

# CRNA

2013 Fall / Winter Newsletter

VOL. 4 ISSUE 1

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE****By Pauleen Consebido, CRNA**

The year 2013 started off with an amazing show of grassroots support from CRNAs and SRNAs all over Connecticut. Thank you to everyone who attended the meetings at both the Office of Higher Education and at the Board of Education. CRNA and SRNA engagement with the regulatory and legislative processes continue to be one of our strengths.

The CANA Winter Meeting held on January 26<sup>th</sup> was also well attended. This was a great way to end CRNA Week. A special thank you to our AANA President Janice Izlar and to our Region 1 Director John Hanlon for attending this event. Hopefully their presence, specifically at the question and answer session during the state update was instrumental in your understanding of the issues that affect us at the national and state levels.

CANA and the AANA are your source of information regarding any issues concerning CRNA practice. The next CANA meeting will be held in the spring, so please save the date for Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. The topics will be geared towards the Business of Anesthesia. Your feedback and evaluations at state meetings are always welcome.



As always, your CANA board will continue to represent Connecticut CRNAs at AANA meetings. The upcoming Midyear Assembly on April 14-17 will be held in Washington DC. This meeting, especially, helps us understand the importance of professional advocacy. We're looking forward to another great turnout of Connecticut CRNAs and SRNAs attending this meeting. Visits with our federal legislators are a highlight at the Midyear. If you plan on attending this meeting, please do not hesitate to touch base with us. We would love to hear from you.

We continue to encourage CRNAs and SRNAs to be active participants in CANA committees. If you are able to volunteer some of your time,

there are different committees that will fit your interest. Now, more than ever, is the time to be actively involved. Even one hour of your time a month to give back to your profession can make a difference.

Lastly, I would like to thank the CANA Board and Committee Members for everything that they have done and continue to do on behalf of the nurse anesthesia profession. We have an awesome team that is instrumental in helping us navigate the healthcare world that we currently live in.

Looking forward to seeing you at upcoming national and state meetings. I wish you and your family a prosperous 2013!  
Sincerely,

Pauleen Consebido CRNA, MS, APRN  
CANA President

**REGION 1 UPDATE****By John Hanlon, CRNA**

Dear Connecticut AANA members,

My position as Region 1 Director has become much easier now than that of past regional directors, with the increased communication from various departments in the AANA, in an effort to make sure all CRNAs are abreast of current issues. The increased communication has come in the form of; AANA's Region Directors E-News, FGA Hotline, Anesthesia E-essential's, AANA e-mail blasts, and e-mails from Janice Izlar, our AANA president. We have also been sending out information via social media; face book, twitter, and the AANA face book page as well. With all this information being available to members, it makes it easier for the Regional Directors to update you on local issues.

I know we are all very busy, but I hope you take the time to look at some of the e-mails and postings sent to members from the AANA, as they sometimes are very important to our practice. The AANA is trying to keep everyone informed and up to date on all relevant issues and activities the AANA is involved in.

There have been some changes to the AANA annual meeting this year. First, it will be one day less to give CRNAs CEU's and allow CRNAs and their family's time to enjoy the meeting and vacation for some additional days. This year the annual meeting is in Las

Vegas Nevada, where there should be some type of fun for all. Do not forget next year, the annual meeting is moving from August to September. This is in response to members wishing to change the meeting from out of the summer months when it is difficult to request time off. We are listening very closely to what our members are saying and asking, so next year, a September annual meeting, is already planned.

Election time once again is just around the corner. Please do not forget to cast your ballots in the AANA election this year. It is time for every CRNA to stand up and be counted! This is your time to listen to the candidates for AANA office and make a decision on who you would like representing you. This year I am pleased to announce that there are five good qualified CRNAs seeking AANA office from Region 1.

Form New Jersey, Dean Mazurek CRNA APN, and Robert Gauvin CRNA, MS, MA., are both running for AANA Region 1 Director. Cheryl Nimmo, CRNA, MSHSA, RI, is running for AANA Treasurer. For Vice President, is myself John Hanlon CRNA, DNP, NH., and last but not least, Steve Alves CRNA, PhD, MA, is running for AANA President Elect. Please take time some to listen to the candidates speeches and read their position statements, which will be posted, on the member side of the AANA website.

This is the last half of the year for me as your Region 1 director. I would like to thank you the Connecticut members and the board of directors for inviting me to take part in your state meetings. I am truly humbled to be representing you and meeting many wonderful new Connecticut CRNAs.

Thank you once again for this gracious opportunity you have bestowed on me as you Regional Director.

