

The Virtue of Involvement

Michael S. Nichols, AA-C, AAAA President



I recently had the honor to represent the AAAA at the ASA Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. This is an interesting meeting because it brings together leadership of not only national ASA leadership, but that of each individual state as well. It's eye-opening to see breadth of political acumen exhibited by the anesthesiologists that are clinicians by day and lobbyist by night. Such is the goal to which each of us should stride on behalf of our profession.

What was also invigorating about the conference was how big a topic of conversation the anesthesiologist assistant profession was amongst those in the know. Not only did the AAAA delegation get approached *many* times by anesthesiologists from around the country inquiring about the process of getting AAs in their state, but our profession was the topic of dedicated panel discussion and presentation time throughout the conference as well. Anesthesiologists nationwide shared stories of their difficulties in dealing with the 'other' mid-level anesthesia provider and how they wished to have a physician-extender that shared their beliefs of high-quality patient care and whom aligned their values with the ASA for the greater good of anesthesiology as a whole. Luckily, the AAAA was there to represent the profession and help these physicians see the virtue AA proliferation. But what if the AAAA wasn't there?

An amazing thing has happened over the past several years...the AAAA has realized a dynamic shift in the perception of our profession by the ASA. Several years ago, the hot question from anesthesiologists was: "What's an AA?"; whereas now the question is: "What can we do help further the AA profession?" Attribute it to a provider shortage, deteriorating relations with the AANA, or pure happenstance, I tend to believe it is the direct result of effective advocacy and involvement of the AAAA leaders and members.

There are many definitions of the word 'virtue'. Among them are "...a particular moral excellence...strength or courage...a commendable quality or trait...a capacity to act..." Any way you define it, involving yourself in a cause is a virtue worth having. It is incumbent upon each of us to take an *active* role in promoting our profession. I told you in Daytona that I believe that support of the organization begins with, not ends, with member-

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**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS
OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT/BOARD CHAIRMAN

Michael S. Nichols, AA-C
Through 12/31/07
404/401-5550 pledgeaac@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Deb Lawson, AA-C
Through 12/31/07
440/439-5279 dalaac@sbeglobal.net

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Ellen Allinger, AA-C
Through 12/31/07
803/328-6801 mores@cetlink.net

TREASURER

Barry Hunt, AA-C
Through 12/31/08
404/278-8207 bhunt1616@netzero.com

SECRETARY

Claire Chandler, AA-C
Through 12/31/07
202/333-0319 claire.chandler@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

DIRECTOR #1

Joe Rifici, AA-C
Through 12/31/09
216/844-3161 joseph.rifici@uhhospitals.org

DIRECTOR #2

Saral Patel, AA-C
Through 12/31/09
202/369-6870 saralvpatel@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR #3

Bradley J. Maxwell, AA-C
Through 12/31/09
770/414-4431 b_j_maxwell@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR #4

Pete Kaluszyk, AA-C
Through 12/31/07
216/228-3283 pkalus@aol.com

DIRECTOR #5

John Kimbell, AA-C
Through 12/31/07
770/442-5071 jkimbell@northsideanesthesia.com

DIRECTOR #6

Robert S. Wagner, AA-C
Through 12/31/08
954/262-1166 robswag@aol.com

DIRECTOR #7

Carie Twichell, AA-C
Through 12/31/08
513/585-2422 ctwichell@adelphia.net

NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS

Tiffany Lewis-Roberts, AA-C
tiffy131@hotmail.com
Alyson Finamore, AA-C
afinamore@metrohealth.org

STUDENTS' PAGE EDITOR

Sabena Kachwalla
Sabena.Kachwalla@UHhospitals.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kari Glisson
850/656-8848 kari@anesthetist.org

THE ANESTHESIA RECORD

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AAAA EXECUTIVE OFFICES

P.O. Box 13978, Tallahassee, FL 32317
PH: 850/656-8848 FAX: 850/656-3038
866/328-5858 Toll-free www.anesthetist.org

The Editor's Column

Alyson Finamore, AA-C, Co-Editor



Forget the #2 Pencils

There are many signs that summer is right around the corner. The weather (in Cleveland) is finally getting warmer, the aroma of cut grass is in the air, restaurants are setting their tables outside, caps and gowns can be seen on any given Sunday afternoon, and we are saying good-bye to another class of Case AA students. All these reminders that just a year ago I was studying for the NCCAA certifying exam and anxiously waiting to begin my future as an Anesthesiologist Assistant. There

will be, however, one difference this year for those students and re-certifying AAs who are taking the exam June 2nd, it will be paperless, so you can leave your pencils at home.

