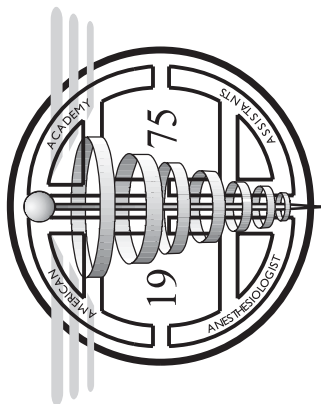


# The Anesthesia Record

Fall 2003

The Newsletter of the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants



## The President's Message

by Rob Wagner, AA-C, RRT, CRTT

It's hard to believe that 2004 is rapidly approaching. This past year was successful for the AAAA and its members. Together, we obtained licensure in various states and with the recent approval of the new bylaws by the AAAA membership, the AA profession advanced in ways that are immeasurable. The AAAA membership participated in voting for the new members of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors that will serve you in the years ahead. I am eager to continue the mission of the AAAA with the guidance of the new members of the AAAA leadership during my last year as President of the AAAA in 2004.

I attended the ASA this year, and was very impressed and encouraged by how the AA profession has been received by the ASA and its members. The relationship between the AAAA and ASA is growing at an exponential rate. The ASA and AAAA have been working together to promote the expansion of AA schools and the licensing efforts of AA's. The ASA has formed an ad hoc committee that has begun to address how to increase the number of AA schools and what the ASA can do to promote the expansion of the AA profession. The commitment by the ASA to promote the advancement of the AA profession and AA education should make it very clear to every AA that our profession is now on a path of nationwide acceptance.

There are several important "take home" messages that I want to emphasize to every AA after returning from the ASA. The ASA is highly committed to the AA profession. There are numerous anesthesiologists that are working hard to help educate their colleagues about the AA profession. It is extremely important that every AA join the ASA to show them that AA's support and are dedicated and committed to the anesthesia care team.

Not only is there a strong commitment to help promote the AA profession on a national level, but the state level support is also growing. The Florida Society of Anesthesiologists (FSA) is once again committed to helping the AAAA with the licensing of AAs in Florida in 2004. This continued support by the FSA confirms the increasing support for the AA profession. I will be asking every AA for help and support in 2004 with the licensing efforts in Florida.

The AAAA and its members must continue to meet the challenges that are ahead of us in the following years. The AAAA has begun to implement a long term strategic plan that will continue to ensure the success of the AAAA. This long-term plan will make sure that AAs are represented on a national and state level. The AAAA has implemented an infrastructure of committees, which will enable information and responsibilities to be accounted for to the AAAA members, the Executive Committee and, ultimately, the AAAA board. If you are interested in helping on a committee, please contact the AAAA offices.

I encourage you to continue to contribute to the legislative fund. Your contribution will allow the AAAA to pursue licensing for AA's throughout the United States. Remember, because of your support in 2003, we had enormous success in this area.

Please remember to renew your AAAA membership and encourage those AA's that are not members to join. The future of our profession depends on it.

I want to wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season.

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**Advertising and Copy Deadline for  
Winter 2004 Issue: January 30th, 2004**

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Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent AAAA policy.

# The Editor's Column

## Certification — What Is It Good For?

by Ellen Allinger, AA-C

Even before the first NCCAA examination was administered in 1992, I had heard arguments from both camps as to whether or not an AA should obtain and/or maintain certification. The following story may enlighten those of you who have not put much stock in the benefits of AA certification.

Earlier this year I talked to an AA colleague who was interested in obtaining a South Carolina AA license. His interest stemmed from a possible job opportunity. As I was going over the requirements for SC licensure, I stated that applicants must be NCCAA-certified. Knowing that this AA worked in Georgia, I asked if he had maintained his certification (in GA, an AA does not need to maintain certification in order to renew a PA license). He stated that he had been notifying the GA medical board of completion of 40 hours of CME every two years when he renewed his license. "The medical board has nothing to do with NCCAA certification," I explained. "Have you been sending your \$190 and CME registration every two years to the NCCAA?" The answer was no, and the short of this story is that this AA was not eligible for a SC license because he had not maintained his NCCAA certification. As a result, this AA lost out on a wonderful job opportunity.

Lost job opportunities. That is the bottom line if you are not certified. Of the eight states that currently have AA licensure or registration, six (New Mexico, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina, Vermont, and Alabama) require **current NCCAA certification** in order to hold a license in those states. Kentucky and Georgia are the exceptions. KY is unusual in that its state law requires AAs to have passed the NCCPA examination and to meet state licensing requirements for PAs. For AAs who worked in GA prior to the first examination in 1992, the state essentially "grandfathered" those AAs to allow them to continue to practice as long as they maintain a PA license. Or, if you graduated since 1992, you are required to have passed the NCCAA examination in order to obtain your initial license, but maintaining certification is not a requirement of renewing your PA license.

However, something new happened last year with GA PA licenses. For the first time, it was required that the name of your sponsoring anesthesiologist was listed on your license renewal form. Any AA that was holding a GA license but was not currently working in GA was out of luck. When I called the GA medical board to inquire about this change, it was explained to me that this was a move recommended by the medical board's attorney in order to reduce the board's liability associated with renewing licenses of PA's that had no sponsoring physician. So, if you stop working in GA, in order to reapply at a later time for a new license, you must be NCCAA certified.

Another fact is that, despite what state laws require for licensure, individual hospitals may have more stringent requirements for credentialing. For example, there are many hospitals that require that all nurses, allied health professionals and physicians hold a current ACLS provider card to maintain privileges at that hospital. Because of rising concerns with demonstration of competency, insurance reimbursement issues, and medico-legal liability, more and more hospitals are requiring their AAs to be NCCAA certified. This is even occurring in states where licensure is not required for AAs to practice. Again, your ability to work in a specific hospital may be denied if are not certified.

I was asked at the spring AAAA meeting if a practicing AA could potentially lose his GA license if he took the NCCAA examination and failed. For a definitive answer, I again called the Georgia Composite State Board of Medical Examiners and talked to Ms. Gayle Oliver. Ms. Oliver, who is in charge of handling all physician assistants' applications, explained to me that the board is not notified if an AA takes the examination and fails. "If a PA is already licensed by this state, continued certification

See "The Editor's Column," page 15 . . .

