

Volume 24, Number 1, 2006
Jim Henderson, Editor

In This Issue

<i>ALANA President's Address</i>	2
<i>AANA Region Seven Director's Report</i>	4
<i>ALANA Executive Director's Report</i>	6
<i>News From Samford University</i>	7
<i>Federal Political Director's Report</i>	8
<i>ALANA Student Representative's Report</i>	10
<i>Minutes of the ALANA Board of Directors</i>	11
<i>ALANA Annual Spring Meeting Information</i>	14
<i>ALANA Annual Spring Meeting Registration</i>	15

ALANA Announces 2005

Outstanding Clinical Preceptors

On behalf of the 1000 members of the ALANA, the Board of Directors, the faculty and staff of our two nurse anesthesia programs, and all students of nurse anesthesia in Alabama, it is my pleasure to announce the recipients of the 2005 Outstanding Clinical Preceptor Awards.

- Beth Bramlett, Baptist Montclair, Birmingham
- Keith Brown, UAB Medical West, Bessemer
- Dale Gunter, Cullman Regional Med Ctr, Cullman
- David Knight, Children's Hospital, Birmingham
- Jim Matthews, Carraway, Birmingham
- Neil Mulkey, NEARMC, Anniston
- Rob Nichols, Univ of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS
- Kris Redden, Brookwood Medical Center, Birmingham
- Farley Templeton, Riverview, Gadsden
- Jason Wilson, Baptist Princeton, Birmingham

Congratulations to each of you for your unique contributions to the nurse anesthesia field by your exemplary service to your nurse anesthesia students.

Each of the recipients were issued an award certificate that recognizes them as an Outstanding Clinical Preceptor. In addition, the recipients are invited to attend the ALANA Annual Spring Meeting, where they will be honored during the ALANA Annual Business Meeting. Finally, each of the recipients is awarded an honorarium of \$100 to be applied to tuition at a future educational meeting of the ALANA.

Each nurse anesthesia program is permitted to issue up to five Outstanding Clinical Preceptor Awards per year. The awards are be issued annually during the ALANA celebration of National Nurse Anesthesia Week.

The ALANA Board of Directors would like to thank Dr. Michael Fiedler for proposing this concept of recognizing excellence in Clinical Preceptors.



Publisher
Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists

One Perimeter Park South
Suite 318 North Tower
Birmingham, AL 35243
1-205-977-2200

Executive Staff

Executive Director
T. Joe Knight, CRNA, JD
One Perimeter Park South
Suite 318 North Tower
Birmingham, AL 35243
Home: 205-655-4501
Work: 205-977-2200
TJoeKnight@aol.com

Editorial Staff

Editor
Jim Henderson, CRNA
106 Ember Way
LaGrange, GA 30240
706-882-5658

Board of Directors 2005-2006

President
Brent Ledford
306 Broad Armstrong Drive
Brownsboro, AL 35741
Home: 256-533-0642
ledfords@comcast.net

President-Elect
Jim Henderson
106 Ember Way
LaGrange, GA 30240
Home: 706-882-5658
sandman3@charter.net

Vice-President/Secretary
David Neal
8035 Mitchell Lane
Birmingham, AL 35216
Home: 205-982-1900
dneal1900@charter.net

Treasurer
Joe Williams
2355 Ridge Trail
Birmingham, AL 35242
Home: 205-991-6858
Williams@uab.edu

Senior Director
Tracy Hall
5128 8th Court South
Birmingham, AL 35212
Home: 205-599-3222
UABsleeper@aol.com

Senior Director
Ken Langley
198 Graham Drive
Boaz, AL 35956
Home: 256-593-4125
KenLangley24@charter.net

Senior Director
Shannon Scaturro
3202 Wynnfield Court
Mobile, AL 36695
Home: 251-635-1811
sscatt@comcast.net

Senior Director
Michele Snow
215 Grand View Lane
Maylene, AL 35114
Home: 205-620-5224
msnowcrna@charter.net

Director
Jeff Brown
134 Greenbriar Road
Gadsden, AL 35901
Home: 256-413-1462
CRNA1014@aol.com

Director
Cliff Joyner
107 Boardwalk Place
Dothan, AL 36303
Home: 334-702-3320
joynercj@comcast.net

Director
Laura Wright
1060 28th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35205
Home: 205-939-1629
wrightel@uab.edu

Nominating Committee Chair
Robert Armstrong
2308 Farley Place
Hoover, AL 35226
Home: 205-979-3773
RobertCRNA@yahoo.com

UAB Student Representative
Yvette Marsden
119 Water Elm Drive
Maylene, AL 35114
Home: 205-664-2212
tmarsden@uab.edu

Samford Student Representative
Tara Ray
72 CR 406
luka, MS 38852
Home: 662-423-6716
TWRay@Samford.edu

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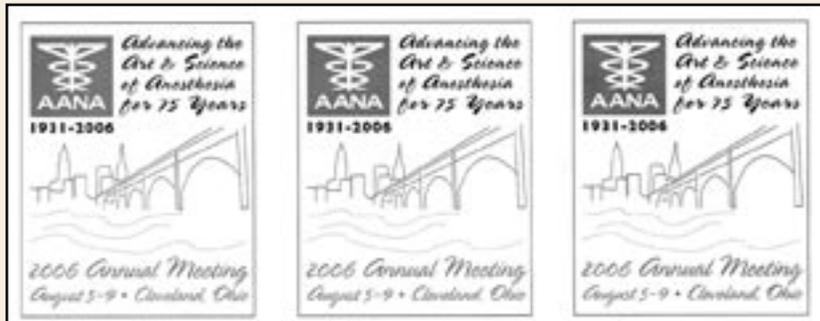
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From the Office of the ALANA President *Brent Ledford, CRNA*