It wasn't that long ago that the delivery of The Anesthesia Record was switched to an electronic format. We, as a profession, need to keep up with the times and utilize technology to our benefit. There is no doubt that the utilization of technology for assessment is increasing in the educational field worldwide. Even the MCAT is now offered exclusively via the computer. Unfortunately, these changes are not always well received, and can cause a high level of anxiety for someone who is not so computer savvy. So I sat back and tried to come up with some arguments for and against computerized testing. I, for one, dislike any form of pen-on-paper writing. I am much faster (and legible) with a keyboard. Bubble sheets just slow me down because I never could stay inside the lines!

With a little research I was able to come up with many more benefits of computerized testing. I hope these can put your mind at ease. We can expect to see an increase in the amount of times per year and locations the exam is offered. The test may take even less time because there is less administrative overhead, this is also cost effective. Test security is increased because hardcopy booklets are never compromised. The best thing that I think future students have to look forward to with computerized testing is a decrease in the amount of time it takes to report the scores.

The limitations I could come up with are few. I think a major concern of taking the exam electronically is the fact that you cannot write on the actual test. This means no crossing off answers or underlining key words. If you are allowed to go back to previous questions it will not be as easy as making a tab on the page. Of course there is always the concern that the program will freeze or the computer will malfunction in the middle of the exam, but the testing center will know how to deal with those problems.

I'm pretty certain there will be a high level of stress on the days leading up to the exam whether number two pencils are needed or not! Best of luck to all the students! My advice for you after you walk out of the testing center is to look up any questions you weren't sure about and then forget about the scores until they show up in your mailbox.

Inside AAAA

AAAA 31st Annual Meeting Recap

Chris Caldwell, AA-C, AAAA Annual Meeting Chair

As I'm sitting at my computer trying to decide where I should begin and I keep thinking about how well this year's conference came together in so many ways. First, I would like to thank all of our great speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors, for participating, and to all of those that attended, helping to make the 31st Annual Meeting our highest attended meeting to date.

As always, it was great to see and reconnect with people that many of us haven't seen in some time. It was also nice to visit with our former students and instructors and to see how everyone has been doing. Except for the windy evenings, the weather was great and the hotel was an excellent setting for us to learn, get business accomplished, and to relax. The Saturday afternoon workshops were well attended and both received very good reviews. There were so many great things I could mention, but I'm trying to keep this article short enough so people will read it. I'll wrap things up with the information for the 32nd AAAA Annual Meeting which will return to Hilton Head Island, SC in 2008. Next year's meeting will begin on Saturday, April 26th at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort so mark your calendars and additional information will be coming soon.



Old friends
reuniting in
Daytona!
Left to Right:
David Zagorski,
Gregg
Mastropolo,
David Biel,
Soren Campbell,
Carie Twichell

Your 2006-2007
AAAA Student
Committee Leaders.
At left is Jared
Kutzer, 2006-
2007 Committee
Chairman



Inside AAAA

Distinguished Service Awards

Don Sokolik, MD, Joe Hoffman, AA-C, and Rob Wagner, AA-C receive their Distinguished Service Awards from AAAA President Mike Nichols, AA-C



Dr. Don Sokolik at right



Joe Hoffman
at right



Rob Wagner
at right

See more
conference
photos on
page 10 of
this issue.

“President’s Message,” continued from page 1

ship in the AAAA. We must view ourselves as all members of a greater network of representatives. I recently introduced to you my 2.3% Plan for financially supporting the organization, but the same logic can be carried over to your time commitment as well. Out of a 40-hour work week, 2.3% would be just 1 hour; and if you spent that one per week, at year’s end you would have spent 50+ hours of dedicated advocacy of our profession. Imagine the voice we could have...

Seek out opportunities to get involved. Visit a legislator and explain who you are; talk to your fellow AAs about what the AAAA is doing; take students in your operating room and teach them to be good AAs; join a committee; keep up to date on what’s going on nationally and locally with the anesthesia world; and most importantly, be a good representative of the profession!

I am reminded of a quote by Friedrich Nietzsche, "...we need greater virtues to sustain good fortune rather than bad..."

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AAAA Annual Job Fair and Student Social

Meeting attendees arrived at the 4th Annual Job Fair and Student Social in droves to visit with employers from around the country. Thank you to our friends at **Satilla Regional Medical Center of Waycross, GA** and **Smith Northview Hospital of Valdosta, GA**, for co-sponsoring the 2007 Job Fair!

Thank you to our Conference Supporters!

Premier Sponsors

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- Northside Anesthesiology Consultants
- Nova Southeastern University Anesthesiologist Assistant Program
- Organon, Inc.
- ProMed Assistance Group
- Providence Hospital
- Satilla Regional Medical Center of Waycross, GA and Smith Northview Hospital of Valdosta, GA
- Shands at the University of Florida
- Sheridan Healthcare, Inc.