Sincerely,

John Hanlon CRNA, DNP  
Region 1 Director

## MISSION WORK

By Dr. Michael Bourque

I would like to thank Trish for asking me to write to you regarding mission work and the importance of surgical services to those who live, and too often die, unaided, in the setting of third world medicine. I was walking by a poster outside our anesthesia office this past December, a week or two ago now, and saw this sign celebrating National CRNA week, January, 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. It read "Caring for America." But for those of us who are blessed to spend much of our free time, in lands far away, in villages forgotten by the world, a more appropriate statement would be, "CRNAs: Caring for the World". You all have such tremendous skills, and they are in very short supply in pretty much everywhere, except in the developed nations. Please give me five minutes of your time reflecting on what I will share with you, and I promise these words may have the power to change your life in a very positive way...

I am one of two medical directors of our International Medical Mission Program, at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, here in Hartford, Connecticut. Six years ago now, I finally said yes to one of my surgical colleagues, Dr. Abe Daoud, who had started doing surgical missions a few years earlier as a way to give back. With some trepidation, I traveled with him and his team, to a desert community in the Dominican Republic, Las Matas de Farfan. The hospital there was just a shell, the OR and water supply were under lock and chains, and the rooms had outdated, dirty, non functional equipment. But within four hours of our arrival, with a team of about 25 members, there were two working OR rooms with three operating tables ready to go, all to the standards of the US, and all with the supplies we had brought with us (excepting the two old anesthesia machines).

It was then I met Marianna, a 24 year old primagravida who was struggling with an obstructed labor. There was none but us to perform a life saving C/S. We did and felt good that we had made a difference. We left her that night with her nursing her baby and a big smile on her face. Little did I know that her life would be forfeit a few hours later. The local nurses we had signed out to, did not

even have the skills to recognize an elevated blood pressure, or preeclampsia, and Marianna had a sudden catastrophic stroke.



So after trying to come to terms with losing a healthy young mother for the first time in my 30 years of OB/GYN, it did not take me long to realize I knew nothing of the reality of third world medicine. So I made Marianna a vow, that her death would not be for nothing, but would be the start of efforts to ensure that we would try to help others who continue to die with the present lack of services and skilled care.

So Dr. Daoud and I returned home, and along with a few other anesthesia/surgical professionals, (such as your board members, Denise Bolduc and Toby McPherson, and former board member Pete Williams), we formed a formal International Mission organization at Saint Francis hospital. This program presently operates two fully staffed, 24/7, surgical teams the Red (Dr. Daoud) and the Blue (Dr. Bourque). We regularly travel on one week trips to Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Haiti. In six years we have brought over 700 volunteers and treated over 4000 patients in settings where often there is no running water, and only intermittent electricity.

To show you what is possible for you, even though you have never served outside the US, let me tell you the story of our most recent trip to the Dominican Republic by our Blue team. We brought 5 anesthesia personnel: two anesthesiologists, and 3 CRNA's. None had ever served on a surgical experience before. One anesthesiologist was from Canada, one from Lawrence Memorial Hospital, and the three CRNA's were from Mass General. With the blue print and safeguards that we have established for the anesthesia services on all

our team mission trips, they quickly came together as a department, and performed admirably. This was in no small part due to Denise Bolduc and Toby McPherson's pre packing of their supplies, and giving them a detailed list of helpful do's and don'ts. Over 80 surgeries were performed without complication, lives improved, and goodwill established with this community near the Haitian border. Here are the courageous mission goers, one of whom is 6 months pregnant.



From left to right are: Steven Archer CRNA, Meryn Boraski CRNA, Nikhil Rastogi MD, Emily Klinefelter CRNA, and Tom Mielt MD.

Here are a few images of what they faced when they arrived amid the dust of an unused OR....

Locked Empty OR on Arrival at Los Almagos Municipal Hospital, Dominican Republic:



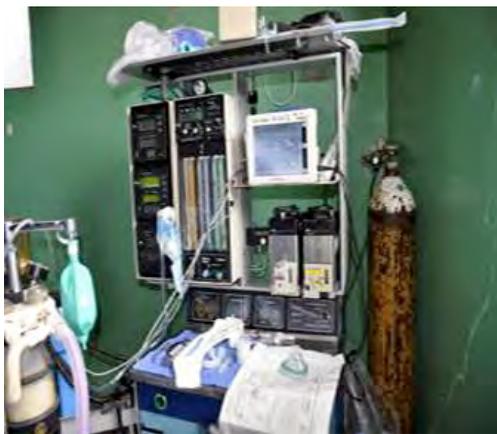
Worn but usable anesthesia machine, needing expert assembly, but comes with no written directions....



So on behalf of our countless sisters and brothers of all ages, who have no access to care, or the hope of a life without pain or disability....



Four hours later, ready to start....



Do you think you may have what it takes to maybe give a week of your time, in a place the world has forgotten, to come and serve along with us and others? Under the right direction and team approach, you can safely broaden your skills, while making a truly life saving gift .

I asked for comments from these five amazing and special anesthesia professionals, who now have become part of our growing mission family. They replied..

Thank you for listening!

