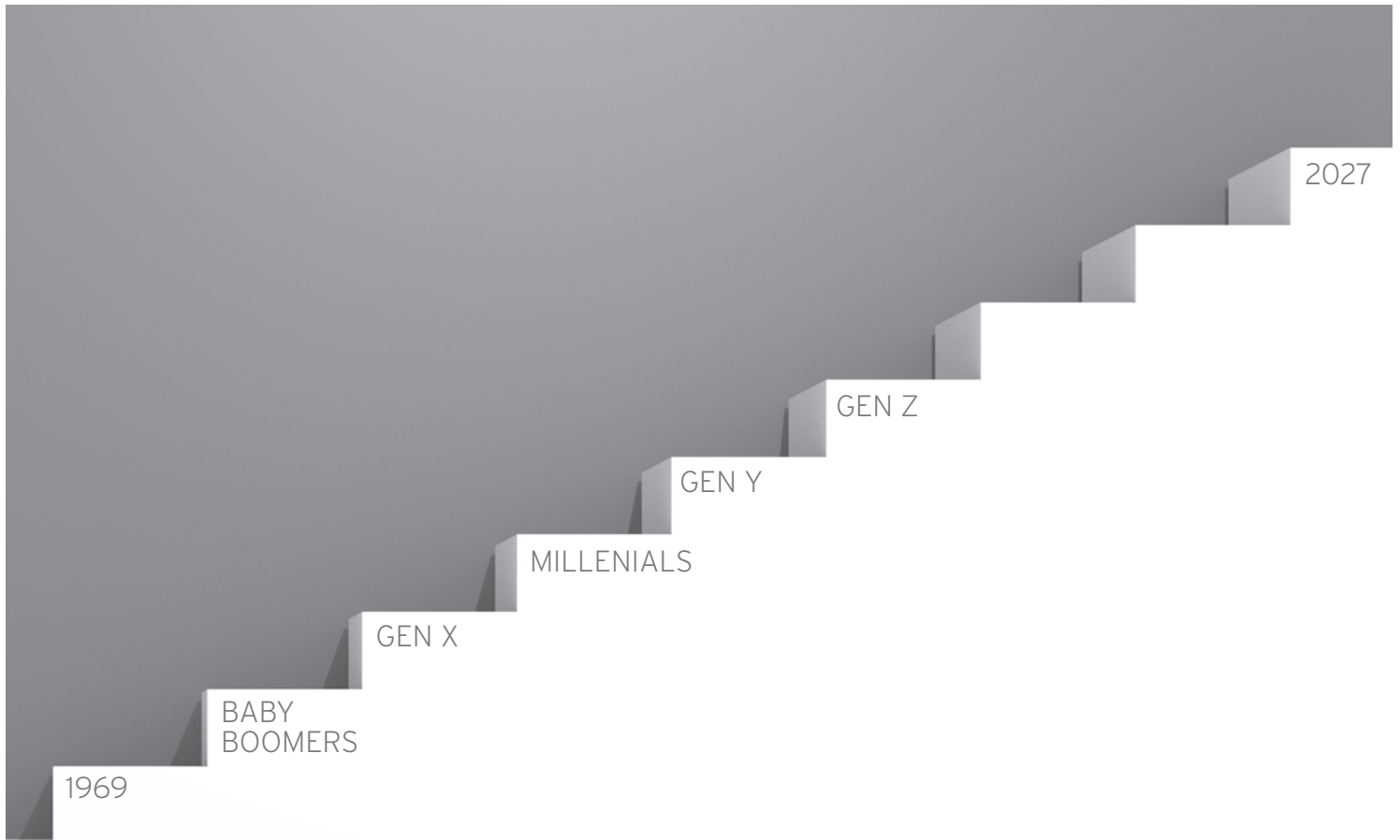




the AnesthesiaRecord

AAAA[®] American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants[®]

Winter 2018



The Magic of Generational Compounding

The energy of pervasive volunteerism



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Calendar of Events

April 2018

ACT Pre-Con, Student Professional Development Day, Career Expo
TradeWinds Beach Resorts, St. Pete Beach, FL

April 20

AAAA2018™, Annual Meeting

TradeWinds Beach Resorts, St. Pete Beach, FL

April 21-24

AAAA Board of Directors Q2, St. Pete Beach, FL

April 21

May 2018

ASA Legislative Conference, Washington, DC

May 14-16

June

CAA Week

June 3-9

July

AAAA Board of Directors Q3 and Strategic Planning, Atlanta, GA

July 21-22

October

ASA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA

October 13-17

AAAA Board of Directors Q4, San Francisco, CA

October 14

Erratum:



AUSTIN, TX (April 2, 2017) - Misidentified in a previous issue of The Anesthesia Record as 2017 Jeopardy winners, these Case Western DC students and leaders took the AAAA Cup at AAAA2017™. Belated congratulations to the victors! For more information on changes in the AAAA Cup scoring system, go to pages 8-9 in this issue.



Gina Scarboro, CAA

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Minding the generational gap in AA practice

The Anesthesiologist Assistant (AA) profession has grown and adapted tremendously since its humble beginnings over 40 years ago. Until 2004, there were only two graduate educational programs that matriculated an average of 45 students per year in the 1990s. The AA profession has experienced exponential growth of practitioners in the last 13 years due to the increase in educational programs and practice opportunities. If the current rate of growth is sustained, the expected number of CAA practitioners will reach over 6000 by 2027 (Figure 1).

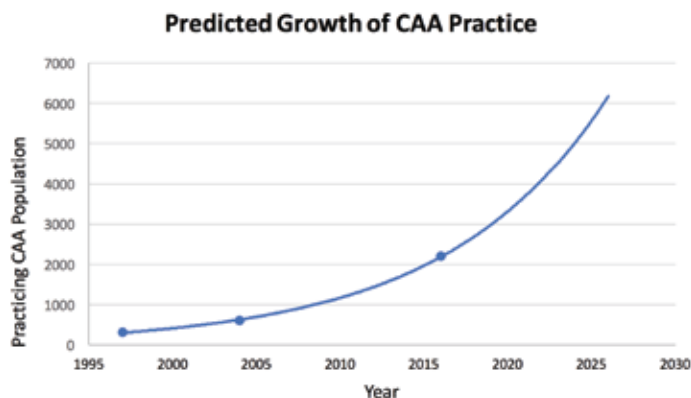


Figure 1. Predicted Growth of CAA practitioners. Based on CAA practitioner data from 1997 to 2016.

Like other healthcare providers, the anesthesiologist assistant profession is undergoing a generational changing-of-the-guard. The Pew Research Center Reported in 2016 that members of the Millennial generation (Gen Y, born 1981-1997) are now the predominant group in the US workforce (Frey, 2015). The predominance of a new generation in the workforce makes a splashy headline but what is the relevance of this generational difference in the AA profession?

Before deliberating stereotypes of each generation, it is important to acknowledge that each generation has a negative outlook of the group that precedes their own. In a 1933 novel, one character said of the next generation, "The young people no longer obey the old. The laws that ruled their fathers are trampled underfoot. They seek only their own pleasure" (Steiger).

