



# LANAScope

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## LANA Annual Meeting

October 18-20, 2019 | Baton Rouge, LA



### IN THIS ISSUE

- 01 President's Message
- 02 Public Relations
- 03 Nominating Committee  
State Government Relations
- 04 LANA PAC FAQs  
PAC Committee
- 05 AANA Mid-Year Assembly
- 06 BOD & Contacts
- 07 Program Committee
- 08 Regional Meetings
- 11 Treasurer Report  
Bylaws Revision  
Upcoming Events

## A Message from LANA's President

### JANET SAYER, CRNA



I have had the privilege of serving on the board of LANA for many years now. As this year moves forward, I would like to express my deep gratitude for being allowed to serve as President for this wonderful organization. The board members I serve with are energetic and committed to LANA. It has been an honor to work with them.

Our annual retreat was held in Lafayette this year and the main focus was public relations. We hosted Chris Bettin, Senior Director, Strategic Communications for the AANA. His input was helpful as we found ways to reach out not only to the CRNAs in the state but also to the public in general. For CRNA week, LANA put up billboards across the state, received proclamations from mayors of several different cities and even had some CRNAs being interviewed by the media. Many thanks go to the Public Relations Committee for the hard work to put everything together and making it a huge success.

The Membership Recruitment Task Force is on schedule since its inception last year. LANA continues to sponsor the regional updates throughout the state. They have had mixed results. The Lafayette event drew a large crowd while the Shreveport turnout was minimal. We will continue to sponsor these updates and would appreciate any feedback or suggestions. Make plans to join us in New Orleans (June 22nd at Rock and Bowl). Thanks to the LANA Board who worked so hard to put these updates together. Your dedication and hard work is greatly appreciated. LANA is working on the second initiative, which is to recruit new leaders within the organization. LANA will be sponsoring selected individuals to attend national meetings. We encourage anyone interested to contact us for future meetings.

Several board members and students attended the Mid Year Assembly in Washington, DC last month. We were able to meet with our elected officials and/or their staff. It was a great opportunity to represent Louisiana and the CRNAs of the state. We were able to discuss our concerns to a very receptive audience. I would encourage any one interested to consider attending MYA. Not only is it very informative, it's held a great time in the year to visit our nation's capital.

The annual meeting for LANA will be October 18-20 in Baton Rouge. Please plan on attending and encourage another CRNA to attend with you. Check the LANA website for all of the details. The second annual "Corn Hole Tournament" will be held. It was a resounding success last year and we hope it will be even better this year. It's a great time to not only earn CEUs but also to network and just enjoy a nice outing.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as LANA President. I especially thank all of the former Board Members and Presidents that I served with who set the stage to make LANA what it is today. I can say with utmost confidence that LANA will be well represented in the future. We have an outstanding group of BODs that will continue to work for the CRNAs of this great state.

Janet Sayer, CRNA, MS  
LANA President

The Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetist (LANA) is a non-profit association for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). LANA's mission is to advance the practice of nurse anesthesia through professional advocacy, education and member engagement. LANA's vision is to be a preeminent resource for healthcare and patient safety in Louisiana.

# PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

## Katrina Vice O'Con, DNAP, CRNA

National CRNA Week was celebrated January 21-26, 2019. The LANA Public Relations Committee, along with continued support from the LANA Board of Directors increased statewide efforts to increase the public's awareness for the profession of Nurse Anesthesia, continuing our national slogan "Every Breath, Every Beat, Every Second, We Are There."

Throughout the state of Louisiana, CRNA representatives met with public officials and received proclamations publicly recognizing CRNA Week and with that our contribution to healthcare in our state. Proclamations were issued from the Mayors of Natchitoches, Lafayette, and Lake Charles in addition to a state-wide proclamation from Governor Edwards. LANA continued to fund billboards around the state targeting key markets including Shreveport, Monroe, Alexandria, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Houma. We will continue to look for more ways to spread the great work of CRNAs throughout the state.