Job Fair Participants

- Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists
- Northside Anesthesiology Consultants
- Nova Southeastern University Anesthesiologist Assistant Program
- ProMed Assistance Group
- Providence Hospital
- Satilla Regional Medical Center of Waycross, GA and Smith Northview Hospital of Valdosta, GA
- Shands at the University of Florida
- Sheridan Healthcare, Inc.

General Business Meeting Motion Summary

Thank you to all the fellow members present at the general business meeting for their participation and patience as we work to perfect our parliamentary procedure for our expanding organization. The results of your ballot votes on the bylaw changes are reported below. All proposed bylaw changes were approved by the necessary 2/3 majority of voting members present at the meeting.

Motion	# votes cast	# needed for approval	# Yea	# Nea	# Abstain
Motion to adopt bylaw changes to Article XIV as submitted	72	50	72	0	0
Motion to adopt bylaw changes stating that all directors will start their term on the first day of each fiscal year after their election as submitted	70	50	70	0	0
Motion to change the name of the Educational Programs Committee to the Committee on Education and Practice	74	50	74	0	0
Motion to adopt bylaw changes to create AAAA sanctioned State Component Academies	66	50	60	1	5

— Submitted by Claire Chandler AA-C, Secretary

Inside AAAA

Legislative Update

Pete Kaluszyk, AA-C, National Affairs Committee Chairman

There has been a lot of activity on the national scene related to our profession. First the activity on the Federal level has been fairly busy since the March 7th release of the Veteran's Administration (VA) Handbook 1123. If you weren't aware, the VA announced that AAs would now be included in the VA Handbook for anesthesia services. The Handbook defines who can provide anesthesia services for the entire VA healthcare system, and as a result, AAs can now work at any VA facility that utilizes the anesthesia care team model.

On April 26th, the AAAA was asked by the Federal government's General Accounting Office (GAO) to answer a series of questions about our profession in a teleconference, in late April. The AAAA was represented by David Paragas, AAAA's legal counsel, and I. Staffers from the GAO working with the U.S. Senate's and U.S. House's committees relating to VA affairs were the other participants. These staffers were working on nursing manpower issues for the VA system when they were asked by the VA committees to obtain additional information about the newest members of the VA workforce. The questions involved AA scope of practice, delegated tasks, supervision, demographics, education, accreditation, certification, salary ranges, and how AA compare to CRNAs within these topics. They were informed about AAs being recognized by the TRI-CARE military insurance program and the Medicare insurance program. They asked for additional information from the Code of Federal Regulations defining AA practice from these two Federal programs and the information was provided.

The VA administrative offices were contacted to find out how AAs looking to work in the VA system go about finding where the jobs are located. As mentioned in the letter to membership in March of this year, AAs are considered Title 5 specialist employees and most medical providers are under Title 38 section. Because of this job postings for AAs will be found, in the future, on the Federal government's "USAJOBS" website. The website address is "usajobs.opm.gov." Once you get to the site, click on "SEARCH JOBS" tab. You will obtain another set of tabs and just to the right of the "BASIC SEARCH" tab you have to click on the "SERIES SEARCH" tab in light grey letters. The next page will have a "SERIES NUMBER SEARCH" box and the number for anesthesiologist assistants will be "0601" that is the code for the category "HEALTH SCIENTIST." You MUST enter all for digits, "0601", and all jobs under this category will appear.

Since AAs were just approved, it will take some time for the VA system to begin posting jobs on this sight. In the interim, it was suggested that if you are interested in working in a VA hospital, you should contact the Chief of Anesthesia

Services and see if there are any openings or if there are plans to open positions for AAs. If you find a posting for a "CRNA" position and you apply for this job, the Human Resources department, at that facility will ignore your request because you are not a CRNA. This is a very bureaucratic process involving lots of paperwork, and if the job posting says "CRNA" they mean "CRNA". If a facility wants to hire an AA then they will have to submit the paperwork and post for an AA position. If any of our members is seriously thinking of applying to any VA facility, then let the AAAA know and we will assist our members in any way we can.

At the state level we have had a very active legislative session in two states, Texas and North Carolina. Ellen Allinger, heading the Texas and North Carolina sub-committee of the AAAA National Affairs Committee reports that in Texas on March 7th and 8th, SB 1314 and HB 3313 were introduced for the licensure of AAs. Currently, AAs work in Texas under delagatory authority and with the sanction of the Texas State Board of medical Examiners. However, lack of licensure has created problems for Texas AAs, particularly, within the last year.