Good day everyone! I hope this issue of your newsletter finds you enjoying the spring weather and making your reservations for the ALANA Annual Spring meeting in Destin. For all of you who have attended in the past, there is nothing I can say that speaks louder or more clearly than the memory of white sand beaches and the taste of gulf shrimp washed down with a cold beverage of choice. If you have been considering joining us before, there has never been a better time for you to come. This year we are kicking off a day early with a golf tournament designed to provide a full afternoon of entertainment as well as benefit two of the state associations in our own Region 7. The Mississippi Association of Nurse Anesthetists and the Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists will receive all of the proceeds from this tournament. Hurricane Katrina struck just prior to the LANA state meeting, and the MSANA state meeting was scheduled to be held in Biloxi shortly after Katrina. AANA President Brian Thorson recently sent a letter to state presidents asking for a \$500 donation from their state association to help "sponsor a hole" at this event. Several states have responded, as well as a few individuals or corporations that have an interest in CRNA's welfare. Tee time is 1:00PM Thursday April 27 at the fabulous Raven course at the SanDestin Hilton, and the entry fee is \$125. Bring three of your friends, or just come by yourself. The format is best ball scramble, so you do not have to be a great golfer to enjoy the day. My golfing buddies will tell you I know what I'm talking about on that issue!

I want to speak briefly to a trend that I am seeing in



Alabama regarding membership in your professional organization. The AANA has one of the highest membership rates of any professional organization, yet even with that there are approximately 6-8% of CRNA's that do not feel this should be a priority for them. Every year the Board gets a list of CRNAs that recertified but do not belong to the AANA. This year I received a second list, and that is those members that recertified for the first time, but did not join AANA, i.e. recent graduates. I got a call from National inquiring if these people were hurting financially from the hurricane and if I thought that was the reason they did not join AANA. As I looked over the list, and saw addresses in Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Hoover, Northport, Florence, Trinity, Madison, Montgomery, Huntsville, Fort Payne, etc, I could not see where the hurricane had much to do with the decision these recent graduates made. My only conclusion is that they do not think the money for dues is money well spent. Let me encourage you to call me, or speak with some of your co-workers that have practiced anesthesia for a few years. Anyone

that has been around long enough to have seen the battles our organization has had to fight should be able to tell you that it is well worth a single days wage to have someone be there to look out for your interest. Our practice patterns and arrangements put us in a unique position in that we really need a strong, proactive professional organization, and we have that in the AANA. No one else will protect your right to practice like the AANA, and no one else will look out for your professional interests in Washington like the AANA and the CRNA-PAC.

Thanks for indulging me on this issue. I guess you can tell that after six years of service to you as a member of the ALANA Board of Directors, with two terms as your president, that this is personal to me. I promise if you come to Destin I won't preach at you about membership, and I might even show you the way to the Beach Party. Now how did this all start? Oh yea, white sand, boiled shrimp and a cold beverage... SEE YOU THERE!

Mike Harper, CRNA, JD Appointed to Alabama Board of Nursing

On February 14, 2006, Governor Bob Riley announced the appointment of Mike Harper, CRNA, JD to the Alabama Board of Nursing. Mr. Harper will be replacing Dr. Elaine Klein, who served as the Advanced Practice Nursing Member for the previous two terms.

On behalf of the ALANA Board of Directors and membership, our thanks to Dr. Klein for her selfless dedication to the profession through her service to the ABON. In addition, our thanks to Mr. Harper for his willingness to serve his profession in this capacity and to Governor Riley for making this appointment.

Awarding CE Credits: New Procedures Begin at ALANA Spring Meeting

Beginning with the ALANA Annual Spring Meeting in SanDestin, the ALANA will be instituting a change in how meeting participants receive their CE Credit Certificates. You will be asked to complete a checklist indicating which sessions you attended, and return this list to the resistration desk at the conclusion of the meeting. Certificates will then be mailed to attendees shortly after the meeting. This change is in accordance with an AANA mandate to ensure that continuing education programs are properly administering CE credit hours, and the form that will be used is the same as the one used at AANA meetings.



From the Office of the Region Seven Director

Bonnie Mackin, CRNA

In the South, it already feels like spring, even though the trees are still bare and the spring flowers remain dormant. I feel energetic and hopeful for this year. The topics for this article are hopeful if not energetic and include:

CMS reimbursement guidelines for 2002.
President Bush's 2006 healthcare agenda
Reminder about national provider identifier
Update on Katrina relief
AANA recognition awards

CMS Reimbursement Guide for 2006

Medicare is the largest health insurer and the largest payor of CRNA services in the United States. In 2005, Medicare part B paid some \$485 million for nurse anesthesia services. This figure does not include fees paid to anesthesiology groups and hospitals that employ CRNAs. CMS anticipates that allowed charges for anesthesiology in 2006 will be at \$1.5 billion and for nurse anesthetists the allowed charges will be at \$530 million, and this is with the 4.4% decrease in reimbursement fees that went into effect on January 1, 2006. Essentially, your conversion factor (CF) has decreased to \$16.96. As you know base units plus time multiplied by the CF gives you your billable reimbursement fee for anesthesia services. Both the Senate and the House have passed relief packages for 2006. The Senate package, which was the last version to be passed, will have to go back to the House for approval prior to being sent to President Bush for signature. Unfortunately, this did not occur prior to Christmas recess. The House will look at the Senate version the 1st of February. This bill will succeed

in returning the CF back to the 2005 level for the year 2006. However, we still have the threat of cuts of up to 35% slated to take place over the next ten (10) years. This whole system will have to be redesigned to give all providers more realistic reimbursement rates.

