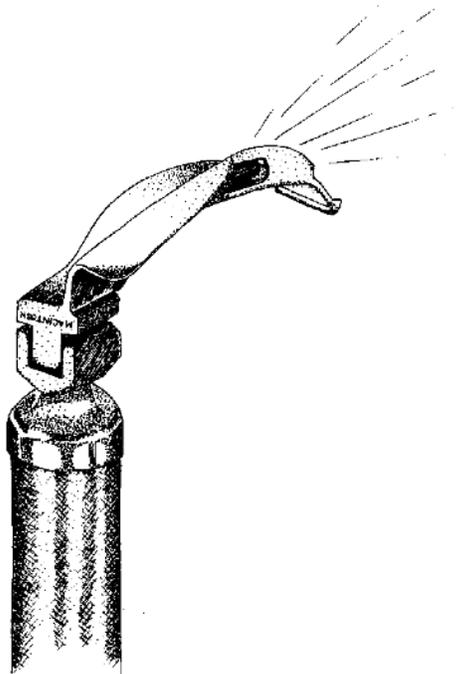


# AKANA

ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

C/O ALASKA NURSES ASSOCIATION - 3701 E. TUDOR RD., SUITE 208 - ANCHORAGE, AK 99507



## Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 1 May, 2018

# Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

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September 1, 2017 thru August 31, 2018

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# Editorial



Hello Everyone,

This spring has been a slow one for the newsletter, so I apologize for our lateness. Most of this, I think, is due to a general disinterest in the newsletter, and perhaps the AKANA in general. I hope it's more the former than the latter, since our organization provides a very important function in monitoring and protecting our practice. Alaska is a great state in which to be a CRNA, but as in other places we're under constant threat.

There has been some discussion regarding the newsletter, both of reducing publication to yearly and also of eliminating it entirely. I think there's enough content and interest to keep it going, but I'd support a yearly publication rather than our current biannual schedule. If you have feelings on this topic please express them to AKANA leadership.

Have a great summer...

Ryan Hokanson, CRNA  
Editor

## PUBLISHING INFORMATION

This newsletter is the official newsletter of the Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists and is published twice a year.

This newsletter is meant as a source of information for members of AKANA, students and other interested parties. Articles from readers are encouraged and will be accepted for publication if they have a specific value to AKANA and/or the anesthesia profession.

Letters to the Editor are also welcomed and will be printed on a space available basis. All correspondence sent to the Editor must be typed or e-mailed. Contents may be edited without submitter's approval. While being responsive to the readership of the AKANA newsletter, the Editor reserves the right of refusal of letters and articles.

Editorials and letters from readers do not represent the official view or stance of the Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

# Presidents Update

Nicole Bonfoey CRNA  
President Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
May 2018



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AKANA members,

Mid Year was a success! I cannot give enough thanks to Brittany Plouffe for going this year. It was wonderful to meet a CRNA in state that I hadn't met before show up and speak out for her practice in the Mat-Su valley.

As you may know, the AANA MidYear assembly is held every spring in Washington, DC around Cherry Blossom Festival time. It's a five day conference filled with energizing and educational talks, a rally, and meetings with legislators. It's a long way to go for a short event but essential to keep our voice heard.

We met with the staff of Senators Murkowski and Sullivan and Congressman Young to talk about CRNA practice, what we do, how we're trained & reimbursed, where we practice. National issues discussed were the opioid crisis, veterans access to care in the VA system, rural pass through, and title 8 funding.

Overall our meetings went pretty well this year, with excellent engagement with staff from all three of our legislators, especially Don Young's.

Please continue to call and write letters speaking up for your practice. There are a lot of voices. Let's be the loudest.

# Education Committee Update

Jessica Harrison CRNA

Sara Slater CRNA

Education Committee, Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

May 2018



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Thank you to all who attend and supported our annual AKANA education meeting this year. The meeting was held in downtown Anchorage at the Sheraton Hotel and Spa. We had a total of 44 member/nonmember CRNAs as well as 5 anesthesia techs attend this year. Our featured speakers hailed from the south and brought informative lectures. We were pleased to hear all the positive feedback regarding the location of the meeting and the speakers.

