

# The Anesthesia Record

Quarter 2 2014



**Indiana Welcomes AAs**  
17th Jurisdiction for AA Practice

**AAAA Cup Winners**  
Congratulations UMKC

**Legislative Fund Report**  
Thank You to All Donors

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**The Newsletter of the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants**

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HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA  
**38th Annual Conference**

ASA President John Abenstein MD and AAAA President  
Carie Twichell AA-C after the Gravenstein Memorial Lecture



# SAVE THE DATE

## 2015 AAAA Annual Conference

April 10-14, 2015

Gaylord Palms Resort and Conference Center  
Orlando, Florida



Danny Mesaros, AA-C | Program Chair  
For more information, contact [info@anesthetist.org](mailto:info@anesthetist.org)



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(Atlanta) -- GAAA President Joy Rusmisell addresses the Georgia State Senate on AA Day in Georgia, February 24, 2014. Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle (far right) and state Senator Chuck Hufstetler, AA-C, (far left) applaud the reading of a Senate Resolution recognizing the contributions of AAs to quality health care delivery. Also participating in AA Day at the Capitol activities were Ralph Dapaah, AA-C (GAAA Director), Rick Brouillard, MMSc, ScD, (Program Director Emory University), Gina Scarboro, AA-C (Director of Academic Affairs, South University) and Brad Maxwell, AA-C (GAAA Director).

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# Let Your Voice Ring

By Carie Twichell, AA-C

It has been a hectic but invigorating first couple months as President of the AAAA. As overwhelming as it can be at times, my motto is, "It's a great problem to have!" Communication is healthy even when individuals disagree and AAAA wouldn't progress if we didn't respectfully challenge each other, open our minds and collaborate for the greater good of the AA profession.

Within these first months, I have noticed a prevailing theme dealing with communication. Who has a voice within our organization and how can that voice be heard by AAAA leaders? The answer is simple. Every member of the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants has an equal right and opportunity to voice opinions and find answers to pertinent questions, whether you are a first year AA student, a 20-year veteran of the organization or the AAAA President.

The AAAA has a communication pathway, and it is important all members are educated about it and comfortable with its utility. The pathway begins when members contact the appropriate committees or external representatives serving the organization. From that initial contact, information and ideas begin to work through the governance decision process from committee level to the Board of Directors.

The Board formally meets four times a year and the agendas set for those meetings encompass every committee initiative, all pertinent state practice and legislative issues, as well as, but not limited to, upcoming strategic changes that may affect the AA profession. As you can imagine, there is a lot of business to complete in a relatively short amount of time. Agendas are set several weeks in advance by the Executive Committee after items have been extensively vetted through the appropriate committees. For this reason, the majority of in-depth discussion is done at the committee level between those individuals who have become the AAAA "experts" in their respective areas.

The bulk of AAAA business is conducted by committees and external representatives with oversight and direction provided by the

Board of Directors. All committee chairs and external representatives are invited to attend Board meetings to continue the circle of communication. On a local level, the state component leaders work diligently to stay knowledgeable about issues relevant to practitioners in their region and connected to decision-makers in their state. The effective maneuvering of state initiatives should start with open communication between individuals and their state leaders. Don't overlook the importance of these connections and your state leader's knowledge of local issues.

The first step in addressing an issue or obtaining information should be to identify the correct committee of jurisdiction. A current list of committee members is provided on our website along with contact information of the chair person. You can always call AAAA headquarters and our executive director Jet Toney or associate director Devon Bacon. You will be guided to the appropriate committee. Most issues or suggestions can easily be vetted through the appropriate committees and save you valuable time. To bypass the committees is disrespectful to their work and position but also inefficient for the Board. There may be a very quick answer or one that requires multiple correspondences and an extensive follow up between you and the committee.

If a specific topic is not being handled in a manner you deem best, get involved! Volunteering at a committee level is the most valuable way for you to lend your influence and passion to our profession. As stated before, it is unnecessary for everyone to agree on the approach to certain endeavors; it is however, vital to be respectful and open minded in all efforts to continue forward progression of the Anesthesiologist Assistant profession.