## Inside AAAA

# Legislative Fund Report — Year End 2003

by Michael Nichols, AA-C

Throughout the inaugural year of the Legislative Fund, AAAA members graciously donated a total of \$19,226.06. With a fiscal goal of \$25,000 for this fund, we reached the 76.9% mark. In 2004, the AAAA will once again work to achieve a \$25,000 donation goal. The following are some facts and figures about the Legislative Fund in 2003:

- There were 84 member donations (18.4% of total membership)
- Average donation was \$228.18
- 2 members donated \$1 – \$99 (2.38% of all donors)
- 69 members donated \$100 – \$249 (82.14% of all donors)
- 8 members donated \$250 – \$499 (9.53% of all donors)
- 4 members donated \$500 – \$999 (4.76% of all donors)
- 1 member donated \$1000+ (1.19% of all donors)

Allocations from the Legislative Fund were made in support of legislative efforts in both Ohio and Florida. In 2004, the AAAA has identified potential legislative issues in Arizona, Virginia, Connecticut, Michigan, and Florida. Needless to say, with this extensive legislative agenda, your contributions will be imperative for the AAAA to thrive.

Anna Lappe, Editor of *Vogue* magazine, said, “...every time you spend money, you’re casting a vote for the kind of world you want.” Strive for a world in which AAs practice in every part of the world as are revered as the ideal physician extender.

Use this article as a call to action to help your national organization in promoting and expanding the Anesthesiologist Assistant profession. If each donating member from 2003 would contribute enough to step up to the next donation level in 2004, and each member that didn’t donate in 2003 would contribute this year, the Legislative Fund would eclipse the \$25,000 mark without a problem. Let’s make it happen!

## Certification Review in Works for 2004 Meeting in San Diego

By Sarah Russell, AA-C, Annual Meeting Committee Chairman

April is approaching quickly as exciting new plans fall into place for the 2004 Annual Meeting in San Diego April 23 – 26, 2004. We have an impressive lineup of speakers in place, as well as several new additions to make this meeting a huge success.

First and foremost, we have been working on the development of a certification review for those interested in brushing up for the exam in June. Dave Zagorski, a graduate of the Case Western Reserve program and current teacher/instructor with the program, is developing a mock exam with the help of various instructors from Ohio and Georgia. He will also review important study tips, as well as utilizing key words and information provided by the NCCAA committee for effective review. This certification review will be beneficial to both graduating students and practicing AAs preparing for a recertification. This review will be held on Friday, April 23 from 10 – 6 at a cost of \$125 to members and \$175 to non-members. This review is yet another AA effort to keep ourselves on a path of growth and excellence, so we hope to see strong support for this session.

### Additional highlights for this meeting include:

- A Stryker video presentation of a live Laparoscopic Gastric Bypass Surgery with renowned surgeon Dr. Titus Duncan, MD from the Atlanta Medical Center in Georgia.
- A job fair with employer booths and interviews from institutions around the country.
- The welcome reception Friday evening followed by a cruise on the Bahia Belle, a Mississippi-style sternwheeler with live music and dancing around Mission Bay.
- A wide range of speaker topics, including neuroanesthesia, anesthesia for liver transplants, battlefield surgery, restrictive airway disorders, beta blocker therapy, and outpatient anesthesia.

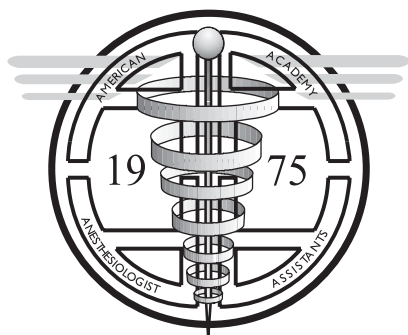
Finally, we are working hard to continue building our attendance at this meeting. State component societies from around the country have been encouraged to post our meeting in upcoming calendars and publications, various programs for student sponsorship are being promoted to achieve >90% student attendance, and Shane Angus is working to post all meeting information and details on our website. Please encourage fellow AAs and anesthesiologists to attend, and we hope to see you in San Diego!!

## Inside AAAA

# AAAA National Affairs Update

by Pete Kaluszyk, AA-C, National Affairs Committee Chairman

The AAAA was well represented at the ASA's annual meeting in San Francisco and participated in several organizational and committee meetings. Most of the AAAA Directors and the Executive Committee attended the ASA opening ceremonies for the House of Delegates. Deb Lawson represented the AAAA at the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation's (APSF) Committee on Education. Bill Paulsen was invited to speak before the ASA's Resident



Component Society about the AA profession and our role within the anesthesia care team. Pete Kaluszyk and Mike Nichols attended the ASA's Anesthesia Care Team Committee meeting and reported on legislative updates 2003, proposed inclusion of AAs in the

VA system and participation in the armed forces' TRICARE insurance program, CMS (Medicare and Medicaid) insurance reimbursement, and employment issues for AAs.

The booth was well attended and there was a lot of interest in our profession by those anesthesiologists that stopped by and talked to us. From the various contacts that we made and discussions that ensued we are hopeful for some new legislative efforts next year. Rob Wagner, Ellen Allinger, Don Biggs, Christa Billiet McCurry, Kristy Campbell, Stephanie Dixon, Lauren Hojdila, Deb Lawson, Mike Nichols, Pete Kaluszyk, Bill Paulsen, Kimberley Shepherd, and Joe Rifici manned the booth. Claire Chandler and Michael Hickey, students from the Case Western and Emory programs, respectively, also gave of their time at the booth. The AAAA would like to thank all of these folks for their help.

The inclusion of AAs into the TRICARE Program is apparently on course. TRICARE is the insurance benefits program for members of the armed forces and their families. We are awaiting the publication of the Federal Register that will define AAs as providers within the TRICARE program. Public comments about AAs and TRICARE have been submitted and are being collated and summarized for inclusion into the Federal Register and are tentatively scheduled to be published very soon. We were informed that the original publication of these comments was to be at the end of September. However, because of the volume of comments submitted concerning the inclusion of

AAs into TRICARE, this may be delayed. As of press time we have not received any official word on this matter.

Additionally, we have received word that the Veterans' Administration is currently working on developing a definition for AAs within the VA system. Again, we have been informed that this is an ongoing project but we have not received any solid information as to when this might happen. The AAAA was informed that an U.S. Congressman from Ohio had started a petition in Congress opposing the inclusion of AAs into the VA System. His opposition was based on highly erroneous information he had received. David Paragas, Esq., the AAAA attorney, contacted the Congressman and was able to set the record straight and the petition was withdrawn.

The Missouri and Vermont Bills are currently waiting for adoption of regulations covering AA practice in those states. The Vermont Department of Health has been in contact with the AAAA leadership about our input into these regulations and their adoption soon. Meanwhile in Missouri, the Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists petitioned the Missouri State Board of Healing Arts to permit temporary licensure for AAs until the AA practice rules are adopted. The board granted the temporary permit and AAs could be hired immediately in Missouri.

In Washington, DC, there have been some developments that have posed problems for anesthesiologists and AAs practicing there. A complaint was filed with the District of Columbia Board of Pharmacy stating that AAs should not be allowed to withdraw controlled drugs because AAs are not licensed providers in the District. The directors of those departments affected by these complaints asked the ASA for assistance in this matter along with the AAAA and its attorney. We were told that progress is being made in this issue. Secondly, there have been some problems with Medicare reimbursement for AA services. We believe that these are procedural problems and are working to resolve them as quickly as possible.

