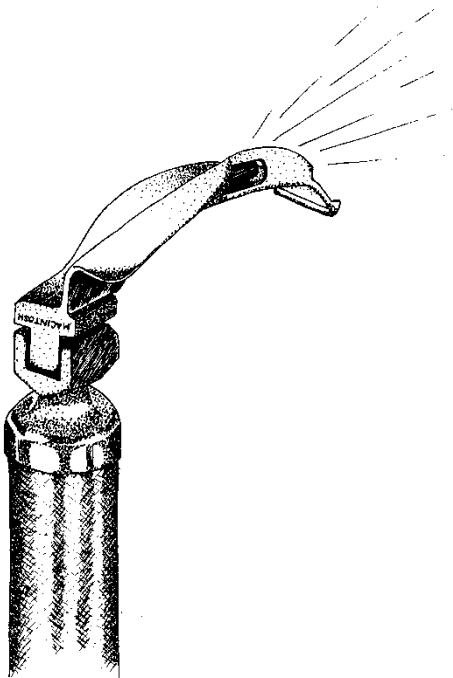


# AKANA

ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

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



## Newsletter

**Vol. 9 No. 1 June, 2014**

**Progress may have been all right once,  
but it went on too long.**

**Ogden Nash**

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# Editorial

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I hope this newsletter finds each of you enjoying this fantastic spring weather. This is my first experience as editor so please be patient and of course I am open to any criticism and/or advice you may have.

We have all heard of the significant changes coming our way as healthcare evolves in this country. The Affordable Care Act is now in full swing and we have begun to feel its effects (thus the Nash quote).

Your AKANA Board members have been busy this year representing us at the state and national levels. I am sure you will find their articles very interesting. These reports are also meant to inspire those Alaskan CRNAs who are looking for ways to get involved.

Our Education Committee put together another excellent state meeting in March. The topics covered were practical and covered a wide array in the field of anesthesia. Please let us know if there are any specific topics you would like to learn more about for next year's meeting.

We in Alaska have the very special privilege of practicing in a state which considers CRNAs independent practitioners. The autonomy we enjoy is not shared by many of our fellow CRNAs in the lower 48. We must remain vigilant and informed on the issues which greatly impact our profession so that our patients can continue to receive the best care possible.

Thanks to everyone who has written reports and sent in photos for me to include in this newsletter. I am very grateful to Wally Upham for showing me the ropes and helping to get me started in this new role.

Adam Dalglish, CRNA  
Editor



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## 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.

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# Presidents Update

Chris Logan, CRNA



Change is happening. The implementation of the Affordable Care Act, like it or not, will affect anesthesia care. As patients are paying higher deductibles and increased out-of-pocket costs, competition for quality and affordability will increase. As government payers (Medicaid, Medicare, Military) look for ways to cut costs, the bottom line will continue to influence regulatory action. Take for example the current issue with the Veterans Administration.

From the AANA Government Affairs page, *To ensure our Veterans have access to high quality healthcare, the VHA is updating its Nursing Handbook, a guide for VHA healthcare facilities, to authorize Full Practice Authority (FPA) to CRNAs and other Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to practice to their full scope and to be recognized as Full Practice Providers (FPPs). This designation follows the recommendation of the Institute of Medicine that APRNs be permitted to practice to the full scope of their skill and training, thus ensuring patient access to quality care as well as the most efficient, effective use of healthcare expert workforce. The AANA supports the VHA's modernization of the Nursing Handbook so that the healthcare needs of our Veterans can be met, while maintaining and ensuring high quality healthcare delivery.*

The anesthesia care team model (ACT), and supervision requirements both of CRNA and Nurse Practitioners, is negated under the VA authorization. Anesthesia provider redundancy is removed, provider efficiency

is increased. Costs are lowered, patient access is improved. What's not to like?

What else is changing? Recertification for CRNAs. The NBCRNA requirements will be implemented starting January 2016. What this will mean for Alaska is a revamping of the way we run our annual state meeting. There have been emails circulating recently about how the new certification standards equals the end of our state association, but I am not convinced. They argue that if the state meeting cannot offer continuing education credits that meet the requirements, no one will attend the state meeting, a quorum of membership will not be established, and business of state associations will cease. Somehow, I'm not too worried about that. It would be easy enough to write into the bylaws a clause allowing the general membership to vote by email. End of doom and gloom. Maybe I'm just tired of fear mongering and drama. We probably haven't heard the last of it, unfortunately.

A change that is coming closer to home is the APRN Consensus Model. The primary reason for taking on this monumental task is two-fold. One, Alaska's nursing regulations need an overhaul and Alaska's APRNs would like to be on the "wagon train" instead of under it. Two, the national model tries to create more uniform regulations from state to state to increase provider portability and patient access.

The four APRN specialties have formed a work group known as the APRN Alliance which is meeting once a month and working to re-write the Alaska nursing statutes with

respect to APRNs. I am a co-chair this year. Judy Dearborn is also participating in this group.