If you are unable to identify an appropriate committee, you can directly contact any AAAA Director. The AAAA has seven Directors that may serve two consecutive three-year terms on the Board. Each Board member is listed on the AAAA website with

contact information. Feel free to reach out to any of them even if they are not personally familiar to you. The Directors may be able to quickly address your concerns and suggestions or provide direction to the appropriate person, including our management company or the Executive Committee. If you have exhausted these avenues, the final option is going to the AAAA Executive Committee. This committee consists of the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary and Treasurer. An issue that requires the attention of the entire Board may be placed on the next quarterly Board meeting agenda or may be handled with a special meeting, in emergency situations. If a member would like to address the Board they may request to do so by asking the AAAA president to add them to agenda of the next board meeting.

As set forth above, there are multiple avenues for delivering your message and assuring it is addressed. One thing to keep in mind is that like you, committee members, external representatives, state component leaders and members of the Board work as clinical Anesthesiologist Assistants. These volunteers donate their time, effort, and personal funds to complete tasks for the betterment of our profession. Be persistent, but patient, and your message will be heard and addressed, I promise.

"It's a great problem to have," certainly rings true when speaking about open communication. The AAAA faces rapidly expanding demands in a time of ever-changing health care politics. Our profession is poised to enjoy a huge growth spurt. We are making immense strides on multiple fronts and it is more important than ever that we band together and let our collaborative messages be heard. I am truly humbled by the amount of input, feedback and well-articulated arguments that are regularly sent to me. I recognize your investment of time and thought donated to making our profession that much better. The system is here to serve you so continue to let your voice ring.



# Nominate Your Future Leaders

By Saral Patel, AA-C

Immediate Past President  
Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee

It is time once again to nominate the future leaders of the AAAA to elected office. If you (or someone you know) is interested in getting involved, please submit names through the online Call for Nominations form, found on the right hand side of the home page and in the members' section of the Academy website [www.anesthetist.org](http://www.anesthetist.org) by August 4, 2014.

Positions available:

- **President-Elect** Term of office: Annual Meeting 2015 - Annual Meeting 2016. The President-Elect succeeds the President at the Annual Meeting in 2016.
- **Treasurer** Two year term. Term of office: Annual Meeting 2015 - Annual Meeting 2017.
- **Director** Three year term. Term of office: Annual Meeting 2015 - Annual Meeting 2018.
- **Director** Three year term. Term of office: Annual Meeting 2015 - Annual Meeting 2018. Terms begin at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

Qualified candidates must be current members of the AAAA and preferably have experience in any of the following: AAAA leadership, State Component Academy leadership, AA education program activities, ASA involvement, or hospital and community leadership.

Responsibilities of AAAA Board members and officers, as according to the AAAA Bylaws include but are not limited to:

- Determining the policies and activities of the Academy and approving the Annual Budget
- Managing the business affairs and the property of the Academy
- Approving all official Academy statements
- Approving all AAAA policies and procedures
- Nominating and voting for AAAA Honor Award Recipients
- Approving all component academy charter applications

- Participating in annual AAAA Strategic Planning
- Presenting at AA training programs
- Approving the President's appointees

The Board has four required meetings a year and special meetings may be called by request based on AAAA Bylaws parameters. AAAA Board members are reimbursed for travel expenses incurred during the time

immediately surrounding the face to face meetings held during the AAAA annual meeting and the ASA annual meeting including up to \$500.00 for airfare, hotel expenses for one night, and \$50.00 per diem food allowance.

In addition to general officer duties, the Treasurer responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Accounting of all funds paid to and from the Academy with the assistance of the management company
- Serving as Chairperson of the Finance Committee
- Preparing all financial statements and presenting at Board Meetings and Annual Business Meeting

While not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged that all candidates be willing and available to attend the ASA annual meeting 2014 prior to their term and an additional January face to face Board Orientation session in January 2015 for which reimbursement applies as defined above.

While the responsibilities for AAAA leadership are significant, the rewards are vast. Having a voice at the decision making table during this period of exponential growth allows an individual to have a profound effect on the future of the organization and the profession.

Please take a moment to reflect and participate in the nomination process and help guide the future of your profession.



