

# ALANA NEWSBULLETIN SUMMER 2017



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I trust everyone is looking ahead to summertime in the South. This has always been my favorite season, as both the lake and the golf course vie equally for my time. It also represents the opportunity to take a breather from the activities of the last several weeks, both personal and professional. I traveled with several members of the BOD to DC in early April, and we returned just in time to host the Spring Meeting in Destin. My son graduated Auburn shortly after that, and my daughter turned 21 a few days later so we took off for the sights of the Grand Canyon, the Hoover dam, and the neon lights of Vegas. It has been a very busy time in my life, but also quite gratifying, again, both personally and professionally.

A delegation of ten Alabama CRNAs travelled to DC for the annual AANA Mid-Year Assembly. Last year we were out in thirty-ish degree weather, and this year we endured the rare DC tornado while we were running from Senate to House office buildings on the hill. We met with all 7 representative's offices, and both Senate offices as well, and we discussed a number of issues of importance to Alabama CRNAs. We discussed our role in rural care and asked for the continuation of the rural pass-through payments to small hospitals, as well as funding for CRNA education. We discussed the VA access issue at length, and spoke to the need to retain provider non-discrimination language in whatever version of health care that passes. We also educated our representatives as to ways we can be a part of the solution to the opioid crisis, as well as being an overall resource for health care in general.

I want to commend Kyle Vanderford, our Professional Development Committee chairperson, and his committee for a job well done in Destin. We had a great list of speakers, and were even able to host the Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives Mac McCutcheon and his wife. I particularly enjoyed getting to know both of them, and am pleased that someone of his caliber is involved in the leadership of the House. I also want to thank Larry and Karen Vinson, our association managers, for all of the time and effort they put into planning the details of the meeting and promptly providing our CEU certificates. I received feedback from numerous people regarding everything from the speaker lineup to the food and it was all very positive. We did a couple of things differently this year in that we tried to get you out earlier to the beach, and we made it easier to donate to the PAC. Both of these ideas were very well received and I believe we will continue them next year. Congratulations to Salima Mulji, our PAC chair and to her committee, as well as Susan Hanson, our lobbyist. These folks worked their tails off on your behalf, and because of this, with some help from our auctioneer Farley Templeton, we set a record for PAC dollars collected at a Spring Meeting. To each person that donated to our PAC, I thank you. Again, for less than one hours wage a month you can be an AANA member and a buck-a-day donor to the ALANA PAC.

While your BOD may also be enjoying a brief respite, I assure you that we are continuing to work on the goals and ideas that I discussed in the last issue of the ALANA Journal. We will have at least two more meetings prior to the Fall meeting in Birmingham, and a few of us will be travelling across the state to host some regional get-togethers again this summer, as these were very well received last year. Please plan on attending our "Family Fun Night with the Barons" at Regions field on Saturday August 19 at 6:30PM. Look for our flyer in this issue. If this is well attended we will do more events like this in the future.

Thanks very much to each of you for what you do every day. It is easy to be part of a BOD that represents a group as well respected as the CRNAs of Alabama, and I feel blessed to be in this position. Your daily commitment to patient safety and satisfaction, as well as the kindness and empathy you show each day is what sets us apart as CRNAs.



# BOARD OF NURSING UPDATE

Alabama CRNA Renewal in 2017

NBCRNA Certification

Does your certification expire July 31, 2017? If you are unsure, checkout the MyProfile section of the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) website; it will display the status and expiration dates for your RN license and your CRNA certification. If the Board has not received and processed verification of your recertification from NBCRNA by close of business on July 31, 2017, the CRNA approval will lapse and require reinstatement, not to mention the interruption in practice. NBCRNA does provide electronic reporting of recertification to the ABN. However, to avoid any delay in processing, we encourage you to have your verification sent to the Board by close of business on Friday, July 28, 2017.