The truth is that each generation has unique cultural and experiential differences that shape their identity. As a member of Generation X (born between 1965-1980), I remember a time in the not so distant past when my generation was reviled for our terrible work ethic and irreverent behavior.

"Each successive generation brings technological innovation to the workforce and unique cultural perspectives."

What may be more surprising is that despite the hype and headlines, social researchers have found very little empirical evidence that differences in job attitudes and behaviors between generational cohorts exist at all (Zabel et al., 2017). A study by Mencl and Lester found that members of all three generations (baby boomers, Gen. X, and millennials) had similar attitudes towards teamwork and compensation with a moderate increase in Generation Y's interest in career advancement that is more likely related to their career stage rather than their generational culture. What about motivational differences between generations? One popular stereotype is that millennials are motivated more by the inherent reward of a job (intrinsic) than pay or recognition (extrinsic) factors than members of other generations. This has also been debunked, as no significant difference was found between Generations X and Y for intrinsic or extrinsic motivation (Acar, 2014).

"Mutual respect between CAA generations is essential."

Due to the rapid growth of the Anesthesiologist Assistant profession, the generational transformation is well underway within the AAAA. Generational demographics of AAAA members in 2016 are shown in Figure 2. Members under the age of 36 are the majority in our organization. As we are adjusting to the changes that the Millennial cohort brings, the AA profession will soon include members of Generation Z (born 1998-2010). The influence of this group, who have no personal memory of the US prior to 9/11 is sure to once again be debated. Circumstantial events are commonly attributed as catalysts that yield generational traits. For instance, the Greatest Generation is known for frugality and perseverance after being raised through The Great Depression and the Second World War. However, this perspective alone fails to recognize the variability of characteristics between individuals within a group, not to mention the likelihood for generational traits to change over time.

Continued on Page 7

Updating your professional record file

Megan Varellas, CAA, David Biel, CAA, and Jeff Smith, CAA

We've never met an anesthesiologist that has not lamented the process of credentialing or applying for a state CAA license. The records required from any applicant for privileges or state medical license is so comprehensive it has fostered an industry that manages the process for a fee. A Harvard Business Review analysis shows the healthcare workforce has grown by 75% since 1990, but 95% of new hires are not physicians. The ratio of physicians to other workers is up to 1:16, however, of those 16, only 6 are involved in patient care while 10 are in purely administrative roles. As career CAAs who have been through credentialing and licensing within the past year, we will share some quick explanations, tips, and lessons learned that may help you manage a long career in anesthesia paperwork.

State Licensing

For CAAs seeking employment in states that license CAAs, one must obtain a state CAA license administered through a state board of medicine. The objective of state medical boards is to provide regulation of the practice of medicine in a state to protect the public. State boards of medicine have an obligation to their citizens to ensure provider competence and safety before issuing a license to work as a CAA. The medical board handles complaints against providers and disciplinary actions. This application typically requires unexpected items you may not have on hand such as passport photos and copies of your diploma. Most boards have moved to electronic applications and correspondence, thus, it's helpful to scan and save electronic files of all paperwork related to your anesthesia credentials. Since not all boards accept electronic verification, it is necessary that you retain originals and copies of all paperwork such as paper license cards. In this case, a blank form letter to be filled out by various entities is



Varellas



Biel



Smith

usually provided by the state in which you are applying. Record any names of staff at the board of medicine that work specifically with CAAs for quick communication and reference throughout the process. One newer document most boards are requesting is a National Practitioner Data Bank report. This is especially useful to practitioners that have been practicing for more than three years and/or have been in more than one practice. Very similar to credit scores, everyone should look at this data annually because mistakes can be made in filing complaints into practitioner files with similar names, social security numbers, or license numbers. Once the report is requested, it will be sent to your designated medical board and you will simultaneously receive a link to view the report.

Medical Credentialing and Medical Privileging

Medical credentialing and privileging is a detailed process that reviews qualifications and career history including education, training, licenses, and certificates. Hospitals have a legal duty to evaluate the competency of providers administering health care to their patients. The layers of things healthcare providers are being asked to document and provide continues to expand for various reasons such as meeting regulatory requirements and improving outcomes. This process occurs after an offer of employment is accepted and typically

typically takes three to six months. This often compels practices to request up to 90 days of resignation or retirement notice so that they can immediately hire and begin the credentialing of a new anesthesiologist. Mid-level provider credentialing is evolving to resemble physician credentialing and many facilities even now ask you to provide the number of times you have performed every task you request in privileging and/or the names of those who can verify your competency in those tasks. You will likely be asked for items such as copies of your social security card, enlarged copies of your driver's license, as well as vaccination and immunization records.

"Gone are the days of a valid license and three references."

Point of care testing in some institutions may require a separate proof of license and certification and other information. Labs are being increasingly scrutinized by CMS for fraudulent activities, as rules for who can order and perform tests are getting stricter. CAAs are typically not listed in a lot of laboratory policy manuals until a CAA or anesthesiologist takes the time to work with hospital administration to remedy the omission. In the interest of avoiding misunderstandings, it's important to know if the hospital privileges you are requesting are the same or different from other non-physician anesthesiologists in any given facility before you start working.

Provider Credentialing

Provider credentialing or insurance credentialing is the process of creating an affiliation with an insurer with which your facility or anesthesia group contracts to ensure your services are “in-network” and third-party reimbursements are accepted. Enrollment applications can be up to 30-plus pages long and feel quite repetitive to forms you complete for the state and your employer. Be prepared to provide your National Provider Identification (NPI) number and log in information to the account. You will likely credential with some of the largest insurance plans in the U.S. (United Health Group, Anthem, Aetna, Cigna, Humana). This process can take three to four months to submit paperwork, supplementary documentation, and additional correspondence. It's worth knowing who are the major insurers in your state and your insurance commissioner's name and contact info should you have problems with credentialing as a CAA or receiving reimbursement for your services once employed.

“Many facilities even now ask you to provide the number of times you have performed every task you request in privileging.”

Gone are the days of a valid license and three references. Facilities, insurers, and employers all want varying compilations of your professional records. All these tasks can be an unwelcome distraction from a new job or providing quality care to patients. Medical providers find the processes time consuming and the only way to make them manageable is to keep your records organized, current and in one location. We can't stress enough the importance of keeping a professional record file updated and electronically accessible. Oscar Wilde said, “Bureaucracy expands to meet the needs of an expanding bureaucracy.” Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in the process of getting CAAs into operating rooms and taking care of patients!

“Keep your records organized current and in one location.”