Again, we hope that next year brings some new legislative efforts and that we will be successful. The National Affairs Committee is striving to increase our channels of communications with the Federal Government and the agencies that it oversees that provide anesthesia services. We will continue to strive to encourage those ASA State Component Societies to convert their support for our profession into legislative action. With your membership renewal for 2004 this will give us the opportunity to open up more states and give our members more choice as to where they wish to work.



## Inside AAAA

### AAAA Membership Questionnaire Information now Processed

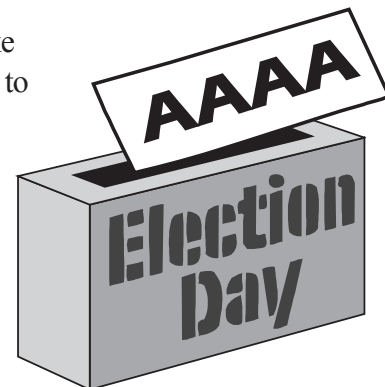
The results of the AAAA Membership Questionnaire that was mailed to all AAAA members along with the first election ballot has been processed by the AAAA office. These results will be used to pinpoint membership concerns and to prompt specific actions to address these concerns. Thank you to everyone who took the time and effort to participate in this questionnaire. Here is a sample of information that came from the questionnaire:

- Opening new states to AAs and obtaining AA licensure in states where AAs practice were ranked #1 and #2, respectively, as important AAAA projects.
- Florida was overwhelmingly the state that respondents would like to have opened to AA practice, followed closely by New York.
- Lack of access to news involving AAs was a prominent issue.
- 97% of respondents felt that the officers and directors were fulfilling the duties of their positions.

A report of this questionnaire will be posted under the "Members Only" section of the AAAA website after the first of the New Year.

### AAAA Election Results

The AAAA would like to extend congratulations to its newly-elected officers and directors. With the highest participation ever at 56% of the membership voting, the winners are as follows:



#### President-Elect (1 Year Term)

- Donald Biggs

#### Secretary (2 Year Term)

- Ellen Allinger

#### Directors (3 Year Term)

- David M. Buzzetti
- Kenneth Maloney
- Brad Maxwell

## Editorial Board Needed for Newsletter

by Ellen Allinger, AA-C, Editor

Have you noticed anything new in the last few editions of the newsletter?

Thanks to the energetic efforts of Liz Decker, there has been the addition of the Students' Page since the newsletter's Spring 2003 edition. Liz is a second year student in the CWRU AA program. Even under the stress of clinical rotations and examinations, Liz has taken the time to get contributions to the Students' Page from CWRU and Emory students and to get these articles to me by each edition's deadline.

Now, if a busy student can dedicate herself to contributing to the AAAA's newsletter, don't you think that others, like yourself, can do the same? I thoroughly enjoy helping to create and produce the AAAA's quarterly newsletter. But, if the newsletter is going to continue to grow and mature, it needs an editorial board. It needs new and fresh ideas and a wider range of interests and concerns than I or any single editor can give a publication.

You don't have to know anything about putting together a newsletter in order to participate. Believe me, I didn't have any experience in writing or publishing prior to taking on the job of editor. Thanks to the AAAA's management firm, the actual production of the newsletter is left to those with experience. And they do a wonderful job.

If you have any interest in helping to shape the growth and improvement of *The Anesthesia Record*, please contact me by email at [moses@cetlink.net](mailto:moses@cetlink.net) or call me at my home at 803/328-6801.

## From the National Commission

# The National Commission

by James R. Hall, MD, NCCAA Secretary

To help address manpower needs, as well as address the increasingly complex and technologic practice of anesthesia, the allied health specialty anesthesiologist assistant (AA) was created in 1969. Graduates of anesthesiologist assistants educational programs which are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) are eligible to enter into the certification process administered by the National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA).

Under the guidance of John E. Steinhaus, MD, Ph.D., the National Commission was founded in 1989 for the purpose of establishing a national certification process to provide the basis for eligibility for anesthesiologist assistants to practice in the United States. The National Commission then and now includes both anesthesiologist assistants and anesthesiologists. The National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) is consultant and contractor for NCCAA's examinations and certification process. NBME also is the contractor for the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA) and the National Commission for Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

The entry point into the certification process is the Certifying Examination for Anesthesiologist Assistants, which is a written examination offered annually. Items on the examination are designed to assess each candidate's entry-level knowledge and his/her skill in applying that knowledge related to the duties of a practicing anesthesiologist assistant.

NCCAA contracted with the National Board of Medical Examiners in 1990 to help develop the first Certifying Examination. Initial development of the certification process included surveying practicing anesthesiologist assistants and their physician sponsors, developing a content grid for examination, establishing an item bank, and constructing and administering the first Certifying Examination. The initial survey of practicing anesthesiologist assistants and their physician sponsors was conducted in 1990 to establish the basis of practice for this allied health specialty. A second practice survey was conducted in 1997.

Content experts in conjunction with NBME developed both surveys. Development of the content grid for the Certifying Examination has been based on the results of the surveys. A Test Committee has been appointed annually by NCCAA since 1990 to prepare the Certifying Examinations. The Test Committee has been comprised of anesthesiologist assistants, anesthesiologists, and individuals expert in testing and measurement. Item writing, examination construction, standard setting, examination scoring, and reporting are conducted each year in consultation with NBME. NCCAA offered the first Certifying Examination for Anesthesiologist Assistants in 1992.

Based on the results of the 1997 survey, a content grid was formulated for the Examination for Continued Demonstration of Qualifications (CDQ) Examination. Item writing assignments were made, and the NCCAA item bank was expanded to accommodate the CDQ Examination. The first CDQ Examination was administered in 1998. CDQ Examinations are offered annually.

## Certification Process

The overall certification process administered by NCCAA is based on a six-year cycle:

### NCCAA Process

Year 0	Certifying Examination
Year 1	
Year 2	CME Registration
Year 3	
Year 4	CME Registration
Year 5	
Year 6	CME Registration & CDQ Examination

NCCAA awards a time-limited certificate to each candidate who successfully completes the Certifying Examination. Each anesthesiologist assistant is able to maintain current certification by registering requisite CME credits every other year and successfully completing a CDQ examination every six years. Certification permits individuals to use the designation AA-C (Anesthesiologist Assistant-Certified). NCCAA annually publishes a list of Anesthesiologist Assistant-Certified, which is distributed to state medical boards, practice groups, credentialing and payor agencies.

## Demographics 2003

Based on compilation of the NCCAA practitioner database on 30 September 2003, there are 528 certified anesthesiologist assistants living in 29 states. Twenty-eight of these certified anesthesiologist assistants successfully completed Certifying Examination 2003. There were 40 candidates for CDQ Examination 2003.