In addition to license and certification status, MyProfile allows you to change contact information, sign up for List Serv messages, and monitor/upload your Continuing Education (CE) credits. CE awarded by Alabama Board of Nursing Providers (ABNP) is posted to your CE record by the provider. You are required to upload all other CE credits directly to your CE record through MyProfile, which includes instructions.

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# SPRING MEETING 2017



*David Knight, Heather Joiner and Pennie Nichols enjoy the tradeshow.*



*The Opening Reception was wonderful! Thank you to the Samford and UAB Nurse Anesthesia programs for sponsoring the event.*



*ALANA Program Chairs Justin Carroll and Kyle Vanderford visit with Garry Brydges before his presentation.*



*Billy Parsons enjoys time in the tradeshow.*



*Wes Canerday spends time with our Sunday speaker, Peter Strube.*



*It's never too early to develop future CRNAs.*

# SPRING MEETING 2017



*ALANA leaders Wes Canerday, Michael Humber and Brent Ledford discuss issues with Alabama House Speaker Mac McCutcheon.*



*Justin Carroll wins the mother of all crabs.*



*ALANA Board members visit with AANA President Cheryl Nimmo.*



*ALANA President Brent Ledford and Kyle Vanderford chat with speaker Suzanne Wright.*



*The Beach Party is always a hit, and we raise \$\$\$ for our PAC.*



*CRNA Students get special breakout session with updates.*

# ALA-CRNA PAC We Did It!

What a successful fundraiser at the ALANA Spring Meeting! A big “thank you” to all the members who supported us monetarily as well as by giving their time to help at the PAC table. We not only reached our target...we surpassed it. All this was made possible because of your generosity. We appreciate all for your contributions and hope that you will continue to invest in your profession and your association.



Your PAC funds are always greatly appreciated. More so now than ever! In preparation of the election year, we will need more funds to make sure that our profession is highlighted at the hill and that our voice is heard at the State level. The ALANA PAC provides a voice to CRNAs and works to advance the profession of nurse anesthesia by providing financial support to the state election campaigns of candidates who are influential to CRNAs’ public policy interests. Nurse Anesthetist reimbursement, studies, veterans health issues, and provider nondiscrimination are some of the issues brewing at the National level and can impact us at the State level as well. Our representation at the legislature is very important in the coming years. ALANA PAC works on behalf of us, our patients, practice, and profession to let the elected Senators and Representatives know about our concerns with legislative issues important to our nurse anesthesia profession. So stay active! Be an advocate! And give wholeheartedly.

Yet one more chance to engage and give back to our profession is coming up soon! Be a part of the first ever PAC only event “A Family Fun Night” with the Barons! All proceeds from the event will go directly to the PAC. So come and enjoy a fun night at Regions Ball Park with your family and watch Birmingham Barons vs. Montgomery Biscuits. Food and soft drinks included along with a great networking opportunity. So buy your tickets ASAP online at <http://www.alabamacrna.org/events> and be a part of an awesome event.



## Medical Business Management

“CRNA Billing Specialist”

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Dear ALANA Members,

I am writing this update after leaving AANA Headquarters in Park Ridge where I attended the Council on Accreditation's meeting as the AANA liaison. This group does a tremendous amount of work with the nurse anesthesia programs across the nation. One of the projects now is the development of a common clinical assessment tool for SRNAs. When completed, the clinical assessment tool will be made available for programs to use on an optional basis. As a clinical preceptor, I am excited to see how this tool will look!

Your AANA BOD and staff are also staying busy! Recently Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Novitas Solutions implemented a Local Coverage Determination (LCD) stating that CRNAs would not be reimbursed for pain management procedures. The LCD would limit payment to CRNAs for epidural injections for pain management in 12 states and the District of Columbia. This is a complete contradiction to the 2012 Medicare rule that says CRNAs can be directly reimbursed for pain management services. The AANA filed a lawsuit in federal court on April 11 to prevent the LCD issued by Novitas from taking effect on May 4. The AANA's legal complaint alleges that the constitutional rights of CRNAs have been adversely affected without due process. The claim rests in the idea that the recent LCD constituted an improper attempt at rulemaking and that Novitas exceeded its authority by promulgating the LCD. Novitas did push implementation of the LCD back to June 5, however CMS filed a motion to dismiss the AANA's motion for a temporary restraining order. The AANA's legal team is currently preparing a response to the motion to dismiss. Please check your email and the AANA website for more updates.