This year the BOD has continued to engage our members around the state. As of this writing, we have held two social gatherings to engage and inform our colleagues. A sushi networking event in Lafayette with Board members Curtis Sanford, Kentry Adams, Guy Picard, and Tommy Fontenot. President-Elect Katrina O'Con and former BOD John Stephenson hosted a crawfish boil in Shreveport. Both events were held in May. We had a phenomenal turnout in Lafayette. While our turnout for the crawfish boil was not like we had hoped, we are still hoping that the membership will engage and be more active this year. We have another event scheduled for June 22nd in New Orleans. All CRNAs and SRNAs are welcome to join us and meet members of your board for these low-stress networking events. Our goals are to bring our message of advocacy to you in your area and hope that you will allow us some time into your busy lives to update you on practice issues that may affect us all.

Look for emails from LANA to announce a Regional Update coming to your area soon and please join us.

If you have any ideas for advertising or increasing awareness for CRNA practice or would like to join the LANA Public Relations Committee, please email [office@lanacrna.org](mailto:office@lanacrna.org).



Billboard in Shreveport, LA during the CRNA Week campaign January 21-27.



President Tracy Young with the Mayor President of Lafayette, Joel Robideaux holding the document proclaiming January 21-27, 2018 CRNA Week.



Katrina O'Con, DNAP, CRNA, accepts from the Honorable Mayor Lee Poseythe document proclaiming January 21-27, 2018, CRNA Week in Natchitoches.

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## Paul LaFleur, MSNA, CRNA

In 2018, LANA welcomed new board members who assumed the following offices: Janet Sayer (President), Katrina O'Con (President-Elect), Curtis Sanford (Vice President), Guy Picard (Treasurer), Board of Directors: Christopher Buchart, Mimi Primeaux, and Tommy Fontenot.

The AANA national elections were held and eligible voting members totaled over 44,000. Of these individuals, fewer than 6,500 chose to participate in election process, yielding a participation rate of 14.3%. When local numbers are examined, Louisiana had the

lowest participation rate of any state (7.6% or 75 total votes cast). Truly sad indeed. All ballots have been counted and certified, followed by delivery to President Janet Sayer. Election results will be announced via email to the membership soon.

LANA 's annual call for nominations occurred in March of 2019. Voting was held and concluded on May 31st. All ballots have been counted and certified, followed by delivery to President Janet Sayer. Election results will be announced via email to the membership soon.

# STATE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

## Gina E. Goings

The 2019 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature convened on Monday, April 8th. The Legislature will adjourn on June 6th.

Numerous bills have been filed in the health care arena. We will continue to monitor health care bills as they move through the legislative process to ensure that provisions are not adopted to negatively impact your scope of practice.

LANA Day at the Capitol was held on May 1st. This gave our members a great opportunity to personally meet with legislators and discuss issues important to nurse anesthetists.

This year is in an election year in Louisiana. All statewide elected officials and legislators will be on the ballot for the October 12th primary election. The run-off is November 16th.



Above, students from Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University volunteer at LANA's Day at the Capitol along with some of LANA's Board Members.

# LA CRNA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

## Christopher Buchar, CRNA, DNAP

PAC Support grew steadily over the year. We started the year with an average of 22 monthly contributors and ended the year with an average of 42 monthly contributors! Forward-thinking political involvement through strategic funding continues to be a priority for the LANA PAC. At the state conference held in Lafayette, the inaugural corn hold tournament was a wild success. We look forward to continuing this tradition and increasing member engagement. Contributions are utilized to support current or prospective legislators who we believe will be an asset to our organization. These donations are made months and years prior to any political action but exemplify the importance of political surveillance. PAC contributions are an easy way for members to become engaged in their organization without sacrificing precious time. A question commonly asked, "how much should I give?" should not dissuade you from giving. Any amount is a valuable donation to fight for your profession. Consider the next time you buy an expensive cup of coffee or order one more drink at a restaurant, that could be your donation.



## 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. Available on the [website](http://lanacrna.org/), <http://lanacrna.org/>, are levels of contribution where you can choose to make a one-time donation or a recurring monthly donation.



## THANK YOU

### April 2019 LA CRNA PAC Donors

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## DONATE NOW!

[http://lanacrna.org/Main/LA\\_CRNA\\_PAC.aspx](http://lanacrna.org/Main/LA_CRNA_PAC.aspx)

# MID-YEAR ASSEMBLY

## David Kalil, CRNA

Anesthesia is the combination of drugs and gases that induces the temporary loss of awareness to surgical stimulation. It is an art, it is a science, but it is also, most unfortunately, a battleground. Currently in Louisiana, certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) are allowed to practice without the supervision of a medical doctor of anesthesia (MDA), so long as the hospital's policy allows it. That said, many facilities still prevent nurse anesthetists from administering anesthesia to the full scope of their practice – a scope that requires a 4-year BSN degree, multiple years of ICU nursing experience, and a 3-year DNP graduate degree.