## Welcome New Members

Omar Albakri, AA-S  
Aaron Ambramowski, AA-S  
Alexa Aramini, AA-S  
Andrea Arango, AA-S  
Joel Baker, AA-S  
Erica Bamgbopa, AA-S  
Marcus Bartels, AA-S  
Jessica Bell, AA-S  
Jeff Bender, AA-S  
Eric Bergstrom, AA-S  
Marisa Blackmon, AA-S  
Matthew Blahunka, AA-S  
Maurice Boggan Jr, AA-S  
Dylan Bray, AA-S  
Danielle Brooks, AA-S  
Albert Browning, AA-S  
Lin Bui, AA-S  
Dustin Burnham, AA-S  
Arian Campo, AA-S  
Jacob Cerny, AA-S  
Yu-hsuan Chao, AA-S  
Meng Chen, AA-S  
Christie Chen, AA-S  
maria chirinos, AA-S  
jessica Clark, AA-S  
Trent Clendennin, AA-S  
John Cody, AA-S  
Daniel Cole, MD  
Satilla Cyphers, AA-S  
Sean Danek, AA-S  
James Davis, AA-S  
Luis De Carvalho Leao, AA-S  
Emily Dinse, AA-S  
Ashley Dotson, AA-S  
Brittney Earles, AA-S  
Benjamin Ferguson, AA-S  
Ian Lawrence Floresta, AA-S  
Meghan Fuller, AA-S  
Traci Gables, AA-S

Matthew Gardner, AA-S  
michael garrett, AA-C  
Jennifer Gebes, AA-S  
Caitlin George, AA-S  
Casey Gerry, AA-S  
Aleena Gillani, AA-S  
Hossein Golabbakhsh, AA-S  
Kelly Goodin, AA-S  
Victoria Goordeen, AA-S  
Christian Gruta, AA-S  
Tara Hammann, AA-S  
Stephen Hammond, AA-S  
William Hooghuis, AA-C  
Edsel Houseworth, AA-C  
Jorjetta Ilieva, AA-S  
Fahim Imam, AA-S  
Faizan Jafri, AA-S  
Bridgette Jagdeo, AA-S  
Jessica Jaworowski, AA-S  
Natalie Jenks, AA-S  
Kristen Jones, AA-S  
Zachary Jones, AA-S  
Ryan Joseph, AA-S  
Lyndsay Josen, AA-S  
Kaitlin Jurcisin, AA-S  
Kaitlin Kamm, AA-S  
Melissa Kaszak, AA-S  
Brian Katz, AA-S  
Kanchan Kaur, AA-S  
Cristin Kempshall, AA-S  
Adam Khalid, AA-S  
Lauren Khouri, AA-S  
Hyerim Kim, AA-S  
David Kim, AA-S  
Justin Kitson, AA-S  
Ashley Koenig, AA-S  
Andreja Lakic, AA-S  
Eric Lambesis, AA-S  
Shu Lan, AA-C

Stanley Lawhon, AA-S  
Maria Lax, AA-S  
Candace Lester, AA-S  
Elizabeth Maddox, AA-S  
Sylvia Maldonado, AA-S  
Autum Martin, AA-S  
Jibie Mathew, AA-S  
Carolyn Mauro, AA-S  
Shelby Mayi, AA-S  
Kelly McMahon, AA-S  
Peter McNeely, AA-S  
Colleen Meffert, AA-S  
Keith Menton, AA-S  
Brian Merriman, AA-S  
Zach Mikronis, AA-C  
Matheus Moraes, AA-C  
Cory Mullis, AA-S  
Randi Neubeck, AA-S  
Phan Nguyen, AA-S  
Priscilla Obie, AA-S  
Margaret O'Brien, AA-S  
Cherrie Patel, AA-C  
Priscilla Patel, AA-S  
Taylor Pence, AA-S  
Bryan Pernes, AA-S  
Nancy Phan, AA-S  
Dakota Quinn, AA-S  
Jacob Rasanow, AA-S  
Christina Romanach, AA-S  
Matthew Sanchez, AA-S  
S. James Saunders, AA-S  
Alyssa Scheidecker, AA-S  
Brooke Schlieve, AA-C  
Danyal Shaikh, AA-S  
Jordan Shapiro, AA-S  
Angela Simon, AA-S  
Cody Smith, AA-S  
Glenn Soldan, AA-C  
Lauren Stainbrook, AA-S