CREDENTIAL FILE MUST HAVES:

- Passport photo head shot
- Enlarged copy of drivers license
- Copy of Social security card
- Copies of diplomas
- Updated resume without unrelated jobs/interests and dates clearly marked in format MO/YEAR
- record of specific graduation dates, day/month/year, address of institution
- record of specific employment dates day/month/year, address of practice group or facilities
- Drug testing records
- National Practitioner Data Bank Report
- Comprehensive list of Vaccination/Immunization records including at least two boosters of some childhood doses
- NPI number and account information
- Copy of privileges you currently have and will be requesting
- Copy of NCCAA verification, number
- CME records for previous two calendar years
- Other state license numbers, copies, status, dates issued and expiration or resignation
- List of all malpractice policies you have been covered under, financial coverage limits, dates of policy, and contact information for those companies. If facility is self -insured, obtain and keep a copy of verification of such.
- Copy of AHA BLS, ACLS, PALS certification
- Any records needed to explain malpractice claims, felony/misdemeanor convictions, drug or alcohol treatment, gaps in employment

CREDENTIALING TIPS:

- NCCAA certification verification is electronic and accessible to the public. When asked to provide a letter of verification, this is merely a print out of that page.
- Even if you went to CAA school in Georgia or hold a Georgia “PA” license, you should never refer to yourself as a PA not having graduated from an accredited PA program or obtained certification by the NCCPA. The Georgia medical board does differentiate between PAs and AAs in its database, even though not by title on your paper license card.
- Don't exhaust your favorite go-to references. Keep a list of multiple of coworkers or past employers/educators willing to provide references and change it up. Send a thank you note to follow up.
- Hospital credentialing will often keep CME records on a two-year cycle by calendar year, which will be different from the 2 year CME time period allotted by NCCAA beginning in June. Keep all CME records accordingly.
- Create several resumes for specific uses. At least one should mention the type of facility or specialty under each employer so that reviewers will better understand your qualifications (For example: County X Hospital, city, state, date of employment. A 500 bed non-profit hospital with specialized focus in high-risk obstetrics. City Surgery Center, city, state, date of employment. A 5 operating room facility focused on outpatient orthopedics)
- Save time for EMR and health system training modules for specific facilities and keep lists of provider accounts and passwords.
- Be prepared to give written consent multiple times for background checks.

Dynamic Times in AAAA Membership



Laura Knoblauch, CAA

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Sherry Cucci, CAA

2018 Chair, Membership Committee
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Thank you to all of our AAAA membership for your impressive support in 2017. The AAAA has experienced another year of growth and the future continues to look promising. Review of membership statistics reveals much about our profession. We maintain a membership of 51% males and 49% females with an average age of 34.6 years old. However, the age range of 26- to 30-year-olds has the most members!

Membership continues to grow as new educational programs open and CAAs in practice join or re-join to enjoy member benefits. From 2016-2017, AAAA experienced a 20% increase in members with the largest increase in the Fellow category. We are grateful for those who have returned to membership in the AAAA. We missed you! And, a special thank you goes out to those who have supported the AAAA through consistent membership and engagement.

Responding to Member Suggestions

The Membership Committee heard the request of student members regarding the timetable and cost of membership especially in the first year post-training. This committee worked with the Board of Directors to lower the first-year fellow (FYF) membership dues to \$200. And, we redefined the category to state:

"A student member remains in classification through the year of graduation or until the date the graduate converts to a First-Year Fellow member, whichever is earlier. A student member who converts in the year of graduation to a First-Year Fellow membership remains in classification until the end of the following calendar year. A graduate who converts to a First-Year Fellow member in the year after graduation remains in classification through the end of the same calendar year."

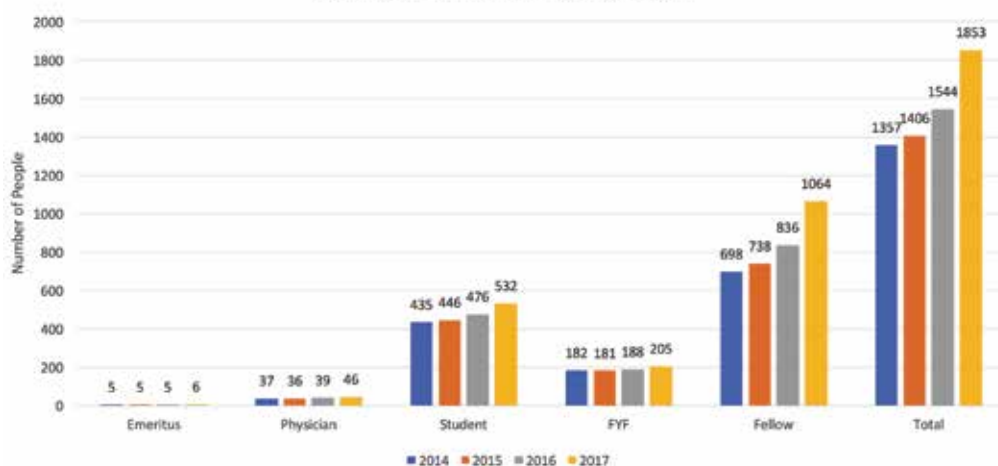
The committee also listened to the general membership request to offer auto-renewal dues payment options with a credit card, and this option has been authorized by the Board. Members now enjoy the option of yearly auto-recurring dues payments. Remember to update your profile at www.anesthetist.org to reflect your current financial/payment information.

This committee worked with the Board of Directors to lower the first-year fellow (FYF) membership dues

Starting this month, Sherry Cucci, CAA, will serve as Membership Committee Chair. She comes in with great ideas on ways to continue to improve AAAA's overall membership value and its direct benefit to members. Sherry and I have worked closely over the past few months with her transition into this role. We will work together as I remain committed to serving the AAAA as President-Elect in 2018.

It has been a pleasure serving AAAA membership chair the past few years. I look forward to the exciting ideas and opportunities Sherry brings as a dedicated volunteer.

AAAA Membership Numbers 2014-2017



President's Letter



Nick Davies, CAA

President, AAAAA
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The American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants, being a professional organization, inherently belongs to its members. It is through the continued democratization of the AAAAA that we will continue to grow and strengthen our position across the nation. By not only focusing on current CAA legislative and practice issues, but also building a robust framework to support tomorrow's AAAAA and beyond, we can be assured that our organization and our profession will expand.

My vision for 2018 is to build a foundation of change in our organizational governance. Over the next few years, we anticipate our federation of state academies will engage in a larger

democratic, representative body -- an AAAAA House of Delegates. This body would opportune dozens of new voices, new ideas, and future leaders onto the AAAAA leadership ladder. After this House is established, one would expect representatives from every state where CAAs practice to contribute in conversations and votes regarding the direction, vision, decisions and activities of the AAAAA.

The future of the profession belongs to you... may your voice be heard.

The reason for this approach is clear in my mind -- to assure that AAAAA remains focused on its members. This will be accomplished as AAAAA creates a platform for every member's voice to be expressed and every state academy vote to be counted.

Meanwhile, without question, the AAAAA will continue to work to open new states for licensure, solve complex practice and billing problems, and represent our members on a national stage. These seminal goals will not be set aside. Rather, by strengthening our organizational foundation, the AAAAA will continue to have the support and leadership it needs to grow exponentially.

The critical key to success is you -- the AAAAA member. The future of the profession belongs to you, and we need your help. Get involved. Get active. Contribute in any way you can. And may your voice be heard.

