



# the AnesthesiaRecord

AAAA<sup>®</sup> American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants<sup>®</sup>

Spring 2018



April 21-24

TradeWinds Beach Resorts  
St. Pete Beach, FL

The path to  
professional  
citizenship  
begins at AAAA2018<sup>™</sup>

ACT Pre-Con & Career Fair | April 20



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### The Anesthesia Record

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### AAAA® Executive Offices

1231-J Collier Rd. NW

Atlanta, GA 30318

Phone: 678-222-4233 Fax: 404-249-8831

[www.anesthetist.org](http://www.anesthetist.org)

[info@anesthetist.org](mailto:info@anesthetist.org)

# 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



DALLAS, TX (February 2018) - AAAA Practice Committee Chair Jana McAlister (center) joins friends in meeting former President George Bush at a gubernatorial campaign fundraiser for Bush cousin Walker Stapleton (not pictured). Stapleton, the Colorado State Treasurer, is running for his state's highest office in the summer Republican primary. McAlister spoke with Stapleton about the success of UC Denver's AA training program and expansion of AA practice in Colorado.



**Nick Davies, CAA**

President, AAAA  
nickadav@gmail.com

## Your Academy: bigger, busier, broader

The success of the AAAA as a professional organization is directly related to the success of the anesthesiologist assistant profession. When the AAAA thrives, the profession thrives, and when the AAAA struggles, the profession also struggles. No other organization exists whose sole purpose is to advance and protect the anesthesiologist assistant profession.

**“No other organization exists  
whose sole purpose is to advance...  
the anesthesiologist assistant profession”**

Under the excellent leadership of Immediate Past-President Gina Scarboro 2017 was an excellent year for the AAAA and the profession. 2018 is already shaping up to be as well. In the last year, AAAA membership grew 10% from 1668 to 1844. The organization's gross revenue increased by over 14% from 2016. Through strong leadership, proper planning, and good financial stewardship, the AAAA's financial reserves swelled to an amount more appropriate for our size. These reserves provide a bulwark against unexpected storms that might come at the state or national levels. As members and practicing CAAs, we owe a great deal of gratitude for working to create a firm financial foundation for the Academy to Gina, all leaders who served the past year, and management company Cornerstone Communications Group.

The first quarter of 2018 has already been a busy one. AAAA leaders attended multiple meetings of state societies of anesthesiologists with more scheduled. At these events, our team worked with physicians to lay the groundwork for AA licensure in the very near future. Because of this hard work, we strongly anticipate multiple new states opening to AA practice within the next two years. This is what the volunteers of your Academy do and why your support of this organization is so important. Frequent cross-country travel, long weekends spent speaking with physicians and legislators, time away from our families all serve you and our profession. We do this with joy, but we can't do this without our membership giving of their time, monetary resources, or both.

Looking ahead, this will be a busy year. We eagerly look forward to our AAAA Annual Meeting on April 21-24 in St. Petersburg, FL. For the first time ever, an extra day (April 20) will be added solely to serve the needs of our student members. In May, AAAA leaders will participate in the ASA Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, meeting with federal lawmakers to discuss issues related to anesthesia care throughout the United States. In July, the AAAA Board of Directors will hold a weekend-long strategic planning session where the next 3-5 years of AAAA goals will be set.

In October at the ASA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, we will work closely with ASA officers to align our strategies to promote common interests. In April, July, and October, the AAAA Board of Directors conducts quarterly board meetings open to any member. During these meetings, we review and discuss issues and opportunities important to the Academy and to the profession. We welcome you to attend these meetings to see how your Academy works.

**“Enter the fold. Be a part of the family.”**

The AAAA lives and dies by its members. Not everyone has the time, ability, or inclination to volunteer to be a leader, but everyone has talent, willingness, or resources to support this Academy in some way. Join a committee and let your voice be heard. Donate to the legislative fund so we can continue to push for AA licensure in all 50 states. Attend the AAAA Annual Meeting. Enter the fold. Be a part of the family. The only way we survive is by protecting each other, and the only mechanism by which we do that is by making the AAAA the strongest organization it can possibly be.



**Christopher Wade, CAA**  
2017 Communication Committee Chair

Thank you to all members who invested time and thought in completing the 2017 AAAA membership survey. Drawing from a record turnout of more than 360 participants, the collected data will be utilized for the benefit of the organization and its members. In addition to listening to member feedback, the AAAA also emphasizes maintaining transparency and honest communication with its members. To this end, the AAAA has chosen to highlight the primary results of the 2017 AAAA membership survey in this publication. All members are entitled to the complete survey results but are asked to contact the AAAA headquarters to request this information. Any personal information optionally provided by survey participants will not be shared.

## "77% of CAAs report that they are satisfied."

If you participated in the 2017 membership survey, you may have noticed both new and old questions. The AAAA will recycle standard questions, such as membership satisfaction, to gauge trends. By discerning statistically significant improvements or deficits in performance categories, the AAAA may effectively grade against previous years. This historical perspective allows the organization to continue to learn as it grows. Several new questions or polled topics in the 2017 survey covered practice group type, volunteerism, VA system perception and interest, AAAA conference preferences, and legislative activism.

## "Nearly 50% of CAAs revealed interest in volunteering for the AAAA or their state academy!."

# Survey says: your voice matters

Practicing CAAs composed 82% of all 2017 survey participants, while 7% were first year CAA fellows, 3% were physician members, and 15% were student members. Emory represented 28%, South 16%, Wisconsin 10% and CWRU Houston 10% of the student participants. To better track the changing trends in anesthesia practices, CAAs were asked to share their practice group types. Private practice commands a dwindling majority at 39%, while 24% of CAA respondents work within an academic system, 20% identify themselves as hospital employees, 15% work for a national anesthesia company, 2% are self-employed, 1% take Locum Tenens positions, and 1% work for a government or county hospital. Of those working for a national anesthesia company, 39% were Envision employees, 14% TeamHealth, 19% American Anesthesiology, 6% Premier Anesthesia, and 6% Mednax.