Each year, NCCAA mails to every practitioner in its database a summary of their certification status and other information related to the certification process in the United States. A recurring problem that NCCAA faces is a high return rate on mailings — currently greater than five percent. If you have not received a communication from NCCAA within the last 12 months, please write or fax NCCAA (PO Box 15519, Atlanta, GA, 30333-0519 — 404/687-9978).

## Examinations in 2004

The National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA) in conjunction with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) will offer Certifying Examination for Anesthesiologist Assistant 2004 and Examination for Continued Demonstration of Qualifications 2004 on Saturday, 05 June 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia, and in Cleveland, Ohio. The application and payment of application fee must be received by NCCAA on or before 31 January 2004. Applications may be obtained from NCCAA, PO Box 15519, Atlanta, GA 30333-0519.

## Professional News

### OAAA News

by Greg Menendez, AA-C

The litigation over AA scope of practice in Ohio will have had its extended hearing date, November 18, 2003, by the time this article is published. Unlike our past experiences with the legislative branch, in which outcomes are influenced by one's ability to meet with legislators and discuss the issue, we must defer to lawyers and largely play the role of spectator, especially as we wait for the judge to render a decision. The most daunting challenge that falls solely on us is to raise \$100,000 to pay for the legal fees.

Our only sources of revenue are AAs and anesthesiologists who want to protect the AA practice from being diminished. It was evident from the beginning that the AAs and physicians in Ohio understood the importance of this declaratory judgment. The OAAA annual meeting held open discussions about the pending litigation and explained the strategies for relieving this financial burden. In the following weeks, several Ohio AAs showed their generosity and support, in one instance giving

\$2000, despite doubled 2004 annual dues. Anesthesiologists also recognized that this judgment allows them to preserve the right to delegate the same tasks to AAs as other anesthesia providers. They responded by generously donating up to \$5000 from the anesthesia departments that employ AAs.

On the other hand, it has been one month since 300 letters requesting contributions from AAs outside of Ohio were mailed and the response has been astonishingly low. On behalf of the OAAA, thank you to those who have responded for your generous assistance. However, these donations fall short of the support that is requested from the members of the very profession that this litigation was launched to protect. This is an opportunity to prevent the loss of AA practice standards that we have performed safely for thirty years. The anesthesia care team is the core of our profession and as capable and qualified members of that team, we need to stand up to defend our practice when it is challenged.

If you have not yet done so, please contribute to the OAAA. Contributions can be sent to PMB #124, 32818 Walker Road, Avon Lake, Ohio, 44012-1473. We are all in this together and we need your help to succeed.

### ASA Membership Available To AAs

by Peter L. Hendricks, M.D., ASA Secretary

In October 2001, the American Society of Anesthesiologists created a category of membership for Anesthesiologist Assistants, called Educational Members. As an ASA member, AAs can take advantage of our many educational benefits, including:

- A complimentary subscription to the journal *Anesthesiology*.
- The monthly ASA NEWSLETTER.
- Updates on federal legislative and regulatory issues.
- Access to the "Members Only" section of the ASA web site.
- Membership discounts on several ASA publications.
- Complimentary registration for ASA's Annual Meeting.

The most beneficial item is the complimentary registration to the ASA Annual Meeting. Annual Meeting registration for non-ASA members is \$450. This year's meeting in San Francisco in October attracted more than 17,000 participants and offered more than 133 refresher courses and clinical updates, 1,565 scientific paper presentations and numerous panels, workshops, problem-based learning discussions and lectures, as well as the largest technical exhibit of anesthesia products and state-of-the-art monitoring equipment of any anesthesia meeting in the world.

### Steering Committee for a Georgia Society

by A. William Paulsen, MMSc, Ph.D.,  
CCE, AA-C

A steering committee has been formed to build the foundation of a Georgia society of anesthesiologist assistants (name to be determined). The committee is being led by Scott Duane with assistance from Sam Stewart and others who feel that the time has come to build an organization that represents the interests of Georgia AAs. Members of the steering committee have already met with the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists to seek ways of establishing a formal relationship between AAs and GSA leadership and members. Please contact Scott Duane if you are willing to participate and contribute to this important endeavor. Stay tuned for additional information as the concept unfolds.

We would like to invite all AAs, as well as AA students, to become members of ASA as well. We hope you agree that the \$225 annual membership fee for AA's and \$25 for AA students is a great value. Educational membership applications are available on the ASA website, [www.asahq.org](http://www.asahq.org), under the heading "Join ASA," or by calling the ASA membership department at (847) 825-5586.

*\*All educational applications processed in December and January will include a copy of the March 2003 ASA NEWSLETTER dedicated to Anesthesiologist Assistants!*

## Professional News

### Coalition for Allied Health Leadership Workshop

by Michael Nichols, AA-C

This past summer I had the opportunity to represent the AAAA at the Coalition for Allied Health Leadership Workshop. This event took place in Washington D.C. over a two week period, and was funded by a grant from the Bureau of Health Professions. All participants of the Coalition were from one of three allied health organizations: Association for Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP), Network of Non-technical and Two-Year Programs (NN2), and the Health Professions Network (HPN), of which AAAA is a member.

The first week of the workshop revolved around the legislative process, lobbying legislators, and support for the Allied Health Reinvestment Act. As participants, we had the opportunity to speak with many Senators and House of Representative members, as well as representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the President's Council on Health & Aging. Additionally, all

participants designed work projects to work on in groups over the next few months.

The second week focused on developing leadership and team-building skills. The participants took part in several exercises that focused on recognizing and implementing various leadership techniques. Additionally, the projects were presented and discussed.

This workshop was extremely beneficial to the development of my personal leadership skills, and an excellent networking opportunity. Many of participants were deans of allied health programs or members of the executive committee of their respective national organizations. In the next few months, the Coalition for Allied Health Leadership will be accepting applications for next year's workshop. I would strongly encourage any AAAA member with desire to learn about our federal government or improve their leadership skills to take part in this very beneficial program.

### Health Professions Network

by Theresa Green, AA-C, MBA

Another outstanding Health Professions Network (HPN) meeting occurred September 18 – 21, 2003 in Dallas, Texas. The Dallas Visitors and Convention Bureau was a phenomenal host and really highlighted this beautiful city for the participants. This was definitely one of HPN's best meetings, including prominent speakers, relevant and informative topics, and significant meaningful networking opportunities.