Past-President's Message - From Page 3

AAAAA Members in 2016

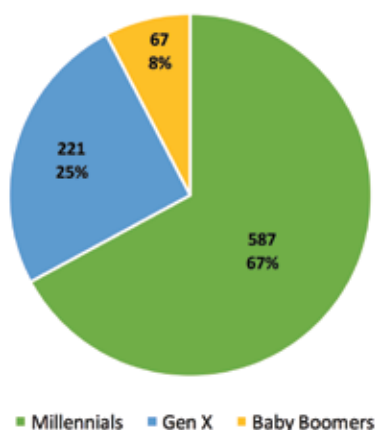


Figure 2. AAAAA Members by Generation in 2016

Each successive generation brings technological innovation to the workforce and unique cultural perspectives, but what separates us is driven more by individual differences than some perceived generational gap. Mutual respect between CAA generations is essential for us to work together effectively in learning from our past, building on our successes, and adapting to the future. CAA practitioners should embrace the fresh perspectives and experi-

ence of each generation to inform ourselves and broaden the horizons of the AAAAA organization. The Anesthesiologist Assistant profession is on track to continue its accelerated growth rate, giving our profession the advantage of a young and energetic membership. One need to only look at the roster of committee leaders, officers and directors of the AAAAA to see the professional citizenship modeled by members of every generation of certified anesthesiologist assistants.

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AAAA Cup: Tradition Under Revision



Juan Cabrera

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The AAAA Cup is an annual competition among all AA educational programs with the aim of recognizing and encouraging academic, legislative and philanthropic involvement. The contest, which runs from September 1st, 2017 through April 22nd, 2018, includes up to six different components to determine the winner and is open to all 12 AA educational programs.

As part of a collaborative between the AAAA Student, Membership, Annual Meeting, and Communication committees, the AAAA Cup Guidelines have been revised. To review the official guidelines, please follow the link at the end of this article. The purpose of revising the guidelines is to bring clarity to the rules, replace the former social event component with a program recognition slideshow component, adjust the legislative fund donation scoring system, and introduce the role of an official non-student (unbiased) officiate to the competition.

A program's total AAAA Cup score is tabulated by the summation of scores from all equally-weighted components. It is important to note that the total score of programs without graduates will be calculated based on performance in five of the six components. Figure 1 lists the revised criteria and shows how components are equally weighted toward a program's total score.

Major changes were made to two categories. First, the former component of attendance to the student social was replaced with a program recognition slide show. Secondly, the scoring for the legislative fund donations was adjusted based on student feedback.



AUSTIN, TX (April 2, 2017) -- CU Denver's 2017 Jeopardy winning team members (l to r) Nicole Boerma, David Kalantarov, and Juan Cabrera.



AUSTIN, TX (April 2, 2017) -- Case DC students earned the 2017 AAAA Cup with hard work and investments in CasePath, the program's fundraising organization.

The program PowerPoint slide show component will allow each school to exhibit what makes their program unique. Pending scheduling approval, these slide shows may be displayed for all those in attendance at the AAAA conference. We hope to capture the academic, philanthropic, and social spirits of all programs participating. For more details on the requirements of the slide show, please consult the AAAA Cup Guidelines.

Meanwhile, the new legislative fund donation scoring system has a reduced monetary donation limit from \$100 to \$50 to receive credit toward AAAA Cup scoring. This should encourage a larger percentage of student participation. In turn, there is no longer a guarantee of points for minimum donations as points are now awarded based on program rank in donation totals per student. We believe this new change to the

legislative fund scoring system will relieve financial pressure on students, while also promoting competitive incentive by uncapping the benchmark for those able and willing to contribute above and beyond the minimum to the legislative fund.

Major changes were made to two categories.

Each category has unique scoring rules and requirements. Please review the official (revised) AAAA Cup Guidelines for more information and contact your student AAAA representatives for more information. With the aid of the AAAA Student and Membership committees, a non-student volunteer will calculate the winner based on these criteria. The CAA volunteer officiating the 2018 AAAA Cup will be Joe Borup.

The current AAAA Cup holders are the students of the Case Western DC program who, through their fundraising for Lifebox and the legislative fund and through broad involvement in the 2017 AAAA conference, edged other programs to earn the 2017 AAAA Cup.

Cup competition has become an integral part of the AAAA conference. The annual student jeopardy event continues to be one of the AAAA Cup's most competitive and fun components as it serves as the finale of this year-long competition and often determines the AAAA Cup finalists. In review, the 2017 jeopardy contest came down to the very last question and CU Denver managed to win the contest for the second year in a row against very tough competition from other programs. Will CU Denver reign again in 2018? Join us on April 22nd at the AAAA Conference at St. Pete Beach to find out!

The race for the cup has inspired the best of programs and increased student involvement in all areas. Philanthropic fundraising efforts for Lifebox and other charities surpass the \$20,000 mark among all programs. Last year more than \$18,000 was raised by students towards the Legislative Fund! With an increase in the number of programs and students across the nation, these numbers will continue to rise, and the 2018 AAAA Cup will be the most highly contested ever.

Figure 1: Revised List of AAAA Cup Components with Weighted Scoring Scheme

Scoring Component	Component % of total score for programs with graduates	Example score	Component % of total score for programs without graduates	Example score
% Class Attendance at Conference	16.67%	100 pts	20%	100 pts
Jeopardy Placement	16.67%	80 pts	20%	80 pts
Leg. Fund Donations	16.67%	60 pts	20%	60 pts
Lifebox Donations	16.67%	50 pts	20%	50 pts
Program Recognition Slideshow	16.67%	100 pts	20%	100 pts
% Graduate Membership Retention	16.67%	60pts	N/A	N/A
Total AAAA Cup Score	100%	65 pts	100%	78 pts



AUSTIN, TX (April 2, 2017) - With thumb ready on the play button, South University's Jeopardy team of Shamra Byrne, Kevin Gilli, and Meredith Martin awaits posting of an answer. Now what's the question?

For more information on the AAAA Cup Guidelines please follow the link below:
<https://aaaa.memberclicks.net/2018-student-registration-information>

Save the Date April 13-16, 2019
2019 AAAA Annual Meeting & Career Expo
JW Marriott Hotel
 Indianapolis, Indiana

Governance



Timothy Goodridge, CAA

2017 Chair, Governance Committee
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A professional organization must prove validity to and be accountable to its own membership. All major professional organizations need specific rules and regulations to provide the path for organizational success. Within the AAAA, major decisions are not made by individual mandate, but instead by the group of volunteer leaders elected to represent the greater membership. To that end, the Governance Committee is charged with ensuring that the AAAA continues to work as a team for the benefit of members and the success of our profession.

I am a member of a team, and I rely on the team, I defer to it and sacrifice for it, because the team, not the individual, is the ultimate champion.

Mia Hamm
Olympic and World Cup Soccer Icon

The governance committee is responsible for the internal oversight of the procedural framework of the AAAA and confirms that the organization adheres to appropriate standards. These include the AAA Mission Statement, the AAAA Bylaws, and the AAAA Policies and Procedures. The committee is also tasked with overseeing the annual election process and reviewing honor awards. Most importantly, this committee is responsible for updating AAAA documents, procedures, and policies to stay relevant to the changing face of medicine and address any changes in practice environment.

