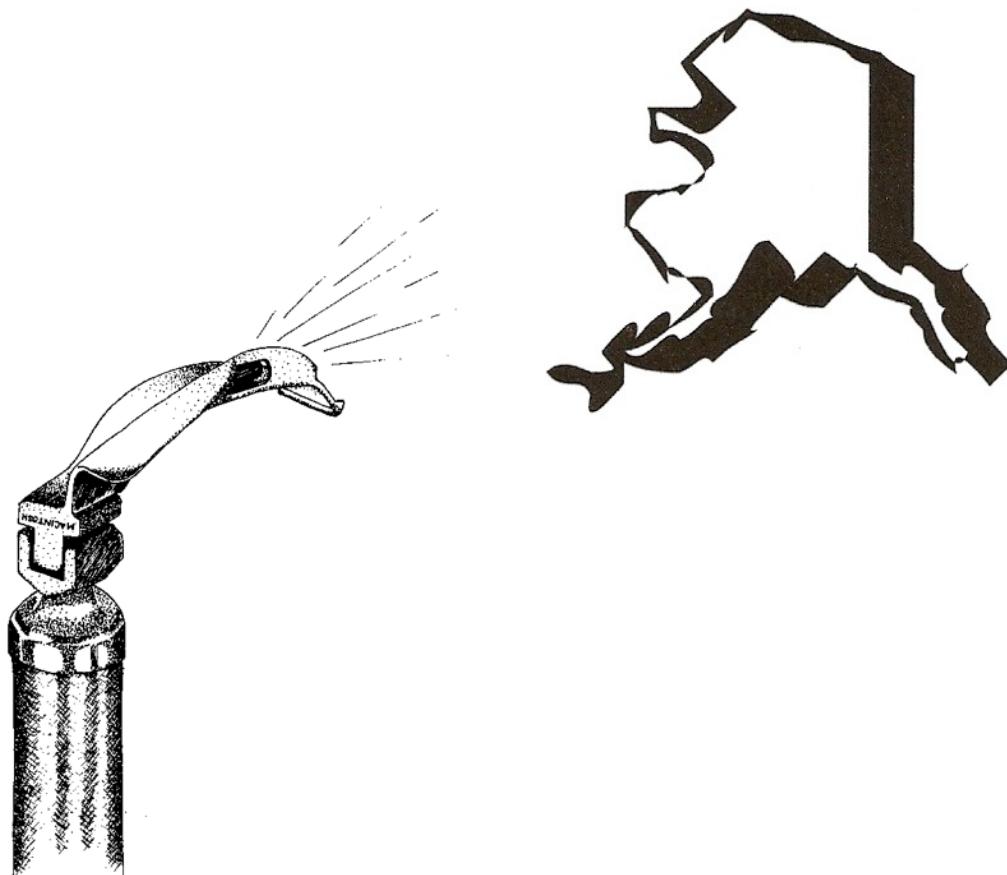


AKANA

ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

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



Newsletter
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Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

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September 1, 2015 thru September 1, 2016

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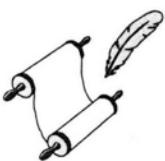
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Editorial



I hope everyone has had a wonderful winter and spring, and is making lots of exciting plans for the summer. This is the first official e-only edition of the AKANA Newsletter, certainly a monumental moment in history. Hopefully you all like it, and are finding it easy to open and read. As our organization moves forward in to the future, be sure to think about how you would like information communicated to you. We now are in the process of creating a new and updated website, and how to best utilize this new resource is something to think about. Most importantly, please contribute!! I, for one, think more photography would enhance this publication. Since we're a big state it's typical for many of us to never or rarely meet. It would be great if a bunch of you could send me photos of yourselves, or your coworkers, having fun at work, outside work, wherever. Be sure to include a caption and maybe I can make a fun collage for the next newsletter so at least I have a chance at recognizing some of you at the next state meeting. Enjoy your 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.

Please Send all submissions to the editor:

Ryan Hokanson CRNA
ryanhokanson@hotmail.com

President's Update

Wendy Monrad, CDR, USPHS, CRNA, MSN
President Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists
April 2016



This has been an exciting year for CRNAs in Alaska! Check out this list!