Membership satisfaction responses corresponded well with previous years. Approximately 77% of CAAs report that they are satisfied, 19% report indifference, and 3% are dissatisfied with their membership. For students, 84% report satisfaction, 13% indifference, and 2% dissatisfaction with their membership. Interestingly, both CAAs and students share the top reasons for membership satisfaction and dissatisfaction. For satisfied CAAs and SAAs, 78% and 64%, respectively, express most satisfaction in knowing membership offers collective benefit. Over 50% of CAAs and SAAs were also satisfied with their membership since it supports the AAAA's efforts to advance AA legislation. Of the indifferent or dissatisfied CAAs and SAAs, 48% and 25%, respectively, feel the AAAA could be more effective in growing the profession. Lastly, 31% of CAAs and 25% of SAAs who identified as indifferent or dissatisfied, feel that their membership offers low value to the individual.

Over the last decade, the AAAA has been observing a positive change in its general perception in the workplace of many prominent CAA employers. Although 100% participation in profession advocacy -- a functional component of professional citizenship -- is the goal, 56% of CAAs claim to promote the AAAA in the workplace. This takes the form of encouraging fellow CAAs to renew their membership and sharing news of policies and legislation that directly impacts CAAs and the Anesthesia Care Team.

## "Active members are the backbone of a robust professional organization."

Of the 27% who reported poor or unknown AAAA membership rates at their place of work, the large majority (51%) attributed lower membership rates to a false sense of job security and an under valuation of AAAA membership. Of those claiming low AAAA membership rates at work, 21% attributed it to a historically negative opinion or anti-AAAA culture within the practice and 18% attributed it to the lack of employer compensation for membership dues. The 2017 survey reveals that only 10% of employers do not reimburse their employees for professional membership dues. There were three reports of employers not allowing allotted CME money to be used toward professional membership dues.

Some confusion of AAAA benefits and how to redeem them persists. Unfortunately, 15% reported that they are unaware that their AAAA membership makes them eligible for NCCAA discounts, such as CME submission fees and CDQ recertification exam fees. Thank you to those who requested information on how to take advantage of this and other AAAA membership discounts. The membership committee will contact these individuals.

The 2017 survey incorporated a new section of questions polling interest in volunteering. Nearly 50% of CAAs revealed interest in volunteering for the AAAA or their state academy! In this group, 39% were interested in volunteering for their AAAA state academy, 38% for the AAAA Legislative Committee, 26% for the practice committee, 18% for the membership committee, and 16% for the annual meeting committee. Thank you for considering a volunteer and/or leadership role within the AAAA or your state academy! Each committee or academy's current leadership will be reaching out to those who shared contact information to learn more about volunteer opportunities. The AAAA functions and is fueled by volunteer energy. Even a small increase in new volunteers will greatly benefit the organization's productivity. This show of volunteer interest alludes to a promising road ahead for the AAAA.

A tremendous amount of valuable information has been collected, which will influence AAAA organizational assessments and action plans. As the AAAA and AA profession continue to grow, it becomes even more important for members to embrace professional citizenship by taking ownership of and an active role in their organization. Active membership looks different for everyone, but begins with staying informed and responsive. Active members are the backbone of a robust professional organization. Thank you again to all members who took the time to share their voices.

## **Member survey results of note**

### **AAAA transparency**

AAAA's Fiscal Transparency with Membership Dues

13% Very Clear, 36% Clear, 42% Vague, 10% No transparency

AAAA's Communication of Goals

13% Very Clear, 42% Clear, 40% Vague, 5% No Transparency

### **What should be AAAA's top priorities?**

#1 Profession Security, e.g resolving reimbursement, practice and legislative challenges (51%)

#2 State Licensure Expansion Efforts (43%)

#3 Advocacy/Advertising of the Profession (42%)

## **Practice demographics**

8% commute across state to work.

60% say it would be easy to transfer to a new practice group within their state. Only 2% say this would be impossible.

44% say it would be easy to transfer to a new practice group within their city/region. 15% say this would be impossible.

## **Veterans Administration**

Contingent on competitive pay, 64% claim they would be interested in employment at a VA hospital.

17% have favorable opinions of the VA system, while 32% share an unfavorable opinion.

29% would consider VA employment in a state without CAA licensure or fellow CAAs. Another 13% would consider VA employment in a state without CAA licensure if other CAAs joined.

## **AAAA state academy membership**

74% are members of their state academy, 19% do not belong to their state academy, and 5% do not have access to a state academy.

## **New licensure states of interest**

CAAs	Students
28% California	33% California
9% New York	8% Tennessee
8% Texas	8% Michigan
6.5% Tennessee	4% New York
5% Michigan	4% Illinois
4% Virginia	4% Louisiana
4% Kentucky	4% Texas

## **States Needing More Job Opportunities**

14% No Preference  
 24% North Carolina  
 20% Texas  
 18% Colorado  
 12% South Carolina  
 11% Florida  
 10% Ohio  
 7% Michigan  
 7% Missouri  
 5% Wisconsin

## **Interest in working in states without licensure**

17% of practicing CAAs would immediately move (if possible) to a particular state if licensure were passed. 35% of students would.

## **States where participant is materially connected**

(was either born, raised, has immediate family residing, and/or immediate family with healthcare or political connections in the state):

## **CAAs**

30% Georgia  
 26% Ohio  
 26% Florida  
 18% Texas  
 16% California  
 12% North Carolina  
 10% Michigan  
 9% Missouri  
 9% New York  
 9% Pennsylvania  
 8% Tennessee  
 6% Virginia  
 6% Wisconsin

## **Appropriate annual Legislative Fund donation**

35% say \$100  
 25% say 50% of 1 day's wage  
 25% say 100% of 1 day's wage  
 5% say 200% of 1 day's wage  
 10% say it depends on the individual's financial situation

## **Conference**

33% will attend

Goal of attendance: For CAAs, 66% CME credits, 31% networking, 28% Vacation, 25% for resources to influence practice.

Enticing location aspects: 48% Beach/Warm Weather, 27% New location or state pursuing AA licensure, 37% Convenient Location (affordable travel).

Top reasons not attending conference: 63% cannot secure vacation time, 23% location is not convenient, 22% travel/lodging costs.

# Adulting: A CAA's journey to professional investment



**Trine Vik, CAA**

Legislative Fund Sub-Committee Chair

*Adulting (v): to carry out one or more of the duties and responsibilities expected of fully developed individuals. Exclusively used by those who adult less than 50% of the time.*  
- Urban Dictionary

Spending money on new clothes, vacations and the Whole Foods salad bar is fun. Spending money on cell phone bills, car repairs, and health insurance is not. Membership dues and Legislative Fund contributions fall into the latter category. But, all Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) should consider these expenditures a direct investment in his/her professional future. The Legislative Fund exists so that the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA) can protect CAA scope of practice and value of service and to create job opportunities in more states.