Using the Consensus Model as a template, we plan to bring the language for approval by the Board of Nursing (which has been surprisingly difficult to get agreement on all fronts) and then introduce legislation in 2015 to open the Nurse Practice Act and get the bill through cleanly. If you follow Alaska politics at all, you may wonder how this is going to play out. We wonder the same thing. The trick is to get the bill vetted by leg/legal prior to its introduction by a senator of our choosing, and get it through without anyone (ie. Alaska Medical Association) attaching anything to it in an attempt to reduce the scope of practice or increase supervision.

You may be asking, "Why even bother?" Sometimes I also ask this. But the way the Alaska statutes are currently written, it is increasingly problematic for insurers to pay us. So representatives from all four specialties meet once a month to write and argue a little however, we generally stick together under "all for one and one for all". If you have any interest in this process you can call in to the meeting, or attend 2 hours

once a month at Providence Hospital in Anchorage. It would be nice to get a couple more CRNAs in this work group as next fall we will need to rally support from all sides.

In other news, the American Nurses Credentialing Center has reversed their decision and now continuing education credit/contact hours can be received for BLS, ACLS, PALS, and NRP. So be sure to submit those certificates to the AANA for credit. The Alaska Board of Nursing will also accept them for re-licensure this November. Yaaayyyy!

This will be my last newsletter update for the Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists. I have been on the board for 8 years during which I have seen a great deal of change AND progress in our association. I have enjoyed the ride and learned a great deal. I will be handing off the torch in September and most likely be primarily focusing on the upcoming APRN legislation for 2015.

Happy Spring!

Chris Logan, CRNA  
President  
Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

# Education Committee Report

Kelly Rygh, CRNA Julie Christensen, CRNA

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The 2014 AKANA Annual Meeting was held on March 8 & 9, 2014 at the Hilton in downtown Anchorage. The speakers, including Sharon Pearce, CRNA, President-Elect of the AANA, provided entertaining and interesting topics for the attendees to enjoy.

Thank you to all the members and associate members for your support of our educational and networking opportunity this year. We appreciate all of the feedback and will take any suggestions into consideration for the upcoming meetings in the future.

We want to give Kate Wackel, CRNA a special thank you for returning to Alaska and assisting with coordinating the meeting for a final time this year. We will begin planning the meeting for next year soon. We will provide updates regarding the date, speakers and topics when determined and scheduled. It was great to see another year of record attendees and we hope our members will continue to support the meetings in the future. Have a great summer!

Kelly Rygh, CRNA  
Julie Christensen, CRNA





# Nominations Committee Update

Brian McCorison, CRNA

Holly Chelmo, CRNA

Ansley Carter, CRNA

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We want to start by thanking everyone for his or her votes. We know how difficult it must have been to narrow down the competition to the three of us; Ansley Carter, Holly Chelmo, and myself, Brian McCorison. We are happy to serve as a part of the AKANA.

For those of you that don't know, the nominations committee is responsible for the elections each year. Including recruitment of candidates and the election process. In previous years the elections have been done by paper ballots mailed back and forth between members and the AKANA. They were counted by anesthesia students at ANMC to ensure privacy.

Last year elections were accomplished through email and again counted by anesthesia students. Both of these methods have been successful. However, we feel there is a more seamless, and anonymous way to vote utilizing a third party web page.

For the 2015 elections we are working on finding a secure, online voting web page that assures anonymity, ease of use, and is allowed within the AKANA guidelines. In a quick Google search we have found multiple options varying in cost from free to \$200.00. We will continue to research which one will best fit the AKANA needs.

Thanks for reading and if anyone has some experience with online voting or would like to nominate a member for a position, feel free to contact any of us. There are two Director positions available (two year term), the President/President-Elect position (one year in each position two year commitment), and the Secretary position (two year term).

Brian McCorison, CRNA  
Chair, Nominations Committee

# Alaska State Healthcare Legislation

## Juneau Fly-In, Spring 2014

Jeff Worrell, CRNA



Wally Upham and I joined with other nurses in Juneau to discuss important health care issues with state legislators. The primary goal of this meeting was to introduce the nationally supported Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) language to the legislators.

Chris Logan and Judy Dearborn have been instrumental in this process. They have formed a group called the APRN Alliance which includes representatives from all four of the APRN roles (see below).

We met with Rep. Bill Stoltze, Sen. Fred Dyson and Sen. Kathy Giessel. Other nurses in this group met with many other legislators. One group also met with the governor to discuss school nurse issues. It was a time to have a very personal conversation about health care issues that affect us (CRNAs) and the beneficiaries of state funded health care. You will be hearing more about the “APRN model” in the upcoming year. The Alaska Board of Nursing will likely ask the legislators to introduce language in the nursing statutes to support this model during the next legislative session.

Each APRN specialty has a unique history and context but share the commonality of being APRNs. While education, accreditation, and certification are necessary components of an overall approach to preparing an APRN for practice, the licensing boards governed by state regulations and statutes are the final arbiters of who is recognized to practice within a given state.