This year at the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists' (AANA) National Mid-Year Assembly in Washington, D.C., I had the privilege of experiencing the political side of the profession, and it was much more involved than I initially expected. The week began with numerous meetings, speeches, and workshops revolving around the many political obstacles that CRNAs face in our field, most of which involve MDA pushback, and the nights were spent preparing for the culmination of our D.C.

The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) conducted their AANA Mid-Year Assembly on April 6-10 at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC. The Mid-year Assembly prepares AANA members so they can effectively advocate on Capitol Hill, protecting and advancing CRNA practice and reimbursement. It coordinates communication of professional advocacy across states and regions, and develop professional advocacy skills and healthcare policy understanding that promotes CRNA leadership at the national level and in professional practice.

Current LANA Board members Janet Sayer (President), Katrina O'Con (President-elect), David Kalil (Secretary), and five student registered nurse anesthesia students (SRNAs) attended the five-day assembly. There were four SRNAs from the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University of Baton rouge (Nick McCullough, Alexander Baker, Jennifer Baker, and Alexis Batiste) and another Louisiana student attending Texas Christian University (Garrett Darbonne).

During the first two days of the Assembly, participants were educated on the important legislative issues, legislative process, roles of staff within the Congressional office, preparing for pushback, and the constructing of counter-arguments. Over the last two days, our delegation visited the House of Representatives offices of Mike Johnson, Clay Higgins, Ralph Abraham, Steve Scalise, and Cedric Richmond, along with visits to the offices for Senators John Kennedy and Bill Cassidy. Often due to the legislative schedule, we had to meet with Congressional Aides, but did have the opportunity to meet personally with Representative Clay Higgins and Senator Bill Cassidy. Often these meeting were limited to around 20 minutes, but during this time-period, the following topics were discussed.

trip – a full day of lobbying with congress.

I, along with a group of other CRNAs and nurse anesthesia students (10 in total representing Louisiana), held individual meetings with five different congressmen, all of whom seemed shocked and confused as to why we were not granted more respect and freedom within the anesthesia setting, both of which we have earned through many years of proving ourselves to be exceptionally safe, adaptable, accessible, and cost-effective providers. We spoke about the opioid crisis and chronic pain management, where we are underutilized as a combative resource, especially with our opioid-sparing techniques. We discussed the cost-effective nature of CRNAs vs. MDAs, with a particular emphasis on how the CRNA-only model is significantly more cost-effective than more traditional models where MDAs directly manage or supervise CRNAs. Title VIII funding was a particularly important issue for the students, as it allocates funding to the nursing education community that provides such an amazing and thorough foundation from which we are able to launch our careers. Lastly, we

### **Reducing Barriers to Practice and Creating Cost Savings:**

We asked members to support legislation that would ensure Medicare Administrative contractors (MACs) comply with CMS rules and state scope of practice laws, require MACs to explain their rationale for issuing Local coverage Determinations (LCDs), and provide patients and providers with recourse if a harmful LCD is issued. We also requested support for regulatory relief bills that would address unnecessary supervision, inefficient supervision ratios, restrictive Medicare payment systems, and disincentivizing teaching payment models, that increase cost and decrease access.

### **CRNAs Role in Pain Care and the Opioid Crisis:**

We stressed the importance and underutilized CRNA in combating the opioid crisis. CRNAs provided multimodal pain management services throughout the perioperative period. Providers and patients alike deserve to have access to non-opioid and opioid sparing pain management techniques, many of which CRNAs are highly qualified to delivery. We asked to support Legislation that would increase training for pain management, incentivize non-opioid treatments and ensure patients are counseled on their options.