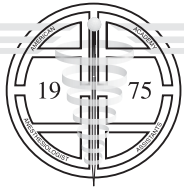
*The speakers included:*

- Maureen Lichtveld, MD, MPH from the Centers for Disease Control who spoke on sustaining a prepared health workforce and discussed six strategic elements necessary for an effective, competent, and sustainable workforce.
- David Moore, VP of Government Relations for the Association of American Medical Colleges, discussed effective health professions advocacy. The most urgent of his messages was the fact that President Bush requested a 74% decrease this year in funding for health professions, including nursing. The AAMC is working to rectify this in Congress.
- Dr. William G. Plested, III, Board Chair of the American Medical Association gave an update on the AMA's current activities. The AMA is lobbying strongly in support of Tort reform and of developing an open, guilt free environment in which to study medical error, so as to slow the crisis of escalating malpractice insurance costs for health care providers.
- Mary Ann Abrams, MD, MPH from the Iowa Health Systems gave an intriguing presentation on health literacy and offered information on how to obtain a free training video packet for improving effective communication to patients including speaking on a level that they can understand. To order the video, email [healthliteracy@ama-assn.org](mailto:healthliteracy@ama-assn.org).
- Belinda Mahone, HOSA Chair, and Jaime Bagwell, a high school student and Regional Vice President introduced HPN to the Health Occupations Students of America, a national organization that promotes leadership and health care skills to high-schoolers.

I am the team leader for the Health Professions Network Advocacy Team, which met for several hours during the meeting. The Advocacy team promotes National Allied Health Week, Nov. 2 – 8, 2003. Promotional material for this event is posted on [www.healthpronet.org](http://www.healthpronet.org). Focused on promoting Allied Health careers to K-12th graders, we will be sending posters and brochures to high schools and will be advertising at the National Science Teachers Association meeting. Legislatively HPN continues to monitor the Allied Health Reinvestment Act, which is still seeking a sponsor, and supports Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition in their efforts to restore federal funding to Allied Health programs. The HPN Advocacy Team will again send recommendations to the Bureau of Health Professions for federal grant reviews and advisory committee members.

I strongly encourage all of you to view the HPN website — [www.healthpronet.org](http://www.healthpronet.org) and review the accomplishments of this powerful and dedicated group. The next HPN meeting will be in Houston, Texas March 11 – 14, 2004. Maybe some of you Texans could attend! As always, please direct any questions, comments or interest to me via email at [tmgreen123@aol.com](mailto:tmgreen123@aol.com). Thanks!





# AAAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Please check one member type (turn over for details):**

FELLOW (\$300/YEAR)    ASSOCIATE (\$300/YEAR)    PHYSICIAN AFFILIATE (\$150)    STUDENT (\$60)

**YES! I'D LIKE TO MAKE A LEGISLATIVE FUND CONTRIBUTION (OPTIONAL) \$100**

In an effort to know our members and communicate with them better, we ask your cooperation in filling out this application as completely as possible. Generally, we will contact you at home. Circle any contact information you do not want published.

I do not wish to have any of my information released outside of the AAAA office without my permission.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Fax (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (please print exactly) \_\_\_\_\_

Program Attended:    Case Western Reserve University    Emory University   Month/Year of Grad. \_\_\_\_\_

Certified (AA-C)?    Yes    No   Other Credentials Earned (ex. RRT, RN) \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a student, where do you plan to work after graduation (location, type of workplace)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENTS:** In the employer address space below, please list permanent home address if different than above.

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Fax (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (please print exactly) \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_ Practice Specialty \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Practice Setting:    Anesthesia Group    Hospital    Other

**We encourage you to become involved in AAAA activities. In which areas might you be interested? Check as many as applicable.**

- |   |   |                                     |                                      |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting             | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Medical Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> JobLine     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Meetings          | <input type="checkbox"/> Credentials                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certification Test Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                        |                                     |                                      |

**PLEASE NOTE: I would like my newsletter sent by**    Email    Regular Mail

**To pay by credit card, please check one:**    MasterCard    VISA    American Express

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PAID: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send your completed application and check, payable to AAAA, to  
AAAA ■ P.O. Box 13978 ■ Tallahassee, FL 32317**

### AUTHORIZATION TO VERIFY APPLICATION INFORMATION

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS (AAAA), P.O. Box 13978, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32317, OR ANY OF ITS OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES OR AGENTS, TO INVESTIGATE AND VERIFY THE INFORMATION I HAVE SET FORTH ON MY APPLICATION TO BE A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS (AAAA).

I UNDERSTAND THE AUTHORITY I AM GRANTING THE AAAA AND FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT SAID VERIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION SET FORTH ON THE APPLICATION IS A REQUIREMENT TO MY BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE ABOVE-NAMED ORGANIZATION.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# AAAA Membership Information

## Purpose of the Academy

To provide a forum for scientific, academic, and educational and professional growth

## Membership Eligibility

In addition to making proper application, paying all fees required by the Academy, the following criteria must be met:

### **Fellow**

- Graduate of approved program for the training of anesthesiologist assistants (AA)
- Currently licensed, certified or otherwise sanctioned to practice as an AA
- Demonstrates ideals and principles for which the Academy stands

### **Associate**

- Demonstrates ideals and principles for which the Academy stands
- Graduate of approved program for the training of AAs but is not currently licensed, certified or otherwise sanctioned to practice as an AA  
OR  
Received training other than in an approved program as an AA and is currently licensed, certified or otherwise sanctioned to practice as an AA

### **Physician Affiliate**

- Allopathic or osteopathic physician licensed to practice in the United States of America
- Demonstrates ideals and principles for which the Academy stands

### **Student**

- Currently enrolled in an approved program for the training of AAs

## Membership Privileges (clarification)

### **Fellow**

Privileges include but are not limited to...

- Right to vote in all elections, both general and special
- Right to hold office
- Right to enjoy all benefits which shall accrue to the Academy

### **Associate**

- Entitled to the privilege of the floor of the Academy but shall not be entitled to vote or hold office
- Right to enjoy other benefits which shall accrue to the Academy

### **Physician Affiliate**

- Entitled to the privilege of the floor of the Academy but shall not be entitled to vote or hold office
- Right to enjoy other benefits which shall accrue to the Academy

### **Student**

- Right to hold student office
- Right to vote in student elections
- Enjoy all rights and privileges of membership in the Academy except that a Student member may not hold general office and may not vote except as provided

**Note:** Student members attain Fellow member status upon graduation from an approved program and retain that status without additional application or fees until Dec. 31 of the year of graduation.