***Currently, there is no uniform model of regulation of APRNs across the states. Each state independently determines the APRN legal scope of practice, the roles that are recognized, the criteria for entry-into advanced practice and the certification examinations accepted for entry-level competence assessment. This has created a significant barrier for APRNs to easily move from state to state and has decreased access to care for patients.***

The model for APRN regulation is the product of substantial work conducted by the Advanced Practice Nursing Consensus Work Group and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) APRN Committee. In this APRN model of regulation there are four roles:

1. **Certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA)**
2. Certified nurse-midwife (CNM)
3. Clinical nurse specialist (CNS)
4. Certified nurse practitioner (CNP).

These four roles are given the title of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN).

Why should you care? Once adopted, you will hold the title of APRN in this state. That title is key in the federal regulations covering payment for your services when caring for Medicaid and Medicare patients. In my practice at Alaska Regional Hospital, this accounts for over 50% of our patient population. I know you all like to work. I bet you also like getting paid. Integration of this title will also help stop many of the inconsistencies that occur across state lines.

**From legislative update dated 2/25/2014: HB 269 – An act providing immunity for certain**

**licensed temporary health care providers  
who provide free health care services.**

We were able to get this bill amended to require that out of state providers who provide free care need to designate an instate provider for a patient to follow up with. RNs and ANPs are included in this bill. We are having trouble getting CRNAs listed independently, though they are RNs so I think they should be covered.

This is an example of how our life would be simpler with an APRN designation. This bill passed the House and is in Senate Labor and commerce.

Judy Dearborn and I will be attending the Mid Year Assembly in Washington D.C. in April as your state representatives. We will hopefully be meeting with all three of our federal legislators to discuss health care issues germane to our practice.

Jeff Worrell, Ltc, USAF (retired)  
CRNA, MSN  
President-Elect, Alaska Association of Nurse  
Anesthetists

Waldron Upham, CRNA



Jeff Worrell and I represented the AKANA at the Juneau Fly-in this February, an opportunity to meet with our state legislators, along with other advanced practice nurses and RNs.

We were able to visit several of our state senators and representatives to express our views on upcoming legislation, and acquaint them with who we are and what we do in for health care in Alaska.

Although we didn't have any specific bills from the AKANA to present to the legislature in this session, our main focus was to educate them about Alaska's APRN Alliance and APRN consensus guidelines.

The APRN alliance, a group of Alaska APRNs, was established in Anchorage in 2012 to provide expert advice, make recommendations,

and support adaptation and implementation of the APRN consensus guidelines into Alaska statutes and regulations.

The consensus guidelines, produced by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and some 40 other organizations (including the AANA), will bring standardization of educational requirements, licensing, and legal scope of practice among the states, making it easier for CRNAs and other APRNs to move between states or to keep licensure is several states.

Between meeting with legislators, I was able to sit in the gallery during a House floor session, and was introduced to the entire House by my representative, Bill Stoltze, as his constituent and a CRNA. Shortly thereafter, for floor session turned into a joint session of both

houses, and I was able to stay and attend US Senator Lisa Murkowski's address to the Alaska Legislature. All in all, quite an experience!

This was my first and only trip to Juneau, so I have no idea what it's like there in summer when the cruise ships are in (very busy and crowded, I expect) or in winter when the legislature is not in session (kinda sleepy?). I was pretty fascinated by the fact that at this time of year, around 8 or 9 in the morning, the streets would fill up with men and women walking to or from the capitol building, dressed in killer business clothes and carrying folders and brief cases. You'd hear snippets of conversation about how this bill was doing or how a senator

felt about that issue~~just intriguing to witness from a people-watching point of view and to experience first-hand the process of how the state's business gets done.

There will be another Juneau Fly-In next year sometime in February, and the Mid-Year Assembly (the AANA's national version of the Juneau Fly-In) will be in Washington, D.C. this coming April. Please think about attending either of these if you're at all interested in meeting your representatives and getting "your 2¢ worth" in about CRNAs!

Waldron Upham, CRNA



# Positions Available for Nominations for the AKANA Board of Directors in 2015

Chris Logan, CRNA

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We have been improving our telecommunications capabilities to the point where most board business is conducted by email and video conferencing for board meetings. You do not have to live in Anchorage to be elected for any of these positions. These are volunteer positions. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

**President-Elect** (2 year term, 1 as Pres-Elect and 1 as President)

**Treasurer** (2 year term)

**Director** (2 positions) (2 year term)

## Job Descriptions

**President- Elect:** The Pres-Elect spends one year as Pres-Elect, then one year as President for a total of two years. The time commitment involved for the Pres-Elect includes 2-hour board meetings approximately four times a year plus four days at one out-of-state conference (expenses paid) and approximately one-hour per week on association and regulatory business via email or phone.

-President-Elect's term shall begin on September 1 following the annual meeting and shall conclude upon her/his ascendance on September 1, one year hence, to the office of President. The President-elect shall:

- a) Assume the duties of President in the event the President is unable to serve.
- b) Represent this Association at the AANA Annual Congress or appoint a representative from the Board of Directors.
- c) Approve selections of program chairpersons for the annual meeting of the year of his/her Presidency
- d) Assist the President with monitoring and responding to issues that affect nurse anesthesia.