An original oversight in State rules governing surgery centers excluded AAs. This omission was corrected, but not before at least one AA lost his job at a surgery center. Also, proposed changes to Texas Hospital Licensing Rules last year would have altered the practice of Texas AAs and the manner in which anesthesiologists supervised an AA. Not surprisingly, these changes were submitted by the Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TANA). Fortunately, this restrictive language was removed from these hospital rules, but TANA emphasized that these restrictions for AAs were appropriate for these licensing rules because AAs were unlicensed. The implication here is that an unlicensed AA means lesser trained and qualified provider. The "lesser qualified" stance is an invalid argument that is one of the cornerstones for nurse anesthetist arguments against AAs at any legislative process that concerns AA practice. The Texas bills would have changed how AAs are sanctioned to practice and might have prevented this situation.

The AAAA was not consulted by the supporters of the Bills and we feel proper planning and lobbying for these bills did not occur prior to the introduction. TANA was quick to immediately flood Texas legislators with misinformation and diversionary arguments that took the focus away from the Bills that was simply bills to license AAs who were already working in Texas.

During the May 8th hearings in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, testimony in support of SB 1314 was

See "Legislative Update," continued next page

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given by four Texas AAs and two anesthesiologists representing the Texas Society of Anesthesiologists and the private sector. The AAs testified as to education, training, and their practice. The anesthesiologists testified as to the high level of care and patient safety. The anesthesiologists fielded tough questions from the committee Senators, in particular, questions related to comparisons of AAs to CRNAs. One of the Senator's questions was answered by one of the anesthesiologists stating, "AAs' education is on par or exceeds the education of a CRNA."

Opposing testimony was given by TANA representative and a representative from the Texas Nurses Association. At the end of the testimony, the bill's sponsor, Senator Uresti, asked the committee chairman to leave the bill pending in committee and make studying the bill further one of her charges during the interim. This was favorably received and hopefully will be done before 2008. This action is similar to the Kentucky legislation performing a legislative study of our profession. Meanwhile, HB 3313 has not been placed on the agenda of the House Public Health Committee and is not expected to do so due to intense pressure placed on the Bill's sponsor, Representative Fred Brown, by TANA.

In North Carolina the legislative process has proceeded much better for HB 1492 for the licensing of AAs. Due to investigations and media scrutiny concerning campaign contributions to Representative Wright forced Representative Wright to resign his Chairmanship of the House Health Committee. One of the contributions under scrutiny were made by the nurse anesthetists. Rep. Wright's resignation has led to Rep. England, one of the sponsors of HB 1492, to replace him as Chair of this important committee. In addition, the North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists has entered into an agreement with the North Carolina Society of Nurse Anesthetists not to oppose AA licensing legislation.

As of May 17th, HB 1492 was unanimously passed in all required House committees with a favorable report and then the NC House passed the bill with a unanimous vote. The Bill will now go to the NC Senate for its first reading and then will be assigned to two required Senate committees for hearings. There is still a great deal of work ahead but hopefully the Senate bill will be successfully shepherded for final signature to the Governor's office. The AAAA will be asking for support from its membership in support of these Bills when the time comes.



During the ASA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., Congressman Terry Everett was presented with an award for his help in adding AAs into the VA Handbook this year. (Left to right): Jeff Plagenhoef, MD - Chair, ASA Anesthesia Care Team Committee; Representative Terry Everett - R-AL; Michael Nichols, AA-C; and Deborah Lawson, AA-C.

Inside AAAA

Update on the Office of Communication of the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants

Lauren Hojdila, AA-C, AAAA Director of Communications

Happy summer to everyone, I hope that your well-deserved vacation time is filled with fun and just a little relaxation. The Office of Communications has been very busy this year. We are working on all types of ways to increase the communication between the leadership and the membership of the AAAA and vice-versa. We are delivering to your inboxes an electronic newsletter, the E-ther Screen, on a bimonthly schedule. The E-ther Screen is our more "social" publication and we accept any type of announcements that you may have either personally or professionally that you would like to share with the membership of the AAAA such as births, weddings, deaths, promotions, and the like.

The office of communication is also active in finding information on how to help our current membership. What do the members want and need? To be able to provide for the needs of our membership we need to know where to go next. If you have an answer to this question, contact the office of Communications with your opinion at communications@anesthetist.org. We will gladly pass along your ideas and suggestions to the leadership via the most appropriate route.

In the near future you will be receiving surveys that we request you complete and return. These surveys will enable us to compile accurate data on AAs and the AA profession. Your survey responses will answer the following questions: Who

are we? What are we? Why are we? Where are we? You can expect to receive the survey via postal mail during the summer months.