## Membership Dues and Period

**Fellows and Associates** — \$300 per calendar year      **Physician Affiliates** — \$150 per calendar year

**Students** — \$60 from beginning of matriculation until December 31 of year of graduation

### **FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

**DATE REC'D:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CHECK #** \_\_\_\_\_ **AMOUNT \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **MEMBERSHIP PERIOD** \_\_\_\_\_

## The Student's Page

### One Day at a Time

by Chad Marchand, MSASI, CWRU

It's hard to say where I should begin when talking about my experiences so far this first year in the Master of Science in Anesthesiology program at CWRU. When I look back, time has flown by. But when I look forward, it seems like this year will never end. I have had a great experience so far, but it has been a battle here and there. The thought of being able to learn all the material that is being given to us seems formidable at times, but I know it can be done. This summer was fun, frustrating, exciting, and exhausting all at once. Right from the first day of class it has been non-stop learning whether in the classroom or in the operating room. We were allowed to dip our toes in the water the first week or so, but after that it was head first. One thing that I believe helped me adjust to being in the operating room was my past work experience. The exposure I had as an anesthesia tech with the University of New Mexico Hospital System has proven invaluable during my first year of AA school. I think that any prior exposure to an operating room setting is of great assistance when trying to get comfortable at the head of that table, but I feel especially fortunate to come from a background with direct exposure to anesthesia personnel, practices, and equipment.

So we closed our eyes for a second, and there went the summer. Just when we thought we were ahead of the game, here came the fall semester. The adjustment from summer to fall was not that bad. We went from being in the operating room five days a week to two, and we have started the uphill climb through all the knowledge our instructors and professors are presenting to us. I know that we will end this semester with a lot more to learn, and it will take us reading on our own to stay ahead of the curve. I say "one day at a time" because one day everything is going well and then the next, it seems like getting through this will be nearly impossible. It is then that I reflect back upon the summer and realize how much I have already learned. Eventually we will be the second year students who get to smile a little when we see the first year students stressing out, because we will know exactly how they feel and can appreciate how far we have come. Finally the days come and they eventually go, and we will be the ones graduating. Then we will be the instructors; teaching and mentoring students, helping each one become yet another strong member of the AA profession.

### Join the ASA!

by Claire Chandler, MSASII, CWRU

In October 2001, the American Society of Anesthesiologists' House of Delegates overwhelmingly approved a new category of educational membership for anesthesiologist assistants. This is also available to AA students. You can register online at <http://www.asahq.org/joinASA.htm>. The cost is only \$25.00 for a calendar year beginning in January. If you want to join late, they will cut the dues in half. Student membership includes free registration at the ASA meeting through December of the year you graduate.

I strongly suggest we all get involved with the ASA. They have showed enormous support for us and continue to do so by allowing AAs, even students, to be educational members. We should show our appreciation by taking advantage of such a great opportunity to support their organization.

### Student Involvement

by Michael D. Hickey, Emory, AA-S,  
Student Committee Chairman

Involvement. It has become the new focus of the AAAA, and in virtually every aspect of our organization efforts to improve member involvement is underway. This is not only true for the leadership of the AAAA, but also for the general membership as well — especially the student members. Involvement by the students of our profession is seen as not only beneficial to the well being of the AAAA, but essential to its long term growth and survival. As a result of this realization, the AAAA Student Committee was formed to provide an avenue for participation. Each class has elected representatives that are members of the Student Committee. These are the people to ask if you have questions, suggestions or would like to participate.

As we get closer to our goals of graduation and employment, it is important to consider how we can contribute to the growth of our profession. Participation can take many

See "Student Involvement," page 13 . . .

### A Stranger in a Strange Land

by Doug Marsh, MSASII, CWRU

"What...I'm sorry Dr. Finelli. Can you repeat that?" Desperately looking around for some help, I hoped that my request could buy me some time until I figured out exactly what he wanted me to do with this plastic tubing. Behind the mask, I could sense a smile on the surgeon's face as he looked down at my nametag. "Oh, you're the new student. Well don't worry, I'll explain to you how we do these procedures here."

My first day at the Washington Hospital Center, in Washington D.C., was just like anyone's first day in a new hospital. "Where do they keep the alcohol wipes? How do I fill out this paperwork? I've been driving the patient around for ten minutes; now where is the PACU?" There were no other AAs around for me to look to for assistance. Thankfully, I was surrounded by a very understanding staff who was more than willing to show me the ropes. This was a place where learning was encouraged; a student's dream hospital.

See "Stranger," page 13 . . .

# Opportunities

## JobLine Listing

JobLine is a free service provided to potential employees of AAAA members. For more complete information, members can visit JobLine on the AAAA web site at [www.anesthetist.org](http://www.anesthetist.org). Access to JobLine is available to current members only. Anyone wishing to post a job opportunity should contact Kris Tindol at [kwindol@comcast.net](mailto:kwindol@comcast.net) or Kim Watson at [kim@anesthetist.org](mailto:kim@anesthetist.org)

## Locum Tenens:

**Work in any state that currently uses AAs**

Contact: Shoshanna French at 866-773-4252, ext. 2

## Georgia:

**Pediatric Specialists, PC; Children's Healthcare of Atlanta @ Scottish Rite, Atlanta;**

Contact: Prissy Sharp at 404-250-2008 or fax 404-250-2639

**St. Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta**

Contact: Dr. John H. Stephenson at 404-851-5638 or [recruiting@psa-online.net](mailto:recruiting@psa-online.net)

**Anesthesia Associates of Columbus, PA**

Contact: Dr. Siddique at fax 706-324-4052 or [najebs@sidd8.com](mailto:najebs@sidd8.com)

**Gainesville**

Contact: Michelle Taylor 770-534-1312 or [michellet1@bellsouth.net](mailto:michellet1@bellsouth.net)

**Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Albany**

Contact: Bill Orr at 229-888-7000 or [wporr@mchsi.com](mailto:wporr@mchsi.com)

**Anesthesia Associates of Macon @ Coliseum Medical Center**

Contact: Neil Barker at 478-746-5644 or fax 478-745-4849

**Memorial Health Anesthetist, Inc., Savannah**

Contact: Terry Cline at [TACline@charter.net](mailto:TACline@charter.net)

**Regional Anesthesia Associates, Columbus**

Contact: Jack Morana at 706-571-1427 or [jack.morana@crhs.net](mailto:jack.morana@crhs.net)

## Ohio:

**Cleveland Metropolitan Area**

Contact: Dr. Abramoff at [HRMA@aol.com](mailto:HRMA@aol.com)

## Texas:

**Beaumont**

Contact: Tyler Wilkerson (recruiter) at 800-262-4194 x1459 or [twilkerson@alliednet.com](mailto:twilkerson@alliednet.com)

**North Houston Anesthesiologists**

Contact: Dr. Scott Huie at [schuie@kingwoodcable.com](mailto:schuie@kingwoodcable.com)

## Washington, DC:

**Walter Reed Medical Center**

Contact: [careers@hjf.org](mailto:careers@hjf.org)

**Washington Hospital Center**

Contact: Andre Clay at fax 202-877-0004 or [Andre.Clay@medstar.net](mailto:Andre.Clay@medstar.net)

### Atlanta, Georgia Pediatric Anesthesia

We are adding several anesthesiologists to our team to help manage our expanded clinical role. Competitive employment package with full benefits including retirement, paid time off, CME expense account, health insurance, disability, professional liability, workers' compensation, and cafeteria plan.

