 participants, so early registration is highly recommended. Our regular meeting will begin on Friday at 6:00PM with Dr. William Hartland, a nurse anesthesia

educator from the VCU School of Allied Health Professions, Department of Nurse Anesthesia in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Hartland will teach us all how to be better clinical preceptors in working with nurse anesthesia students and other students. Dr. Hartland's lecture series is sponsored, in part by an educational grant from the Samford University School of Nurse Anesthesia.

Other distinguished speakers for this meeting include members of the UAB and Samford University faculty and Bonnie Mackin, our newly elected AANA Region Seven Director.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to earn 24 CEUs in one meeting, with over 6 hours of pharmacology credit. See you at the Wynfrey!

FACULTY

Pamela Binns-Turner, CRNA, MNA
Assistant Professor
Nurse Anesthesia Program
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Angela Brown, SRNA, BSN
Nurse Anesthesia Program
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Christine Carr, SRNA, BSN
Nurse Anesthesia Program
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Theresa Culpepper, CRNA, PhD
Director, Clinical Anesthesia Services
Ida V. Moffet School of Nursing
Samford University
Birmingham, Alabama

William Hartland, Jr., CRNA, PhD
Associate Professor/Director of Education
VCU School of Allied Health Professions
Department of Nurse Anesthesia
Richmond, Virginia

Jim Henderson, BSN, CRNA
ALANA President (2004-2005)
President, Valley Anesthesia Associates, PC
Valley, Alabama

Scott Karr, MS, NREMT-P
EMT Program Director
Bevil State Community College
Jasper, Alabama

Phil Kendrick, CRNA, PhD
CRNA Supervisor
University of South Alabama
Spanish Fort, Alabama

Bonnie J. Mackin, CRNA, MA
AANA Region Seven Director
Independent Practitioner
Pearland, Texas

Sandy Saxon, SRNA, BSN
Nurse Anesthesia Program
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Peter Stallo, SRNA, BSN
Nurse Anesthesia Program
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Mark Williams, MD, JD, MBA
Chief of Anesthesiology
Caraway Methodist Medical Center
Birmingham, Alabama

Laura Wright, CRNA, MNA
Assistant Professor
Assistant Program Director
Nurse Anesthesia Program
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

ALANA FALL MEETING

The Wynfrey * Birmingham * October 8 - 10, 2004

REGISTRATION

Reservations should be made directly with the Wynfrey Hotel to insure you get the group rate. Rooms blocked for the ALANA are at a discounted group rate of \$136.00 per day. Cut-off date for hotel reservations is September 10, 2004. **Please identify yourself as a member of the ALANA when making reservations at the Wynfrey Hotel.**

1-800-WYNFREY

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Place of Employment _____

AANA Number _____

Do you plan to stay at the Wynfrey? _____

Method of Payment:

- Checks payable to: ALANA
 Credit Card: MasterCard Visa

Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____

Signature: _____

This year the ALANA will be providing ACLS and PALS in elective sessions on Friday. Each session will be limited to the first 50 registrants. Last year ACLS was filled to capacity. It is likely that these special sessions will be full and may not be available for on-site registration. (Sorry but no refunds for ACLS and PALS unless the slot can be filled).

A limited supply of ACLS/PALS books will be available for sale at the Registration Desk for \$15.00 each:

The Handbook of Emergency Cardiovascular Care for

Pre-Registration Fees (please check)			On-Site
All Sessions	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$400.	\$500.
All Sessions except ACLS/PALS	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$275.	\$325.
ACLS Only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$75.	\$100.
PALS Only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$75.	\$100.
Friday Evening Session Only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$75.	\$100.
Friday Only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$200.	\$250.
Saturday Only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$125.	\$150.
Sunday Only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$125.	\$150.
Total			

Refund Policy: Refunds on tuition will be honored upon receipt of a written request prior to September 15, 2004, subject to a \$50.00 cancellation fee.

Send completed registration form and payment to:

Bruce Von Hagel
613 Trace Crossings Trail
Hoover, Alabama 35244

ALANA

THE WYNFREY
BIRMINGHAM
OCTOBER 8-10

FALL MEETING



Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Inc.
2015 First Avenue, North
Suite 200
Birmingham, Alabama 35255

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