## “The Legislative Fund is a piggybank for the professional advancement of CAAs.”

The Legislative Fund is a piggybank for the professional advancement of CAAs. Any AAAA member or state Academy in good standing can make a request to the Legislative Fund Subcommittee chairman to procure funds for legislative advocacy. In 2015 the New Mexico Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants requested \$10,000 to contract a lobbyist for the expansion of CAA practice in the state. Last year, the AAAA used \$5,000 to fly two students from Florida to testify for Nevada licensure. Already in 2018, \$3,000 has been invested sending AAAA leadership to state anesthesiologist society meetings to help introduce CAA licensure. The AAAA's ability to fund and coordinate these legislative efforts nationwide depends fully on contributions from members.

CAA licensure legislation is gaining frequency. The challenge is that the Legislative Fund has not grown to satisfy this rate of opportunity. In 2015, members donated \$45,097. In 2016 and 2017, \$51,870 and \$57,271, respectively. 62% of contributions were invested legislative efforts last year. While this may seem like a good progression and use of funds, it doesn't provide the sort of endowment necessary to fully advocate for CAA licensure bills. Retaining a lobbyist alone can cost upwards of \$50,000 per year, and that's just for efforts in one state! The AAAA works with 5-10 states per year on legislative efforts, and it takes an average of five years to pass a bill. The sum of these efforts far exceeds the average \$51,412 of contributions per year.

The balance of funds needed to push CAA licensure comes from allied organizations. In this regard, the Legislative Fund is more akin to a 401(k) employer match than a piggybank. All legislative funding requests require proof of groundwork. Applicants must disclose how much money has been raised for the legislative initiative by their state Academy and/or state anesthesiologist society. Applicants must list contacts of state leaders, allied individuals and groups, and potential contract lobbyists. In a retirement plan, the employee must contribute X% of pre-tax income to earn the employer X% match. Same for disbursements of the Leg Fund.

If CAAs invest in the profession, the AAAA will invest in them. The AAAA is not like a mother's dinner table. No one will ring the bell and announce, “dinner is ready, come and get it.” If CAAs want to expand practice locations, to fund a bill, to continue to make money and feed their families, they have to invest in the future through the Leg Fund.

Simply put, the more money raised, the more bills are passed. According to [opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org), in 2016 the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) raised \$1,342,328 from its 49,000 members and spent \$1,150,972. That's \$27.40 raised per member. If 100% of AAAA members donated \$27.40, the Legislative Fund would maintain its annual fundraising total. Since there are 23 CRNAs for every CAA in the United States, CAAs would need to donate \$595 each to match the AANA legislative budget. This demonstrates the need for CAAs nationwide to step up fundraising efforts to make more significant strides in developing the profession.

As states continue to show interest in CAA licensure, resources to pass bills are stretched thin and the burden on contributing AAAA members rises. In 2017, 58% of CAAs in the country were active AAAA members and only 33.7% of those members contributed to the Legislative Fund. On average, contributors donated \$89 per person, with students making up 68% of all contributors, but fellows donating 54% of total funds. 17% of contributors donated less than \$10, which, due to processing fees, actually costs the AAAA money. If 100% of the AAAA members donated \$89, the legislative fund would increase by 200% (from \$57,271 to \$171,948). That's four times the legislative effort the AAAA could muster per year!

Does \$89 sound like a lot? According to [payscale.com](http://payscale.com), the median CAA income as of March 2018 is \$136,148 a year. The average state income tax in states where CAAs practice under licensure and delegatory authority is 5.17%. If the average CAA contributes 6% of pre-tax monthly income to a 401(k) and files as single with two federal allowances, they take home \$7,439 per month or \$89,270 annually. A CAA who donates \$89 per year is investing 0.1% of income toward their professional future.

**“The bottom line is that any practicing CAA can afford to contribute to their profession.”**

Such a contribution is dismally inadequate compared to other common investments. A new parent that wants to pay for 67% of a child’s college tuition contributes a median of \$300 per month to a 529 college savings plan. That equals \$3,600 per year and 4% of the average CAA’s take home pay. Recall that retained lobbyists, who look out for licensure that threatens CAA billing practices, i.e. CAA salaries, cost \$50,000 annually. If 0.1% isn’t enough to pay for college, it’s certainly not enough to contribute to the cost of initiating or protecting CAA licensure.

The most popular contribution per person to the Legislative Fund is \$100 annually. If 28% of students can donate \$100 as a student, the aforementioned financial breakdown proves two things. First, students can make it through CAA school, donate \$100 annually and be financially secure in the grand scheme of a career. \$8.33 per month is equal to one Jimmy John’s sandwich with chips. (I averaged about 2 per week in anesthesia school). Secondly, working CAAs can afford \$500 annually. That’s \$41.67 a month. \$42 is easily spent on a pedicure or some trendy tapas restaurant. CAAs who don’t get pedicures could consider how much they spend on nice vacations or new electronic devices. The bottom line is that any practicing CAA can afford to contribute to their profession.

**“2018 is a great time to get in the habit of investing in your professional future.”**

As Dr. Jeffrey Plagenhoef, past-president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, likes to say, “If you’re not donating, you’re freeloading.” This motto applies to individuals as well as states. As you can see Table 1 below, Florida and Georgia raised well over \$10,000 each for the Legislative Fund in 2017. States with a strong CAA workforce and stable practice environment have the right to be annoyed. States like Indiana where workforces are growing should post stronger numbers in the near term.

Individuals can donate now and encourage colleagues to participate in the annual Fall Fund Drive. For one week in the fall states compete against each other for total amount contributed and number of CAAs contributing.

2018 is a great time to get in the habit of investing in your professional future. Go to [anesthetist.org](http://anesthetist.org), sign in and click on “Contribute to the Legislative Fund” today. You can contribute \$100 or \$500 with a few clicks or set up a monthly or quarterly contribution plan. Contributors will receive a free AAAA car decal if they donate \$12 or more per month for 12 months. Remember, spending money is fun and you’re not a freeloader.