Medicare Chief, Dr. Mark McClellan, has expressed reluctance to extend healthcare providers increased reimbursement packages without adopting payment reforms tied to improved healthcare quality. The term for this concept is "pay for performance" or "value based purchasing." Pilot studies have shown that hospital care is improved with the promise of extra dollars for quality care. AANA has secured a place at the table for negotiating measurable criteria for anesthesia. The AANA practice committee is working on measurable criteria based on our standards of care and outcome studies that can be used to justify increased reimbursement for CRNAs who meet these standards. Although "pay for performance" will not be initiated in 2006, there is a voluntary program that hospitals can utilize for 2006. There will be no reimbursement increases in 2006 for those hospitals choosing to participate. My advice is to **STAY TUNED BECAUSE "PAY FOR PERFORMANCE" WILL BE COMING TO A HOSPITAL NEAR YOU!**

President Bush's 2006 Healthcare agenda

President Bush is gearing up to focus on healthcare as a centerpiece for his 2006 agenda. His healthcare agenda is aimed at using market forces to improve quality and restrain the rapidly rising cost of healthcare. President Bush has said that the ideal

healthcare system “is one in which there is a direct connection between the provider and the customer, and where there is transparency in the pricing system.” Proposals the President is considering include:

1. Providing a bigger tax break to Americans who buy their own health insurance to balance the tax breaks available to workers who get health insurance through employers.
2. Encourage broader use of health savings accounts (HSAs) in the hope that giving consumers more control over their healthcare spending will make them more cost-conscious
3. Helping consumers get more information about healthcare provider prices and performance to make them better shoppers (do I hear “pay for performance”?)

National Provider Identifier

I first told you about this concept in the spring of 2005. I want to remind you that you have until May, 2007 to get your National Provider Identifier (NPI). This is a number you or your employers will have to use to be reimbursed for your anesthesia services after this date. AANA has provided a link through the Federal affairs division on our AANA web site. It is not too soon to fill out the forms! The number can be used once you get it.

Hurricane Katrina Update

As you know, the AANA board of directors initiated a members relief fund to help defray the cost of membership dues for those individuals who have lost home or job as a result of Hurricane Katrina. As of December 23, 2005, we have received \$34,281 in contributions and paid out \$63,860 in funds for 128 members. For members wishing to donate to this worthy cause, you may send your check to “AANA” with membership

relief fund written in the memo section of your check. Please send checks to AANA, attention Bill Yeo. These monies are not tax deductible.

I want to thank you, the members and Board of Directors of the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists (ALANA) for sponsoring a Hurricane Relief Golf Tournament at your Annual Spring Meeting in Destin, Florida. The tournament will be on April 27th, 2006. If you like to play golf and want to help the Region 7 states devastated by Hurricane Katrina please consider coming to this wonderful resort. I guarantee fun, and sun (hopefully). All state associations have been asked to help by sponsoring a “hole.” All proceeds will be divided equally between the Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists (LANA) and the Mississippi Association of Nurse Anesthetists (MANA).

AANA Recognition Awards

As a reminder, AANA recognition award are given to deserving members at the annual meeting. Awards such as Helen Lamb, Agatha Hodgins, Ira P. Gunn, Program Director of the Year, and Didactic Instructor of the Year are the awards to be considered. If you know of a deserving candidate for any of these awards or want to find out more about these awards go to AANA.com/awards. The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2006.

Conclusion

As always, I represent YOU! If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at any time. I will do my very best to answer your questions and address your concerns.

AANA Motto: Supporting our members, protecting our patients



From the Office of the Executive Director

Joe Knight, CRNA, JD

It was a hot sweltering afternoon in the dog days of late July in Birmingham, Alabama. One dared not move too rapidly or exert too much energy in fear of breaking into an uncontrollable sweat due to the Deep South's high humidity coefficient. The walk-in line at the bank was out-the-door long as it usually was on Fridays and the only respite from the searing heat came after you had gotten inside.

It was the last day within which to send the Alabama Board of Nursing proof that I had indeed completed enough continuing education courses in order to be able to continue practicing as a CRNA. At that time the Alabama Board of Nursing only accepted cashier's checks or money orders and thus, my reason for "doing time" at the bank. It was only later that I realized that no fees were due at this time and thus, my trip to the bank was in fact, unnecessary.

Things have changed somewhat since I had to undertake the arduous task of renewing my Registered Nurse License and the accompanying requisites: you know, that special CRNA marking on my license. Things are somewhat easier now. For instance, the legislature passed a law in 2001 that the Board of Nursing had to accept checks instead of requiring money orders or cashiers checks for the renewal of a license. Although this has made it easier on nurses, one would be surprised at the number of "bad checks" written by professional nurses. I would venture to say that writing an insufficient check to the body that is responsible for issuing the document that ensures one the ability to practice their

profession and to work is really not a good idea.