FT, PT and PRN positions available.

Email CV to [prissy.sharp@choa.org](mailto:prissy.sharp@choa.org)

telephone: 404/250-2008 fax: 404/250-2639

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite

Department of Anesthesiology

1001 Johnson Ferry Road NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30342

### Saint Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta

Established, quality anesthesia group seeks newly graduated or experienced AAs. Friendly family atmosphere among team members. Wide spectrum of available experiences from healthy outpatient to complex open heart & vascular. No OB, pediatrics, or trauma. Minimal overnight call. Compensation package competitive with any in Atlanta. Education expense allowance & great pension plan! Generous signing bonus negotiable. See our web site for more information, [www.psa-online.net](http://www.psa-online.net). Come see this great opportunity!

Reply to:

ATTN: John H. Stephenson, M.D.  
Physician Specialists in Anesthesia, P.C.

5671 Peachtree Dunwoody Road

Suite 530

Atlanta, GA 30342

404-851-5638

[recruiting@psa-online.net](mailto:recruiting@psa-online.net)

### ANESTHESIA ASSOCIATES OF COLUMBUS, P.A.

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Currently recruiting 4 AAs

to join our group of

15 MDs and 20 Anesthesiologists.

**EXCELLENT SALARY & BENEFITS**

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**NEW GRADUATES ENCOURAGED TO**

**APPLY**

Send CV to

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Attn: N. Siddique, M.D.

5820 Veterans Parkway, Suite 105

Columbus, GA 31904

Fax 706-324-4052

Email: [najebs@sidd8.com](mailto:najebs@sidd8.com)

Easy drive to Atlanta



### . . . "Student Involvement" (cont'd from page 11)

forms. We have taken the first steps already by joining the AAAA, and many of us are planning to attend the meeting this April in San Diego. The next step is to get involved, and there are plenty of ways to do that.

The first thing to do is to be informed — find out as much as you can about what is happening in regards to the AA profession. This applies not only to where you are now, but also to what is going on around the country. In virtually every state, there is someone working to expand our profession. Other ways to get involved are limited only by your personal desire and specific interest. There are opportunities to write an article for the newsletter or give a presentation at the annual meeting. You might choose to talk with potential applicants to one of the AA programs at your undergraduate university. You can volunteer to join the lobbying efforts by speaking with congressmen in a state where legislation is pending. You can call members of the AAAA at out-of-town hospitals where you might like to set up a clinical rotation. You could even ask the AAs that you work with on your current rotation how they get involved.

The bottom line is this: the AAAA needs people who have a desire to get involved. If you have the energy and passion, the AAAA can put it to good use.

### . . . "Stranger" (cont'd from page 11)

The proposal of bringing Case Western Reserve students to the Washington Hospital Center was spearheaded by Dr. Eileen Begin. She made every effort to accommodate me and give me as many educational opportunities as possible. The rest of the anesthesia staff was also very enthusiastic about having me there. If their intent was to entice possible employees, then they did an outstanding job.

Oh, and did I mention that Washington D.C. also happens to be the nation's capital? Every weekend was spent exploring the many museums and exhibits on display downtown, which are all free. Culture abounds throughout the city; people came from all over the world to view the sights of our country.

Of course, the month wasn't all roses. I did have to defend my "qualifications" to a few skeptical circulating nurses, and at times, attempts were made at goading me into saying something negative about nurse anesthetists. But these instances were few and far between. Also, being prepared by my AA mentors for such situations helped me deal with them in a professional manner. When going to a place that has recently opened up to the AA profession, these types of things are going to happen. Most of the reactions I got were those of curiosity though. I explained our program, what our requirements are, and how we fit into the anesthesia care team.

My experience at the Washington Hospital Center was a very good one. I would recommend this hospital as a rotation site and potential place of employment to any student interested in a comfortable learning environment and free weekend entertainment. Not only was this rotation valuable to me as a student, it also gave me a good perspective of what it might be like to be the first anesthesiologist assistant in a new hospital or state. In addition to being well prepared to handle questions and comments from both supporters and skeptics, I was also clinically well prepared to deliver quality patient care even in a new environment. My educational training thus far enabled me to demonstrate that anesthesiologist assistants are well-qualified health care professionals who can be a valuable addition to any anesthesia care team.

## Anesthesiologist Assistant

When you work in one of the world's most dynamic cities, Washington, DC, the only place to enhance your Anesthesia career is Washington Hospital Center. We provide anesthesia services in 36 OR suites and procedure rooms. Annually we perform 24,000 surgical procedures – 8,000 outpatient, 3,600 deliveries, 2,300 open-heart surgeries and 15 transplants.

We are known for our excellence, compassion and leadership. Here you will find supportive management teams, strong collaborative medical teams, Level I Trauma patients, cutting edge therapies and flexible scheduling options such as:

#### Full Time

- Five 8-hour shifts/week (40 hours)
- Four 10-hour shifts/week (40 hours)
- Three 12-hour shifts/week (36 hours)
- Two 16-hour shifts/week (32 hours)

#### Part Time Eligible (Benefits)

- 20 – 35.9 hours/week
- 16 hours/weekend

#### Part Time In-eligible (Benefits)

- Less than 20 hours/week

#### Pool (No Benefits)

- Two 8-hour shifts every four weeks (min. requirement)

To secure the career of a lifetime, apply on-line at [www.whcjobs.com](http://www.whcjobs.com) or e-mail: [Andrew.B.Myer@medstar.net](mailto:Andrew.B.Myer@medstar.net) FAX: (202) 877-0004, Washington Hospital Center, 110 Irving Street, NW, Human Resources – EB 1017, Washington, DC 20010. EOE



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418 Bed Hospital  
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19 MDA's; 16 AA's & CRNA's

Send Resumes via  
Facsimile (770) 534-1312 or  
Email: [michellet1@bellsouth.net](mailto:michellet1@bellsouth.net)

### Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

*Pinnacle Anesthesia Consultants, P.A.,  
Anesthesia Leader in the Greater  
Dallas Market, is recruiting 3 AAs to  
join its Grapevine Division.*

*Excellent Salary and Benefits  
New graduates are encouraged to  
apply*

*Send CV to Bob Lovelady  
13601 Preston Road, Suite 900W  
Dallas, TX 75240  
[blovelady@pacdoc.com](mailto:blovelady@pacdoc.com)  
or office (972) 377-0693  
or fax (972) 377-8353*

## ***“A Unique Practice Opportunity”***

Georgia Anesthesiologists, P.C. (GAPC) is seeking new and experienced, qualified Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAs) to join their rapidly expanding practice in beautiful Marietta, Georgia, just outside of Atlanta. GAPC is a unique practice opportunity for AA's because of our philosophy and incorporation of AAs into our practice. At GAPC AAs are not just employees but are considered a vital part of the department, and treated with the utmost respect and consideration. At GAPC, and Wellstar Kennestone Hospital, you are a full-fledged member of the Medical staff and are treated as such. We provide all Anesthesiology Services for Wellstar Kennestone Hospital, which is a large regional hospital with an expanding service base.