**President:** The President's time commitment involves four 2-hour quarterly board meetings, plus four days at one out of state conference (expenses paid), two days at the annual nurse fly-in at Juneau, and approximately two hours per week on association and regulatory business via email or phone, usually daily email correspondence with the AANA or regulatory agencies. Also attends/testifies at quarterly Board of Nursing meetings and attends Advanced Practice legislative meetings as the CRNA representative.

-The President shall automatically become such at the end of his/her term as Pres-Elect. The President shall serve one year. The President shall:

- a) Schedule and preside at meetings of this Association and of the Board of Directors.
- b) Appoint standing committees and special committees, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, except the Nominating and Consultants committees which shall be elected as provided below.
- c) Be a member ex-officio of all committees, except the Nominating Committee.
- d) Prepare and read at each Annual meeting a report on the work carried out since the previous meeting.
- e) Prepare and read at each Annual meeting a report on the activities of the year.



- f) Keep the Pres-Elect informed of AANA affairs.
- g) Appoint a new Continuing Education Director for each term of three years when it falls in his/her term of office.
- h) Maintain ongoing communication with the AANA and regional representative.
- i) Maintain oversight and communication with state, local, regulatory, agency, and community groups with regard to issues that affect nurse anesthesia practice regulation and billing issues.
- j) Appoint or serve as a liaison to the Alaska Board of Nursing.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer's time commitment includes attending 2-hour board meetings four times a year. Preparation for board meetings and annual meeting budget report requires 2-3 hours however it has been significantly streamlined with our new budget software programs. The Treasurer can attend out-of-state meetings as an AKANA representative if desired. Most tasks are computer-based.

-The Treasurer shall serve for a term of two consecutive years. The Treasurer shall be eligible for re-election but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. The Treasurer shall:

- a) Present a written finance report at each board meeting, at the annual meeting, and upon request to the Board of Directors.
- b) Receive, deposit and disburse funds of this Association as directed by the Board of Directors and record or provide for the recording of all transactions using an accounting system approved by the Finance Committee.
- c) Research options for investing fund balances and make investments at the direction of the Board of Directors.
- d) Works with accountant to complete corporate non-profit tax returns each year.
- e) Serve as an advisor on the Finance Committee for at least one year after leaving office.

**Directors:** There is not a formal job description for Directors however our Directors are a vital part of the board. The general time commitment includes: attending two-hour board meetings four times a year, giving input, voting on association matters, and potentially representing the association at out-of-state conferences if desired. Additionally Directors can serve on committees that have vacancies as interested.

Chris Logan, CRNA  
 President  
 Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

# Mid-Year Assembly, Washington D.C. April 4-8, 2014

Jeff Worrell, CRNA  
Judy Dearborn, CRNA

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Last April, Judy Dearborn and I attended the 2014 AANA Mid-Year Assembly meeting in Washington D.C. We had the opportunity to meet with all three Alaska federal legislators on Tuesday the 8th.

Summary of Day 2: For Judy and I, today was a big preparation day by the association to get the members that are attending briefed on issues we will be taking to the hill.

Items of interest to Alaska's CRNAs included:

1. There will be an upcoming vote on a proposal to reallocate some of our dues money away from OHA/SRF funding to general operating funds of the AANA. As a small state we apply for OHA funds each year to maintain our state association. Strategic Reserve Funds (SRF) are set aside for emergency use for states with big legal battles. Both funds are healthy and will continue to be funded but at reduced rates. The association will publish a final bylaw proposal at the meeting in September to adopt this measure. We will NOT see a reduction in our state allocation. There is no projection for a dues increase.

2. The AANA has hired a PR firm to help advocating for the future of CRNAs. There will be much more to come. This will be a very professional, positive proactive campaign.

3. Another "win" for CRNAs: The bariatric

centers of excellence changed language that required supervision of CRNAs. This language has been removed.

4. We are 46,800 members strong with over 91% of CRNAs belonging to the AANA--- over 900 were here at the meeting.

5. Demographics for health insurance coverage in our country are changing dramatically. Patients are quickly becoming the number one payer of health related costs including premiums and out-of-pocket costs. There is going to be a huge nation wide push for transparency in health related costs including anesthesia. Know your value.

6. Leap Frog is a non-profit organization that is now rating hospitals safety. Some Alaska facilities are participating. Link: [http://www.leapfroggroup.org/cp?frmbmd=c\\_p\\_listings&find\\_by=state&city=&state=AK](http://www.leapfroggroup.org/cp?frmbmd=c_p_listings&find_by=state&city=&state=AK)

7. We will be supporting the VA's nursing policy rewrite that includes recommending APRNs (you) being allowed to practice to the full extent of their respective training. If you are a military CRNA working for the VA, the VA wants to hear from you.

8. Controversy over Johnson & Johnson's introduction of the Sedasys® System . The SEDASYS® System is the first Computer-Assisted Personalized Sedation (CAPS) system. It is designed to enable physician-led teams to administer minimal-to-

moderate propofol sedation by integrating comprehensive patient monitoring and drug delivery personalized to the needs of each patient. The system minimizes the risks associated with oversedation by continually detecting and responding to patient vital signs. The SEDASYS® System is indicated for the intravenous administration of 1% (10 mg/mL) propofol injectable emulsion for the initiation and maintenance of minimal-to-moderate sedation, as defined by the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Continuum of Depth of Sedation, in ASA physical status I and II patients over 18 years old undergoing colonoscopy and esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) procedures. This device has been approved for the United States. Link: <http://www.sedasys.com/>

More thoughts from Day 2:

1. Members, please respond to me about how important it is to you to have Twitter and Facebook as part of our state association website. Social media has been a huge issue at this meeting.