### **Title VIII Funding:**

Nursing workforce development funding helps ensure the nation will have enough skilled nurses to meet the growing demands of an aging population. Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 funding for Title VIII programs remained level with FY 2018 at \$249 million, but the program has not kept pace with inflation and there is need for additional funding and reauthorization. Our Representatives and Senators were asked to support legislation reauthorizing Title VIII funding and increase appropriations to \$266 million for Title VIII in Fiscal year 2020.

highlighted how vitally important it is for CRNAs to be granted full practice authority, especially in the Veterans Health Association and rural communities, many of which could not possibly function without CRNAs that are allowed to practice to the fullest extent of our capabilities, honed by our extensive training and vast clinical experience.

I never realized until now how fundamentally important it is for the CRNA profession to have passionate advocates that fight so admirably and relentlessly for our right to perform our duties to the fullest capacity of which we are all so very capable. It is crucial for our lawmakers, representatives, and senators to understand the safe, diverse, and cost-effective role CRNAs provide. It is time for our MDAs to realize that we can and should work with them as peers and not just for them as subordinates. But perhaps most importantly, we need you, the people, to understand that CRNAs are the way of the future in every aspect of the anesthesia world, and we urge you to take control of your healthcare and call your local congressman or congresswoman to let them hear your voice.

### **Rural Healthcare:**

It was emphasized that CRNAs are often the only anesthesia providers in rural and underserved areas. In addition, according to the National Rural Health Association, 94 rural hospitals have closed between 2010 and 2019, with an additional 673 rural hospitals vulnerable to closure. If Congress does not act to stop the bleeding and prevent further rural hospital closures, an estimated 11.7 million patients will lose direct access to care while local economies suffer. We asked for their support of the CARE Act, which restores nurse anesthetist stand by and on-call payment eligibility to the Part A reasonable cost-based pass-through program and ensure rural access to critical healthcare services. We also requested their support for the Save Rural Hospital Acts, which will help these lifelines keep their doors open in rural areas.

### **Veterans Affairs:**

We discussed how the Veterans Hospital Administration (VHA) left CRNAs out of their final rule in allowing APRNs to practice to the full scope of their training in VA facilities. The VA argued there were no issues with access to anesthesia, but we know this argument is flawed. Access is often denied due to non-productive anesthesia practice models, that delays surgical procedures. The VA admitted that CRNAs are safe providers and we encourage them to reconsider their decision, asking our Members to support Legislation that would grant full practice authority to CRNAs serving in the VHA.

Over all, our Congressional Representatives and Senators received our delegation warmly. We discussed the important issues, asked for support on any Legislation that would expand or protect our scope of practice and left a packet of material supporting the important CRNA issues.



# LANA Board of Directors & Contacts

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# PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Kentry Adams, MSNA, CRNA

## LANA Annual Meeting

October 18-20, 2019 | Baton Rouge, LA



The Program Committee, along with your LANA Board of Directors, are actively planning your 2019 Annual Meeting. We are excited to tell you that our planned destination this year will be the home of the LSU Fighting Tigers and the city so called “Red Stick” or Baton Rouge. This years meeting will take place October 18th-20th at the Renaissance Hotel located off of Bluebonnet Blvd.

Back by popular demand will be the very successful Corn Hole Tournament. In addition to the Corn Hole Tournament, We will also have an LSU watch party, as LSU will be taking on Ms. State Saturday night, October 19th. Join us for a night of fun, great food, entertainment, and networking as many of your fellow CRNA’s will be in attendance. Party location details to follow.

Your LANA board has looked at practicing trends and is attempting to incorporate many of those trends into speaking topics at this years meeting. Amongst other topics, the all important Nurse Anesthesiology debate and the emerging push for AA’s by the ASA, throughout the USA will be discussed. We are hoping to build off of past successful meetings. Mark your calendar and plan on a weekend full of learning, fun, networking, all while getting CEU credit that will go towards re-certification.

Be on the look out for any future LANA emails that will have more details and links for conference registration and links for booking at the Renaissance Hotel. We encourage everyone to attend and to support our great profession and it’s advancement.



# REGIONAL UPDATES

## Curtis Sanford, DNAP, CRNA

In January of 2018, your board of directors met in Lafayette for our annual board retreat with Luis Rivera from the AANA. Although we were holding regional updates independently of LANA, our president at the time (Tracy Young) devised a formal program in which LANA would sponsor regional updates throughout the state at a fun location such as a restaurant or brewery. These updates were to be included into our operating budget for the next 3 years with the goals of allowing CRNAs from Louisiana to have a great time, mingle with colleagues, and increase awareness into what we do as a board and what issues are facing our region and state.

