A Message from LANA's President

Marjorie Everson, CRNA, PhD

The future is looking very bright for CRNAs. Thank you for the privilege of serving you this year while working with one of the strongest Board of Directors (BOD) in the Association’s history. The LANA BOD is engaged and totally committed to advancing LANA’s mission: being vigilant and taking action to promote and protect our practice; creating a professional network of CRNAs; delivering quality education to maintain continuous practice competency; and assuring an effective, well-run organization to support these critical activities.

Earlier this year, your LANA BOD attended a governance training retreat. Dr. Les Wallace, an international authority on board governance, was the speaker. During the retreat, we learned several mechanisms for effectively governing your association and have already enacted some of them.

Your LANA BOD has been busy advocating on your behalf both here in Louisiana and in Washington, D.C. So far, the legislative front has been relatively quiet related to CRNA issues in our state. We continue to strengthen relationships with our seasoned legislators and reach out to those new to office. I encourage you to participate in our Key Contact program which pairs you with a legislator to be the point of information regarding CRNA issues. You learn More Information about the Meeting on page 5.

LANA Annual Meeting to be held in New Orleans

2015 ANNUAL MEETING
OCT 2-4
new orleans
JW MARRIOTT
visit us online for more information
www.lanacrna.org

LEARN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING ON PAGE 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

AANA NURSE ANESTHESIA ANNUAL CONGRESS
AUG 29-SEPT 1
SALT LAKE CITY, UT

LANA ANNUAL MEETING
OCT 2-4, 2015
JW MARRIOTT, NEW ORLEANS, LA
National CRNA Week for 2015 was January 25th-31st. The LANA Public Relations Committee, along with support from the LANA Board of Directors, made efforts to increase public awareness and recognition of CRNAs throughout the state of Louisiana. Similar to last year, LANA was able to obtain proclamations publicly recognizing CRNA Week from the office of Governor Bobby Jindal, as well as from the offices of the mayors of New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette. CRNA representatives were sent to the council meetings for all 3 cities to accept the proclamations.

Also, in an effort to increase public awareness of CRNAs, a radio advertising campaign was run throughout the state. LANA provided underwriting support for several popular programs on multiple NPR radio stations throughout Louisiana. Agreements were signed with stations in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Alexandria, and Shreveport. The listening area for all stations covers an extensive part of the state, in addition to reaching into portions Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas. The script read on each station was as follows: “And by Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists, recognizing its 1200 members throughout Louisiana for National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists Week. Learn how CRNAs help prevent gaps in anesthesia care at LANA CRNA.org.” The underwriting message aired multiple times throughout the day reaching a significant portion of Louisiana’s population!

Contact Cole at cole.pourciau.lana@gmail.com.

LANA is a founding member of the Louisiana Action Coalition (LAC), made up of nursing and non-nursing members. The mission of the LAC is to implement the Institute of Medicine’s Future of Nursing recommendations, one of which is to allow nurses to practice to the full extent of their training. The Louisiana AARP and Hospital Association are represented on the LAC as well as most nursing organizations.

On the national level, we are advocating for the Veteran’s Health Administration (VHA) Nursing Handbook revision, which recognizes all advanced practice nurses as full service providers. There are opponents to the VHA Nursing Handbook revision and who are trying to exclude CRNAs from being recognized as full service providers. Therefore, it is imperative that you contact your legislators ASAP. If you have not sent your letter yet, please do so ASAP. With just a few clicks on the AANA website, you can easily send a letter urging them to support the revision.

The AANA Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Taskforce presented a report and recommendations on April 18, 2015, at an open AANA BOD meeting. You can access the report and other CPC information here. The AANA also has excellent resources on the updated Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS): Failure to report on certain quality measures may affect your reimbursement. You can find information related to this here.

Please vote in the LANA election for your next BOD. Voting is open now and will end on May 31, 2015. We have a strong group of candidates on the ballot. I invite you to consider running for the BOD or joining a LANA committee. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact Aimee Badeaux at aimeebadeaux.lana@gmail.com. Voting for the AANA election is also open now through June 2, 2015. Please vote. LANA nominated Cheryl Nimmo for President-Elect and Bruce Weiner for Vice President. I am familiar with almost everyone running for a national office and will be happy to discuss any of the candidates with you. You can contact me at president@lana CRNA.org.

