

June 5, 2007

Dear Members,

We all lead exceptionally busy lives and it just seems to get busier. The time has come for me to stop and let you know what has been happening in the Association. It has been a quiet year, which has given me the opportunity to do some major house keeping and organization. With the filing cabinets cleaned out, there is an organized history of the Association. Looking back at the history of the association, leadership and member involvement in the Nevada Association has not been our strong point. Unless we all play an active role, other agencies could influence outcomes that could put our jobs in jeopardy.

On March 13, 2007, I met with George Ross from Snell and Wilmer Lobbyist Group, at the State Capital, to do some grass roots for the association. I was able to meet with Senators Rhodes, Heck, and Washington, and Assemblymen Grady and Goicoechea. The purpose was to educate the newly elected officials who CRNA's are. Many did not have a clue as to who or what CRNA's do. Many were under the impression that anesthesia was delivered only by anesthesiologists. I feel that I was able to make an impact on that misconception and stressed that 100% of Rural Nevada's anesthesia is administered by CRNA's. And of the 73 CRNA's in Nevada, the majority practice in the Las Vegas/Henderson area.

Senator Heck, D.O., of Emergency Room services in Las Vegas, is introducing a bill to allow Nevada to join the National Nurses Licensure Compact. There are currently 21 states that belong. This will help aide Nevada to bring in qualified nursing personnel. Currently this bill is in the Senate and we are waiting to see if it will pass. Just a reminder this bill allows you to practice under your RN license in the state in which you originally sat for boards, and maintain that license and finally allows you to practice in other states in the compact. You still need to apply for your CRNA Advance practice license in the states you wish to work. Also I must stress that as an APN of the state of your choice you must adhere to that states scope of practice.

On another note, Steven Sertich, the Federal Political Director, and I were able to attend the Mid-Year Assembly in Washington DC in April. Listed below are the three issues that we took to our elected representatives.

1. Keeping Medicare Strong for Seniors
 - The Congress of the United States passed a law few years ago to ensure the solvency of the Medicare program. It has allowed for controlled increases and decreases in Medicare spending according to a formula. Well, this formula has been written such that there have been no increases and will decrease another 10-13% effective January 2008. The AANA has taken the position that if you decrease payment to Medicare providers then it will be the Medicare recipients that will suffer with decreased access to care. Congress has reversed the mandatory cuts each year since the passage of the law. Unfortunately, we all are going to feel the impact in 2008. We lobbied successfully in years past and that is why we continued to bring this issue up to our representatives.
2. Funding For CRNA Education
 - In a climate of huge budget deficits asking for an increase education spending for CRNA's and other nursing professionals is a tough sell. Despite the current climate, we tackled and promoted this issue. Currently the funds from the Labor-HHS Education Appropriations amounts to \$3 million for CRNA's, \$58 million for advance practice nurse, and \$151 million for nursing education. Under Bush's budget plan, currently, nursing education was eliminated. We asked our representatives to keep nursing education in the Budget.
3. Nondiscrimination in Anesthesia Teaching Reimbursement
 - The past 4 years the anesthesiologists have unsuccessfully lobbied congress to change the way they are reimbursed for teaching anesthesiologist residents. Currently if an anesthesiologist is supervising two resident

anesthesiologists or two student nurse anesthetists the reimbursement is the same. They can charge for 50% for each case. Their efforts have been to change this formula, with them receiving a 100% reimbursement for each case they supervise regardless of number of anesthesiologist residents. They have not been asking for like reimbursement rates for teaching nurse anesthetist students. AANA finds this to be discriminatory and believes that this can favor the teaching of anesthesiology residents above student nurse anesthetist. We lobbied this year to our members of congress that they go along with the proposed change in teaching reimbursement for residents and in addition change reimbursement rates for teaching nurse anesthetist students to the same reimbursement. This would be a significant increase in Medicare spending.

This is a brief synopsis of the issues we lobbied on Capital Hill. We continue to believe that AANA and the DC office staff have their finger on the pulse of hot button issues that are vital in protecting and continuing progress of our profession. The Mid-Year Assembly meeting is very informative of the behind the scenes, political aspect, that keeps CRNA's strong in America. I can honestly say that this was not what I went to Anesthesia school for but after attending this meeting, I learned how incredibly important it is that we stay active on issues that affect our practice on the state and federal level. I invite each of you to attend the Mid-Year Assembly, next April 22-25, 2008 in Washington D.C...It will be a truly educational experience and the best part is our elective officials want to here from their constituents, let them here your voice.

Speaking of voices, I need to hear your voices. The association bylaws have been revised. As the new president, I had many questions and was told by our regional director that the answers should be in the bylaws. The bylaws are vague and do not delegate the roles and responsibilities of officers. I envision our association becoming stronger over the years, in order for this to happen, the responsibilities and duties of the officers needed to be spelled out clearly. I have taken the time to contact and review three other small states bylaws to develop a set that Nevada can adhere to. The revised bylaws can be viewed on our web-page. Oh yeah! It's exciting, Nevada has a web page, www.nvana.org please feel free to email me with ideas to enhance the page. Back to bylaws, A majority vote is needed to enact the revised Bylaws. After you have read the bylaws I need you to vote yeah or neigh on the enclosed card and drop it in the mail by June 25, 2007. Also on the enclosed card you will see a spot for nominations for President-Elect, Secretary/Treasure, Federal political Director, and 4 Board Members. The time has come for us to get some new members involved in the State and National association. I am trying to make this as simple as possible. All I am asking of you is to nominate either yourself or someone who you feel would be a great asset to the association. We are a small state but I can not run this state effectively without the help of my members. Please fill out the enclosed card and mail it back. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via email nvana@frontiernet.net.

I look forward to your cooperation in the nominating process and voting on the revised bylaws by June 25, 2007.

Don't forget to check out the webpage.... www.nvana.org.

Sincerely,

Gina Kronenberg, CRNA
Nevada Association of Nurse Anesthetists
President

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS
NOMINATION BALLET

President-Elect: _____

Secretary/Treasurer: _____

Federal Political Director: _____

4 Board of Directors:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

_____ YES, agree to Bylaw changes

_____ NO, do not change Bylaws