Other changes have evolved over the years, as the Alabama Board of Nursing has become more "user friendly." However, there are still some pitfalls of which CRNAs should be aware in order to avoid some costly fines and unkind reports that make their way to national data banks. In the coming months, I am going to attempt to address some of these issues as the Alabama Board of Nursing is presently undoing additional changes in the renewal process.

Moving on to another subject, 2006 is an election year. We must re-intensify our efforts to build our political action committee, ALA-CRNA PAC. Those of you who have contributed monthly via your credit cards have been the stabilizing force behind our recent efforts. Those of you who choose to write checks are also vital to our cause. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of having access to the legislature for an organization such as ours. Because of the tax-exempt status of the ALANA, your association cannot contribute to political candidates, parties or entities. Thus, having a segregated fund such as ALA-CRNA PAC, is the vehicle by which the voices of CRNAs are heard in the Alabama Legislature.

Whether your voice is heard in the coming years will depend on what CRNAs in Alabama do in 2006 during the election cycle. The time to act is now. Hesitation and procrastination is not an option if CRNAs are truly to be effective.

ALA-CRNA
the voice of the profession in Montgomery
PAC

Samford University Nurse Anesthesia

On December 17th, 2005 the first nurse anesthetists graduated from the Samford University Department of Nurse Anesthesia. Our congratulations to the graduates:

Darien Arrington	JoAnna Merchant
Chris Campanotta	Janet Methvin
David Fort	Matt Morton
Carleton Goforth	Sophia Quartey
David Hambright	Heather Rankin
Tammy Isbell	Mary Southworth
Rebecca Johnston	Shea Spradlin and
Allison Kinton	Jodi Turner

David Fort was selected by the faculty as the Agatha Hodgins Award recipient. Agatha Hodgins was the founder and first president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. The award is given each year to the outstanding nurse anesthesia graduate based upon academic achievement, clinical skills, professionalism, leadership ability, and service to the profession.

These graduates have accomplished much. In addition to completing a rigorous basic science and anesthesia curriculum they completed an average of 930 cases while in training, including an average of 94 pediatric cases and 124 regional anesthetics. Many are already working in rural areas of Alabama while awaiting the results of their certification examination.

Our graduate students benefit immensely from the expert preceptors that mentor them through their clinical education. It is with great pleasure, then, that Dr. Resa Culpepper has announced the 2005 clinical preceptors of the year. Congratulations and our appreciation go to:

Beth Bramlett	Baptist Montclair, Birmingham
Neil Mulkey	NEARMC, Anniston
Dale Gunter	Cullman Regional Med Ctr, Cullman
Jim Matthews	Carraway, Birmingham
Farley Templeton	Riverview, Gadsden

Each clinical preceptor of the year receives an award certificate and a \$100 discount to the ALANA continuing education meeting of their choice.

Between now and the end of the summer the Department will complete the planned start up, assessment, curriculum revision, and re-accreditation process. It seems a fitting time for all of us in the Samford Department of Nurse Anesthesia to express of thanks to all of you who provide so much support. Thank you to each of you who serves as a clinical preceptor, has served on our admission committee, presented guest lectures, and helped out in so many other ways. You play an essential role in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia maturing into a high quality educator of nurse anesthetists.



From the Office of the Federal Political Director

John Morris, CRNA

House OKs Reversing 2006 Medicare Part B Payment Cuts; Awaits President's Signature

Congress completed action Feb. 1 to reverse the 4.4% Medicare Part B payment cuts that had been affecting CRNAs and all healthcare providers serving Medicare patients since January 1, 2006.

With the House of Representatives having agreed Feb. 1 to Senate-passed changes to S. 1932, a deficit reduction package, on a close 216-214 vote, the measure now goes to the President for his signature, which is expected shortly. Among many other provisions, S. 1932 replaces the automatic 4.4% Medicare Part B cuts with Medicare payments that are the same as those provided in 2005, a 0% change. Once it is signed into law, the change is retroactive to services provided beginning Jan. 1, 2006. With Medicare allowed charges for anesthesia provided by CRNAs and anesthesiologists amounting to approximately \$2 billion in 2006, Congress' action secures approximately \$88 million more Medicare payments for anesthesia services than would have otherwise been provided, holding Medicare case volume and mix constant.

"In the interest of America's seniors, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists have long been strong advocates for a strong Medicare system," said Frank Purcell, AANA's senior director federal government affairs. "CRNAs' advocacy, together with that of many other Americans, has helped to further secure Medicare patients access to safe anesthesia care and to reverse harmful Medicare payment cuts." With Congress' action, the mean Medicare Part B anesthesia conversion factor for 2006 will be about \$17.76, not \$16.96. The mean Medicare conversion factor for medical and surgical services will be about \$37.90 not \$36.18. In the case of anesthesia, Medicare makes a payment by calculating the conversion factor times base units plus time for each anesthesia service. For anesthesia and for medical and surgical services, these figures are a national mean; actual conversion factors vary by locality based on local costs and other factors.