I urge every one of you to contribute to the “dollar a day” campaign initiated by the LANA CRNA PAC. Your entire LANA BOD pledged their commitment to this campaign. Even if you do not wish to contribute at that level, any donation will help. Donating is easy and can be done online at the LANA CRNA.org website.

The LANA Annual Meeting is being held this fall at the JW Marriott on October 2-4, 2015. The Program Committee has invited some nationally known speakers to present to you. They have also planned some networking events. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support and encourage you to get involved with LANA and the AANA.

Contact Marjorie by email at president@lana CRNA.org.
OLOL students share the value of CRNAs with State Representatives at LANA Day at the Capitol April 21, 2015.

The 2015 Louisiana Legislative session is nearing its completion date of June 11. There are several bills that we are still tracking including a piece of legislation from the Nurse Practitioners that has already passed in the House and is moving into the Senate as this report is being typed. The purpose of that bill is to limit the powers of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners from inhibiting NPs and MDs from entering into collaborative practice agreements. The bill is HB No. 486 and can be found here for those interested.

Of slightly more interest to CRNA practice, The Louisiana Physician Assistants had legislation filed (SB 115) that would have given them the authority to perform regional anesthesia by removing existing language in the law. Current President Elect’s Message

Aimee Badeaux, PhDc, CRNA

As the LANA Board of Director election process draws to a close, I would like to encourage all CRNAs to consider volunteering to serve on a committee. While the organization has seen an increase in interest in service as a Board of Director, we are still in need of committee volunteers. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please email me at: aimeebadeaux.lana@gmail.com. The list of current LANA committees and committee membership can be found at www.lanacrna.org. Lastly, I would like to thank all of our members for their support and for choosing to belong to AANA and LANA. It is your membership that keeps our organization strong and allows the LANA BOD to continue to remain vigilant in protecting the practice rights of CRNAs in Louisiana and to ensure that all patients have access to safe, high quality anesthesia care.

Contact Aimee by email at aimeebadeaux.lana@gmail.com.

Treasurer’s Report

John Stephenson, CRNA, BSN

LANA is pleased to announce to its members again that our organization is in a sound financial position for this year with budgets and actual expenses in close alignment. Over the past year our cost for legislative and legal expenses has remained very reasonable. Through innovation and hard work, the board and its committees has directed the organization to use digital approaches for communication, balloting, and surveys. This has not only saved money for our members, but has increased efficiency and timeliness for organizational initiatives.

Last year, LANA partnered with Kropog Financial Group to manage some of our assets. The Kropog Group has been a supporter of LANA in the past and we look forward to a continued partnership for the future. As the organization becomes better positioned to invest more of our strategic reserve, Kropog Financial will guide us to responsible and informed decision making as we strive to protect and grow our strategic reserves.

Relationships with our association management company and our lobbyist

“... The Board will continue to provide the very best in venues and educational programs for its members utilizing whatever resources are necessary.”

President Elect’s Message

Aimee Badeaux, PhDc, CRNA

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Contact Aimee by email at aimeebadeaux.lana@gmail.com.
**AANA MID-YEAR ASSEMBLY**

**CRISTIN CLEMENT, CRNA, MN**

The 2015 AANA Mid-Year Assembly (MYA) was one of many firsts. This year marked the first attendance of over 1000 certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) and student nurse anesthetists (SRNAs). It was the first time in the history of MYA that CRNAs and SRNAs rallied on Capitol Hill. And it was the first time that we could walk into our Congressmen’s offices and start the meeting off with a “thank you” for supporting the permanent sustainable growth rate (SGR) repeal, which has repeatedly threatened CRNAs.

A record setting number of CRNAs and SRNAs made the trip to Washington, D.C., this year to lobby for the profession of nurse anesthesia at the national level. For the first three days of the conference, we gathered together to learn about the healthcare issues facing CRNAs today and what impact these issues can have on our practice. Two major issues that we were briefed on are the Veteran’s Health Administration nursing handbook update and the Medicare Access to Rural Anesthesiology Act. After reviewing talking points and tips for meeting with legislators and their aides, we were ready to head to the Hill.