- Topping the list is the passing of **SB53 “An Act Relating to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses”** introduced by Senator Cathy Giessel in 2015. This bill supports the National Council State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) APRN Consensus Model – an initiative to get APRN language enacted in all 50 state nursing statutes. Fixing language related to APRNs creates clear provider definitions, consistent credentials and scopes of practice, and uniformity in education and state regulations. The bill passed the Senate last year and passed the House this April. It now sits on Governor Walker’s desk for his signature and then it will be sent to the AKBON to correct nursing statute, reflecting the appropriate APRN language. A working group has been assembled by Mary Holman, the CRNA member of the AK APRN Alliance group. This is a huge win for AK CRNAs! We will now be able to correct the language related to initial licensing for CRNAs (very cumbersome and unrealistic) and the scope of practice to clearly define CRNAs in Alaska as Licensed Independent Practitioners. Big thank you goes out to Chris Logan, April Erickson, Mary Holman, Senator Giessel and all of the members of the APRN Alliance for their hard work in making this happen.
- APRN Alliance Update: Formed in 2012, this group’s primary initiative has been the above bill in support of the NCSBN APRN Consensus Model. The group has worked together to make this happen and we are excited to see where this alliance goes from here. Their primary mission is to protect the current and evolving practice all APRNs enjoy in Alaska. Our representative is Mary Holman – please contact her if you have questions or are interested in joining her in this endeavor. Don’t miss the Annual APRN Summit in Anchorage January 17th 2017!
- In December 2015, the AKBON adopted the AANA CRNA Scope of Practice. This language will provide the base in the statute rewrite to clarify our independent role throughout all of Alaska!
 - “*CRNAs are APRNs licensed as independent practitioners. CRNAs practice both autonomously and in collaboration with a variety of health care providers on the healthcare team to deliver high-quality, evidence-based anesthesia and pain care services. They are qualified to make independent judgments concerning all aspects of anesthesia care based on their education, licensure, and certification.*” **AANA 2013 - Scope of Practice Guidelines**
- New AKANA Website soon to be revealed! Our Secretary, Jennifer Lent, has worked tirelessly to secure a state-of-the-art webmaster who is building

us an incredibly modern, exciting and workable website! This new site has been a long time coming! Keep an eye out...coming soon!

- Following in the footsteps of the AANA, AKANA launched our first investment portfolio! More from Jessica Jule, our Treasurer, in her report.
- Your BOD voted to go electronic with the newsletter from here on out to not only cut costs but also cut waste. The newsletter will be sent to all current members by email and will also be available on the website for download. Please contact your board if you have concerns about this change. Big thank you to Wally Upham and Ryan Hokanson for all of their hard work on keeping us updated.
- Last November, we embarked on an AANA initiative called Organization Review & Strategic Planning. This initiative started in 2012 with the goal of all 50 state associations taking advantage of this professional review and strategic planning. We are working with the Kautter/Wenhold group out of Florida. They are currently reviewing our processes and data and doing interviews with board members. In September or October of this year, they will come to Alaska for an all day presentation and strategic planning workshop with current and past BOD members. We look forward to sharing their findings with you and our changes at the next state meeting in March of 2017.
- Don't miss the Advance Nurse Practitioner's 33rd Annual Conference at the Capt Cook September 22-24, featuring an APRN track day on the 23rd that one of your colleagues will be presenting at.

I attended AANAs Midyear Assembly this year with Lisa Kwiatkowski and Ralph Mosely. It was a great time in our nation's capital networking with CRNAs from all over the country and meeting with key legislative aids of our leaders.

Unfortunately, we were not able to meet with Senators Murkowski or Sullivan – they were both back in Alaska celebrating the assignment of the F-35 aircraft to Eielson AFB in Fairbanks – Great news for Alaska! We also were unable to meet with Representative Young – the House was on recess. We did have great meetings with their key leadership that we have been able to build relationships with over the last two years. The primary AANA initiative presented this year is support for the proposed changes in Department of Veterans Affairs regulations that would recognize all APRNS to their full practice authority throughout the VA. This will be a huge milestone for VA CRNAs and will set precedence for independent CRNA practice throughout the US. We will be contacting you soon to participate in supporting this initiative. This is HUGE and we will need your help! This may very well open the door to correcting longstanding Medicare requirements that have unnecessarily restricted our practice in many states.