Mid-Year Assembly was a successful meeting in April where thousands gathered in Washington DC to advocate for CRNAs, including 9 ALANA CRNAs and 3 SRNAs. Upcoming is the Annual Congress in Seattle, Washington. This meeting will be held September 8-12 and offers over 27 CEs with topics including pain management, non-opioid anesthesia, and multiple education tracks. Also, this year will be the first year that the Business Meeting will be recorded for the membership and virtual voting will occur the day after the Business Meeting allowing everyone the opportunity to have their voice heard about the business of the AANA. I hope you will take this opportunity to let your voice be heard, and I hope to see you there!

If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me by email [hrankin@aanabod.com](mailto:hrankin@aanabod.com) or cell 205-249-0650

Sincerely,

Heather J. Rankin, DNP, CRNA  
AANA Director Region 7



## AANA REGION 7 REPORT

# CRNAs on the Hill



*ALANA President Brent Ledford rallies the troops before we head to the Hill for CRNA Day.*



*ALANA Legal Counsel Joe Knight covers the details to prepare us for the Hill.*

# CRNAs in D.C.



*The ALANA delegation visits Congressman Mo Brooks to discuss the issues.*



*Michael Humber, Ray Dunn, Amy Neimkin, Willy Furr, Brent Ledford and Kerry Varner taking the CRNA Message to Washington, D.C.*



*Sometimes you have to brave more than the issues on Capitol Hill when in D.C.*

# INTRODUCE YOURSELF:

## Andy & Christine Lewis

### What is the most rewarding aspect of your career?

C: There is something about being able to take the most nervous, scared patient and just sneak them off to sleep while you are talking to them. When they wake up and find out they have already had their surgery and they are so surprised and relieved, it's just a very rewarding moment for me. As clinical coordinator for the UAB students at Huntsville Hospital, I also derive a lot of satisfaction from being able to share these experiences with students as they grow professionally. I love being both their sounding board and their advocate in our clinical setting.

A: I still get a lot of satisfaction out of waking a patient after something like a really long spine case and having them be comfortable before I take them to PACU. I like to check back with the PACU nurse and see what else, if anything that they needed, and just see how they did overall.

### What is the most frustrating?

A: I feel that we are not always given credit for our education and training. CRNAs have a lot to bring to the table, yet we are often not utilized to our full potential.

### Most challenging?

C: The balancing act of keeping all of your customers satisfied. By customers I mean the surgeons, anesthesiologists, OR staff, and most importantly patients and their families.

### How did you get interested in a career as a Nurse Anesthetist?

C: I took a perioperative elective during nursing school just to see what the OR was about. I was supposed to shadow the circulator, but I just kept gravitating towards the CRNA. I felt like that was the most interesting thing going on in that room, and I

decided then that was what I wanted to do.

A: I met several of the CRNAs when I worked in SICU, and they kept pushing me and encouraging me to go back to school. The fact that they had confidence in me really meant something to me.

### When you are not practicing anesthesia, what do you enjoy the most?

A: I really enjoy tinkering... working with my hands. I love to work on cars, or to build things for the house or yard.

### What do you hope to accomplish that you have not yet accomplished?

C: I love the academic aspect of anesthesia. I would love to teach and be able to help bring others along by explaining, by making classes understandable, by preparing them for a fair test and wanting them to do well and succeed.

### How do you introduce yourself to your patients?

C: I'm Christine, your CRNA. I will be with you the whole time you are in surgery.



**Why are you a member of AANA, and ALANA?**

A: It's my group. Whether or not you agree with everything the AANA does you have to support them.

C: In today's political climate you would be foolhardy not to support the only group dedicated to supporting your profession.