The Office of Communication is also assisting with increasing the national awareness of the AA profession. The AAAA website will soon be undergoing a major revamp to increase the accessibility and ease of navigation to our members and to the public. The AAAA is constantly increasing the content available on the website to both members and non-members. An example of the increased content is the AAAA Position Documents that define the AAAA position on such issues as medical terminology and Propofol usage. A new addition is the text of the Veterans Administration Anesthesia Handbook in which AAs have been included for the first time! Another great resource on the www.anesthetist.org is the "Study of Anesthesiologist Assistants" from the Kentucky State Legislative Research Commission which contains information on all of the branches of our AA profession. We are also always working on numerous articles that we hope to get into educational, medical, and general publications to increase our local, regional, and national awareness.

If you have a great idea for the AAAA Office of Communications or would like to assist in this committee please contact me at communications@anesthetist.org. Thanks and have a great summer!

Join The Council for Community Initiatives

Carie Twichell, AA-C, Community Initiatives Committee Chair

"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give." -Winston Churchill

This is the chance of a lifetime! We are looking for AAs and AA students interested in joining the new Council for Community Initiatives. Members of the council will be organizing volunteers to help work on local, state and national level of community outreach. The council is developing relationships with other professional organizations and charities to donate time and effort from within the AAAA membership to make a positive impact in the communities that surround us. Blood drives for The American Red Cross and fundraisers for various service groups are being investigated. This is only the beginning!

Help us get off the ground! We are in a new and exciting phase of this committee. We are brainstorming for fresh ideas and look forward to your input. We will be starting new traditions and you can be part of this rewarding endeavor. The first formal project will be to plan an event supporting a local charity at the 2008 AAAA National Conference! Stay tuned for future updates.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this committee or would like to share some ideas, please contact Carie Twichell (Committee Chair) or Jen Jackson (Committee Vice-Chair) at the email or phone numbers below. Thank you.

Carie Twichell, AA-C
ctwichell@adelphia.net
216.973.6136

Jen Jackson, AA-C
camel565@hotmail.com
419.841.0251

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Call for Nominations

Ellen Allinger, AA-C, Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman

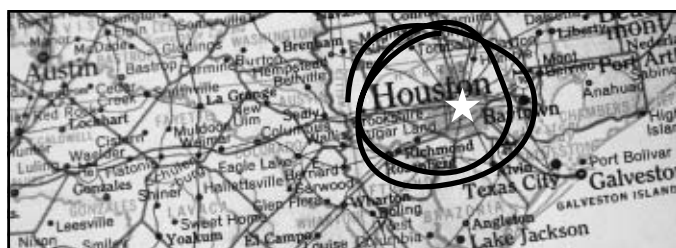
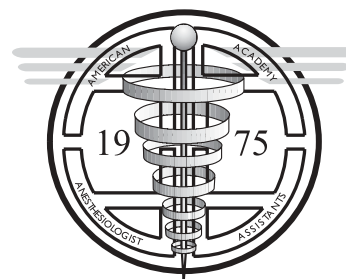
Nominations for officer and director positions on the 2008 AAAA Board are now being accepted. The following positions will be voted upon this year by the AAAA fellow membership:

- President-elect (one year term; three year commitment)
- Secretary (two year term)
- Director #4 (three year term)
- Director #5 (three year term)

Submissions of nominations for officer and director positions may be made by the general membership and must be received by the Nominations and Elections committee no later than July 30th, 2007. If you do not receive a nomination form in the mail by July 1st, please contact the AAAA office for a form at 1-866-328-5858.

Candidates for officer and director positions must be fellow AAAA members in good standing at the time of elections. This includes graduated student members who automatically become fellow members upon graduation from an AA program. Anyone nominated for more than one position will be asked to make a choice as to the position for which they wish to campaign. Self-nominations are accepted. Nominations can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the AAAA office.

As an officer or director of the AAAA organization, the highest commitment level of time and responsibility is expected. Please consider the full importance of this commitment before accepting your nomination as a member of the AAAA Board.



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Public Relations Report

AAAA Spokesperson Training was conducted by Claire Chandler, Lauren Hojdila, and media consultant Al Rothstein during our Annual Meeting in April. The attendance was high and the issues focused on getting out our messages to the news media.

Our news about AAs becoming part of the Veterans Administration's health care system is being published by several media outlets, such as Outpatient Surgery's weekly E-newsletter, the listserv of the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions. The web site of the Missouri State Medical Association, and the Florida Society of Anesthesiologists newsletter. Anesthesiology News is also interested in doing a story.

We are also working on other articles, such as "How to Hire an AA."

— Submitted by Al Rothstein, Media Consultant



My Journey

Life in Florida as an AA

New Segment!



Shane Angus, AA-C

I was asked to write a brief article describing what it was like to work in a newly opened state. I have decided that rather than explain the struggles of moving to and working in Florida let me just give you some advice from what I have learned.

You are only as good as your politics allow.

That is, if you want your profession to grow and gain strength, you must be politically involved at all levels. Start and support professional relationships with your national, state and local anesthesia professionals. You need to be involved with your state society and that of the ASA's. They have an enormous amount of resources and people that are involved because they want to make a difference in our profession. Know your state representatives and speak with them about what you do.

Education involvement is also required. Encourage your department chairs to allow students at your hospitals and teach them. Get involved with a training program. Be a guest lecturer. Students, get involved, anyway possible, - for it is your future that we work for.

Any success for AA's in Florida is because of the hard work of the AAAA to develop relationships and to actively participate with the FSA, ASA, Attorney Generals office, Florida Senators, Florida Representatives, and Anesthesiologist Residency training Chairs. The same is true for all states where AA's currently work and it is especially true for those states where AA's want to work.

Another way to look at it — it's do or die!

There is a group of anesthesia providers that want to eliminate our profession, and guess what, they have strong political ties.

The question then becomes, do you have the will and character to fight for your profession?

AAAA 31st Annual Meeting Highlights

Below: Joe Mader (at left) with the student winners of the stethoscope drawing at Sunday's student forum



Above: The annual Student Jeopardy Competition drew a record crowd as students competed vigorously for the title of Champions

AAAA Affiliate News

Ohio Supreme Court Decision Unanimous

At 9:30am, May 23, 2007, Joseph R. Hoffman, AA-C, received a phone call from David Paragas, Esq., informing him of the unanimous decision by the Ohio Supreme Court to invalidate Ohio Administrative Code 4731-24-04(A) (the rule promulgated by the Ohio State Medical Board that prohibited AAs in Ohio from performing supervised central venous access, epidural, and spinal anesthetic placement) because it conflicts with Ohio Revised Code 4760.09 (the law that licenses AAs in the state). The ruling essentially legalizes the performance of these procedures by anesthesiologist assistants in Ohio under the supervision of an anesthesiologist and is a positive culmination of a process that began in late 1999.

This is a great victory for our profession both in Ohio and around the country. The Board of the Ohio Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants would like to thank all of those involved with supporting this necessary and fruitful process. Special thanks go to Joe Hoffman, who risked his livelihood and reputation to fight for a cause that is significant to him and all AAs, and to David Paragas and the legal team at Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff, whose relentless diligence in support of our cause has reaped benefits for which we could have only hoped.

Sincerely,

The Board of the Ohio Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants

HPN Meeting Report

Megan Varellas, AA-C

What is HPN and why is AAAA a member of HPN? Health Professions Network is a group of over 200 health professions that meet to identify areas of common interest and issues facing the allied health professions. HPN advocates on behalf of allied health to the public, professional associations, federal and state policy makers. HPN seeks to educate the aforementioned on the scope of practice, education and training, and credentialing of all allied health professionals. As AAs seek greater recognition in the health care community at large, it is essential that other health care providers understand who we are, what we do, and the unique challenges our profession faces. HPN has also assisted AAs in becoming more visible to the public and has gained inclusion into leading allied health reference materials and websites. There are hundreds of health care providers besides physicians and nurses but many of us have small professional organizations that have a greater voice to policy makers and funding agencies when united under the banner of allied health professions. AAs are taking their place as respected health care professionals in allied health by participating in HPN.

The focus of the spring HPN meeting was "Healthcare's Human Resources." Key strategies were identified to help allied health professions improve their status in the healthcare arena, improve legal status, create stronger affiliations, enhance professional image, and increase effectiveness of our organizations. Various speakers addressed the following topics: using program accreditation as a performance improvement tool, HOSA's impact on Allied Health, involving educational institutions to address workforce shortages and diversity, and the implications of degree creep on healthcare workforce development. You can read about these topics at www.healthpronet.org



Wisconsin is Networking

The theme in Wisconsin is networking. During the last quarter we have seen our network grow, from an email network designed to link all of the AAs practicing in Wisconsin, to a component state academy networking with the Wisconsin Society of Anesthesiologists (WSA).

Our efforts to network with the WSA were well received and returned positive affirmation. Most notably, members of the Wisconsin Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (WAAA) received an invitation to join the WSA as affiliate members and we received verbal support for our future endeavors. We returned those positive sentiments to the WSA and look forward to working with them in the future.

The WAAA has also been busy networking with the public. The WAAA made a charitable contribution to the new University of Wisconsin Children's Hospital by purchasing a decorative tile, which will be used in a tile mosaic. Furthermore, the WAAA has displayed its technological prowess by developing a web site. Please check us out at – www.wisconsinaaa.org

We are also networking with several academic programs by continuing to offer clinical rotations at the Gunderson Lutheran Medical Center in LaCrosse, WI. We welcome students that have elective rotations to consider coming out to Wisconsin. Contrary to popular belief it does not snow year round.