Richard Stall, AA-S  
Natasa Stanic, AA-S  
Claire Stansbury, AA-C  
Ashley Steinbach, AA-C  
Tate Storey, AA-S  
Gloria Stuben, AA-C  
Jordan Szpak, AA-S  
John Talley, AA-S  
Nada Tayeh, AA-S  
Cassandra Ternes, AA-S  
Britany Thomas, AA-S  
Mary Tomaino, AA-S  
Lindsay Tomarchio, AA-S  
Vinh Tran, AA-S  
Gail van der Want, AA-S  
Robert Varro, AA-S  
Carol Veillette, AA-C  
Charis Vorst, AA-S  
Dat Vu, AA-S  
Kara Wahlgren, AA-S  
Sarah Wall, AA-S  
Christine Wang, AA-S  
William Watkins, AA-S  
Brian Wheatley, AA-S  
Kassandra Wienholt, AA-S  
Morgan Williams, AA-S  
Jane Yongo, AA-S  
Jane Zaleski, AA-S  
Itzel Zambrano, AA-S

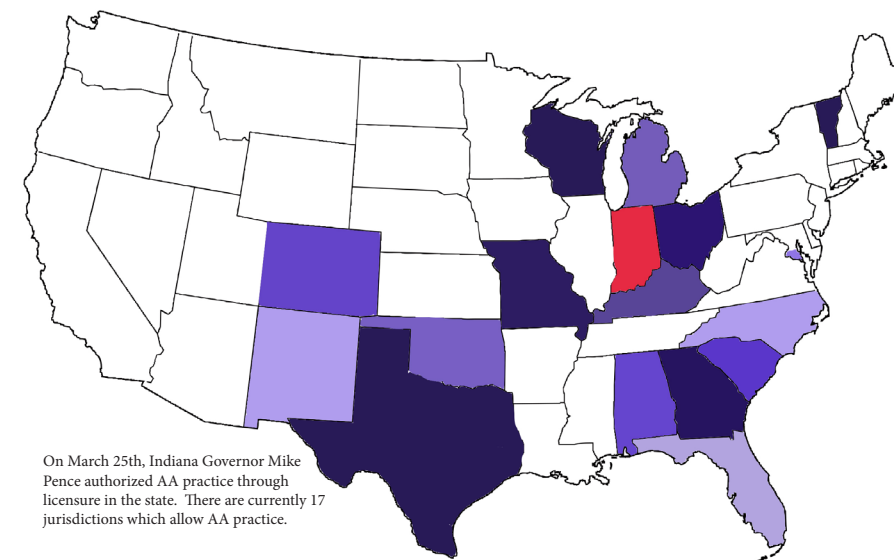
## NCCAA to Offer Discount to AAAA Members

The National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants has announced discounted CME and CDQ memberships to all current American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA) members. By entering the AAAA membership number on the NCCAA practitioner portal, the practitioner will be offered discounted pricing on all CMEs and CDQ fees.

As of June 1, 2014, NCCAA has added a new online practitioner portal to their website. From this portal, practitioners will now have the ability to update their profiles, change their address and even submit CME credits online. CMEs can be input at any time during your two year certification cycle. Keep track of all of your CMEs online and submit payment directly through the portal. There will be no need to submit paperwork for change of address request or CMEs anymore.

## Expanding Practice

As Indiana becomes the latest jurisdiction to allow AA practice, AAAA continues to meet with legislators around the country to secure practice expansion



## Indiana Authorizes AAs: 17th Jurisdiction to Authorize AA Practice

By Jason Hansen, M.S., J.D.

On March 25, Indiana Governor Mike Pence (R) signed into law Senate Bill 233, which authorizes licensure for anesthesiologist assistants (AAs). This legislative success was the result of a multi-year effort by the Indiana Society of Anesthesiologists (ISA) and the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants. Indiana will be the 17th jurisdiction to authorize AA practice. AAs are also recognized federally by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Veterans Affairs system.