2. CRNA Political Action Committee (PAC) is a separate fund pool within the AANA. The CRNA PAC is your political advocate on professional issues. Money for PAC activities comes from the membership (you). Eight percent of AANA members contribute to the PAC. Your dues cannot be used for PAC activities. The PAC considers a "fair share" contribution of \$20 annually to be a supportive donation - any amount is O.K. Please consider donating to the PAC.

3. Annual elections are in process for the next slate of AANA candidates (Board of directors, regional directors, and committee members). Candidate statements were recorded today at the meeting and will be available to you on the AANA website soon.

Please take a look at the candidate statements. They are 3-5 minute videos of their positions. PLEASE VOTE. Alaska CRNAs have led the country in voting percentages. Please keep up the great work. It only takes a few minutes of your time to vote on line. Let's lead the country this year in voter turn out for the election. All candidates are your advocates and meet the criteria to hold their potential positions. Your vote matters.

4. We had a presentation on Medicare reform from Jonathan Blum of CMS. Jonathan Blum currently serves as the Principal Deputy Administrator at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS is working actively to promote high quality services and reduced costs.

Summary of Day 3:

Gloomy skies and damp, cool temperatures gave way to sunshine and warmth today in DC and the cherry blossoms responded by opening their beautiful blooms and spreading their fragrance, and so went our day with visits to legislative offices on Capitol Hill. We met with Prue Fitzpatrick, Senator Mark Begich's Health Legislative Assistant (LA), Amanda Maki, Senator Lisa Murkowski's Health LA, and Congressman Don Young and his Health LA, Paul Milotte.

There were several items on the agenda to be brought to discussions on Capitol Hill. First, was ensuring Veterans access to high quality care by supporting the VHAs plan to update its Nursing Handbook to authorize Full Practice Authority (FPA) to CRNAs and other APRNs to practice to their full scope and to be recognized as Full Practice Providers (FPPs). There has been opposition to this by the ASA. All of our legislators totally support us on this issue.



Second was the implementation of the Provider Nondiscrimination Law which had been enacted into law by congress in 2010, but set to take effect Jan 1, 2014. It will prohibit health plans from discriminating against qualified licensed healthcare providers solely on the basis of the providers' licensure. There has been legislation introduced to repeal this law. Again, we felt full support from all our legislators on this issue.

We had planned on discussing the Medicare SGR cuts and ask for reform of the Medicare payment system permanently, however all of those talks had basically been abandoned as a bill to amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs had been voted on and passed by Congress on March 31, to extend the program till Apr 2015, essentially putting another "bandaid" on the system. Jeff and I then chose to bring to everyone's attention the inequality of the Medicare payment system in that local MACs could

make up their own rules on reimbursement. This relates to the current issue we are having in Alaska with Noridian changing their rules on regional blocks for acute pain management. We expressed our frustration at the inequality of this "Federal" system. They certainly all listened to us and at least heard our message.

We finished our day with the feeling that we had support from all 3 of our Legislators which made for a good day indeed.

Regards to all,

Judy Dearborn CRNA  
Past-president-Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Jeff Worrell, Ltc, USAF (retired)  
CRNA, MSN  
President Elect- Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

# **ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS**

(An Alaska Non-Profit Corporation)

## **Bylaws Of the Organization**

(Amended February 2014)

**Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists**  
(An Alaska Non-Profit Corporation)  
**Bylaws of the Organization**

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

This Organization shall be known as the Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Inc. (AKANA)

**ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this Association shall be to promote the best interests of its members; to cooperate with the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA); to facilitate cooperation between nurse anesthetists and the medical profession, hospitals, the public and other agencies interested in anesthesia; to advise its members on labor matters relating to employment when requested; and, in general, to advance the science and art of anesthesia.

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION A: Qualifications:**

Membership in this Association and procedures with respect to admissions to membership, maintenance of membership, qualifications thereof, and the exercise of the privileges thereof shall be established in the Bylaws of the AANA (or as amended from time to time by the AANA). Any AKANA member whose nursing licensure is revoked as a result of a felony conviction shall have their membership in AKANA terminated. All AKANA officers and members must also be members of AANA.

**SECTION B: Equal Opportunity:**

This Association shall not discriminate against any member or applicant for membership on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, marital status, or national origin.

**SECTION C: Conduct of Members:**

If the conduct of any member shall appear to be in willful violation of the Bylaws of this Association or the Bylaws of the AANA, the Board of Directors may, by a vote of two-thirds of the entire Board, suspend or expel such member according to the procedure set forth in the AANA Bylaws. A copy of these Bylaws and the AANA Bylaws shall be provided to any member on request.

**ARTICLE IV: RECOGNITIONS**

**SECTION A: Honors:**

Honors may be given to members upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors and upon a majority vote of the members at a business meeting by presentation of awards or other honors.