Every AAAA member interested in leadership should take the time to become familiar with the two guiding manuals of this organization: Bylaws and Policies and Procedures.

These documents are available to members through the AAAA web portal and are the backbone of the AAAA. Governance members frequently consult and utilize the structure in these guidance documents.

In sports, success is determined by teamwork. The AAAA Governance Committee works to ensure that the AAAA functions as a team and works together for the success of the profession. The committee consists of a minimum of four members and meets a minimum of twice a year. The Chair is the Immediate Past-President of the AAAA and, thus, the position changes annually. Gina Scarboro, our 2017 AAAA President, has assumed the duties of chair in 2018. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact the AAAA.



Samantha Evankovich

Chair, AAAA Annual Meeting Committee
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Although the efforts of the AAAA Annual Meeting Committee (AMC) are only visible once a year at the annual meeting, our volunteers work behind the scenes throughout the year to plan a professionally rewarding experience for our members and guests. As our profession grows I hope to see our organization develop a dedicated educational committee. Currently, the AMC is in charge of cultivating educational opportunities

for members. For instance, the AMC coordinates the recruitment and scheduling of high-quality educational presentations from renowned experts in the anesthesiology community and beyond for the educational benefit of certified AAs and students. In more recent years, the AAAA has also expanded its educational offerings with Problem-Based Learning Discussions (PBLDs) and other CME activities such as ACLS recertification courses.

The annual meeting committee takes pride in planning the meeting every year. Each speaker is vetted and picked specifically for their educational merit but also with the intent of sharing our organization with a broad community of physician anesthesiologists. Every physician anesthesiologist welcomed presents an opportunity to spread awareness of our growing profession and how CAAs are essential members of the anesthesia care team.

Annual Meeting

The meeting's featured speakers and topics are selected based on the NCCAA's published syllabus of educational subjects covered on the board certification exam and also for the presentation of up-to-date research influencing practice changes. The AAAA will be highlighting patient safety, ERAS protocols, and the opioid crisis within medicine at our 42nd annual meeting in April.

Besides developing the educational component of the meeting, the AAAA Annual Meeting Committee also organizes social events and coordinates with the AAAA Executive Committee and Board of Directors to determine meeting locations. The committee always has its members in mind when trying to make the meeting well worth registrants' time and money to network and learn in one fun-filled weekend! Please join us at Trade Winds Island Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida from April 21-24, 2018!



Sherry Cucci, CAA

Chair, Membership Committee
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The AAAA Membership Committee's main goal is to support our members by overseeing member benefits and providing guidance to assist them. The committee is also responsible for the effective retention of current members, recruitment of new members and accurate reporting of member benefits to students and CAAs in practice.

This past year, the membership committee worked vigilantly to provide additional benefits requested by the members. The committee received approval from the AAAA Board of Directors to **expand the time frame when recent graduates may apply** to become a

first-year fellow as well as to **reduce the dues for recent graduates** as they join the first-year fellow membership category. The AAAA and its membership committee value member and applicant input and have responded to the request voiced by recent graduates. The committee also worked diligently to obtain approval for the **automatic-renewal of membership dues by credit card** with no additional expense to the member. Members expressed concern for being late in paying dues and asked to renew automatically annually with valid up-to-date credit card information on file. The membership committee took this very seriously and worked hard to offer members auto-renewal of dues.

We are in the process of partnering with the NCCAA to reach out to CAAs for whom we do not have up-to-date contact information to encourage them to consider member benefits and rejoin the Academy. We are also projecting the AAAA membership to year 2022 in anticipation of organizational and professional growth. We continue to track

and analyze the demographics of our members such as gender, age, program where graduated, etc. The more personal and professional information you provide to the AAAA, the more informed the AAAA and its members will be about trends in CAA practice around the country.

The membership committee worked vigilantly to provide additional benefits requested by the members

To continue offering these and new benefits to our members, the AAAA Membership Committee relies on active volunteers. We are always recruiting! Please contact Membership Chair Sherry Cucci at scucci9@gmail.com. The membership committee is vital to our organization as our main responsibility is to support the needs and desires of our members.

Membership

Create value and generate inertia

Legislative

Establish connections nationwide



Layne DiLoreto, CAA

Chair, Legislative Committee
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As the new year emerges, legislatures across the country are gearing for their 2018 legislative sessions -- 46 have either begun or will convene the next few months. Half of these states' constitutions do not allow the consideration of legislation that was previously introduced in the first year of the term (2017). Additionally, three of the four states which will not meet in 2018 are states in which AA legislation was introduced last year.

It is never too soon to begin developing relationships with key people in every state.

The intricacies of how and when to introduce legislation and when a legislature will be able to take action on a bill underscore the notion that it is never too soon to begin developing relationships with key people in every state.

Recently, a CAA who has a relative in a midwestern legislature notified us of a potential critical contact. This connection, which may not have appeared relevant initially, will likely prove a valuable resource as we move through the process of seeking licensure in the state. This connection shows that CAAs or SAAs may have relationships that appear unimportant or unrelated to advocacy but, in fact, are.

This is why in the coming months AAAA staff will build a critical person contact system. While this is in the development phase, we believe the approach will empower and equip AAs to consider AAAA advocacy in states to determine who are relevant players in each. AAAA staff will be able to work with the AA to develop a more effective relationship with the key contact to further AA interests in licensure states and others.



Jeremy Betts, JD

Director of State Affairs
jeremy.betts@politics.org

Continued on Page 19

2018 AAAA Annual Conference (AAAA2018™)

April 21 - 24, 2018

Tradewinds Island Grand Resort
St. Pete Beach, Florida



Featured Speaker - Mark Warner, MD "Top 10 Perioperative Safety Topics of the APSF"

Dr. Mark Warner is President of the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation, the Annenberg Professor in Anesthesiology at the Mayo Clinic and emeritus Executive Dean of the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. He received his undergraduate degree from Miami (Ohio) University in 1976, his MD degree from the Medical College of Ohio in 1979, and his subsequent training in anesthesiology at Mayo Clinic. Dr. Warner has served as Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, the physician leader of Mayo's hospitals, and a member of Mayo's Board of Governors.

Dr. Warner has been in the leadership of numerous national anesthesiology organizations, including presidencies in the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Board of Anesthesiology and the Academy of Anesthesiology. He also has been an editor for Anesthesiology, the journal of the ASA.

He and his wife, Mary Ellen, also an anesthesiologist at Mayo Clinic, have four grown sons. Two of them are anesthesiologists at Mayo Clinic. Mark is an experienced pilot and sky-diver. Mary Ellen and Mark spend much of their spare time traveling to see their grandchildren and working on their farm.

AAAA2018™ is the one-stop anesthesia care team marketplace for businesses marketing to CAAs, AA students and physicians looking to hire.

Workshops & Special Events

Workshops and events require an additional registration. Visit www.anesthetist.org/aaaa-annual-conference for details.