William McNiece, M.D., ISA President, stated that the new law will help Indiana keep pace with the growing demand for anesthesia services. He commented, "I am pleased Indiana has joined the list of states where anesthesiologist assistants can be licensed and work with anesthesiologists to deliver safe anesthetic care to patients. I believe this is a positive step for Indiana patients who need anesthesia for surgery or a procedure. We now look forward to implementing the new legislation and to beginning the process of introducing anesthesiologist assistants into anesthesiology practices in Indiana."

AAs have served patients as members of physician anesthesiologist-led anesthesia care teams for more than 40 years. AAs are highly skilled health professionals who work under the direction of physician anesthesiologists to implement anesthesia care plans. They work exclusively within the anesthesia care team environment as described by ASA. All AAs possess an undergraduate degree with a premedical background and also complete a comprehensive didactic and clinical program at the graduate school level. Upon completion from an accredited program, AAs take an examination that is administered and scored by the National Board of Medical Examiners. AAs are trained extensively in the delivery and maintenance of quality anesthesia care as well as advanced patient monitoring techniques.

It is the position of ASA that both AAs and nurse anesthetists have

identical patient care responsibilities and technical capabilities. No state has amended its state law to limit the scope of practice of an AA due to safety concerns. In fact, states have increased the physician anesthesiologist/AA supervision ratio as they have proven to be highly qualified anesthesia providers. Because AAs work under the direction of a physician anesthesiologist, patients always have a physician anesthesiologist involved in their care and, as such, a physician anesthesiologist will be immediately available to respond to any complication that may arise.

According to Howard Odom, M.D., chair of ASA's Committee on Anesthesiologist Assistant Education and Practice, "Throughout the decades physician anesthesiologists and anesthesiologist assistants have worked together, patients have enjoyed increased access to care with a demonstrated and impeccable safety record. This new law offers Indiana patients the benefits of these needed and highly trained professionals – benefits which patients in 15 states, the District of Columbia, and the Veterans Affairs system receive from anesthesiologist assistants today."

The 2015 legislative session is around the corner. If your state is interested in pursuing legislation to authorize AAs, please contact Jason Hansen at [j.hansen@asahq.org](mailto:j.hansen@asahq.org).

If you are a physician anesthesiologist in Indiana interested in expanding your practice to include AAs or an AA interested in working in Indiana, please contact the ISA at [www.inanesthesiologist.net/contact.php](http://www.inanesthesiologist.net/contact.php) for more information about the new law and AA licensure in Indiana.

ASA Newsletter article "Indiana Authorizes AAs: 17th Jurisdiction to Authorize AA Practice" [2014; 78(6):58] is reprinted with permission of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068-2573

## Recap of 2014 ASA Practice Management Meeting

By David Biel, AA-C, AAAA Practice Committee Chair

This year's ASA Practice Management Meeting was held on January 23rd- 26th in Dallas, Texas. In attendance were David Biel, AA-C, Chair AAAA Practice Committee; Soren Campbell, AA-C, Vice Chair AAAA Practice Committee; Jet Toney AAAA Executive Director; and Carie Twichell, AA-C, AAAA President-Elect; ASA Practice Committee Member. The takeaway was from switching from a Fee for Service to a Valued Based system and Bundled payments. A panel discussion in the future to discuss how this affects AAs may be warranted. The ASA provided the AAAA with a discounted booth (\$1000) as they have in the past. Carie attended the PM Committee meeting on Thursday. Discussions included website redesign, staffing problems across various types of practice facilities, EMR and EPIC roll-out problems, billing issues and reimbursement/ payments such as the bundled payment process. Twichell will be working with a small group within this committee to help collect data on the ASA website, particularly those items pertaining to AAs. This project will also help compile important websites, points of reference and relevant articles in one organized area of the ASA website.

The AAAA booth was well attended, as usual. We had a good mix of interested parties, including anesthesiologists, practice managers, and residents. Also, we had a nice cross section of people who were knowledgeable about AAs to people who had very little knowledge. Questions we answered included those pertaining to education, how to bill for AAs, AA vs CRNA, practice specifics, etc. Recurring questions focused on our entry into new states: "So what do you have going on in state XYZ? Or "When are you going to break into my state"? We took this opportunity to explain it's hard to come from outside a state and

make things happen; we have the most success when initiatives come from inside the state (State Component Society). As AAs, We have to do a better job of sending this message and maybe we can look to the ASA to help us with that message. Another sentiment that was more prevalent at this meeting, one I heard mainly from people who were less familiar with the AA concept, was that they see the ASA promoting AAs more. So whatever we are doing with our relationship with the ASA, It's working! One example, Jay Mesrobian MD; Chair ASA PM Committee, in his opening remarks thanked all the sponsors, and went out of his way to mention that the AAAA was in attendance.