The measure's Medicare payment change applies until Dec. 31, 2006. Then, unfortunately, another round of Medicare "sustainable growth rate" (SGR) formula payment cuts against CRNAs and other healthcare providers continues. Though the government's Medicare Payment Advisory Committee (MedPAC) has recommended increasing Part B payments 2.7% in 2007, the Medicare SGR payment formula calls for a 4.6% payment cut in 2007 unless Congress acts. AANA will undertake educational and advocacy activities to address future Medicare payment cuts through the year.

For More Information

** Link to S 1932, <http://thomas.loc.gov>, enter "S. 1932" in the bill number prompt.

** See how your U.S. House members voted on the resolution agreeing to the Senate amendments to S. 1932, <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2006/roll004.xml>

** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services states that the agency will shortly publish information for healthcare providers submitting claims. CMS' website is <http://www.cms.hhs.gov>

Reception for Congressman Mike Rogers

During the holidays, a number of ALANA members participated in a fund raising reception for Congressman Mike Rogers. Congressman Rogers was asked directly about his position and his feelings regarding whether the House version of the budget bill would include language that would provide relief from the Medicare payment cuts. His response was definitely that language would be included.



CMS Touting Pay-for-performance Demonstration Project

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reported today that quality of care has improved significantly in hospitals participating in the Premier Hospital Quality Incentive demonstration, an initial Medicare pay-for-performance demonstration project. This project is important for CRNAs to be aware of, since CMS' related healthcare provider Part B pay-for-performance voluntary demonstration program and legislation pending in Congress may have effects on CRNAs' Medicare reimbursements and quality reporting in the future.

Under the hospital quality incentive program, Medicare is awarding \$8.85 million to hospitals that showed measurable improvements in care during the first year of the program. Improvement in what the agency terms evidence-based quality measures is expected to provide long term savings, because of their demonstrated relationship to improved patient health, fewer complications and fewer hospital readmissions, CMS says.

AANA/ASA meeting in Chicago

The AANA leadership met with the ASA leadership November 13-14, 2005, as planned. The teaching rules and related correspondence between our organizations were discussed at length. As AANA representatives, we did not agree with everything presented by the ASA representatives, but we did

acknowledge our understanding of the ASA's position as described to us during the discussions.

As all of you know, we were informed prior to this meeting that a recently passed ASA House of Delegates resolution would potentially prevent the ASA leadership from meeting with Thought Bridge as a facilitator at future meetings. In spite of that restriction, the AANA has agreed to meet with the ASA in February 2006 to continue our discussions.

We told the ASA representatives at this meeting that it is the AANA's desire and intent to have an individual present who will accurately record the content of the discussions at the February meeting. Further, we will explore at that meeting the AANA's continued interest in having facilitated future meetings.

Message From Brian Thorson, MA, CRNA
AANA President

Dear CRNA Colleagues,

We are now officially into fiscal year 2006, and the year-long celebration of the AANA's 75th Anniversary has begun!

With that in mind, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to visit a special, new section on the AANA website that has been created in honor of this momentous occasion: <http://www.aana.com/75th/main.aspx>. Visit the 75th Anniversary section of the website often, as information about AANA historical events, upcoming celebratory activities, the 2006 Annual Meeting host city (Cleveland, Ohio), and much, much more will be added to the site throughout the coming months. The highlight of the site so far is an illustrated historical timeline that weaves AANA history with general U.S. history. It provides a fascinating trip through time, and is the basis for the AANA History Museum that will be on display in the convention center only during the 2006 Annual Meeting in Cleveland.

I hope you enjoy the new section on the website, and hope to see you throughout the year as we celebrate a tradition of quality care and patient safety. Happy 75th!

Brian Thorson, CRNA, MA
AANA President



From the Samford Student Representative

Tara Ray, SRNA

Well, a new year has come and gone, and we are well into our new clinical rotations. New rotations always bring apprehension; however, the anxiety is quickly relieved by the professionalism and encouragement shown to us by all CRNAs. On behalf of Samford and UAB graduate students, thank you to everyone for being such great mentors.

Also, congratulations to the UAB and Samford graduating classes. Seeing your accomplishments is inspirational! It is great to see you take your place in the "real world" and we look forward to seeing you in the clinical area.

On February 21, UAB and Samford anesthesia students met in Montgomery for a day filled with education about government relations and lobbying. Jim Henderson and Joe Knight gave us a great introduction to the ALANA, politics, and government. They encouraged everyone to "take pride in the profession" by being politically active. They also explained the importance of contributing to the CRNA PAC and the ALA-CRNA PAC and what the contributions do for our profession. Representative Jim Carns dropped by for a short visit. After lunch, we made our presence known by visiting the Senators and Representatives. What a great experience!

In the afternoon we attended the legislative sessions and saw debates and votes on several Bills. We were asked to stand and be recognized, and I was so proud to see half of the gallery standing! By standing we showed our interest in government and our commitment to advocate positive change. CRNAs have been on the job for 125 years and have been instrumental in making the practice of anesthesia safer than it has ever been. Our presence reminded our State Representatives and Senators that, as graduate students and future CRNAs, we are committed to continuing the tradition of improving patient safety and advancing efficient practice.

The ALANA is one of the strongest and oldest state organizations in the nation. This year is our 75th anniversary! Our great turnout in Montgomery verified that we will continue to be strong. There is strength in numbers, and political

activism is an important way for us to give back to the profession and organization that has shown us so much support. Remember that this is an election year. Please establish a relationship with your representatives, and stay in touch with them. They need to be reminded that the face behind the mask and the person in the voting booth is a CRNA.