**Table 1. 2017 Legislative Fund Contribution Total by State**

State	Contribution Total (\$)
Alabama	100
Colorado	3406
DC	2002
Florida	13120
Georgia	11895
Indiana	370
Kentucky	20
Missouri	7106
New Mexico	740
North Carolina	110
Ohio	6455
Oklahoma	0
South Carolina	135
Vermont	0
Wisconsin	2955.25
Michigan	2845
Texas	4267



**Samantha Evankovich, CAA**  
Annual Meeting Committee Chair

Every year the Annual Meeting Committee attempts to make the next meeting better than the year before. We might have done it, again!

This year's 42nd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants is being held in St. Pete Beach, Florida outside of Tampa. The 42nd meeting boasts a total of 35 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™! The committee has taken time to scour the country to find the best speakers. It is always a tremendous challenge to search for speakers who are not only engaging but the best and brightest in our specialty.

## 'By St. Pete, I think we've done it'

For the first time, the AAAA is offering a student development day, a pre-conference or "pre-con" focusing on life after AA school. The pre-con will begin following a luncheon with vendors and will feature Dr. Karen Sibert, an anesthesiologist working in Los Angeles who is no stranger to the AA profession. She has been the keynote at Emory University's CAA graduation and was a speaker at our 40th annual meeting in Denver in 2016. In her free time, she writes a blog about anesthesia and medicine, entitled "A Penned Point" (<http://apennedpoint.com/>).

The pre-con will also focus on money management, savings, and protection for the newly graduated CAA by Travis Moore, a financial advisor based in Atlanta, Georgia. A panel of CAA leaders follow to share the goals, values, and benefits of being part of the AAAA. This panel includes Soren Campbell, JD, CAA, the Executive Director of the NCCAA discussing the ITE, certification

exam, and continuing medical education credits (CMEs). The pre-con indoor event will finish with ASA SEE live, demonstrated by Dr. Natalie Holt. SEE, or Self Evaluation and Education, will demonstrate the ASA's question and answer CME product focusing on new literature and research in anesthesia.

**"The 42nd meeting boasts a total of 35 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™!"**

Get ready to rally! The conclusion of the pre-con event will be a round robin style sand volleyball tournament, "Volley to Serve." Come join the fun! The Annual Meeting Committee looks forward to seeing you in St. Pete Beach! For details, visit the meeting pages at [www.anesthetist.org](http://www.anesthetist.org)

**"The Annual Meeting Committee looks forward to seeing you in St. Pete Beach!"**

This is just the start of the conference there is much more in store for the 42nd annual meeting, see the syllabus below.

### AGENDA

#### Friday, April 20 - ACT Pre-Con: Student Professional Development Day

9:00 am - 11:00 pm	Exhibit Assembly
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Student Registration
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Student Networking with Exhibitors
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Current Controversies in Clinical Anesthesia Practice Karen Sibert, MD, FASA
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Financial Management Travis Moore
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Break with Exhibitors
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Professional Development Panel Discussion AAAA: Nick Davies, CAA; Jeremy Betts, JD; Layne DiLoreto, CAA; Sherry Cucci, CAA NCCAA: Soren Campbell, CAA, JD
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	The ASA Self Education & Evaluation Course - SEE Live! Natalie Holt, MD, MPH

#### Friday, April 20 - General Session

8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Educational Workshop: Simulation in Contemporary AA Education Sponsored by AAAPD
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	AAAPD Board Meeting
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Early-Bird Registration General Exhibit Set-Up
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	AAP Meeting (closed session)
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Volley to Serve - Volleyball Tournament

#### Saturday, April 21 - General Session

7:00 am - 2:00 pm	Registration
7:00 am - 8:00 am	AAAA Annual Kick Off Breakfast with Exhibitors Student Jeopardy Rules Meeting (*Mandatory meeting for participants)
8:00 am - 9:00 am	President's Address & AAAA Business Meeting Nick Davies, CAA, 2018 AAAA President Update from NCCAA Soren Campbell, CAA, JD
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Top 10 Perioperative Safety Topics of the Patient Safety Foundation Mark Warner, MD
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Risk Management & Best Practices Workshop for AAAPD Board of Directors (closed session) Elise Scanlon, JD
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Coffee Break with Exhibitors
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Clinical Preceptor Meeting



10:30 am - 11:30 am Opioid-free anesthesia: A realistic goal?  
Karen Sibert, MD, FASA

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Anesthetic Considerations in Subarachnoid Hemorrhage Part I  
Sam Yang, MD

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm ASA Update, John F. Dombrowski, MD, FASA, ASA Secretary

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm ARC-AA Board Meeting (closed session)

1:30 pm General Session Ends

2:00 pm - 4:30 pm Student Jeopardy Preliminary Rounds (For Jeopardy Participants Only)

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm AAAA Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Student Poster Session with Fellows

1:30 pm - 5:30 pm BLS/ACLS/PALS Renewal Certification Course  
Instructors: Bob Culver, CAA, Megan Varellas, CAA & Stephanie West, MS, RRT

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Fellow Reception

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Welcome Reception with Exhibitors

**Sunday, April 22 - General Session**

7:00 am - 4:00 pm Registration

7:00 am - 8:00 am Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:00 am - 9:00 am Anesthetic Considerations in aSAH Part II  
Sam Yang, MD

8:00 am - 10:00 am State Component Society Meeting

9:00 am - 10:00 am Legislative Fund Sub-Committee Meeting

9:00 am - 10:00 am Anesthesia Continuing Education Course - ACE Live!  
Joel O. Johnson, MD, PhD, University of Wisconsin SMPH

9:00 am - 10:30 am Clinical Preceptor Meeting

10:00 am - 10:30 am Coffee Break with Exhibitors

10:00 am - 11:00 am Student Committee Meeting

10:30 am - 11:30 am Business of Anesthesia- Moving Full Speed Ahead  
Laura K. Knoblauch, CAA, MMHSc, MBA-HA

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Legislative Committee Meeting

11:30 am - 12:30 pm ERAS & The Great Fluid Debat  
Cameron Howard, MD

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Governance Meeting

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm Lunch on Your Own

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Ethical Concerns in Anesthesiology  
Rhashedah Ekeoduru, MD

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm State Academies Forum

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm The Training of Clinical Officers Anaesthetists in Kenya  
David Kingori Ngunjiri, CO; Fenwick Mutunga Muthangya, CO

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Practice Management Committee Meeting

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Federal Affairs Committee Meeting

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Student Jeopardy  
\*Sponsored by AAAPD

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm President's Reception/South Lawn

**Monday, April 23- General Session**

7:00 am - 4:00 pm Registration

7:00 am - 8:00 am Breakfast

8:00 am - 9:00 am What's New in Labor Analgesia and Anesthesia for Cesarean Section  
Robert Gaiser, MD, MSED

8:00 am - 10:00 am Finance Committee Meeting

9:00 am - 10:00 am Fetal Assessment: What the Anesthesia Provider Should Know  
McCallum Hoyt, MD, MBA

10:00 am - 10:30 am Coffee Break

10:30 am - 11:30 am Understanding Current Problems in Obstetrics and Impact on Anesthesia  
Robert Gaiser, MD, MSED

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Current Myths in Obstetric Anesthesia  
McCallum Hoyt, MD, MBA

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm Lunch on Your Own

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Membership Committee & Sub-Committee: Communications/AM Committee Meeting

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Anesthetic Implications for Trisomy 21, 18 and 13  
Anne Baetzel, MD

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Informed Consent in OB Anesthesia: Theory vs Reality  
Michael Altose, MD, PhD

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Pediatric Trauma  
Rhashedah Ekeoduru, MD

**Tuesday, April 24 - General Session**

7:00 am - 8:00 am Breakfast

8:00 am - 9:00 am Impact of the Opioid Epidemic on the Pediatric Surgical Population  
Anne Baetzel, MD

9:00 am - 10:00 am The Interactive Learning Laboratory: Stop lecturing and start teaching!  
Michael Altose, MD, PhD

10:00 am - 10:30 am Coffee Break

10:30 am - 11:30 am Documentation Data & Outcomes in Anesthesia  
Mani Vindhya, MD, FASA

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Echo: Essentials & Pitfalls  
Mani Vindhya, MD, FASA



**Kristl Kamm, CAA**  
Atlanta, Georgia (by way of St. Pete)  
Member, AAAA Board

St. Pete beach is an eclectic and beautiful Gulf Coast beach community and the host of this year's annual AAAA conference. With white sands, green waters and picturesque blue skies, St. Pete Beach is a favorite of locals and tourists alike with endless amounts of excitement and charm. As a native of the greater Tampa Bay area, my adolescent years with friends and family were spent on St. Pete beach, enjoying the place we referred to as "our little piece of paradise." This beach front community is a perfect place to catch some sun, dig your feet in the sand and eat a fresh grouper sandwich. St. Pete Beach enchants everyone who visits and keeps visitors coming back for more.

**"St. Pete Beach enchants everyone who visits."**

Established nearly a century ago, St. Pete Beach quickly became one of the most sought-after communities in Florida. Ranked one of the best beaches internationally, it provides individuals at all stages of life with a variety of lifestyle options -- the opportunity to raise a family, enjoy a weekend getaway, or retire permanently into a more laid back and relaxing environment. This beach town is known for its beautiful and historic beach front resorts such as the Don Cesar, also known as "the pink palace," and its equally charming mom and pop beach motels that scatter that coast, such as The Little Gasparilla Inn and Postcard Inn, both preserving the old Florida beach charm.

# St. Pete memories forecast fun

Local beach bars and low-key restaurants such as Woody's, The Drunken Clam, and Rum Runners provide visitors with the ability to grab some fresh seafood and simultaneously enjoy the views. Nightlife is always enjoyable with a casual transition from daytime to evening where flip flops and casual wear are undeniably appropriate. Activities such as parasailing, dolphin watching, and enjoying the ocean via catamarans are readily available.

**"This beach town is known for its beautiful and historic beach front resorts."**

Fifteen minutes east is downtown St. Petersburg where the Harbor is full of fabulous galleries, shops, and delicious restaurants in an area known for its artistic inclination. Tropicana Stadium is home to the Tampa Bay Rays and door-to-door late-night bar hopping is nearby. On the southern tip of St. Petersburg is the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Once claiming a distinction as one of the world's tallest bridges, the Sunshine Skyway is a spectacular cable-stayed bridge spanning Tampa Bay and granting beach goers access to the Florida mainland.

**"Flip flops and casual wear are undeniably appropriate."**

The Greater Tampa Bay Area medical community has embraced CAAs with employment extending north towards Clearwater and further down the gulf coast into South Florida. Although constant awareness and integration are necessary to maintain and expand the frontiers of our profession's practice map, Florida's west coast has made significant progress in welcoming CAAs into anesthesia practices since the introduction of CAAs in Florida in the early 2000s.





## Gina Scarboro, CAA

Past-President, AAAA  
gscarboro@southuniversity.edu

The AAAA Annual meeting is the ONLY national meeting for members of the Anesthesiologist Assistant profession. As a CAA who has attended the AAAA Annual Meeting (AM) for 14-plus years, I am excited to address how to make the most of the 2018 meeting.

**“Students should not miss this new slate of student-focused content.”**

### For Students

There is an entire day of activities scheduled for AA students on Friday, and students from all 12 programs should not miss this new slate of student-focused content. Enjoy presentations on current controversies in anesthesia practice, financial management, and exhibits by employers who want to recruit new members to

# Read this tip sheet from AM insider

their anesthesia care teams. Starting on the road to practice begins with an understanding the role of the AAAA and NCCAA, which is the subject of a panel on Friday led by leaders from both organizations.

**“Networking is one of the primary reasons fellows attend.”**

Additional student-focused activities include the poster presentation session and reception with exhibitors on Saturday. Everyone knows that the ultimate event for students is the Jeopardy competition on Sunday. But, fellows, too, should attend this event to see the energy and excitement of 300-plus students vying for the win!

### For Fellows

Returning to the AAAA Annual meeting is exhilarating for fellows to see the growth of the profession and the increased engagement of members. Members can take advantage of high-quality continuing medical education content, convenient ACLS/PALS/BLS recertification on-site, or attend the student poster presentations to see what future members of our profession are researching and learning.

Networking is one of the primary reasons fellows attend the AAAA conference. Meeting with employers during exhibit hours or catching up with classmates during the Fellow reception Saturday night is always a highlight of the AAAA conference.

**“Hear what President Nick Davies has in store for 2018. State component and AAAA committee meetings are open to all members and students.”**

### For Student & Fellows

All AAAA members are encouraged to attend the Kick-Off breakfast on Saturday morning to hear what President Nick Davies has in store for 2018. State component and AAAA committee meetings are open to all members and students, so look at the schedule to see when you can participate. A new Volleyball tournament on the beach at TradeWinds promises to be a fun addition and raise funds for charity.