We are starting the process of molding the 2019 meeting. Per some requests, we are hoping to include some topics regarding the business of anesthesia and legal issues. This meeting is for you, our members! We would love for anyone to send us topics of interest that you would like to see at next years meeting. We are also looking into sending out a survey regarding the previous and future meetings. We hope that this will provide us with relevant information to use for our future planning.

Randy Moore, the new CEO of AANA, gave a wonderful update on the CPC program, current health-care reimbursement issues, as well as what the AANA is doing to protect and maintain CRNAs in the workplace. Heather Rankin provided many useful lectures regarding pediatrics, and Dru Riddle kept us engaged with his Clinical Conundrum's scenarios.

I would also like to introduce the newest members of the education committee. Brandi Olsen, Julia Gluth, and Megan Kraai will be joining the team. The four of us will be diligently working to provide another great meeting for 2019. Feel free to submit any questions/comments/or suggestions to [akanaeducation@gmail.com](mailto:akanaeducation@gmail.com). We are looking forward to another successful meeting next year. Thank you to all who participated and supported our 2018 AKANA Education Meeting.

Jessica Harrison , DNP, CRNA

In support of all  
state associations,  
**\$50 of your tuition**  
will be donated back to  
your home state association!



New Mexico  
Association of  
Nurse Anesthetists

September in Santa Fe:  
NMANA Annual Conference  
September 6 - 9, 2018  
Hotel Santa Fe  
20 CE Credits - \$625  
[www.NMANA.org](http://www.NMANA.org)

**Quality Program by a Non-Profit Provider: Invest in the future of CRNAs**

# APRN Alliance

Wendy Monrad, CDR, USPHS, CRNA, MSN  
APRN Alliance Liaison  
May 2018



CRNAs took time out of their busy schedules to participate in two lobbying trips to Juneau this spring. We had the pleasure of working with and getting to know Jeff Logan, the new lobbyist hired in January by the Alliance. He is very well connected and has many years of experience. He has attended and advised us at monthly Alliance meetings, and emailed all of the four constituent groups with monthly legislative updates. Jeff is earning his keep by helping the APRN title become recognized and understood by legislators.

Board of Nursing update- The majority of the new regulations that we all commented on last year were finally passed by legal, signed by the Lt. Governor and went into effect on May 16th. CRNA regulations have been repealed and we are now officially CRNA/APRNs. You might remember last year that the BON pulled out the clause on Scope of Practice due to their disagreement with the language about identifying professional organizations for each group of APRNs. This was done on the advice of legal council for the state. Professional organizations are very clear for the CRNAs and the CNMs. We only have one organization that determines our scope of practice. The NPs and CNS have different organizations based on their area of expertise. This created considerable confusion and concern for the BON. The Alliance then spent months reworking the language and provided advise on a re-write for this paragraph to the BON at their February board meeting. The BON agreed to use the new language and write an advisory opinion to define the different professional organizations. However, at the May board meeting, the BON bizarrely came up with new language that the Alliance doesn't agree with, and then in an unprecedented move, they immediately put it out for public comment. The Alliance leadership (which includes 4 CRNAs) are drafting a letter to support the language that everyone agreed to in February. Constituent groups will be contacted through their state associations to submit public comment prior to June 18. Please watch out for emails and information on the AKANA Facebook page. There is some concern that our anesthesia adversaries may take note of this comment period and write to protest against CRNA inclusion in the APRN group. Even though that ship has sailed and CRNAs are APRNs both in statute and now in regulation, please be ready to write!

Lastly, the official non-profit status of the Alliance is still in process. The bank accounts have been established and the board has nominated and elected officers per procedure. They are just waiting on final state and federal paperwork. Historical documents are being electronically archived, and web site and design are in process.

Respectfully submitted

Wendy Monrad, CRNA, APRN Alliance representative  
with contribution from

Chris Logan, CRNA, APRN Alliance Board Member and AKANA President-Elect

# Spring Meeting 2018!!!



**Speakers (l to r): Heather Rankin CRNA, Randall Moore CRNA and CEO of the AANA, Dru Riddle CRNA**



**Rural CRNAs break out for a lunch meeting**



**Heather Rankin CRNA and Jeff Worrell CRNA discuss pediatric anesthesia.**



**The Group**