Students, mark your calendars. This will be a very busy year with many opportunities for professional involvement. One event for your calendars is the ALANA Spring Meeting, April 28-30. The meeting has a great program with distinguished speakers planned. Also, we will have the opportunity to meet other CRNAs and graduate students in the community. Of course, fun is planned. You won't want to miss the beach party or benefit golf tournament. Yvette and I look forward to seeing you there! Also, a special thanks to the ALANA membership for making this meeting available to students at no charge for tuition or registration fees.

This is a special year for the AANA. We are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the AANA. As the country's oldest anesthesia provider organization, we have a lot to celebrate! This year the Annual Meeting is in Cleveland, OH, August 5-9. It would be great to have 75 graduate students from Alabama attend the AANA 75th anniversary celebration at the annual meeting. Yvette and I are planning fund raising activities to help with the expense for students who wish to participate. So start making plans to attend!

On a different note, I am sad to report that the New Year brought distressing news for Samford. Our Director, Dr. Michael Fiedler, has announced that he will be stepping down in May. It is impossible to express the disappointment we feel for this loss. However, we wish him the best in life and hope that new doors swing wide for such a deserving person.

William A. Ward once said, "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." Dr. Fiedler, you are a great teacher.

Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

October 7, 2005

Call to Order:

President Jim Henderson called the meeting to order at 1712.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Jim Henderson, Brent Ledford, David Neal, Joe Williams, David Osborne, Tracy Hall, Tom Mallory, Shannon Scaturro, Joe Knight

Also Present are new UAB and Samford Student Reps: Tara Ray (Samford) and Yvette Marsden (UAB).

Members Absent: Michele Snow, Ken Langley, Leigh Stevens, Jason Wilson

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the April 29, 2005 BOD meeting and the April 30, 2005 Business Meeting had previously been emailed by David Neal for review by the Board. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Joe Knight, seconded by David Neal, and with no further discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

President's Report:

President Jim Henderson welcomed everyone to the meeting and commended the Board for their hard work over the year. He briefly outlined the agenda for the meeting.

Executive Director's Report:

Joe Knight briefly reviewed the activities and meetings throughout the year that the Board had with members of the Alabama State Society of Anesthesiologists. Joe discussed issues that had arisen with regard to the Alabama Department of Public Health with regard to the practice of AA's in surgical centers. Joe announced that the PAC was doing well, but emphasized the need to continue raise more funds. It was announced that Tom Mallory had applied for the opening for the advanced practice representative for the Board of Nursing.

Treasurer's Report:

Joe Williams provided the Board with financial statements for 2004-2005 and reported on the ALANA's financial standing and budget for the year. Joe reported that he, David Osborne, and Frank Saliba met with Wachovia Bank and made recommendations for the investment of funds of the ALANA. Based upon these recommendations, a motion was made by Jim Henderson to place \$50,000 of ALANA's assets

into checking with 50% of the remaining assets going into an intermediate investment fund and the other 50% being placed into long term investment options. The motion was seconded by Joe Knight and after further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Program Committee:

Tom Mallory reported on revenue and expenses from the Spring Meeting and projected numbers from the Fall Meeting. Future accountability for the awarding of CEU's at educational meetings was discussed.

Award Presentations:

Jim Henderson announced awards to be presented at the Business Meeting. Steve James, CRNA of Huntsville will receive the Humanitarian Award. Meritorious Service Awards will be given to Frank Saliba, Ronnie Whorton and Bruce Von Hagel. Resa Culpepper will be honored with ALANA's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award.

ALANA Election results:

Those who won election to BOD were: Jim Henderson, President-elect; David Neal, Vice-President; Jeff Brown, BOD North; Cliff Joyner, BOD South; Laura Wright, BOD Central; and Robert Armstrong, Nominating Committee.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Joe Knight and seconded by Tom Mallory. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 1805.

Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Minutes of the 2005 Fall Business Meeting

October 8, 2005

Prior to the Fall Business meeting being called to order, President Jim Henderson presented the following ALANA awards:

Steve James, CRNA was awarded with the ALANA Humanitarian Award for his work with orphan children in Kenya.

Frank Saliba, CRNA was awarded the ALANA Meritorious Service Award for his work on the Finance Committee this year.

Ronnie Whorton, CRNA and Bruce Von Hagel were each presented with the ALANA Meritorious Service Awards for their work as Program Directors of the ALANA Spring and Fall Annual Meetings.

Resa Culpepper, CRNA, PhD was presented with the ALANA Distinguished Service Award for her lifetime of service to the ALANA and the AANA.

Call to Order:

Lori Cole and James Metcalf were appointed as Tellers and Jim Henderson appointed John Morris as Parliamentarian. After a quorum was established, President Jim Henderson called the meeting to order at 1228.

President's Address:

Jim Henderson gave a brief update on the activities of the ALANA and encouraged the membership to present to him any questions they may have regarding those activities.

Treasurer's Report:

Joe Williams reported to membership the current financial status of the ALANA.