Friday, April 20, 2018

AAAPD Educational Session
Hosted by AAAPD - Shane Angus, CAA & Melanie Guthrie, CAA
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Volley of the AAs – Volleyball FunRaiser (Round One)
Proceeds benefit a local charity
7:00 pm

Saturday, April 21, 2018

BLS/ACLS/PALS Renewal Certification Course
Instructors: Bob Culver, Megan Varellas & Stephanie West
Proceeds go to the AAAA Legislative Fund
1:30 - 5:30 pm

Exhibitors & Sponsors Take Note

More than a four-day CME activity, AAAA2018TM is the one-stop anesthesia care team marketplace for businesses marketing to CAAs, AA students and physicians looking to hire their next anesthetist.

This year, exhibitors (businesses and anesthesia practices) are invited to participate in a student career fair on Friday, April 20, 2018. Exhibitors will be granted the opportunity to network with students, conduct interviews and have additional face-to-face engagement with future clients, customers and employees.

Maximize your exposure to the next generation of anesthetists. Make new contacts and strengthen existing relationships by showcasing your newest products and services. This year's beachfront location in St. Pete, FL is sure to attract record attendance. For more information visit www.anesthetist.org/exhibits---sponsorships.

Exhibit & Sponsor Levels

- Double Platinum Level \$10,000
- Platinum Level \$5,000
- Gold Level \$ 3,500
- Silver Level \$ 2,500
- Bronze Level \$ 2,000
- General Sponsor \$ 2000
- Sponsorship of Conference Bags \$3,000.00
- Basic EXHIBITOR \$ 1,500

Exhibit Location

- Student Career Fair: The Pavilion
- Conference Exhibiting: Banyan Breezeway

Exhibit Assembly and Disassembly

- Assembly:
 - Student Career Fair Date/Time: Friday, April 20, 2018 - 8:00 am to 10:00 am
 - Conference Exhibiting Date/Time: Friday, April 20, 2018 - 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- Disassembly:
 - Student Career Fair Date/Time: Friday, April 20, 2018 - after 5:00 pm
 - Conference Exhibiting Date/Time: Sunday, April 22, 2018 - after 1:30 pm

Exhibit Schedule

Friday, April 20, 2018 – For Student Career Fair ONLY

Morning: 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Mid-day Break: 11:30 am – 12:00 pm

Afternoon Break: 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Breakfast: 7:00 am – 9:00 am

Break: 10:00 am – 10:30 am

Afternoon: 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Welcome Reception: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Breakfast: 7:00 am – 9:00 am

Break: 10:00 am – 10:30 am

Lunch: 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Registration & Reservations

Hotel Information

TradeWinds Island Resorts

St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

Room Rates

Standard Rooms:

\$235/night (students receive discounted room rates)

Reservations

Reserve online <https://www.tradewindsresort.com/AAAA18>

The group rate applies to hotel stays arriving on April 19, checking out by April 24, 2018. The group rate is available for booking online until March 28, 2018. Reservations are guaranteed with a credit card deposit of one night's room and tax.

Student reservations will be verified. If a Student reservation cannot be verified, guest will be charged non-student attendee rate.

Student Abstract Submission

The student poster presentation at the AAAA annual meeting is open to any current student who attends an accredited anesthesiologist assistant training program and has an active AAAA membership. Although there can be multiple contributors and authors to a project, the presentation must be made by a primary author of the scholarly work. A primary author must have participated in the planning, data collection, and analysis of scientific research or had to be present during the entirety of a clinical vignette (medically challenging case) and conducted the majority of research into the case. A literature review must include evidence from at least five primary sources. Submissions sponsored by pharmaceutical or medical device companies are strongly discouraged and may not be selected for participation. Selection for the student poster session will be based on quality of research, clarity of the abstract, and adherence to the guidelines. An abstract must first be submitted electronically by the designated deadline. Abstract submission for student poster presentation is free of charge. All accepted submissions will be scheduled for presentation and posters will be displayed at the exhibit during the conference.

Abstract submission for student poster presentation is free of charge.

Students should be prepared to present posters during the exhibit and discuss findings with session attendees. Additionally, all presenters are required to present posters at the time listed in the notification email and deliver work for the exhibit evaluators. Each presenter is given approximately five minutes to explain posters and complete comments, followed by a brief period for response to questions.

For additional information visit www.anesthetist.org/aaa-annual-meeting-poster-presentation-guidelines.

ACT Student Pre-Con & Career Expo Friday, April 20

Details and highlights in the March Anesthesia Record



Georgia Academy
of Anesthesiologist Assistants



Ralph F. Dapaah, CAA

2017 President, GAAA
ralphdapaah@gmail.com

As a house must have a solid foundation, it is of the utmost importance that a national organization, such as our own, be supported by many strong and unified components or state academies. However, in order to establish supportive state academies, there must be boots on the ground at the state level. Volunteers, dedicated individuals with advocating spirits, are the foundation of our organizations. Comprised of fellows and students alike, this united front is essential not only to the success of our profession, but also to its survival.

This is a victory that may need to be replicated in other states in the near future.

Maintaining current scope of practice and reimbursement opportunities is a crucial function of the AAAA and state academies. Recent successes would not have been possible without the efforts of our state anesthesiologist societies. An example at the federal level is the Safe VA Care movement which assures physician-led anesthesia care will be provided to the nation's veterans.

Closer to home, the Georgia Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (GAAA), with the strong support of Georgia physician anesthesiologist leaders, implored and successfully effected Georgia Medicaid to clarify language in CAA OB reimbursement rules to approve the billing of multiple concurrent OB epidurals placed and monitored by a CAA. This is a big win for Georgia CAAs and their employers. For that, a special thanks goes to Jet Toney and Jeremy Betts at AAAA, GSA and GAAA

GA Fellows and SAAs advance initiatives

headquarters, our wonderful colleagues at Anesthesia Associates of Gainesville and Northside Anesthesiology Consultants, and the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists (GSA) for tremendous support. This is a victory that may need to be replicated in other states in the near future.

These are effective grassroots conversations that create awareness of the work AAs do in the healthcare marketplace.

Currently, the Georgia legislature is considering Senate Bill 364 which would expand the number of CAAs a physician anesthesiologist can sponsor for licensure to eight from four. This will help AAs who choose to work part-time but find it hard to retain a licensure sponsorship during part-time employment. The bill also expands healthcare access by assuring that anesthetists are available for the maximum number of surgical suites.

The GAAA has conducted AA Day at the Capitol annually since 2012. More than 100 AA students and fellows meet and engage with legislators at the Georgia State Capitol to promote the AA profession. All participants have the honor and privilege of hearing the formal reading of a resolution recognizing the AA profession during Senate deliberations. Most also have an opportunity to meet personally with the hometown legislators. These are effective grassroots conversations that create awareness of the work AAs do in the healthcare marketplace.

The importance of joining or leading the advocacy efforts in your state cannot be stressed enough. Our profession and scope of practice are constantly under attack, not only by adversarial state and national societies, but even inadvertently by insurance and other healthcare entities as well. I encourage all of you to become engaged in your state academy and/or the AAAA. Otherwise, join and maintain membership to support those on the front lines who are promoting and preserving our wonderful profession.