Twichell and Dr. Sam Page, a long time AA supporter from Missouri, moderated the round table discussions. This consisted of four 30-minute sessions and their topic was "How to Integrate AAs into Your Practice". Very similar to the activity at the booth, the round table discussions ranged in the novice practitioner to physicians who already employed AAs and wanted more! There were many interested parties from numerous states (Michigan, Oregon, Nevada, Vermont, Wisconsin, Georgia to name a few) and greatly varying types of practice (private groups, physician only, ACT and academic centers). We stressed the importance of educating and gaining support within their own state societies. Many physicians also were very receptive to hosting students for rotations as a first step to integrating. Other topics discussed were the importance of educating surgeons, nursing staff, PAs, and anesthesia technicians/technologists within a facility prior to introducing AAs. Billing/reimbursement, medical direction, and staffing questions were answered also. We took this time to meet with specific state components who requested a meeting with AAAA leaders.



## Washington, D.C.

# ASA Legislative Conference Report

By Michael Nichols, AA-C  
Chair, National Affairs Committee (Legislative Committee)

Each year, the American Society of Anesthesiologists hosts the Legislative Conference in Washington DC. This meeting brings together state and national advocacy experts and ‘politically-astute’ ASA members to learn about, discuss, and support legislative/regulatory issues pertinent to healthcare in general and anesthesiology specifically. The AAAA sends a delegation of leaders from the Legislative Committee, and this year’s attendees were Carie Twichell AA-C (President), Megan Varellas AA-C (President-Elect), Michael Nichols AA-C (Chair, Legislative Committee), Soren Campbell AA-C (Vice Chair, Legislative Committee), David Biel AA-C (Chair, Practice Committee) and Jet Toney (Executive Director).

Depending on the issues of importance to practice, the Legislative Conference splits time between national and state level issues. National issues of importance that were discussed include: (1) implications of the Affordable Care Act (PPACA); (2) Rural Pass Through legislation to enable anesthesiologist reimbursement through Medicare Part B in critical access rural hospitals; (3) Sustainable growth rate (SGR) reform for federal reimbursement of anesthesia services; (4) proposed revisions to the Veteran’s Affairs Nursing Handbook, which could have the devastating effect of removing physician supervision of nursing practice in the VA system; and (5) development of the Perioperative Surgical Home (PSH). Each of these federal legislative or regulatory issues has varying degrees of impact on the AA profession, from our ability to get paid, our ability to work in rural settings, our comparability of practice with other non-physician anesthesia providers, and future paradigms of

clinical practice.

As a national organization serving a coordinated collective of state component societies, state-level issues are also a major focus attention of the ASA Legislative Conference. The meeting offers an opportunity for various state leaders from across the country to leverage their state legislative and regulatory experiences across state borders in a forum of collective experiential learning. Of recent interest at the state level has been nurse anesthetist ‘opt out’, scope of practice of advanced practice nursing, medical board anti-trust actions, and to an ever increasing level, the geographic expansion of AA practice. Each year sees many new states interested in exploring the idea of introducing AA practice into their respective states – and 2014 was certainly no exception.

Our delegation had the pleasure of meeting with anesthesiologist representatives from California, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Utah, and many more. We on the National Affairs Committee anticipate 2015 to be the busiest legislative year that the AAAA has ever seen! Please stay tuned to your email and the AAAA website for action alerts and legislative updates. Colloquially, we will need an “all hands on deck” approach to the forthcoming legislative session in order to build on the successes of 2014 and continue the momentum into 2015.



(Washington, DC) – AAAA President Carie Twichell and President-elect Megan Varellas met with ASA leaders at the conclusion of the 2014 ASA Washington Legislative Conference: (l to r) Mr. Paul Pomerantz, CEO; Mr. Jason Hansen, Director of State Affairs; Dr. Jane Fitch, President; Dr. John Zerwas, Immediate Past-President and Dr. Daniel Cole, First Vice-President. Not pictured: ASA President-Elect Dr. John Abenstein and AAAA Executive Director James E. “Jet” Toney.