**SECTION B: Benefactors:**

Contributors of \$100.00 or more shall be known as benefactors. The names of such benefactors shall be maintained in the permanent records of this Association.

**SECTION C: Donors:**

Contributors of less than \$100.00 shall be known as donors. The names of such donors shall be maintained in the permanent records of this Association.

## ARTICLE V: GOVERNMENT

### SECTION A: Board of Directors

- 1) The government of this Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of two Directors and the following officers of this Association: President, President-elect, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 2) The Board of Directors shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
  - a) Conduct the general business of this Association
  - b) Conduct business between meetings by e-mail or other means of communication
  - c) Control and manage funds and property of this Association
  - d) Fill vacancies of the Board of Directors, with the exception of the office of President; the member so elected shall serve until the next election. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the President-elect will assume the office of the President. The new President and the Board of Directors shall elect a new President-elect. In the event of vacancies occurring in committees, the President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint members to fill such vacancies. In the event that a member of a committee fails to carry out the assignment, the Board of Directors shall request the resignation of the member and select a replacement.
  - e) Provide an annual report to the membership, including financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
  - f) Selection of the place for deposit of Association funds.
  - g) Prescribe the amounts to be allowed toward defraying expenses of representatives to the annual convention of the AANA or to other meetings.
- 3) Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting for a two year term of office.
- 4) Any vacancy in the Board of Directors and any directorship to be filled by reason of any increase in the number of the Directors shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors.
- 5) A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The act of such a quorum shall be deemed the act of the Board of Directors.
- 6) The Board of Directors shall meet immediately before and after the annual meeting of this Association.
- 7) Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by the President or upon written request of a majority of the Directors. Written notice of any special meeting setting forth the time and place shall be e-mailed to each Director at least ten days before the meeting. A Director may waive such notice, and attendance of a Director at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a Director attends a meeting for the purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully convened. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of any special meeting of the Directors need be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of the meeting.
- 8) No Officer or Director of AKANA may simultaneously be an Officer or Director of the AANA.

### SECTION B: Officers:

- 1) Prior to the annual meeting the members shall elect, by mail or electronic ballot, the following officers: President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and two directors, who shall serve the term specified for his or her office in these Bylaws beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> following such meeting. The office of the President shall automatically be filled by the former President-elect on September 1 following such meeting. The election results shall be announced at the annual meeting.
- 2) The President shall automatically become such at the end of his/her term as President-elect. The President shall serve one year. The President shall:
  - a) Preside at meetings of this Association and of the Board of Directors.
  - b) Appoint standing committees and special committees, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, except the Nominating and Consultants committees which shall be elected as provided below.
  - c) Be a member ex-officio of all committees, except Nominating Committee

- d) Prepare and read at each Annual meeting a report on the work carried out since the previous meeting.
  - e) Prepare and read at each Annual meeting a report on the work of the year.
  - f) Appoint tellers prior to the Annual meeting.
  - g) Keep the President-elect informed of Association affairs.
  - h) Appoint a new Continuing Education Director for each term of three years when it falls in his/her term of office.
- 3) The President-elect's term shall begin on September 1 following the annual meeting and shall conclude upon her/his ascendance on September 1, one year hence, to the office of President. The President-elect shall:
  - a) Assume the duties of President in the event the President is unable to serve.
  - b) Represent this Association at the AANA Assembly of States or appoint a representative from the Board of Directors.
  - c) Approve selections of program chairpersons for the annual meeting of the year of his/her Presidency
- 4) The Secretary shall serve for a term of two consecutive years. The Secretary shall be eligible for re-election but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. The Secretary shall:
  - a) Prepare the minutes of all meetings of this Association and the Board of Directors.
  - b) Present a written report at the annual meeting and any other meetings held during the year and/or upon request to the Board of Directors.
  - c) Send copies of important correspondence and information regarding matters of general business of this Association to the President.
  - d) Notify officers of their election and members to their appointment to committees.
  - e) Keep an alphabetical list of members and their addresses
  - f) Send a copy of this Association Bylaws to new members together with a letter of welcome.
  - g) Send the following to the Executive Director of the AANA: the names and addresses of the Officers and Directors after their election, the names of committee members after their appointment; and reports of meetings and other activities; and shall respond to other requests for information from the AANA.
  - h) Send an updated copy of the Association Bylaws to the Executive Office of the AANA whenever an addition, deletion or change is made requiring a new printing.
  - i) Oversee and coordinate the AKANA website in conjunction with the President and Board of Directors.
  - j) Coordinate continuing education meetings with the appointed Program Chair.
- 5) The Treasurer shall serve for a term of two consecutive years. The Treasurer shall be eligible for re-election but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. The Treasurer shall:
  - a) Present a written finance report at each board meeting, at the annual meeting, and upon request to the Board of Directors.
  - b) Receive, deposit and disburse funds of this Association as directed by the Board of Directors and record or provide for the recording of all transactions using an accounting system approved by the Finance Committee.
  - c) Research options for investing fund balances and make investments at the direction of the Board of Directors.
  - d) Serve as an advisor on the Finance Committee for at least one year after leaving office.
- 6) Additional duties of each officer shall be such as their titles, by general usage, would indicate and as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.
- 7) Each officer shall deliver any Association property and records to a successor or to the President by September 1, following the election of officers.
- 8) Any Officer or Director of this Association may be removed from office at any time for conduct not in the best interest of this Association. Whenever such removal is contemplated, The Board of Directors shall notify the Officer or Director in writing of the reasons for the proposed action and of the time and place of