ATLANTA, GA (February 5, 2018) - High company at the Georgia Capitol: Emory SAA Sam Yang on the floor of the state Senate with Lt. Governor Casey Cagle and Health and Human Services Chair Renee Unterman, who is Yang's local legislator.

Volunteers Drive Agendas



ATLANTA, GA (February 5, 2018) - State Sen. Chuck Hufstetler, CAA, R-Rome, explains the legislative process to more than 100 SAAs and AAAA Fellows at AA Day at the Capitol. Hufstetler has earned high marks for his role in developing healthcare policy to expand access to quality medical treatment throughout Georgia. He chairs the powerful tax-writing Senate Finance Committee, which adds to his influence in the legislature.



ATLANTA, GA (February 5, 2018) - Georgia Fellows and SAA students from South University and Emory University cover the North Hall steps at the State Capitol. Front and center are GAAA President Claire Wainwright, CAA, (center front right) and GA Society of Anesthesiologists Immediate-Past, Immediate-Past President Heather Dozier, MD, (center front left).



ATLANTA, GA (February 5, 2018) - Emory SAAs pose with GA state Senator Michael "Doc" Rhett at the State Capitol on AA Day at the Capitol 2018. Legislators were pleased to meet medical providers-in-training, especially those who live in the senators' districts.

Meanwhile in the Lone Star State...



AUSTIN, TX (January 30, 2018) -- Kayla Bober, CAA, (left) and Frank Traska, CAA, (right) acquaint Texas State Representative Sarah Davis, R-Bellaire (Houston area), during a recent fundraising event. CAAs representing the TXAAA and Texas Medical Center attended and represented the AA profession effectively throughout the grassroots advocacy opportunity. TXAAA is focused on addressing state practice and payment issues, finding new employment opportunities for CAAs, and looking to ensure safe and supportive work environments in existing CAA worksites. TXAAA is also working closely with TSA on strategies for CAA state license next session.

...and in Kansas



MISSION HILLS, KS (November 2017) - Longtime AAAA Secretary Ty Townsend, CAA, (left) and Kansas Lt. Governor Jeff Coyer, MD, at a GOP fundraising event last fall. Townsend and other AAs are helping advocate for AA licensure in Kansas.

Bob Culver, CAA

cprbobnow@gmail.com

AAs lead Kenya training

Last October, Sabena Kachwalla, CAA, and Bob Culver, CAA, represented anesthesiologist assistants at the National Association of Clinical Officers in Anesthesia (NACOA) annual convention at the Seven Islands Resort in Malindi, Kenya. Sabena delivered two lectures to an audience of more than 120 COAs. Bob conducted two workshops for BLS and ACLS to groups of 30-plus Clinical Officers.

The invitation to participate at this conference was the result of the Case Western program in Washington, D.C. Case Western has been actively assisting the Clinical Officers in Anesthesia program at Kenya Medical Training Center (KMTTC) in Nairobi, Kenya for several years. The success of the outreach has resulted in developing annual BLS/ACLS courses for the students at KMTTC as well as monthly teleconferences of student case presentations involving both campuses.

The next trip to Kenya will see AAs leading the Resuscitation Training Program, May 11-18, 2018. Also, AAs have been asked to participate in the next annual convention of NACOA to be held in October 2018. AAs who would like to participate should contact Bob Culver at 404-219-4483 or cprbobnow@gmail.com.



Sabena Kachwalla, CAA



MALINDI, KENYA (October 2017) - Bob Culver, CAA, leading ACLS workshops at the NACOA annual convention.

Case Houston buoyed by donations

Contributions from AA students and fellows throughout the nation were directed last fall to the Case Houston program for relief of destruction from persistent rains and flooding brought by Hurricane Harvey in August 2017. Students at Emory University's training program coordinated the collection effort. Simultaneously, the Case Cleveland and DC programs sent aid.

"Much appreciation is expressed to the entire AA community for generosity and rapid response," said Ellie Kirst, SAA, Emory Class of 2019 Student Body Chief. More than \$2,000 was generated in the effort. Kirst said that in addition to student fundraising donations were collected from CAAs in Florida, Ohio, Kansas, and Georgia. Students for South University also participated.

"It was an incredible example of compassion and support," Kirst said. "It is inspiring to see that the AA community truly is that -- a force that will continue to look out for, support, and stand by each other."

According to Ken Maloney, CAA, Case Houston Program Director, building and people were affected by the 2017 floods in many ways. Classes were disrupted for several weeks as the classroom and simulator were flood damaged. It took almost three weeks to remediate the damage and return. Classes were held in the UT Medical School building and SIM labs were conducted later in the semester. Several students suffered minor losses in their apartments and homes.

We have witnessed great blessings come from such destruction.

"Thanks to the generous donations from the Emory AA program and Case DC and Cleveland programs those who suffered losses were able to receive funds to replace their losses," Maloney said. "We are now back on track as we enter the Spring semester of 2018."

Continued on Page 19



John Ng, CAA

Poster, PBLD Coordinator
jnwspa@gmail.com

AAAA poster abstract submission for AAAA2018 closed February 9. Appreciation is extended to all who submitted abstracts. The 2018 poster presentations are divided into the following three categories:

- Original Scientific Research
- Medically Challenging Cases
- Literature Review

For the first time, AAAA will host a competitive poster session. The Academy is partnering with the AAAPD in recognizing two student poster presenters in two award categories. More than 40 student participants will present their posters to a panel of judges, and the panel will select two best presenters based on not only poster contents and designs but also oral presentation skills. The panel will conclude the session by announcing two winners; one student will be recognized for “outstanding poster presentation” and another for “most innovative poster presentation.”

40 shades of posters



DENVER, CO (April 2016) - Student and Fellow discussion of scientific research supporting poster presentations at AAAA2016.

Poster sessions allow for casual exchange of information in research studies and review of experiments within the anesthesia field.

The AAAA poster sessions allow for casual exchange of information in research studies and review of experiments within the anesthesia field. All 2018 conference attendants are invited to the poster session on Saturday from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. During the hour, all fellow and student participants will present posters to conference attendees at-large. Presenters will share the work and exchange ideas with attendees.

Poster session interaction creates an environment of engagement and professional discussion of theory, science and research processes. Attendees play as important a role as the poster presenters. Engagement among members is a hallmark of AAAA annual meetings. Conversation leads to brainstorming and from that new viewpoints which may help foster advancements in any given topic.

For more information about the AAAA poster and PBLD submissions, please email aaaasubmissions@anesthetist.org.



Our mission, message remain

James E. "Jet" Toney

Executive Director

A wise, veteran leader of the AAAA told me early on that members want the Academy to create jobs. His message was simple, and I immediately understood. The Academy is engineered to create new career pathways for anesthesiologist assistants. This is accomplished through direct state and federal advocacy and fueled by annual member dues payment and annual contributions to the Legislative Fund.

The Academy has many moving parts and operates in many theaters, but job #1 at AAAA remains creating job opportunities for AAs. This is mission focus. The mission does not change. Mission is the compass (GPS) keeping direction and progress true.