Executive Director's Report:

Joe Knight announced that the AANA and the ALANA, in 2006, after being incorporated in 1931, would be celebrating our 75th anniversary. Joe reported how the ALANA had worked with the ASSA to help a needy family who had lost their home in a flood and also how the two associations had been involved with the Thought Bridge process. He expressed various concerns from both the organizations at both the state and national level. Joe stressed that we must continue to stay strong at the state level and that one way to do so is to continue to contribute to the ALANA CRNA PAC. He also announced that his office address will be changing and he would pass along his updated information when available.

Scholarship Awards:

Jim Henderson recognized Heather Rankin, SRNA from Samford University as the recipient of the Frank Maziarski Student Scholarship Award. Shea Spradlin was also recognized as the recipient of the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetist's Student Scholarship Award. Both were presented their awards at the student banquet at the AANA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. in August.

By-Laws Amendments:

Shannon Scaturro summarized proposed amendments to the ALANA ByLaws for the membership as outlined in the most recent ALANA Newsletter. Following Shannon's summary, Jim Henderson asked the membership

for any further discussion on the proposed amendments. After further discussion the proposed were unanimously approved by the membership.

Announcement of Election Results:

Brent Ledford recognized Paul and Randa Harvey as tellers for the election. He announced the results as follows: Jim Henderson, President Elect; David Neal, Vice President; Jeff Brown, BOD North; Laura Wright, BOD Central; Cliff Joyner, BOD South; Robert Armstrong, Nominating Committee Chair. They will join the current board with Brent Ledford as President, Joe Williams as Treasurer and Board members Ken Langley, Shannon Scaturro, Tracy Hall, and Michele Snow. Tara Ray, SRNA will serve as the student representative from Samford and Yvette Marsden, SRNA from UAB. A motion to destroy the ballot was made and seconded from the membership. After no further discussion, the membership voted unanimously to destroy the ballot.

ALANA President Jim Henderson then recognized the members of the ALANA BOD for their work and dedication to the ALANA throughout the past year. President Henderson then passed the gavel to incoming President, Brent Ledford. Brent Ledford presented Jim Henderson with a plaque of appreciation for his work as President of the ALANA.

Adjournment:

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 1312.

Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
October 8, 2005

Call to Order:

President Brent Ledford called the meeting to order at 1452.

Roll Call:

Members present: Brent Ledford, Jim Henderson, David Neal, Joe Williams, Tracy Hall, Shannon Scaturro, Joe Knight, Jeff Brown, Laura Wright, Tara Ray, SRNA, Yvette Marsden, SRNA.

Members Absent: Michele Snow, Ken Langley, Cliff Joyner, Robert Armstrong.

Also present was Bonnie Mackin, Region 7 Director for AANA

President's Report:

Brent Ledford welcomed the incoming Board and

briefly discussed the agenda for the meeting. Brent urged the Board to use the e-project site for preparation of proposed committee budgets.

Executive Director's Report:

Joe Knight briefly updated the Board as to his office moving and discussed with the Board as to discontinuing the ALANA phone number seeing that all Board member numbers are published and readily available. A motion was made by Jim Henderson and seconded by Tracy Hall to discontinue the ALANA phone number. After no further discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

Committee Assignments:

Brent Ledford announced committee chairs and assignments as follows:

Bylaws: Tracy Hall (chairman), Shannon Scaturro

Finance: Joe Williams (chairman), Frank Saliba

GRC: Shannon Scaturro (chairman), Tara Ray, Yvette Marsden, Tracy Hall, Cliff Joyner

Nominating Committee: Robert Armstrong

PAC: Cliff Joyner (chairman), Michele Snow

Program: Jeff Brown (chairman), Laura Wright, Robert Armstrong, David Neal

PR: Ken Langley (chairman), Joe Williams

Publications: Jim Henderson

Scholarship: Ken Langley (chairman), David Neal, Jeff Brown

Welcoming: David Neal (chairman), Laura Wright, Tara Ray, Yvette Marsden

Wellness: Laura Wright (chairman), Tom Mallory, John Morris

Treasurer's Report:

Joe Williams briefly gave the Board a run-down of the previous year's committee budgets and expenditures. All were discussed by the Board.

Region 7 Update:

Bonnie Mackin proposed to the Board the possibility of opening up the Spring Meeting in Destin to states affected by Hurricane Katrina in effort to help those states with their state functions. Those states will be contacted

to ascertain their needs and interest. Other details are to be worked out with the program committee.

Ad Hoc Committee Chair Assignments:

Archives: Michele Snow

Blue Cross: Shannon Scaturro

Thought Bridge: David Neal

75th Anniversary of AANA/ALANA: Tara Ray and Yvette Marsden

Shannon Scaturro and Jim Henderson updated the Board on the activities for the year and future direction with regard to Blue Cross Reimbursement.

Brent Ledford charged Jeff Brown with investigating the future accountability for the awarding of CEU credits at future meetings.

The Board will be represented at the Fall Assembly by Shannon Scaturro and Cliff Joyner.

Next Board Meeting: December 3, 2005 at 0900

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim Henderson and seconded by David Neal. After no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 1614.

ALANA Annual Spring Meeting Information

Welcome

Mark your calendars and complete the registration form for the Annual Spring Meeting of the ALANA to be held in beautiful Destin, Florida at the Sandestin Hilton Beach Resort, April 28 - 30, 2006. Every year the attendance at this meeting grows bigger and bigger. Is this growth due to the outstanding faculty assembled at this meeting to present the state-of-the-art in anesthesia continuing education? Is it the fabulous accommodations and resort amenities offered at the Sandestin Hilton? Is it the time of year, held at a time when we all need a spring break? Whatever the reason, find out for yourself why the Annual Spring Meeting of the ALANA is consistently rated as one of the top ten anesthesia meetings in the nation!