Stay tuned!

Thank you all for your outstanding devotion to your patients and to your profession. I have been so blessed and honored to serve you this year. In closing, I want to encourage you to get involved in your association. There are many ways to serve (help with the APRN Alliance, attend a national meeting, help on a committee, meet with federal and state legislators, maybe even run for office) and we need you!

The best way to find yourself....is to lose yourself in service to others!
M. Ghandi

Treasurers Report

Jessica Jule CRNA, MSN

Treasurer, Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

April 2016

In my first year as AKANA Treasurer I have been reflecting on how we have grown as an organization. The budget has been well thought out, reflects our evolving framework and has been approved in its entirety by the board at the September meeting. We have been working on a complete revamp of our website to better share information with members. With members all over this large state we are always looking for ways to improve communication.

Meetings, both in state and outside, are important to us. We have funds for members to participate in national AANA meetings to bring information and resources back to the state association. Another funded resource to get us involved in state affairs is the annual Juneau Fly In. There, we get to talk to state leaders about our professional concerns and get our message heard. And as always, we will be working hard to bring you a quality state meeting this next year. It is important for our state to send the appropriate amount of people to these meetings. We strive to send four representatives to the Fall Leadership Academy in November and four to the Mid Year Assembly in April. The Nurse Anesthesia Annual Congress has two funded positions and will be held in Washington DC. If you are interested in going to any of these meetings please let the board know. We again have budgeted scholarship monies to members to help with the expenses of attending these meetings. If you are interested in a scholarship please let me know.

Besides making budget decisions and taking care of expenses, I am looking into ways to manage our reserve funds more effectively. I work closely with Steve Edwards through Edward Jones to manage our long-term accounts. As interest rates decrease reflecting our present economy I will be looking into investment strategies that would better manage our funds. If you are interested in finance and would like to have some input on the finance committee let me know.

We, as a board, are here for you and as treasurer I try to be as transparent as I can. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns otherwise I will see you at the next state meeting!

Thanks, Jess Jule

Mid Year Assembly

Washington DC

April 2016



**Rachel Crawford SRNA, Ralph Moseley CRNA, Wendy
Monrad CRNA and Lisa Kwiatkowski CRNA in Don
Young's office (l to r)**



**Garrett Boyle - Legislative Director,
Ralph Mosely CRNA, Lisa
Kwiatkowski CRNA, Rachel
Crawford SRNA in Lisa Murkowski's
office (l to r)**



**Ralph Mosely CRNA, Rachel Crawford SRNA,
Wendy Monrad CRNA, Lisa Kwiatkowski
CRNA representing with an awesome sign
and glasses.**



Democracy in Action!!

President Elect

David T. Kwiatkowski CRNA, MSN
President Elect, Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists
May 2016



The AANA continues to work with a broad coalition of groups in support of improving Veterans access to care through Full Practice Authority for CRNAs and other Advanced Practice Registered Nurses(APRNs) at the Veterans Hospital Administration(VHA). Here is a brief rundown of activities to keep members apprised of current actions:

Update: Expand Veterans Access to Care through Full Practice Authority for VHA CRNAs, APRNs

Legislation: The AANA/AKANA have continued to encourage members of the U.S. House of Representatives (Congressman Don Young) to co-sponsor “Improving Veterans Access to Quality Care Act” (H.R. 1247) and members of the Senate (Senators Murkowski and Sullivan) to co-sponsor the “Veterans Health Care Staffing Improvement Act” (S. 2279). Be sure to thank your U.S. Senators and Representatives who have supported expanding Veterans access to care through Full Practice Authority for CRNAs and other APRNs.

Regulation: The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) continues to evaluate a proposed rule on APRN Full Practice Authority submitted by Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald in early January of 2016. The OMB may at any time publish the rule in the *Federal Register* and trigger a 60-day public comment period, or return it to the VHA for more work. AANA continues urging all members to use www.Veterans-Access-to-Care.com to submit regulatory comments ahead of time in support of improving Veterans access to quality healthcare through CRNA and APRN Full Practice Authority. AANA members can also share the site with colleagues, friends, and family—especially Veterans—to take action.