## Katie Noel, SAA

Student Subcommittee Chair

Be prepared to engage. Connect with individuals from various states. Miss nothing by using the 2018 Conference Agenda, which is located in this newsletter and at [www.anesthetist.org](http://www.anesthetist.org) under “Meetings and Sponsorships.” The agenda provides all the information needed to find lectures, times and locations of committee meetings, and special events such as the volleyball tournament. Through participation, students get a further look into what AAAA provides members and the importance and value of membership after graduation.

# Students: Be prepared to make most

Good advice: Dress appropriately as a career opportunity might occur at any moment. Stock up on a caffeine source and be prepared for a busy day interacting with anesthesia professionals from around the country. There will be physicians and practice management groups present who want to interact with future anesthesia providers. Always have a resume or business cards and a pen handy. And most importantly, be ready to win the AAAA Cup!!



2016 Annual Meeting, UC Denver wins Student Component Cup competition

## Exhibitors offer answers, advice

AAAA2018™ offers a treasure-chest of meat-and-potatoes advice, guidance, education, road maps and truth to guide fellows, students and physicians alike. More than two dozen exhibitors boost the value of participation at the Annual Meeting. Attendees need only access this buffet of talent, experience, knowledge, products and services.

Annual Meeting Activity Director Samantha Evankovich, CAA, and her committee members have assembled a cornucopia of experts to boost the confidence, knowledge and perspective of anesthesia professionals.

The exhibit hall can appear to be overwhelming, but it is an arena of resources for every anesthesia professional. Students, fellows and physicians are encouraged to take resumes and business cards when visiting the exhibit hall.

The cost of exhibitor participation is significant. Above the exhibitor fee is the cost of travel, lodging, meals and shipping of the booths and equipment. Make every effort to visit every exhibitor, even if you do not think you are interested in the product or service. Exhibitor fees help reduce the registration

costs for members. Thank the exhibitor for investing time and corporate money to support the AAAA.

Questions to ask every exhibitor:

- What is the product/service?
- How is this beneficial to me/patient?
- What are competing products?
- What are your credentials?
- Where are your products/services used?
- What are the costs/fees?
- What is next generation of this produce?

### U.S. Anesthesia Partners

U.S. Anesthesia Partners (USAP) is the largest single-specialty anesthesia practice in the country with over 4,000 team members.

We are actively recruiting CAAs to join our practices in Fort Myers, FL, Jacksonville, FL, Houston, TX and Oklahoma City, OK. A variety of practice environments are available include leading hospitals, community medical centers and surgery centers. Our team includes some of the best anesthetists in the country. Working together as an anesthesia care team, our anesthetist's and physicians collaborate to deliver safe, high-quality care to all our patients on a daily basis.

Our Continuous Quality Improvement Program has proven positive results and no other anesthesia group does everything we do. We monitor 50 different clinical quality indicators, digitally collecting the data from every case, every day, at every facility we serve. Our best-in-class IT tools and advanced analytics allow us to generate accurate quality data and yield greater insight into quality patient care. We then share the data, down to the individual provider level, so everyone knows exactly where they stand. We also exceed national benchmarks in many of the most important quality measures, such as mortality, hospital length of stay and patient satisfaction. If you are interested in joining U.S. Anesthesia Partners, please feel free to contact Scott Lindblom at scott.lindblom@usap.com.

**Have back pain?**

**Need to re-certify?**

**Looking for a new job?**

**Looking for employment?**

**Need a data tracking system?**

### TIVA Healthcare

Established in 2001, TIVA Healthcare is the primary locum tenens service for the country's largest healthcare company. We find the perfect assignments for anesthesiologist assistants in healthcare facilities across the US. Let us market your strengths and skills to secure you better opportunities. Please visit tivahealthcare.com or call us directly at 800-506-8482 for more information.

### American Society of Anesthesiologists

ASA® is the leading anesthesiology professional society with more than 52,000 members globally. Since its founding in 1905, the Society raises and maintains the standard of the practice of anesthesiology through education, advocacy and quality improvement by focusing on patient care and safety. ASA is dedicated to helping physician anesthesiologists and their care teams provide the highest quality of care in a patient-centered, physician led environment.

**Want to pay off loans sooner?**

### The University of Toledo Medical Center

The University of Toledo Medical Center is actively recruiting CAAs to work as part of the Anesthesia Care Team in Northwest Ohio's only Academic Medical Center. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package including CME allowance, Professional Dues Allowance, medical, dental, pension, etc. Our group currently employs twelve CAAs and is looking to expand our anesthetist group.

Toledo is located in Northwest Ohio and is centrally located near Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, and Columbus. Toledo is known for a world class Zoo, Art Museum, the Toledo Mudhens (baseball), the Toledo Walleye (hockey), and a beautiful metropark system.

### UF Health Shands

University of Florida Health, the Southeast's most comprehensive academic health center, which encompasses our hospitals, physician practices, colleges, centers, institutes, programs and services across northeast and north-central Florida.

We offer a highly collaborative care team model, with flexible scheduling, no call, CME allowance, malpractice insurance and an extensive benefits package (Medical insurance effective upon date of hire, Short and Long-term disability, Vision and Dental Plans, Prescription Program, Retirement Plan, Paid Time Off, Employee Assistance Plan). We have a wide variety of case mixes with over 60 anesthetizing locations per day.

**Want to learn about senior rotation sites?**

### Anesthesia of Indian River, Inc.

Anesthesia of Indian River has been an all-physician practice for nearly 30 years. Our services are expanding rapidly allowing us to convert to a hybrid model with a partial care-team approach.

For this reason, we are attending the AAAA, not only to support the AA profession and anesthesia as a whole, but to also look for strong, qualified candidates, both experienced and new grad, to join our group. If you think that might be you, come visit our booth and speak with our friendly staff to learn more and schedule an interview.

### PNBSchool

Provides ultrasound guided peripheral nerve block training

**Want to build networks of professionals?**

### Medical College of Wisconsin

The Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Anesthesiology is currently seeking ambitious and skilled providers to support our growing practice of 21 CAAs at our hospitals and ambulatory centers. As a nationally recognized leader in academic medicine, MCW aims to provide opportunities for professional growth in clinical practice and professionalism. As host to one of 12 Anesthesiologist Assistant training programs, highly-qualified applicants will be awarded faculty rank, compensation, and benefits. Teaching is part of our mission but can be aligned with your interests from clinical mentoring to simulation and lectures. Visit our booth to learn how we're advancing the profession!