We offer the following to our AA colleagues;

- 1) Extremely competitive 40 hour per week Base Salary based on years of experience with available in-house voluntary Overtime.
- 2) Significant Sign on Bonus.
- 3) Year End Performance Bonus.
- 4) Very Flexible Scheduling including standard Days Only, 12 hour shifts, or Rotating Schedule that includes 2 weeks off per rotation.
- 5) Extremely generous Pension Plan with 100% Matching 401K.
- 6) 5 weeks Vacation per year.
- 7) Up to \$3,000 CME funding.
- 8) Medical, Dental, Disability, and Life Insurances.
- 9) A New 20 Suite OR with an excellent mix of cases.
- 10) A positive and progressive work environment.

We have some immediate staffing needs so please respond as soon as possible by contacting;

Mr. William Worzala, CPA, Practice Administrator, GAPC  
531 Roselane Street, Suite 750, Marietta, Georgia 30060  
Fax 770-794-3108 or e-mail: [bworzala@gasdocs.com](mailto:bworzala@gasdocs.com)

# Mark Your Calendars!

## American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants 2004 Annual Meeting will be held at the Catamaran Resort San Diego, California, April 23-26, 2004



The warm temperatures, cool ocean breeze, and various social activities will welcome attendees to the southern tip of California. As the home of the West Coast's largest Naval Base and cruise ship port, millions of tourists and residents enjoy all that San Diego has to offer. Among the hundreds of things to do in San Diego are the San Diego Zoo, Sea World, and Tijuana, Mexico.

### Come Join Us!

(This meeting offers Category 1 Credits towards the  
AMA Physician's Recognition Award)

Make your reservations early by calling the Catamaran Resort at 858/488-1081 or 800/422-8386. Visit their website at [www.CatamaranResort.com](http://www.CatamaranResort.com).  
Special AAAA room rate of \$152 single/double available until April 1, 2004.  
Rate good for three days before and after conference.

### Exhibitor and Sponsor Opportunities Now Available!

For more information, contact the  
AAAA office at 850/656-8848.



## ... "The Editor's Column" (cont'd from page 2)

is not required to maintain that license. Therefore, if the PA decides to take the national certification exam after already holding a license and fails, he or she is still eligible for license renewal."

What I am trying to get across here is that you have nothing to lose professionally and everything to gain by obtaining and maintaining your NCCAA certification. You make yourself more employable. You decrease any question of competency. I can think of no drawbacks of having a NCCAA certification. As more states open to AAs through licensure and regulation by state medical boards, the requirement of NCCAA certification will be propagated. Look at it this way. Most of you pay for many types of insurance: car, life, home, disability, and health. What if I told you that at the cost of \$600 every six years, plus an additional cost of \$190 every two years, you get to *expand* your ability to practice as an AA? Wouldn't you consider that a deal as compared to your other insurance policies? Think about that.

If you took the NCCAA exam within the past six years but have allowed your certification to lapse, you are in luck. There is a **one-year grace period** following lapse of certification. During this time, an AA's certification may be reinstated if he or she

registers the requisite CME hours and pays the fee that was due at the previous CME registration deadline. There is also a **reinstatement period of up to six years** following the lapse of certification. During this time, an AA's certification may be reinstated if he or she registers all CME hours that are due to date, pays all registration fees that are due to date, and pays a reinstatement fee of \$100. Once an AA's certification has lapsed beyond the Continued Demonstration of Qualification (CDQ) anniversary date, then he or she must apply for and successfully complete another certifying examination. Remember that it is your responsibility to notify the NCCAA if you have a change in address. It is not their responsibility to track you down.

There is an excellent article in this newsletter by Dr. James R. Hall, NCCAA Secretary, which gives the history and process of AA certification. Included in this article is NCCAA contact information. I strongly suggest that you retain this newsletter to refer to for NCCAA information. Contact the NCCAA if you have any questions. Obviously, I strongly support the NCCAA certification for AAs and highly recommend that every AA that is currently practicing or plans to return to practice at some time in the future spends the money and effort to obtain and retain their NCCAA certification.

# Calendar



If you know of an educational event that would be of interest to AAAA members, please contact the newsletter editor for inclusion in this calendar.

## 2004

**Jan. 18 – 23 — Koanapali Beach, HI**  
California Society of Anesthesiologists  
Hawaiian Seminar  
Contact: Cammie Pisani at 650/345-3020  
or [cpisani@calsocanes.com](mailto:cpisani@calsocanes.com)

**March 3 – 7 — Stowe, VT**  
Vermont Perspective in Anesthesiology  
Contact: Katherine Myers at 802/656-2292 or [catherine.myer@uvm.edu](mailto:catherine.myer@uvm.edu)

**March 11 – 14 — Houston, TX**  
Health Professional Network (HPN)  
Meeting  
Contact information at  
[www.healthpronet.org](http://www.healthpronet.org)

**March 27 — Troy, MI**  
49<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Session —  
Michigan Society of Anesthesiologists  
Contact: Theresa Lark at 517/346-5088 or  
[lark.t@gcsionline.com](mailto:lark.t@gcsionline.com)

**April 23 – 26 — San Diego, CA**  
American Academy of Anesthesiologist  
Assistants 2004 Annual Meeting  
Contact: Susan Cabrera at 866/328-5858  
or [susan@anesthetist.org](mailto:susan@anesthetist.org)

**April 23 – 24 — Albuquerque, NM**  
CAAHEP Annual Meeting  
Contact: CAAHEP at 312/553-9355

**May 3 – 5 — Washington, D.C.**  
ASA Legislative Conference  
Contact: Michelle Omar at 202/289-222 or  
[m.omar@asawash.org](mailto:m.omar@asawash.org)

**May 15 — Austin, TX**  
Texas Society of Anesthesiologists  
Interim Meeting  
Contact: TSA at 512/370-1659 or  
[info@tsa.org](mailto:info@tsa.org)

**May 20 – 23 — San Diego, CA**  
California Society of Anesthesiologists/  
University of California — San Diego  
Annual Meeting and Anesthesiology  
Review Course  
Contact: Cammie Pisani at 650/345-3020  
or [cpisani@calsocanes.com](mailto:cpisani@calsocanes.com)

**October 23 – 27 — Las Vegas, NV**  
ASA Annual Meeting  
Contact: ASA at 847/825-5586 or  
[www.asahq.org](http://www.asahq.org)

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