The AAAA message is also unchanged – Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants provide high-quality anesthesia and perioperative care and expand the delivery of patient-centered healthcare within the proven Anesthesia Care Team model.

Professional associations too often spend thousands of dollars on consultants who eventually tell leaders what the leaders already inherently know – who we are and what the organization is supposed to do for members. This is not the case in your professional organization. AAAA leaders remain focused on the things that matter – licensure expansion, resolving billing issues, and opening doors with potential employers of AAs.

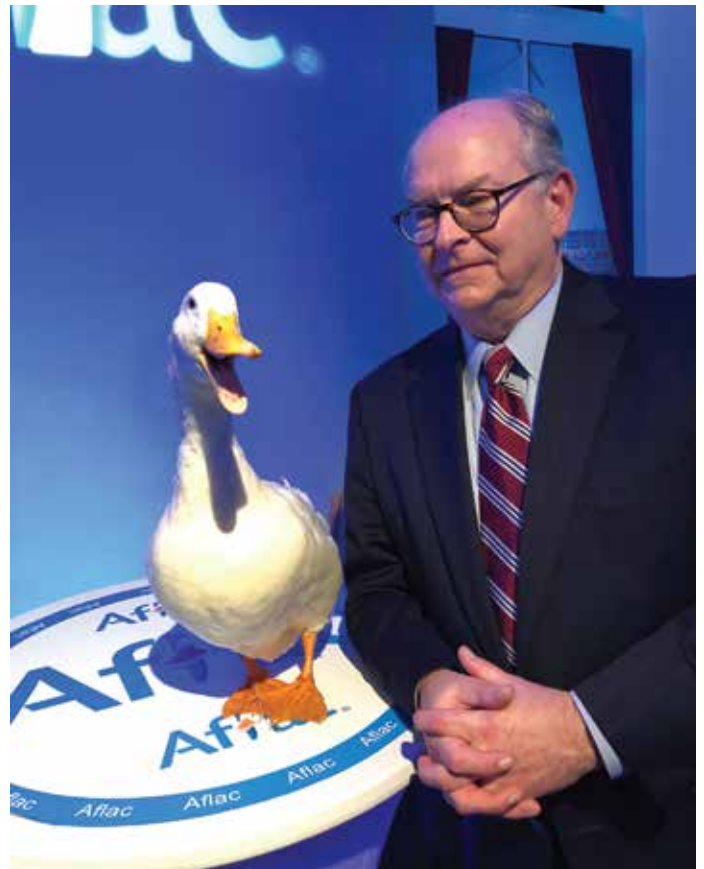
Job #1 at AAAA remains creating job opportunities for AAs.

Our message is the key that unlocks doors to new career opportunity and helps repair and restore the roads AAs have trod.

I was recently reminded of the effectiveness of keeping one's message simple. At a promotional reception for the City of Columbus, Georgia, I had an opportunity for a photo with a globally famous iconic waterfowl mascot. In television commercials, only one word is dubbed over the animal's "quack" – the name of company for whom the fowl serves as spokesduck. Hence, the advertising message is simple, succinct and ever so effective. AAAA's mission and message remain simple as well – "jobs."

Our message is the key that unlocks doors to new career opportunity.

AAAA leaders – officers, board members and select invitees – will meet later this year in Atlanta for strategic planning. This activity is an investment of those individuals (and the families they leave behind) to assure that AAAA does not stray from its mission and message. Rather, President Nick Davies will lead a focused discussion on how the Academy can better serve members within our mission and message. Generally, I detest strategic planning because the effort too often devolves into pointless "pie in the sky" goal-setting with little structure or tactical guidance. This will not be the case in July because the AAAA mission and message are clear and are worthy of faithfulness to the underlying principles.



Editors Note: Jet Toney is a former newspaper writer/editor and crisis communication trainer. He has consulted on more than 225 election campaigns, concentrating on message development and direct mail promotion. Jet is currently lobbying for clients in his 43rd consecutive annual session of the Georgia General Assembly. He became the AAAA Executive Director in January 2014.

In Memoriam

Trailblazer Cannarella helped students, fought bad guys



Chuck Cannarella

Fullback, CAA, DSc, Police Chief,
Husband, Father
(1946-2018)

The AAAA community mourns the passing of one of its founders, Charles “Chuck” Cannarella, CAA, DSc, 71, who died on January 16, 2018. Chuck graduated from Emory University’s AA program in 1972. Upon completion, he was one of the first CAAs to be employed outside of the Emory system, accepting a position at St. Joseph’s Hospital of Atlanta. Chuck was instrumental in building the foundation of the Academy. The fruit of his labor is seen as AAAA continues to grow and represent the AA profession on a foundation he and a small group of visionaries poured.

Mr. Cannarella taught cardiovascular physiology for the Emory AA program for over a decade. For more than 20 years, he was well-known by students for being one of the best cardiac clinical preceptors. His passion for cardiac anesthesia and teaching went beyond the operating room as he participated in several forms of community service noted in his formal obituary.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Joanne, daughter Jill (George) Pierce, son Todd (Heather) Cannarella, grandchildren Mitchell, Madeline and Maxwell Cannarella, William and Emily Pierce, sister Carolann Shaw, niece Colleen Cox, nephew John Shaw and several cousins.

Somewhat of a Renaissance Man, Chuck shifted career paths after his children graduated college to join law enforcement. He graduated from the Police Academy and began serving on the City of Porterdale (GA) Police Department. Chuck became its chief. He later served as chief of the City of Senoia (GA) department then worked for US Homeland Security. His ability to minimize the threat of scofflaws is not surprising; he played fullback on a state championship football team (Eastside HS, Paterson, NJ).

Chuck will be deeply missed. His efforts will continue to have an influence on the lives of CAAs in and out of the operating room. In memoriam, AAAA donated to the National Aphasia Association, as selected by the family. To contribute, contact the National Aphasia Association, PO Box 87, Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583 or online at www.aphasia.org

Legislative - From Page 11

Currently, AAAA has established connections with many state anesthesiologist societies and seeks opportunities to establish more. We believe these will prove fruitful in 2018. We also know AAAA will be advantaged to create, foster, and strengthen relationships with elected officials in states where AA practice has long been the law.

Contact Jeremy Betts at HQ when you think of possible relationships so staff can enter the individuals in the critical contact list for that state. We will encourage the AA moving forward and help develop the relationship with the key contact to further the aims of AAAA.

The Legislation Committee is one of the most dynamic committees in the Academy. To engage in the work of advocating for the AA profession, contact chair Layne DiLoreto, CAA.

Houston - From Page 16

“We are grateful for the outreach from the AA community to support the students in Houston and to send their prayers and thoughts to our damaged city. We have seen so much solidarity in the local areas that were damaged as many were mucking houses together, delivering water and food to the workers, and generally bonding together to rebuild neighborhoods. We have witnessed great blessings come from such destruction.”



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ACT Pre-Con:
Professional Development for Student AAs
Friday, April 20, 2018
(included in SAA annual meeting registration)