(Atlanta) – More than 100 AA Fellows and Students participated in the several activities of the GAAA’s 1st Annual AA Day at the Capitol. Legislators enjoyed a homemade biscuit breakfast and the opportunity to meet AAs from their districts who are in practice or in training.

## New York

# AA Advocacy Day

By Jet Toney  
AAAA Executive Director



Albany, NY – AAAA Immediate Past-President Saral Patel, AA-C, led an advocacy team of anesthesiologists, AAs, staff and lobbyists at AA Advocacy Day in New York on Monday, April 28, 2014. (L to R) Greg Mastropolo, AA-C, Dr. Bill Paulsen (Program Director, Quinncipiac), Dr. Michael Duffy (NYSSA President-Elect), Saral, Dr. Mike Simon (NYSSA Immediate Past President), Brady Bernert, AA-S (Emory), and Brad Wright, AA-S (South). Not pictured James E. “Jet” Toney, AAAA Executive Director, and Shauneen McNally, partner at NY lobbying firm Reid, McNally and Savage.

The team conducted 10 meetings in eight hours with members of the New York General Assembly, staff of key committees, representatives of state education and health agencies. Discussions focused on basic facts about AA education and practice and the value of peri-operative care in the Anesthesia Care Team.

AA students Wright and Bernert told lawmakers that they were raised and educated in New York State and desire to begin their careers and families in New York. Mastropolo and Patel told staff that AAs who live in New York must travel outside the state to practice.

Legislation has been introduced in New York to establish AA licensure.

## Georgia

# GAAA Day at Capitol Big Success

By Kris Tindol, AA-C

By all accounts the Georgia Academy’s first ever AA Day at the State Capitol was a tremendous success. The February 24th event in Atlanta was organized and executed by GAAA in conjunction with its management company, Cornerstone Communications Group, as a time to meet state legislators and educate lawmakers on the AA profession. More than 100 AA Fellows and Students attended from across the state to experience the political process in action.

Prior to arriving that Monday morning, members of the delegation had contacted their legislators well in advance to invite them to a grab-and-go breakfast and to tell the officials AAs looked forward to meeting them. The early breakfast provided a friendly forum that enabled Fellows to talk one-on-one with many members of both the House and Senate. The legislators were interested in the talking points and were appreciative of the information concerning the long history of AAs providing quality anesthesia in Georgia.

One of the highlights of the day was the reading of a special Resolution on the floor of the State Senate. Georgia State Senator Chuck Hufstetler, AA-C, arranged for a visit to the floor session and sponsored a proclamation that was read to the entire governing body declaring that February 24, 2014, is officially AA Day in the great state of Georgia.

GAAA leaders were invited to stand on the platform facing the chamber while the Resolution was read. President Joy Rusmisell accepted the Resolution and addressed the Senators, their staff, and gallery visitors.

Members of the delegation also visited with their representatives while the bodies were in session by meeting them “behind the line” for photos and conversation about AA practice and issues. The legislators were especially receptive to the young, bright faces of the students from both Emory and South University and were eager to learn about their education experiences. They also listened attentively as Fellows spoke of the profession and the quality patient care provided as part of the Anesthesia Care Team.

Healthcare delivery is ever-changing, and we must be proactive in places like the legislature and the Medical Board where policy decisions are made. The Fellows and Students who attended AA Day left with valuable insight into the art of forging and maintaining positive working relationships with our elected officials so that when the time comes to protect our interests, we have the relationships in place for advocacy. GAAA extends its sincere thanks to Senator Hufstetler, Mr. Jet Toney and his entire group at Cornerstone, and to the AA Programs at Emory and South for all their work and support to make AA Day such a success.