Before the face to face meetings began on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, CRNAs and SRNAs gathered together for a rally on Capitol Hill. We held our rally signs high in the sunny, 60 degree weather and made our presence undeniable. A couple of speeches from legislative aides fired us up for our meetings to follow. Over the next two days, Louisiana CRNAs were well represented by 15 LANA members who practice in variety of settings in all parts of the state. By the end of MYA, we had successfully educated our Louisiana Congressmen and their staff and established new relationships that we look forward to fostering.

Every April, the AANA hosts MYA in Washington, D.C. I invite you to join us next time for this eye-opening and memorable experience. It is an event that will promote your growth as a CRNA and a person. In the words of AANA President, Sharon Pearce, you leave MYA “jacked up to Jesus!” The passion that this meeting provoked in each CRNA was tangible as we stood together as 1000, united as one.

Contact Cristin at cristinclement.lana@gmail.com.

**Thank you to all who donated to the LA CRNA PAC in April**

Aimee Badeaux
Mandy Broussard
Kasey Haley
C’Lita Henry-Lombard
Hal Lamb
Michelle Lapeyrouse
Gerry Pederson
Cole Pourciau
Dustin Trahan
Tracy Young

**« TREASURER’S REPORT, continued**

remain strong and financially stable. We expect an operational excess of funds again this year to enhance our investments and strategic reserves for the future our organization.

A joint venture with the Mississippi Association of Nurse Anesthetists last summer was a small financial loss as anticipated. However, the venture did provided the members with an excellent meeting with a superior venue and several national speakers on a wide variety of ceu topics that were well reviewed by all that attended. LANA will not pursue another joint meeting for this year but is open to looking into creative ways to draw more member participation in our state meetings. Typically, state meetings are financially neutral or a small loss. The BOD will continue to provide the very best in venues and educational programs for its members utilizing whatever resources are necessary. Our educational committee is planning another great meeting this fall in new orleans. The more that sign up, the more fun and financially successful it will be.

We continue to look for viable non dues revenue sources to enhance our organizational objectives. If you have ideas or want to serve on one of the financial committees, please contact the LANA office at 225-408-4430 or visit www.lanacrna.org. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve as your treasurer.

John Stephenson may be contacted at johnstephenson.lana@gmail.com.
What is the LA CRNA PAC?

Simply put, a Political Action Committee (PAC) is a group of people who pool their monies to help elect candidates to public office who share the group’s interest and concerns about public policy issues.

Why do we need the LA CRNA PAC?

There is strength in numbers. A PAC is a way for like-minded individuals to join together and have a voice in the political process. The LA CRNA PAC strengthens the voice of CRNAs in Louisiana state politics.

Where does my money go?

With the governance of the PAC Committee and the guidance of LANA’s lobbyist, the LA CRNA PAC contributes to campaigns of CRNA-friendly state legislators. Candidates rely heavily on contributions to fund their campaigns, including campaign consultants, broadcast media, direct mail materials, and traditional political paraphernalia (bumper stickers, signs, and billboards).

How can I contribute?

Anyone can donate to the LA CRNA PAC. Coming soon to the website are levels of contribution where you can choose to make a one-time donation or a recurring monthly donation.

This year the LA CRNA PAC will host a silent auction at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans on Oct 2, 2015 during the cocktail reception. If you have an item that you would like to donate for the auction, please contact the LANA office at office@lanacrna.org.

LANA 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

Nikki Sciacca, CRNA, MS

We are in the middle of planning a fabulous fall meeting for the membership at the JW Marriott in New Orleans, LA October 2nd-4th. So mark your calendars and register online at the LANA website. We look forward to another three day fall meeting with everyone as you enjoy the city, a PAC hosted social event with silent auction and the chance to earn 20 CEUs on various anesthesia topics from well respected speakers.

Be sure to book your room at the JW Marriot by 5:00 PM, Thursday, September 10, 2015 to receive the LANA Group rate of $219.00/night plus tax for a standard guest room.

CLICK HERE to Book your Hotel Early and Save!

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Tracy Young, CEO
or
Mel Channell, Director Marketing & Staffing
855-300-7525

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DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!
The LANA election ends May 31
Only CRNA members are eligible
Please contact the LANA office if you have any questions or trouble accessing the ballot.

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