The first half of 2020 has officially ended and wow, it was a busy six months for AAAA. I’m extremely proud of our community for stepping up during an unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and demonstrating the value that CAAs bring to the anesthesia care team.

AAAA has prioritized our advocacy work at both the state and federal level during the pandemic with a goal of obtaining recognition and advancing legislators’ understanding of the profession. We saw a small win in Kansas recently through close collaboration with local stakeholders and are hoping to ride the momentum. I encourage you to read an update in this issue from AAAA Director of State Affairs, Jeremy Betts.

Please consider donating to our legislative fund this year, if you haven’t already, as these funds go directly to supporting our advocacy efforts across the country. In 2020, AAAA has provided funding to Kansas, Texas and the Bose Public Affairs Group for federal representation. The staff is also working to re-introduce recurring donations.

Finally, I encourage all members to seriously consider submitting a nomination for our FY 2021 election. The nominations process is now open for the positions of President-Elect, Treasurer and Director at Large. Volunteering with AAAA is a great way to influence the future of our profession and leave a legacy that will help create more positive change for those that come next. You’ll also make new friends and colleagues along the way that will grow your network.

### Legislative Update

**Licensure Battles in Kansas and Arizona**

AAAA had big hopes of legislative achievements for 2020. In Kansas and Arizona, a lengthy fight for licensure was expected, and then one phrase interrupted almost every legislative session: COVID-19.

Also, in a sign of the growing profile of CAAs across the nation, state academies began in earnest to extend resources into playing defense vs. offense, either from CRNA efforts or other legislative packages, to ensure that CAAs maintained current practice authority through other legislative action.

By the end of June, nearly every legislature had resumed, albeit briefly and in a very limited capacity, focusing almost solely on passing state budgets and providing COVID-19 response packages. The events of this year could not have been anticipated in January. Through hard work and strong member support, AAAA has enjoyed some success, continued to work to expand practice authority through any available means, and has taken steps to strengthen AAAA’s stance going forward.

In reviewing our strategic objectives for 2020, Kansas and Arizona were the target states for licensure. In Kansas, political impasses held all health-related legislation in the Kansas legislature pre-COVID-19. In a special session, following the Governor’s veto of the legislature’s PHE response bill, legislation was enacted which allows CAAs to practice in the state of Kansas. This practice authority lasts through January 2021, but AAAA and KSAAA continue to work to achieve a permanent opportunity for CAA practice in the state.

Read more.

### Accepting Nominations for AAAA Board

Want to impact the future of AAAA? Have a colleague you think would be an ideal fit? We have several opportunities to engage with fellow members and drive the AA profession forward, including:

- **President-Elect** - Term: 2021 (subsequent 1-year terms as President, then Immediate Past President)
- **Treasurer** - Term: 2021-22
- **Director** - Term: 2021-23
- **Director** - Term: 2021-23

Click here for full position descriptions, election calendar, and to submit a nomination. Voting begins Monday, September 21.
Promoting Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Last month, AAAA released a statement against racism and discrimination of any kind. But words alone aren't enough.

We also announced three-steps that we're going to take to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in our CAA community.

1. Create a scholarship fund for underrepresented minorities and students from disadvantaged backgrounds that will award $4,000 scholarships each year to applicants entering AA programs.

Scholarships will be awarded starting in 2021, with the application process beginning at the end of 2020. Scholarships are based on donations received for the scholarship fund. We will be making a separate donation stream available to members to designate a contribution.

2. Form a diversity and inclusion task force to advise the organization on how we can recruit and retain a diverse leadership.

We are in the process of forming the diversity task force with members of the AAAA community that have been referred or volunteered to get involved. Several association members have already committed to joining the task force. They will evaluate how AAAA as an organization can better promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Board of Directors will review recommendations developed by the task force for policy changes and implementation.

3. Work with partner organizations to reach out to historically black colleges and universities in the locations where AA programs are located to raise awareness and interest in the profession.

We plan to work closely with our AA partner organizations to promote the CAA profession as a career to students at HBCUs.

Read the full statement.

State News

Kansas
As a direct result of KSAAA lobbyists, CAAs licensed in a state may practice in the State of Kansas. The practice authority had been included in Executive Orders of the Governor, and in a COVID response vetoed by the Governor (not because of CAA issues), and was subsequently passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor following a special session called by the Governor. The authority to practice continues through January 2021 only, but this provides a great opportunity for CAAs to remind the legislature that they have already voted twice to allow CAAs to practice in their state. We'd also like to thank and recognize ASA and KSA for their collaboration as they have been big contributors in the process.

Wisconsin
Columbia St. Mary’s (Milwaukee, WI) Anesthesia department was bought by a private group. All 11 AAs will be let go in October 2020 and replaced with CRNAs.