On Thursday, May 2nd, LANA sponsored our first regional update of the year in Lafayette, Louisiana, at the Gallery Room of Tsunami Sushi. Attendees were treated to cocktails and reception style sushi from 6pm-10pm while getting the opportunity to visit with colleagues from across the Acadiana region. Guests ranged from as far west as Jennings to Kaplan to Opelousas and Lafayette. Board of Directors in attendance were Vice President Curtis Sanford, Treasurer Guy Picard, and board members Kentry Adams and Tommy Fontenot. Two time past president Tracy Young was also in attendance. Over 25 members were informed of potential legislative issues, the upcoming board election, and recent hot topics in our state. This was a highly successful evening and the CRNAs in the Lafayette area continue to be among the state leaders in engagement with each other and their organization.



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# LSU Health

NEW ORLEANS

## School of Nursing

LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing BSN to DNP Nurse Anesthesia program (NAP) prepares students as advanced practitioners in nurse anesthesia who are eligible for certification as certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), and licensure as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). LSUHNO-SON NAP is accredited by Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA).

LSUHNO-SON also offers the Post Masters DNP that prepares individuals with master's degree to earn a Doctorate of Nursing Practice in Nurse Anesthesia or any of the different DNP programs that the school offers.

For more information: <https://nursing.lsuhsu.edu/>

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Anesthesia Associates of Southern Illinois is expanding to new locations and we are seeking additional CRNAs to join our growing group.

Our Anesthesia group works out of several locations in Southern Illinois. With the addition of 5 facilities last year, we greatly increased the number of professionals in our group in 2018 and early 2019!

- The Anesthesia staff currently includes 30 CRNAs and 10 MDs.
- We staff 13 hospitals in our service area.
- The provider on call has an option to receive the next day off.
- We offer a collegial work environment with outstanding surgeons and staff.
- Our hospitals offer a variety of settings and surgical disciplines.
- **Our compensation falls within the 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile of AANA 2018 Salary Survey!**
- We offer a generous starting salary, **signing bonus** and a comprehensive benefit plan.
- Our employees receive an annual contribution to a retirement plan.
- We enjoy 7 weeks off annually.

We can offer flexibility in our schedule for those interested in full time or part time positions.

Our locations are conveniently located with access to several metropolitan areas such as St. Louis, Chicago, Louisville, Indianapolis, Memphis and Nashville without the associated high costs of housing and living expenses.

Recreational and outdoor activities are located throughout the area which is considered the gateway to the Shawnee National Forest. Rend Lake, just minutes away, has 28k acres of water! It offers boating, water sports, golfing, camping and outdoor activities year-round! Nearby Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge is the largest man-made lake in Illinois.

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale is just a short drive away and the prestigious universities in St. Louis, Washington University and St. Louis University are just an hour from away.

If you are interested in continuing your career in Southern IL in a rewarding practice, please feel free to call our practice consultant, Mr. Gene Corbett. Gene may be reached in the evening hours and weekends. Please contact him at [Gene.Corbett@iCloud.com](mailto:Gene.Corbett@iCloud.com) or 636-288-4003.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

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## Guy Picard, MSN, CRNA

Your organization continues to remain financially sound and fiscally responsible as a result of the efforts of all serving on the board of directors. LANA's operating reserve continues to exceed that recommended by our national organization and, as a result, the board of directors has continued to conservatively invest, thus allowing for LANA's continued financial growth and diversification. We will continue to closely monitor political and professional developments and will utilize strategic reserves should the need arise. LANA's financial viability continues as a result of vigilant monitoring of careful budgeting activities, spending money appropriately to continuously engage our members, and strategic, innovative saving and investing.

A heartfelt thanks to all members for entrusting your board of directors to continue to guide YOUR organization into the future. Thanks also to the dedicated men and women comprising the LANA board of directors who volunteer their time and expertise, allowing LANA to advance and protect the profession of nurse anesthesia for all CRNAs in the state of Louisiana.

## BYLAWS REVISIONS

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There are no Bylaws revisions to be considered by the members for this year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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**August 9-13: AANA Annual Congress in Chicago**

**October 18-20: LANA Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge**