



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Navigating the Future



By Claire Chandler, AA-C  
AAAA President

The end of every calendar year is a time for reflection and celebration but also an opportunity to set new resolutions for the year to come. I commend and thank all of our volunteer members, leaders, physician advocates, and staff that dedicated their time and hard work to make 2012 a year of tremendous accomplishment.

Yesterday's success does not ensure success in the future. Change is occurring worldwide at an unprecedented pace, and organizations are required to be more effective than ever. Boards are expected to be more engaged and committees more productive. Alignment of an organization's mission, vision, values and goals is fundamental to keeping an organization focused, accountable, and efficient. A healthy organization must continue to anticipate changes and develop strategies to successfully navigate future growth.

Last year, the AAAA revised our mission statement to more concisely express the direction of the Academy. This fall, the AAAA board of directors, committee chairs, and staff took the next step in solidifying our continued success as an organization by engaging in a strategic exercise to establish core values, define a clear vision for the future, and determine specific goals to accomplish those objectives. Through this process, a landscape analysis for the profession was reviewed and we discussed how to overcome potential challenges and take advantage of future opportunities.

The following core values, or guiding principles, were established to more clearly define the organization's culture: Teamwork, Leadership, Communication, Professionalism, Mentorship. It was determined that

## AAAA CORE VALUES

### Teamwork

Functioning as an active, trustworthy, and dependable team member to support the organization in its strategic and operational goals.

### Leadership

Establishing and implementing strategic vision to ensure accountability, strong governance, professional stewardship, informed decision making, engaged volunteers, and continued dedication to growth.

### Communication

Exchanging a clear and consistent message by sharing relevant and timely information in an open, honest, and respectful manner.

### Professionalism

Conducting one's self in an ethical manner, which demonstrates a positive representation of the profession through commitment, knowledge, continued education, self-discipline, focus, altruism, and integrity.

### Mentorship

Providing opportunities to advance new leaders by imparting knowledge and developing expertise with respect and commitment.

our vision for the future should focus on "becoming a pillar in the perioperative community".

Three primary but broad strategic goals were identified with action steps defined for each goal.

1. Expand the sphere of influence of the AA profession
2. Protect the interest of the profession
3. Provide high quality professional services to AAAA members through effective leadership and governance

The AAAA will continuously strive to enhance efforts to advance the AA profession, improve service to the membership, and function efficiently as an organization by reviewing and adjusting the strategic plan on a regular basis.

Specific details of the action items for each goal will be available on the AAAA website beginning 2013 and communicated throughout the year.

Now we have a map to help us navigate.

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**The Anesthesia Record will be all new for 2013!**

See page 4!

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### The Anesthesia Record

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# AAAA Members Run for the Warriors



Members of the AAAA recently participated in the Run for the Warriors® at the ASA Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. Three separate teams represented the AAAA. Overall, 46 individuals signed up as runners or made donations. The combined teams raised over \$3,700 for this great cause.

A special thanks to Rick Brouillard, AA-C whose generous donation recognized the AAAA as a sponsor, resulting in our name on the race t-shirt. Thank you to all that participated and for the impressive AAAA showing.

Listed below are those who generously donated to the success of the event.



Ellen Allinger  
Shane Angus  
Justin Auch  
Meagan Barbish  
Rich Bassi  
Laura Brichler  
Rick Brouillard  
Caitlin Burley  
Tyra Campbell  
Claire Chandler  
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Christy Potyondy  
Anish Purohit  
Victoria Roop  
Sarah Russell  
Samantha Salman  
Gina Scarboro  
Megan Varellas  
Samantha Yakey

# Member Benefits from the National Affairs Committee

By Michael S. Nichols, AA-C



As a AAAA member, you enjoy a wide range of benefits and services that support you, your practice, and your profession. To help you take advantage of the many ways the AAAA works for you, we have compiled a list of governmental affairs activities that we offer:

you, we have compiled a list of governmental affairs activities that we offer:

- Input on important issues through coordinated work of the National Affairs Committee and the ASA Washington offices
- Coordination and communication with regulatory bodies, such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Blue Cross & Blue Shield (BCBS), etc.
- Tracking and analysis of state legislation and regulation
- Strategic consultation on legislative and regulatory initiatives to state component academies and societies
- Answers to questions concerning state legislative and regulatory requirements and provisions
- Lobbying coordination and action on federal and state issues important to AA practice
- Advocacy training for membership
- Coordination of grassroots efforts
- Legislative coverage and communication in AA and ASA periodicals
- Participation in ASA Legislative Conference
- Presence at federal and state fundraisers

For additional information on the benefits and services provided to members, please contact any member of the National Affairs Committee.

## AAAA Leadership Update

We are pleased to announce to you the new Officers and Directors, elected by the AAAA Fellow membership, who will take office in April 2013:

**President Elect**  
Carie Twichell, AA-C

**Treasurer**  
Jeff Smith, AA-C

**Directors**  
Patrick Bolger, AA-C  
A. William Paulsen, AA-C, PhD, MMSc  
Gina Scarboro, AA-C, MMSc

Please join us in welcoming them to the AAAA leadership.



Twichell



Smith



Bolger



Paulsen



Scarboro

## Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Update

By Bill Buntin, AA-C

On November 1, 2012, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) made a decision to adopt a new national policy that allows Medicare funds to be used to pay untrained providers (CRNAs) to diagnose and treat chronic pain.

From ASA:  
"The basic premise of this rule is flawed," said ASA President John M. Zerwas, MD "At a time when government health care programs are spending millions of dollars pursuing comparative effectiveness, value-based pay-

ments and other quality related measures, it is baffling that CMS would pursue a policy departing so considerably from using evidence-based norms and the 'triple aim' of improving care, improving health and reducing cost."

"Nurse anesthetists lack the ability to safely and effectively treat patients with chronic pain using a comprehensive approach and to appropriately manage the medical conditions contributing to their pain. Paying nurse anesthetists to provide chronic pain services undermines efforts by these and other federal agencies to curb prescription drug abuse," continued Dr. Zerwas.

CMS #2



## Georgia Update

**Joy Rusmisell, AA-C**  
*President-Elect GAAA*



Greetings from the GAAA! We know Georgia has been 'on your mind' and we wanted to share the exciting news affecting Anesthesiologist Assistants in Georgia.

Over the last six months, the GAAA has developed quite a presence within the Georgia anesthesia community. We are a newly formed Academy working to provide professional representation on a state and national level in order to properly advocate, advance, and encourage the success of Anesthesiologist Assistants in Georgia. The GAAA has elected their first slate of leadership who has been working diligently to represent our practitioners and students within the state.

Efforts have been made to continue developing clinical locations, nourishing legislative relationships, and relaying information from the AAAA regarding national policies. Our focus over the last couple of months has been devoted to reaching out to the practicing Georgia AAs as well as student AAs to gather membership in support of our endeavors.

Over the summer, the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists announced its' official partnership with the GAAA at their annual meeting. The GAAA staffed an informative booth, graciously provided by the GSA, at the annual meeting that served as a platform to educate anesthesiologists about our profession, and provided many opportunities for students to network. Through this alliance with the GSA, the GAAA has been afforded the opportunity to participate in legislative initiatives, advocate for our academy, receive mentorship, and most importantly share with physicians and anesthesiologist assistants the importance of supporting professional organizations that speak on behalf of the field we all enjoy. We look forward to continuing this relationship in order to support the Anesthesia Care Team model, and join forces with physicians to advocate for the AA profession.

As 2013 approaches, the GAAA is excited about the opportunities we have before us. We look forward to growing our membership and continuing to educate and advocate for our profession through our quarterly newsletter and informational website. We, as healthcare providers, are acutely aware of the dynamic political environment we face and that it is becoming essential to be a member of your state and national professional organizations. The GAAA would like to encourage all Anesthesiologist Assistants to become members of their state AA professional organization and join as educational members of your Anesthesiologist state organization.

## Wisconsin Update



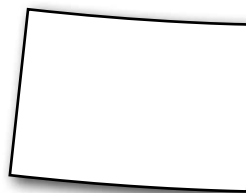
Applications for AA licensure in Wisconsin are now being processed!

The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services is now accepting AA licensure applications. The requirements for a license in Wisconsin can be found on the following website:

<http://drl.wi.gov/profession.asp?profid=152&locid=0>

Wisconsin does not require a sponsoring physician to apply for an AA license. Come join the 33 AAs practicing in Wisconsin!

## Colorado Update



The CAAA has been busy electing new officials and implementing legislative structure for managing AA licensure. Based on the bill that passed in the last legislative session, Anesthesiologist Assistants will be eligible for licensure in Colorado on July 1, 2013.

It has been a difficult and costly legislative struggle to make this stride forward, but the 20 AAs who currently work in Colorado are privileged to be part of it all. CAAA is grateful for the help of DORA and CSA and their support and advice during this entire process.

We anticipate continued resistance in the upcoming months requiring us to remain vigilant in our legislative monitoring. Establishing licensure and maintaining this type of involvement in legislation is expensive. We ask any AA who has hopes of practicing in Colorado to support us in our efforts to establish legislative recognition.

Please contact CAAA through our website, or email any of our officers listed below if you are interested or have questions.

President- Stephanie Barnard  
VP - Matt Schierenberg  
Secretary - Kingsley Broughton  
Treasurer - Matt Galuzzi

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37<sup>th</sup>  
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it becomes available, please visit  
[www.anesthetist.org](http://www.anesthetist.org)





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### Missouri Governor Visits UMKC



Governor Jay Nixon (Second from left), in the UMKC simulation lab, talking with AA students Margaret Riffel and Alexander Treat, Program Director Melanie Guthrie, AA-C (right), and Chairman of the State Advisory Commission on AAs to the State Board of Healing Arts, Jim Kelly, MD.

## AAs may join the SCSA as Educational Members

By Margarita M. Pate, PhD  
*Executive Director, SCSA*

During the 2012 Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists, the membership approved a bylaws change that adds a membership category for AAs.

Mirrored in large part after the educational membership in the ASA, the SCSA is now able to welcome AAs into the SCSA. The new membership category allows AAs to attend all educational programs and to link their ASA and SCSA memberships.

With eighteen (18) AAs now in active practice in South Carolina, the SCSA is pleased to be able to provide them this new benefit.

In order for an AA to join the SCSA, she/he must file an application endorsed by two active SCSA members and sign a statement subscribing to the Guidelines for the Ethical Practice of Anesthesiology and the Anesthesia Care Team statement approved by the ASA House of Delegates. Nurse anesthetists who conform to these same requirements may also join as educational members.

We are grateful to Nyree Penn, AA-C, from Myrtle Beach, SC, who was instrumental in pursuing this membership benefit for AAs in South Carolina.

## The Anesthesia Record Will Be All New for 2013!

We're making exciting changes in the new year and want you to be part of the newsletter that's written by, for, and about AAs. We're looking for writers and photographers to join our staff. If you're interested in being a staff member, send an email to Amy Komarin, Incoming Editor, at [Amy.Komarin@anesthetist.org](mailto:Amy.Komarin@anesthetist.org).

### You Decide How to Receive Your Newsletter!

In 2013, *The Anesthesia Record* will be available to all members electronically. However, if you would like to receive a printed copy as well, please follow these directions:

1. Log into the members' section of the AAAA website
2. Click on "AAAA Member Services"
3. Click on "Update My Address, Email, or Phone Number"
4. Click on "Update My Record"
5. Click on "I would like to receive a printed copy of the *Anesthesia Record*"