meeting of the members at which removal is to be considered. Such notice shall be delivered at least ten days prior to such meeting. At the same meeting, the Officer or Director shall be entitled to respond to the stated reason and to be heard in his/her defense prior to the vote. Removal shall be by affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting. Removal of an Officer or Director in this manner shall be ratified by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting on such removal at the next general membership meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES**

### **SECTION A: Standing Committees:**

Each committee is to be composed of not less than three members. The standing committees shall be as follows:

- Bylaws
- Continuing Education
- Economic and General Welfare/Substance Abuse
- Finance
- Government Relations
- Nominating
- Consultants
- Public Relations
- Publications

### **SECTION B: Committee Appointments**

- 1) The President, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint the standing committees with the exception of Nominating and Consultants
- 2) The Nominating Committee shall be elected by a mail ballot vote of the members
- 3) Special ad hoc committees may also be appointed by the President subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

### **SECTION C: Term of Office:**

Members of committees shall serve for one year or until successors are appointed or elected.

### **SECTION D:**

The Chairman of the committee shall:

- 1) Be responsible to the Board of Directors in carrying out the duties assigned.
- 2) Prepare an annual report to the members and upon request, report to the Board of Directors.
- 3) Turn over all records and correspondence to a successor or the President within thirty days after the end of the term of office.
- 4) Review committee procedures and make recommendation for revisions when appropriate.

### **SECTION E: Specific Committee Duties:**

- 1) **BYLAWS**
  - a) Receives proposed amendments in writing, signed by the proposer and presents them to the Board of Directors and to the members for consideration.
- 2) **FINANCE**
  - a) Composed of the Treasurer and at least two active members, one of whom will be the outgoing Treasurer, who will serve for a minimum of one year after leaving office.
  - b) Preparation of the annual budget and submission of the budget to the Board of Directors for approval.
  - c) Review and analyze the accounting records of the Association at least annually prior to the installation of new officers, or at the request of the Board of Directors.

- d) Provide for an audit or review of its financial statements by an independent certified public accountant at least every three years.

3) GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- a) Composed of members from a representative group of both geographical and practice settings.
- b) Works under the direction of the Board of Directors and the AANA Government Relations Committee on issues related to pending legislation regarding the administration of anesthetics by nurse anesthetists
- c) Facilitates communications to foster efficient cooperation with the Alaska State Society of Anesthesiologists, the Alaska State Nurses Association and other healthcare and nursing organizations on matters of mutual interest by organizing joint meetings
- d) May arrange to retain a lobbyist to monitor upcoming or pending legislation in Alaska and to provide guidance on strategies. Contracts for lobbying will be funded as Association Support, will be reviewed annually by the Committee Chair and forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval. The Committee Chair will oversee the Lobbyist's activities and will report to the Board at least annually.

4) NOMINATING

- a) Composed of three active members elected by mail ballot and seated at the Annual meeting. The committee Chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its membership.
- b) Prior to the Annual meeting prepares and presents to the Board of Directors a list of nominees for the office of Secretary, Treasurer, President-elect and Directors.
- c) Arranges for a mail ballot to be sent to each active member not less than 4 weeks prior to the Annual meeting with a return envelope addressed to the chief teller.

5) CONTINUING EDUCATION

- a) Composed of three members with the Chairperson being appointed for a three year term by the President.
- b) Assists in the development of educational standards to support the educational programs of this Association and that of the AANA.
- c) The Chairperson coordinates compliance with AANA mandatory continuing education requirements and oversees the activities of program chairpersons to ensure that programs meet requirements.

6) CONSULTANTS

This committee shall serve in an advisory capacity to the current officers and committees of this Association.

7) ECONOMIC AND GENERAL WELFARE/SUBSTANCE ABUSE

This committee shall study issues concerning the economic and general welfare of this Association's members and formulate recommendations for the consideration of the Board of Directors.

8) PUBLIC RELATIONS

This committee shall be responsible for promoting good relations between the nurse anesthetists and the community by disseminating pertinent information through all available channels.

- a) The Chair shall be responsible to the President and the Board of Directors in all public relations matters pertaining to AKANA members.
- b) Develops and implements public relations activities either individually or in group process that meets the needs of the public in each sector. Examples include but are not limited to: news media, career fairs, distribution of pamphlets, and lectures at local colleges and high schools. The sectors will be determined by the Board of Directors.
- c) The Co-chairs will provide the chair a report of activities in their respective sectors at least once prior to the Annual meeting.

9) PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

- a) Responsible for publication and distribution of an official AKANA newsletter, to be mailed out to the membership twice a year.