By Michael Bourque MD, Medical Director, with Kathy Aries RN, Nursing Director of Blue Mission Team on Mission Bus.

And the live saving work begins....

“A very rewarding yet humbling experience personally and professionally”

“Amazing comraderie between specialists, all with different backgrounds and from different institutions, coming together for the betterment of this Dominican Community”

“I have a better appreciation now of resources or lack of them as well as access to health care in the 3<sup>rd</sup> world and US”

“This work encourages thinking outside the box, and being creative in solving problems, while maintaining patient safety”

And the most telling comment of all that I am aware of, is that 4 of the 5 have already committed to returning on another trip or location upcoming in the next year or so.



For further information, contact Denise Bolduc CRNA, Toby McPherson CRNA, or Trish Labieniec CRNA.

## MIDYEAR

By Christopher Bartels, CRNA

My name is Christopher Bartels and along with Sharon Creighton, we are your Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists Federal Political Directors(FPD). We are both very excited for the upcoming AANA Midyear Assembly(MYA) being held from April 14th to April 17th, especially with such a large contingent of CT CRNAs and SRNAs planning on attending the meeting this year. The MYA is held annually every April in Washington D.C. The main purpose of the MYA is to bring CRNA and healthcare issues to Capitol Hill. As a state contingent we will visit Capitol Hill and have meetings with all of our federal representatives offices. The state of CT has 5 congress members(Larson, Courtney, DeLauro, Himes, and Esty) and 2 senators(Blumenthal and Murphy). The rest of the meeting is dedicated to teaching the most effective and appropriate methods for lobbying as well as having in-depth analysis of the issues relevant to CRNAs.

Some key points in regards to the program this year. Early Sunday morning will have some great introductory talks setting the table for the rest of the meeting, led by our own

AANA federal lobbyist, Frank Purcell. After lunch on Sunday there is a great session for all first time attendees as well as SRNAs welcoming them to the MYA called the "Green Course". Lastly for Sunday, at an additional cost to attendees there is a social event in the evening supporting the federal PAC. This year the PAC event will be a 80's themed party and take place on the Odyssey cruise ship which will sail by the national monuments. Monday morning, attendees have the opportunity over coffee to meet the candidates that are running for AANA board of directors, nominating, and resolutions committees. The day will mostly consist of AANA business. Tuesday morning consists of CRNA health policy issues from the perspective of those in Capitol Hill leadership as well as some last bit of preparation before we take to the Hill! The AANA Board of Directors has named Marilyn Tavenner, acting administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, this year's AANA National Health Leadership Award recipient. The AANA National Health Leadership award, established in 1992, is presented to an individual working at the federal government level who has made a significant contribution to the formation of national health policy. The award recognizes the individual's support in this process for the

vital role that CRNAs play in providing access to cost-effective, quality anesthesia services.

Lastly, on Tuesday and Wednesday our CT contingent of CRNAs and SRNAs venture to Capitol Hill to speak to our federal representatives on the healthcare policy issues most affecting our profession. This year the topics we will be discussing include:

- Nurse Anesthesia Care Is Critical to Your Community
- Evidence Shows CRNAs Help Make Healthcare More Accessible, Work Better, and Cost Less
- Promote Competition, Choice and Cost Savings in Patients' Healthcare by Protecting Provider Nondiscrimination
- Protect Patient Access to Safe Care of Pain
- Combat Dangerous Shortages of Anesthesia Drugs
- Support Patient Access to Quality Care through Nurse Workforce Development Funding

I would like to invite each and every CRNA and SRNA to attend the Midyear Assembly at some point in the near future. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, [CKBartels@yahoo.com](mailto:CKBartels@yahoo.com).

## 2013 MEETING SCHEDULE

*CANA board meetings take place the first Tuesday of every month excluding June, July and August. Please join us at 6:30pm as we welcome all members to participate in our monthly meetings.*

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>JANUARY</b><br>1/26 = CANA Winter Meeting                                | <b>FEBRUARY</b><br>2/5 = CANA Meeting              | <b>MARCH</b><br>3/5 = CANA Meeting  |
| <b>APRIL</b><br>4/2 = CANA Meeting<br>4/5 - 4/7 = NEANA Spring Meeting      | <b>MAY</b><br>5/7 = CANA Meeting                   | <b>JUNE</b>   |
| <b>JULY</b>   | <b>AUGUST</b><br>8/10 - 8/13 = AANA Annual Meeting | <b>SEPTEMBER</b><br>9/3 = CANA Meeting<br>9/27 - 9/29 = CANA /NYSANA Fall Meeting |
| <b>OCTOBER</b><br>10/1 = CANA Meeting<br>10/26 - 10/27 = NEANA Fall Meeting | <b>NOVEMBER</b><br>11/5 = CANA Meeting             | <b>DECEMBER</b><br>12/3 = CANA Meeting  |



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