House Committee Investigates Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report that Finds Primary Care Access Problems within the VA

A new U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report titled “Actions Needed to Improve Access to Primary Care for Newly Enrolled Veterans” was the subject of an April 19 hearing in the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. Though the report did not address CRNAs or other APRNs directly, its conclusion that Veterans lack access to timely primary care services speaks to the larger need for full practice authority for APRNs within the VA.

House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-FL) expressed a number of concerns, including that VA Secretary Robert McDonald had earlier this month announced that Veterans wait an average of five days, not the more than three weeks found in the GAO report. In his testimony, VA Under Secretary for Health David Shulkin, MD, stated that the VHA needs to “change the way that we measure wait times and put in place a new system for how we see Veterans that focuses on the clinical urgency.”

To access the GAO report, go to <http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/676679.pdf>, read the testimony or access the video of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, visit <http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/a-continued-assessment-of-delays-in-veterans-access-to-health-care> and <http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=104759>.

AANA Leads APRN Letter to House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health Regarding MACRA Implementation

In advance of an April 19 House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Hearing titled “Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015: Examining Physician Efforts to Prepare for Medicare Payment Reforms,” the AANA and 10 other APRN groups sent a letter to subcommittee members outlining steps APRNs have taken to implement the MACRA Medicare payment reform law, concerns with its implementation process thus far, and the need for the subcommittee to include APRNs, not just physician groups, as witnesses in future hearings.

The APRN groups who signed the letter include: American Association of Colleges of Nursing, AANA, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American College of Nurse-Midwives, American Nurses Association, Gerontological Advance Practice Nurses Association, National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, National League for Nursing, and National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties.

Read the letter at <http://www.aana.com/myaana/Advocacy/fedgovtaffairs/Documents/20160419%20APRN%20Letter%20on%20HEC-H%20MACRA%20MIPS%20APM%20Hearing%20-%20FINAL.pdf>.

Watch the hearing or read witness testimony at <https://energycommerce.house.gov/hearings-and-votes/hearings/medicare-access-and-chip-reauthorization-act-2015-examining-physician>.

Medicare Issues Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Proposed Rule; Comments Due this Summer

On April 18, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a preview its 2017 hospital inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) proposed rule and announced its plans to publish it in the *Federal Register* on April 27. The proposed rule governs hospital regulatory and payment policy in the next year and includes provisions to Medicare hospital payment incentives programs.

Read the proposed rule in preview at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2016-09120.pdf> until April 27 when it will be published in the *Federal Register*.

Read more about the proposed rule at <https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2016-Fact-sheets-items/2016-04-18-2.html>.

Other Bills to monitor applicable to your practice as a CRNA:

H.R. 2138 - Medicare Access to Rural Anesthesiology Act of 2015
S297 – Frontline to Lifelines Act of 2015

State Level in Alaska: SB 53 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurses – awaiting Governor's signature 4/6/2016.

Upcoming Presidential and Congressional Elections

The AANA encourages CRNAs to vote and be active in primary elections this spring in support of candidates of their choice. If you are involved in one of the following primary or caucus campaigns below, AANA DC would be delighted to hear from you. Tell your story or send your pictures to info@aanadc.com with "CRNAs in Campaigns" in the subject.

May 3, presidential and congressional primaries in Indiana.

May 7, presidential caucus in Guam.

May 10, presidential and congressional primaries in Nebraska and West Virginia.

May 17, presidential and congressional primaries in Kentucky and Oregon; congressional primaries in Idaho.

May 24 presidential primary in Washington; congressional primary in Georgia.

For an up-to-date list of 2016 election dates by state and by date, go to <http://www.fec.gov/pubrec/fe2016/2016pdates.pdf>.