**Study the services.  
Learn the products.  
Talk to the exhibitors.**

**University of Wisconsin Hospital**  
University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison

#### **Medatrax**

Medatrax advanced medical education informatics and data tracking systems provide on-line tools specifically designed to assist universities, colleges, and allied health educators to record and maintain complex student clinical criteria. Medatrax provides internet accessible data entry and facilitates review of student recorded data. A robust administrative functionality is provided to monitor and control individual student progress.

Medatrax technology is highly configurable and adaptable to either distance programs or campus-based institutions. A variety of statistics, monitoring, and reporting information are included to assist and support all educator personnel. Medatrax is available to undergraduate, graduate and post graduate programs.

#### **Indiana University School of Medicine Department of Anesthesia**

Indiana University School of Medicine launched its first Anesthesiologist Assistant Program in August 2017. The program currently has 12 students who are completing their second semester. These students are also attending the AAAA conference this year. In addition to the new program, the Department of Anesthesia at Indiana University School of Medicine and IU Health Physicians is seeking full-time Anesthetists to practice at Riley Hospital for Children. Successful candidates must be highly motivated and will enjoy working closely with faculty/instructors and learners. To find more information and/or apply to this position, please select this link: <https://indiana.peopleadmin.com/postings/3978>.

## Want to help with state/national advocacy?

#### **National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants**

The National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA) provides the certification process for anesthesiologist assistants in the United States. The National Commission's charter includes assuring the public that certified anesthesiologist assistants (CAA) meet basic standards related to fund of knowledge and application of that knowledge to the duties of practicing as a certified anesthesiologist assistant. The certification process for anesthesiologist assistants includes an initial certifying examination, ongoing registration of continuing medical education, and interval examinations for continued demonstration of qualifications.

#### **Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists**

Members of the Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists members are exhibitors at the AAAA meeting since 2006. We are eager to meet all students and practicing AAs and tell them about great educational and practice opportunities in our state.

#### **Parkview Physicians Group**

Largest non-profit Health care system in Northeast IN. Seven hospitals, 700+ providers located in over 100 locations, more than 40 specialties. Park view Physicians Group is a physician-led and governed division of Parkview Health.

#### **Florida Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (FL-AAA)**

The Florida Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants is a nonprofit association organized to advance the profession of Anesthesiologist Assistants, enhance the education and standards of anesthesia practice, promote patient safety through the anesthesia care team, and provide a forum for Anesthesiologist Assistants advocacy in the State of Florida.

#### **Anesthesiologist Assistant Services**

Financial marketplace for student loan refinancing, insurance and other financial products tailored specifically for Anesthesiologist Assistants. [www.Anesthetist-Services.com](http://www.Anesthetist-Services.com)

#### **Anesthesiologist for Children**

As one of the largest pediatric healthcare providers in the nation, Children's Health is the only facility in North Texas dedicated exclusively to comprehensive and specialized care for children. It is the primary pediatric teaching facility for UT Southwestern Medical Center, with a medical research staff that is instrumental in developing new treatments and therapies for pediatric diseases.

#### **Georgia Anesthesiologists, P.C.**

Georgia Anesthesiologists, P.C. ("GAPC") is a patient-focused, compassionate, full-service, anesthesia group consisting of more than 150 board certified anesthesiologists (physicians) and anesthetists (anesthesiologist assistants and certified registered nurse anesthetists) who are committed to providing safe and efficient administration of anesthetics to its patients.

Many of our physicians have received additional training and/or board certification in sub-specialty areas, such as cardiac-anesthesia, obstetrical-anesthesia, pediatric-anesthesia, neuro-anesthesia, pain management and internal medicine. Although based in Cobb County Georgia, GAPC provides anesthesia coverage to hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers throughout the Greater Atlanta Metropolitan area.

#### **Ozark Anesthesia Associates, Inc.**

An anesthesia provider group.

#### **American Anesthesiology**

American Anesthesiology, a MEDNAX company, is a forward-thinking national group practice of more than 1,400 anesthesiologists and 1,950 anesthetists focused on clinical quality, perioperative best practices and workflow management solutions. MEDNAX equips anesthesia practices with strategies and support to meet the ever-changing landscape of healthcare today. Each year, experienced anesthesia providers, as well as recent graduates, join our team to pursue their personal and professional goals. Our anesthesia services include a wide variety of subspecialty areas and practice settings. For additional information about our group and the wide variety of clinical services we provide, please visit [www.mednax.com](http://www.mednax.com).

## Want a copy of the New Testament?

#### **The Gideons International**

The Gideons International distributes New Testaments with Psalms and Proverbs to all medical personnel at no charge in appreciation for what they do in our community.

#### **Merck**

For more than a century, Merck has been bringing forward medicines and vaccines for many of the world's most challenging diseases. Today, Merck continues to be at the forefront of research to deliver innovative health solutions and advance the prevention and treatment of diseases that threaten people and animals around the world.

#### **Feel Good, Inc.**

Feel Good, Inc. provides portable TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) units offering wide variety of benefits, including alleviating back, nerve and diabetic pain and migraines. Our units can also improve circulation, sleep patterns and have been shown to decrease the use of pain relievers that can cause negative side effects.

#### **Northside Anesthesiology Consultants/Envision Physician Services**

Northside is EXPANDING to meet the demands of the metro Atlanta area. We will have representatives of the practice present to talk about the practice and expectations.

## Consider the employment benefits.

#### **Envision Physician Services**

Envision Physician Services is the nation's largest anesthesia services provider. With more than 510 service contracts in 25 states, our anesthesia group administers more than 2.4 million anesthetics a year. We are a clinician-centric, physician-led company at local, regional and national levels. We encourage, develop and recognize our clinical leaders, and we help physicians and advance practice providers focus on medicine, not its administrative burden. We invest in our clinicians, providing them with the tools, resources and technologies they need to deliver high-quality patient care, including quality and performance reporting, operational support and risk management resources.

#### **DC- Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants**

The purpose of the DCAAA booth will be to provide educational materials to CAAs and SAAs regarding employment in Washington, DC.