Sincerely,

The WAAA

The Students' Page

To everyone in my class ...

Maggie Green, AA-S, Case Western Reserve University

To everyone in my class, thank you. I really can't think of any one person who has not in some way helped me to make it through these last two years. Thank you for sharing notes with me especially early on when I was taking lactation breaks every two to three hours. Thanks for explaining things to me that I didn't quite get because I was in the lactation room or at home with a croup kid. Thanks for listening to my griping when I was angry or frustrated and thanks for listening to my tears when I was going through difficult times. I'm a firm believer in what goes around comes around, so I must have been doing some really good things to have been blessed with classmates like you all.

To all of my instructors (AAs, CRNAs who shall remain anonymous, attendings, residents and fellows), thank you. Everyone was so supportive and encouraging of me being in the program with two children and continuing to work. Thank you for understanding that as dedicated as I was and continue to be to this chosen profession, that there were and are other significant responsibilities in my life. To the Case MSA Admissions Committee... BIG THANKS!

Most of all, thank you to God and my family, without whom I would not be where I am today.

The New Kids on the Block

Keisha Ashley, AA-S, Nova Southeastern University

This year's AAAA conference was the debut for Nova Southeastern University's AA students. It was a great opportunity to get away from school, studying, and clinicals for a few days to spend time enjoying one of Florida's beautiful beaches. It also provided a great opportunity to reflect upon how much we have all learned in the last year. For example, last year at this time, much of the material presented at the conference would have flown right over my head. Instead, many of the lectures reviewed topics that I have grown to know and love, such as airway management and neuromuscular blockade. Beyond the lectures, there were two events at this year's conference that particularly stood out to me as a culmination of our first year as AA students at Nova.

Of course, the Anesthesia Jeopardy game was a bittersweet highlight of the conference for Nova students. As the new kids on the block, not to mention having the pressure of Rob Wagner and Mike Nichols as professors, we felt we had something to prove. The result of the game was a bit disappointing because despite their *noble* efforts and having a commanding lead going into the Final Jeopardy round, our team walked away without the win. However, coming that close to overthrowing the reigning champs in our first appearance was impressive (Great job Jill, Rosemary, and Kevin!) and a testament to how much we have all learned in the past year. Besides, a college team from Ohio was bound to beat a Florida team at something this year...eventually.

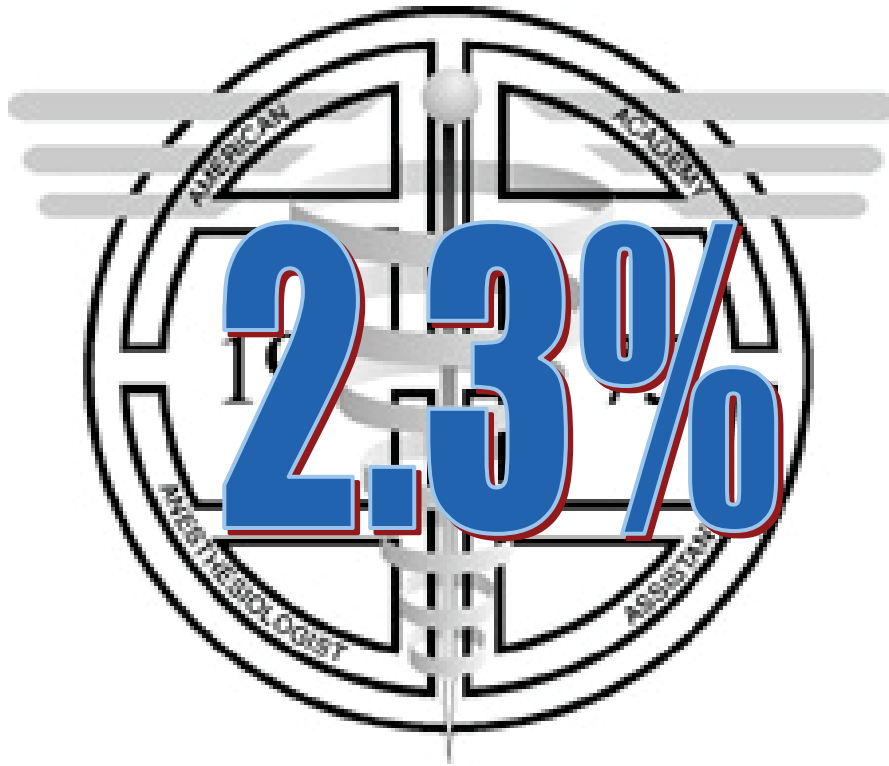
The second important event that stood out to me was the presentation of awards to Rob Wagner and Dr. Don Sokolik. As our Program Director and Medical Director, respectively, we

have all gotten to know them well and fully appreciate all that they have done to further the AA profession. It was apparent how much both of them are respected by the anesthesia community and it was wonderful to see them recognized for their years of work and dedication.