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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED OVER THE PAST YEAR

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An AAAA member donates to the legislative fund at the Annual Conference



# 38th Annual Conference

April 11-15, 2014

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina



This year's Annual Conference, held in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, saw a record turnout of AA fellows, students, and supporters of the AA profession. Everyone in attendance enjoyed lectures on topics such as trauma anesthesia, patient positioning, and fluid management. Participants were able to partake in an ultrasound guided regional workshop where they learned hands-on techniques for performing regional blocks. At the Annual Membership Kickoff Breakfast, Immediate Past President Saral Patel, AA-C gave her outgoing remarks and honored several AAs and anesthesiologists for their service to the profession. She then passed the torch to incoming president Carie Twichell, AA-C, who spoke about service and communication.

At the annual Gravenstein Memorial Lecture, John Abenstein, MD, ASA President-Elect gave an update from the American Society of Anesthesiologists. Students and Fellow AAs came together Saturday evening for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, poster presentations and meetings with vendors. Students fought a fierce battle in the Jeopardy competition, and Case Western Reserve University Houston came out on top. In the end, University of Missouri Kansas City ended up winning the coveted AAAA Student Cup.

In their free time, attendees relaxed in the sun by the beautiful pools, or on the sandy white beach. Those looking for a physical challenge enjoyed the first-ever boot camp set on the beach at sunset or ran in the annual 5K Fun Run. Overall, the conference was educational, informative, and a great way for AAAA members to reconnect with former classmates, find old friends, and meet new ones.



## Annual Membership Kickoff Breakfast





## Gravenstein Memorial Lecture: ASA Update



## Exhibitor Wine Reception and Student Social





## Ultrasound Guided Regional Workshop



## President's Reception



## Jeopardy





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## Student News



## UMKC Wins AAAA Cup

The AAAA Student Component is happy to announce the winner of the 2014 AAAA Cup is University of Missouri-Kansas City! The AAAA Cup is a friendly competition among the various schools to encourage student participation within the student component. This year the entire student component donated an impressive \$17,676 to the AAAA Legislative Fund and raised \$6,391.33 for Lifebox. UMKC, the winners of the AAAA Cup, had 84% of their student body donate to the Legislative Fund at the Student Leaders of Advocacy level. This is a donation of \$100 or more. They also raised \$1,484.33 for Lifebox. UMKC had an 86% program attendance at the AAAA conference and 97% attendance at the student social. All of these parameters helped them bring home the trophy to Missouri. Congratulations UMKC!

The competition is already underway for 2015, and we offer best wishes to all of the programs!







AAAA Executive Offices  
1231-J Collier Rd. NW  
Atlanta, GA 30318

## Calendar of Events

### July

17 – 20 – Amelia Island, FL  
Heart Failure Management 2014.  
The University of Florida College  
of Medicine designates this live  
activity for a maximum of 18.25  
AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.  
Register and pay online at <http://heartfailure.cme.ufl.edu>.

18 - 20 – Greensboro, GA  
The Georgia Society of  
Anesthesiologists Summer  
Meeting. Register online at <http://www.gsahq.org/upcoming-meetings>.

### September

4 – 7 – Lost Pines, TX  
2014 Annual Meeting Texas Society  
of Anesthesiologists. Check <http://www.tsa.org/> for more information.

6 – 7 – Elkhart Lake, WI  
Wisconsin Society of  
Anesthesiologists 2014 Annual

Meeting: Pediatric Anesthesia for  
the General Practitioner and More.  
Offering 11.0 AMA PRA Category 1  
Credits™. Online registration and  
brochure available at <http://thewsa.org/events/annual-meeting/>.

### October

11- 15 – New Orleans, LA  
Anesthesiology 2014 (American  
Society of Anesthesiologists Annual  
Meeting). Go to <http://www.asahq.org/Annual-Meeting.aspx> for  
information and updates.

### December

12 – 16 – New York City  
68th Annual PostGraduate  
Assembly (PGA) in Anesthesiology.  
The New York State Society of  
Anesthesiologists, Inc., designates  
this live activity for a max of 54.75  
AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.  
Online registration at [www.nyssa-pga.org](http://www.nyssa-pga.org).

### January 2015

25 - 30 - Steamboat Springs, CO  
The Department of Anesthesiology,  
University Of Florida College of  
Medicine presents:  
Concepts in Anesthesiology,  
January 25 to 30 2015, The  
Grand Hotel, Steamboat Springs,  
Colorado.  
Course Director: Dr Jay Johansen  
Invited Speakers:  
Dr. Hernando DeSoto  
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