#### **Friday-Only Exhibitor**

#### **University of New Mexico Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine**

The University of New Mexico Hospital is the only Level 1 Trauma Center in the state and home to the highly regarded UNM Children's Hospital, Burn Center, and NCI Cancer Center. As a student, you will receive exposure to a wide variety of complex cases including trauma, burns, otolaryngology, orthopedics, general surgery, pediatrics, urology, neurosurgery, vascular, and gynecology/GYN oncology, as well as multiple mobile sites. As an employee, we offer the following benefits: shift work schedule, optional paid calls, educational stipend, paid moving expenses, a pension plan, tuition remission, paid vacation and sick leave, plus the opportunity to teach.

## Build a network of connections.

## Engage state societies, officials to expand practice



**Layne DiLoreto, CAA**  
Legislative Committee Chair

As the first calendar quarter ends, most state legislatures are concluding deliberations. With the adjournment of state assemblies, the Legislative Committee's focus shifts to concentrating on states for future action. Over the year that State Affairs Director Jeremy Betts, JD, and I have held our respective positions, we have developed relationships with key stakeholders in several states to successfully advocate for CAA licensure.

Many of these states have seen legislation in prior years, but as leadership rotates in the state anesthesiology societies, these vital relationships must be reestablished. As is necessary to build and maintain relationships with state society leaders, the relationships with legislators are equally important if not more critical to the

successful advocacy of legislation. The Legislative Committee always wants to encourage members of the AAAA to know their state legislators where one currently lives and in states where family lives and CAAs may not be currently licensed to practice. Additionally, we find it advantageous to have CAA representatives meet with legislators in the days leading up to the hearings to discuss any concerns or questions that the elected officials may have.

**“Remember, you are the expert on AA practice.”**

This year has not been particularly active regarding legislation to open additional states. Legislation was reintroduced in Mississippi to enact licensure, however, after months of working with the Mississippi State Society of Anesthesiologists, the measures in each chamber failed to make it through the committee process before the legislature's crossover day. In Connecticut, a particularly egregious piece of legislation was introduced to preclude SAAs from conducting rotations in the state. While there was a hearing on the bill, no additional action appears to date. In Georgia, legislation was introduced to double the number

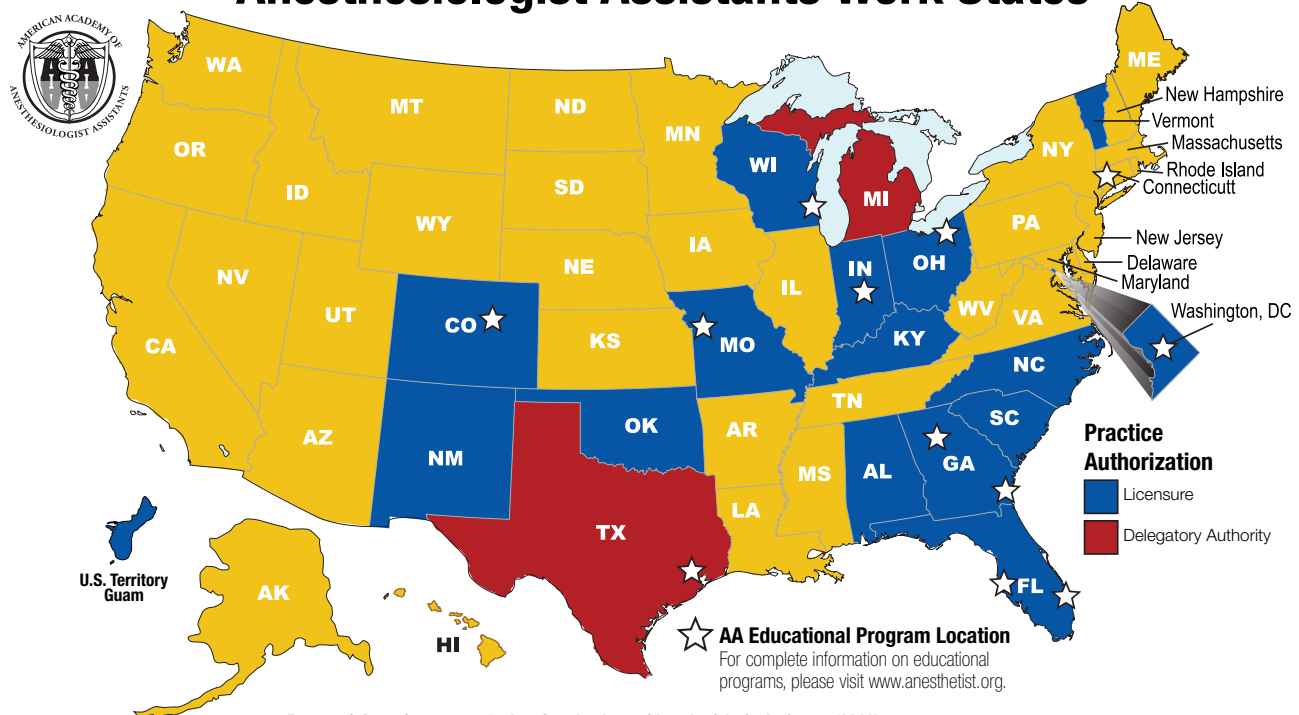
of AA licenses that physician anesthesiologists may sponsor. This legislation passed in the final days of the Georgia session and now awaits the Governor's signature.

During the coming months, with fewer demanding state legislative activities, we encourage you to get involved in your state society of anesthesiologists. Attend meetings, donate to its PAC, and get to know the leadership. We also recommend that you get to know your state legislators. Sign up for their newsletters, attend local meetups or town hall meetings held by the legislator, or schedule a meeting in a regional office. It's never too early to introduce yourself and to create a strong relationship for future legislative efforts.

**“In Georgia, legislation passed to double the number of AA licenses.”**

Remember, you are the expert on AA practice. The legislator will benefit from your knowledge and will, in turn, appreciate you asking about the challenges a lawmaker faces.

### Anesthesiologist Assistants Work States



For more information, contact the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA)  
1231 Collier Road NW, Suite J. Atlanta GA 30318 • [www.anesthetist.org](http://www.anesthetist.org) • [info@anesthetist.org](mailto:info@anesthetist.org) • 678-222-4233

UPDATED: JANUARY 2015

# ANESTHESIOLOGY 2018

SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 13-17



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**JOSH LINKNER**

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[goanesthesiology.org](http://goanesthesiology.org)

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