- b) At the decree of the Board of Directors, and in conjunction with the Bylaws Committee, will print and distribute updates of the Bylaws as necessary.
- c) Produce, print and distribute any other material, such as meeting notifications, pamphlets or brochures, at the decree of the Board of Directors.
- d) Maintain a current mailing list and mailing labels for the membership of the AKANA
- e) The editor of the AKANA newsletter, who is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors, will be the Chairman of the Publications Committee.

#### SECTION F: Limit of Authority:

No committee shall have or exercise the authority of the Board of Directors in the management of this Association.

#### SECTION G: Vacancies:

- 1) In the event of vacancies in committees, the President, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint members to fill such vacancies.
- 2) In the event that a member of a committee fails to carry out an assignment, the Board of Directors may remove the committee member and select a replacement.

### **ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS AND VOTING**

#### SECTION A: Meetings:

- 1) The Annual meeting will usually be held in February.
- 2) The date, time and location of meetings shall be set by the President and Board of Directors at the recommendation of the Education Program Chairperson.
- 3) Special meetings may be held at the request of the Board of Directors or upon a written request of 20% of active members, filed with any Officer of this Association.
- 4) Dates of regular meetings of this Association shall be set by and may be changed by the Board of Directors.

#### SECTION B: Voting:

- 1) Who may vote:
  - a) Only active members shall participate in elections of Officers and Directors, and in other voting matters.
- 2) Nominations:
  - a) Only active members shall be eligible to be nominated for election.
  - b) Written consent of each candidate must be obtained before his/her name can be place on the ballot.
  - c) Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual meeting, with written permission of the nominee, before nominations are declared closed.
- 3) Method of Voting:
  - a) Two tellers shall be appointed by the President and shall be responsible for counting the electronically transmitted or mail ballots and making an official report to the members. Also, the tellers shall be responsible for counting other votes on any business transaction.
  - b) Matters submitted for vote to the voting body shall be determined by the majority unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws.
  - c) Election of Officers and Directors shall be by electronic transmission or mailed ballot.
  - d) A vote may be cast for a person not on the ballot by writing in the name, if a written consent of the candidate has been given.
  - e) The ballots shall be electronically transmitted or mailed to active members qualified to vote four weeks prior to the Annual meeting. The ballots shall be marked and returned to the Chief Teller time-stamped no later than 5pm the day prior to the Annual meeting.
  - f) A plurality vote shall elect. In the event of a tie vote by mailed ballot, the tie may be broken by a written vote at the Annual meeting.



- g) There shall be no proxy voting.
- 4) Voting Cycle for Elected Positions:
  - a) The office of President will automatically be filled by the President-elect.
  - b) President-elect – every year
  - c) Secretary – every other year
  - d) Treasurer – every other year
  - e) Directors – every other year
  - f) Nominations Committee Members – every other year

## **ARTICLE VIII: FINANCE**

### **SECTION A: Dues:**

Membership dues and the payment thereof for this Association shall be determined under the Bylaws of the AANA.

### **SECTION B: Fiscal Year:**

The fiscal year of this Association shall begin on September 1 of each year.

## **ARTICLE IX: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **SECTION A: Legal integrity of the Association:**

The Association shall be a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Alaska and with tax-exempt status under section 501 c (6) of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986. All funds, property and assets of whatever kind or description, or wherever located, presently owned or hereafter acquired by the Association are, and shall remain, the sole and separate property of the Association and shall be held in trust for the membership thereof.

## **ARTICLE X: PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY**

In the absence of any provision in these Bylaws, all meetings of this Association, the Board of Directors and Committees shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised.

## **ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended at any business meeting of this Association by a two thirds majority of those present and voting, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been submitted to members in writing at least thirty days prior to the date of the meeting by the Bylaws Committee.

## **ARTICLE XIII: MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATION**

Primary communication in the Association will be by email (unless otherwise stated in these bylaws). Members may request written communication to be mailed to their United States Postal Service address by presenting a request in writing to the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE XIV: DISSOLUTION**

The Board of Directors shall, in the event of dissolution of the Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists, distribute the Association's assets in accordance with state and federal laws.

## **ARTICLE XV: Emergency Amendments**

Any change in the corporate or tax status of the AKANA, or its ability to carry out, perform, or accomplish any of its purposes or objectives caused by any threatened or completed modification, repeal, or amendment of any currently existing statute, regulations, case or administrative decision or interpretation, whether federal, state, or local (or an agency or subdivision thereof) which affects or impairs the functions of the AKANA, which at the discretion of the Board of Directors, requires immediate amendment of the Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation shall, empower the Board of Directors to amend the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws in any respect they deem necessary or desirable to ensure compliance with any proposed or existing change or changes, without prior approval of the voting membership. Approval or rejection of the emergency amendment will be voted on by the membership at the next annual meeting of the association.

## **APPENDIX**

### **STANDING RULES**

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call (establishment of quorum)
- 3) Reading of Minutes
- 4) Report of Officers
- 5) Report of Standing Committees
- 6) Report of Special Committees
- 7) Unfinished Business
- 8) New Business
- 9) Announcements
- 10) Adjournment



**AKANA Newsletter**

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