Sitting on the cusp of becoming a second year student, it is amazing to look back at all I have learned in the last year and how much I hope to learn in the next year. While I have learned that very little in anesthesia is set in stone, I know one thing is certain. At next year's AAAA conference, the Nova Jeopardy team will be going home as the new champs.



\$1500 Plan Checklist



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|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | AAAA Annual Membership | \$350 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Legislative Fund Donation | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ASA Annual Membership | \$225 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ASAPAC Donation | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | AAAA Annual Meeting Reg. | \$350 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Local Legislator Donation | \$25 |
-

Opportunities

JobLine Listing

Alabama:

Surgery Center, Huntsville
contact: Andrew Crider AA-C 256-509-0230 cell 256-464-6559 home or Dr. Hector Lural 256-604-0717

Georgia:

Satilla Regional Medical Center, Waycross and Smith Northview Hospital, Valdosta
contact: Jim Weeks 336-553-0693 or jimweeks@taagusa.com

Missouri

St. John's Mercy Medical Center, St. Louis
contact: Catherine O'Connor 636-386-9224 ext. 129 or coconnor@waai.net

Texas

Greater Houston Anesthesiology, P.A., Houston
Contact: Katherine Chalkley 713-458-4262 or kchalkley@choosegha.com

About JobLine Listings

JobLine is a free service provided to potential employees of AAAA members. For more complete information, current members can visit JobLine on the AAAA web site at www.anesthetist.org. Anyone wishing to post a job opportunity should contact Kris Tindol at kwTindol@comcast.net or Kari Glisson at kari@anesthetist.org.



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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.

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2007

June 14 – 17 — Kiawah Island, SC

Carolina Refresher Lectures: Care of the Surgical Patient (Offering up to 20.0 hours of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits). Sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Course details available online at www.aims.unc.edu/education/cme/crl. Registration information available online at www.med.unc.edu/cme.

June 16 – 19 — Hilton Head Island, SC

10th Annual Duke Cardiothoracic, Regional and Critical Care Update (Offering up to 22.25 hours of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits). Sponsored by Duke University School of Medicine. Online registration available at <http://events.duke.edu/cardiothoracic07> or request a paper registration form by contacting ConfServ@notes.duke.edu.

June 22 – 24 — Palm Beach, FL

Florida Society of Anesthesiologists 2007 Annual Meeting. For more information go online to www.fsahq.org

Aug. 6 – 10 — Makena, HI

Hawaii Anesthesiology Update 2007 (Offering a maximum of 20 hours of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits). Sponsored by Dannemiller Memorial Educational Foundation. Register at www.dannemiller.com or call 1-800-328-2308.

Aug. 10 – 14 — Beijing, China

Anesthesia Symposium (Offering a maximum of 35 hours of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits). Sponsored by Cleveland Clinic and Peking Union Medical College Hospital. For details go online to www.clevelandclinicmeded.com/CCF-PUMCH07.

Sept. 6 – 9 — Atlanta, GA

Intraoperative Echocardiography in the 21st Century. Sponsored by the Emory University School of Medicine and Department of Anesthesiology, Division of Cardiothoracic Anesthesia. Download the registration form at www.emory.edu/CME.

Sept. 6 – 9 — Austin, TX

Texas Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting

For more information go online to www.tsa.org

Sept. 14 – 16 — Cincinnati, OH

Ohio Society of Anesthesiologists Anesthesia Update 2007. For more information go online to www.osainc.org.

Sept. 28 – 30 — Asheville, NC

North Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists Fall Session. For more information go online to www.ncsoa.com

Oct. 13 – 17 — San Francisco, CA

ASA Annual Meeting. Information available at www.asahq.org.

Oct. 28 – 31 — Hilton Head Island, SC

Thirteenth Annual Advances in Physiology and Pharmacology in Anesthesia and Critical Care (Offering a maximum of 17 hours of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits) with optional ACLS and Regional Anesthesia workshops Oct. 27 – 28. Sponsored by Wake Forest University School of Medicine. For brochure call Wake Forest University Health Sciences at 336/716-2712.

Save the Date!

AAAA 32nd Annual Conference

April 26 – April 30, 2008

Hilton Oceanfront Resort, www.hiltonheadhilton.com

Hilton Head Island, SC

**Make your room reservation now by calling 1-843-842-8000 or 1-800-HILTONS.
Don't forget to mention AAAA! Room Block open by July 1, 2007.
Make your reservation by April 4, 2008 to receive the group rate.**