**We are thankful you chose to be a CRNA, but if you had to pursue a different career what do you think it would be?**

C: Travel agent. I do have a degree in fashion, but, definitely a travel agent.

A: I would be an architect. I love to create things and I love to build.

**Do you find that there are unique challenges when it comes to working together?**

A: Trying to schedule vacation!

C: Andy and I met working together in SICU. We worked very well together then, and I still enjoy working with him.

**What advice would you give those contemplating a career as a CRNA?**

A: Make certain your support group is in place, that all of your loved ones are willing to help you when you need it.

C: I agree with Andy. Also you need to do some soul searching as to why you really want it. It is a way I live out my faith, it is not just a job to me. You have to be able to really care, to be empathetic, and not just do it for a paycheck.



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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I am pleased to announce that the ALANA membership approved the slate of candidates for the upcoming election at the annual Spring Meeting in Sandestin.

As the Nominating Committee Chair, I would like to thank the members of the Nominating Committee and all of the Board members for their help in assembling the ballot. I would also like to express my appreciation to the candidates who have offered their time and experience to serve on the ALANA Board and work on behalf of the members and our great profession. This year's ballot consists of the following positions: President Elect, Vice President/Secretary, three Board of Directors positions and a Nominating Committee Chair.



Look for more information on the slate of candidates in the next ALANA NewsBulletin. Also, please keep in mind that we will be utilizing online voting for the upcoming election. Information regarding instructions for accessing the electronic ballot will be delivered via email. Please be sure you have a valid email address on file with the AANA and ALANA. Again, I am very pleased to offer this year's slate of candidates. I encourage each and every member to take the time to research and get to know the nominees and VOTE!

Heather Joiner, MSN, CRNA Nominating Committee Chair

**President Elect**

*Ray Dunn  
Matt Hemrick*

**Vice President/Secretary**

*Willie Furr*

**Directors**

**North**

*Somyr Waller, Lisa Ghavam, Phillip Fikes*

**Central**

*Cari Evans, Krista Niedermeier*

**South**

*Trey Burg*

**Nominating Committee Chair**

*Morgan Reaves  
Stephanie Price*

The ALANA PAC presents

# FAMILY FUN NIGHT

with the



VS. the  
Montgomery  
Biscuits

Adults \$35  
Kids \$24

All proceeds go to  
ALANA PAC

Saturday  
August 19

Tickets include  
Entry, food, and  
soft drinks

6:30pm  
@ Region's Field

1101 1st Ave S  
B'ham, AL 35233

*Good Times*

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

**2017 – ALANA Annual Fall Meeting**  
**September 22 – 24, 2017**  
**Regions Field**  
**Birmingham, AL**

**2018 – ALANA Spring Meeting**  
**April 13 - 15, 2018**  
**Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort**  
**and Spa**  
**Destin, Florida**

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**2017 – AANA Nurse Anesthesia Annual**  
**Congress**  
**(FORMERLY AANA ANNUAL MEETING)**  
**September 8 – 12, 2017**  
**Seattle, Washington**

**2018 – AANA Mid-Year Assembly**  
**April 21 – 25, 2018**  
**Washington DC**  
**Grand Hyatt**

**2018 – AANA Nurse Anesthesia Annual**  
**Congress**  
**(FORMERLY AANA ANNUAL MEETING)**  
**September 21 – 25, 2018**  
**Hynes Convention Center**  
**Boston, MA**

**2019 – AANA Mid-Year Assembly**  
**April 6 – 10, 2019**  
**Washington DC**  
**Grand Hyatt**

**2019 – AANA Nurse Anesthesia Annual**  
**Congress**  
**August 9 – 13, 2019**  
**Hyatt Regency Chicago**  
**Chicago, Ill**

## **CALLING ALL PRESENTERS:**

**Have you been working on your DNP or other graduate degrees? Do you have an academic presentation you want to share with your colleagues? The ALANA Professional Development Committee would love to hear from you! Please contact us if you would be willing to present at this year's Fall Meeting.**

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