Speakers

This year's meeting again highlights speakers of both national and regional repute. Among the speakers known nationally are Terry Wicks, AANA President-elect, Frank Purcell, AANA Senior Director, Federal Political Affairs, Washington, DC Office; Sharon Pearce, CRNA; Dr. Eger; and Dr. Durick. Our own Dr. Joe Williams will be presenting from Alabama. **Our special guest is current AANA President Brian Thorson.** This "all-star" faculty has been carefully selected to offer you the best in nurse anesthesia continuing education.

Special Features

Your registration fees include all of the meeting's special features, including: printed syllabus, complimentary continental breakfast, snacks, and a box lunch. Also included is your invitation to the Beach Party.

Continuing Education Units

This educational program has been approved by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists for 20 CEUs (prior approval number 38399). The program includes 6 hours of designated pharmacology content.

Accommodations

Reservations should be made directly with the Sandestin Hilton to assure you get the group rate. Rooms blocked for the ALANA are at a discounted group rate of \$199 per night, excluding tax and fees. Check in time is 4PM and checkout is 11AM. Deadline for receiving rooms at this special pricing is March 27, 2006. Contact the hotel directly to make your reservations and use Group Code ANS to secure the group discount.

1-800-367-1271

Meeting Fees

AANA Members:	Before 4-15	After 4-15
3 Days:	\$300.00	\$350.00
1 Day:	\$125.00	\$150.00

Non-AANA Members:	Before 4-15	After 4-15
3 Days:	\$375.00	\$425.00
1 Day:	\$175.00	\$200.00

CRNA Students and ALANA Emeritus Members:
No charge

Sponsor-A-Student Program

This year the ALANA is offering each of you an opportunity to show your support for the future of our profession by sponsoring a student to attend the Spring Meeting. The ALANA does not charge a fee for attendance by students, so all of your contributions will be combined to offer additional hotel rooms for the students to share. A ribbon will be added to your nametag designating you as a Sponsor-A-Student Donor. Wear it proudly!

Announcements

March 27, 2006 Deadline for receiving group rate for hotel reservations.

April 15, 2006 Deadline for receiving pre-registration pricing for seminar.

ALANA Annual Spring Meeting Information & Registration

The Sandestin Hilton Beach Resort

This is Northwest Florida's premier luxury Gulf-front hotel. Located along Florida's Emerald Coast, the Hilton Sandestin is situated on a 2,400-acre playground overlooking the most beautiful beaches in the world. The hotel boasts a heated indoor pool, two outdoor pools, two whirlpools, private beach, a full-service spa, salon and fitness center, and the finest dining options, from elegant to casual. Resort amenities include fourteen tennis courts, four championship golf courses, and a full-service marina and bicycle rental. Children's recreational programs and beach equipment rentals are also available.

Swing into Spring Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 27, 2006, 1:00PM

We are pleased to announce that ALANA is hosting a golf tournament to benefit the Louisiana and Mississippi Association of Nurse Anesthetists, who were not able to hold their annual meetings due to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. All proceeds will be divided between these two sister state associations. Tee time is 1:00PM at the World-Class Raven Golf Club. Registration fees are \$125. The format will be a 4-player best-ball scramble, with prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, best overall score, and perhaps a surprise or two. This should be a fun-filled event and certainly benefits a worthy cause.

Beach Party

Saturday, April 29, 2006, 3:30PM

This event has made the ALANA Spring Meeting famous! This is the time to relax at the beach and enjoy seafood treats with a cold beverage. Chat with your friends, classmates, speakers, and board members at this fun-filled event.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Place of Employment: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

AANA Member: Yes No AANA Number: _____

I will participate in the Swing into Spring Golf Tournament \$125 _____

I will attend all three days.
AANA Member \$300/ Non-member \$375 _____

I will attend one day only.
AANA Member \$125/ Non-member \$175 _____

Friday Saturday Sunday

I will attend two days only.
AANA Member \$250/ Non-member \$350 _____

Friday & Saturday Saturday & Sunday

Reserve me a box lunch: Friday Saturday

I will be staying at the Sandestin Hilton

I want to Sponsor-A-Student (enter \$50.00) _____

Optional ALA-CRNA PAC contribution _____
Total _____

My check to ALANA is enclosed

Charge to my credit card: MC VISA

Card Number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Name as appears on card: _____

Send completed registration form and payment to:

Bruce Von Hagel, CRNA

613 Trace Crossings Trail

Hoover, Alabama 35244

For those with special needs or questions about the meeting, call Bruce Von Hagel at 205-902-9600 or send e-mail to: vons205@aol.com

Refund policy: Refunds on tuition will be honored upon receipt of a written request prior to April 15, 2006, subject to a \$50.00 cancellation fee.

New This Year: Complete Online Registration, including credit card payment available at www.ala-crna.org



ALANA Benefit Golf Tournament
Thursday, April 27, 2006
On the Eve of the ALANA Spring Meeting

Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Inc.
One Perimeter Park Place South
Suite 318 North Tower
Birmingham, Alabama 35243

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