New Mexico
In July, the anesthesia group at Rio Rancho (sister hospital to the University of New Mexico hospital) was bought out by Mainstreet Anesthesia Group, a group that primarily employs CRNAs and uses the independent practice model. The AAAA and the NMAAA are working together to support CAAs in New Mexico and take steps to expand CAA practice in the state.

Legislative Fund Update

So far in 2020, we've raised $58,222 – more than halfway to our annual goal of $100,000. See the full list of donors. Allocated funds from 2020 include:

- Kansas AAA contribution of $40,000 to support local advocacy efforts. This work has resulted in the opening of the state for CAAs until January 2021.
- Texas AAA contribution of $12,500 to support local advocacy efforts.
- Monthly retainer to Bose Public Affairs Group for federal representation. AAAA has signed a six-month engagement with Bose.

Want to contribute to AAAA's legislative efforts? Donate here.
Partner Messages

NCCAA Mobilizes to Ensure Certification Continuity

The past few months have required lifestyle and professional adjustments to ensure CAAs, and their patients, stay healthy. While CAAs have been on the frontlines combating COVID-19 and ensuring other critical patients get the care they need, the NCCAA team continues to work hard to minimize the impact these disruptions have on maintaining CAA certification and obtaining required clinical medical education.

With the impact of social distancing on testing facilities, the NCCAA team worked closely with NMBE and Prometric on scheduling/rescheduling of the June 13th certification exam. Prometric Testing Centers administers over 7 million exams per year. Since February 2020, the backlog of cancelled exams has exceeded 1.2 million. In May, Prometric began opening centers in communities that were no longer mandating closures at a reduced capacity to comply with social distancing guidelines. During this trying time, NCCAA was able to successfully reschedule all the current CAA candidates. As a result, all 138 CAA candidates were able to successfully complete the Certification Exam within one week of the original June 13th date. In addition, the team is working to expand availability of testing sites for the October 10, 2020 exam.

The NCCAA is grateful to all the examinees for their patience and understanding of the testing administration difficulties. For all NCCAA updates and information regarding the October 10th Certification exam, please visit nccaa.org for more information.

Contribute Your Skills to an AAAA Committee

Committees play a pivotal role in AAAA’s work. Apply your skills and passions, or develop new ones.

We’re also looking for volunteers to serve on a new Diversity Task Force, developed to enhance recruitment and retention of diverse leaders.

Discover and volunteer for committees here.

CAA Week

National CAA Week, a celebration of the AA profession, was held June 1-5. While the week may be over, we can all continue to advocate for awareness of CAAs. Head to the CAA Week page for fact sheets, graphics, and more informational tools about the profession.

Have news to share about yourself, your workplace or a colleague? Contact Michael Fiez at mfiez@anesthetist.org.

Student Outreach Program Feedback

We’re excited to begin the creation of a Student Outreach Program to smooth students’ transition from SAA to CAA. And we want to hear from you.

Do you have ideas about how we can enhance the value a student AAAA membership? What resources would benefit student members? All ideas – big or small – are welcome. Share your ideas.

Member Stories

COVID-19 changed the way people work around the country. CAAs and anesthesiologists nationwide stepped up to play vital roles in patient care.

- Shane McDonald, CAA, MMSC served as an ICU critical care specialist when his clinic stopped doing elective surgeries.
- John Langford, CAA was redeployed to the ICU intubation team assigned specifically to COVID-19 patients.
- Dia O’Connor, CAA joined coworkers across her hospital to create new masks.
- Dr. Bruce Spiess turned a simple idea into a global movement to create masks to combat COVID-19.

Discover and volunteer here.

Endorsements

We work to keep you up-to-date with the latest insights, publications and projects from around our industry. We were proud to endorse two publications in June.

- The Fourth Consensus Guidelines for Management of Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting provides practitioners with evidence-based guidance on the management of PONV. Read the guidelines.

- intubateCOVID explores the incidence of COVID-19 in healthcare workers by collecting first-hand data. Contribute to the project.

Jobs

Seeking your next career opportunity? We can help. Head over to the AAAA Career Center for a full listing of available positions around the country. Here are a few:

- Ohio Anesthesia Group – Canton, Ohio
- Paradigm Anesthesia, P.A. – Gulf Breeze, FL

New! We’re excited to announce the AAAA Careers email — the latest listings delivered fresh to your inbox every
ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2020: Attend from anywhere.

World-class speakers, content, and interactive networking opportunities brought to you. Together, we are redefining the virtual meeting experience.

John W. Severinghaus Lecture on Translational Science: Anesthesiology: Resetting Our Sights on Long-term Outcomes Beverley A. Orser, MD, PhD, FRCPC

Keynote Presentation: Exceptional Opportunities in Biomedical Research Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD 16th Director of the NIH

Ellison Pierce Lecture: Is Safety Becoming the Poor Stepchild of Quality? Matthew B. Weinger, MD, MS


Find out more asahq.org/annualmeeting
AAAA Annual Conference 2021

Save the Date

APRIL 9 - 11
Hilton Sandestin
Miramar Beach, Florida