Amendments

- **The House and Senate were in session the week of April 25 2016.** If you intend to plan and see your legislators in the future, let us know by emailing info@aanadc.com.
- **On April 21, Health Affairs issued a Health Policy Brief focusing on MACRA and its Implementation.** View it at http://healthaffairs.org/healthpolicybriefs/brief_pdfs/healthpolicybrief_156.pdf.
- **The Campaign for Sustainable Rx Pricing (CSRXP) released its proposals for market-based policy solutions to curb rising drug prices on April 25.** The AANA joined the CSRXP earlier this month. To learn more about these proposals, which focus on transparency, competition and value, go

to <http://www.csrxp.org/proposals-for-change-transparency-competition-and-value/>.

- **With Medicare expected any day to publish a proposed rule implementing major Medicare payment reform changes for CRNAs and physicians, AANA was present at the Washington summit meeting of the Health Care Payment Learning and Action Network (LAN) on April 25-26 in the interest of protecting and advancing CRNA markets and reimbursement.** Learn more about the LAN Summit at www.lansummit.org, and about the work of the LAN at <http://www.hcp-lan.org>. See tweets about the LAN Summit at #LANSummit and follow the LAN on Twitter at @Payment_Network.
- **The American Society of Anesthesiologists' Washington advocacy conference takes place May 16-18 in Washington, DC. Have you completed your AANA Mid-Year Assembly follow-ups?** This includes your thank-you notes to legislators and staff you met, follow-up calls with further information or to ask their status on actions they are considering, and completing your [lobby report form here](#).
- **Engage with your profession's social media feed** on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanAssociationofNurseAnesthetists> and Twitter at <https://twitter.com/aanawebupdates>.
- **How do you like your Hotline?** We're always up for improvements. Let us know at info@aanadc.com.

Conclusion: Pertinent points include both H.R. 1247 and S. 2279 and OMB's publication. Stay tuned and be proactive. Social media is an excellent tool to disseminate information. I look forward to improving and optimizing our communication as a State Organization. Lastly, keep your fellow colleagues in mind both here in the states and abroad and stay tuned for updates in real time.

David T. Kwiatkowski, CRNA, AKANA FPD, (Lt Col ret)

APRN Alliance

Mary Holman CRNA
APRN Alliance Liaison
May 2016



Welcome to a new column in our biannual newsletter dealing with APRN collaborative issues. Let me start out with a brief background on the Alliance. The APRN Alliance was established in Anchorage, AK on November 3, 2012 with a mission to provide expert advice, make recommendations and support adaptation and implementation of the APRN Consensus Guidelines into the Alaska statutes and regulations while protecting current and evolving scopes of practice that ANPs/ CNMs/ CRNAs/ and CNSs currently employ. As underscored by the inclusion of APRNs in recent healthcare reform efforts, there is increased appreciation of the important role that APRNs can play in improving access to high quality cost-effective care. However various factors including lack of uniformity of state regulations have limited the ability of patients to access APRN care.

The document Consensus Model for APRN Regulation, which was completed in July 2008 and endorsed by 44 organizations, delineates the model for future regulation of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). The consensus model, when implemented, will standardize each aspect of the regulatory process for APRNs, resulting in increased mobility for APRNs and increased access to APRN care. Just as America's growing and aging population needs the high quality care that APRNs provide, numerous costly and harmful federal and state policy barriers continue impairing the use of our most trusted profession. Improper and costly barriers to APRN services include unnecessary and burdensome "supervision" requirements, inappropriate discrimination in credentialing and recognition, and unsupported payment differentials that encourage use of higher cost providers without improving quality.

Senate Bill 53 was sponsored by Senator Giessel and presented to the Alaska Legislature in February 2015 to update our state regulations to bring us into compliance with the national APRN consensus model. This bill has made its way through the legislative process and now is waiting to be signed by the governor. We will keep everyone updated when this happens. The APRN Alliance is busy working on rewriting the Nursing regulations to match SB 53 language. We hope to present the Board of Nursing with this regulation rewrite at the October board meeting.

The APRN-A is currently working on creating a long-term sustainable structure for the organization. Our current plan is to explore the creation of a Federation, with all four professional groups represented. A meeting for long term planning is scheduled for October 29. Our goal is to have at least two representatives from each discipline in attendance at meetings. The APRN-A also holds a legislative and pharmacology update conference every January in Anchorage with continuing education available. The CEUs will be preapproved by the AANA next

conference and the cost is usually \$25.00 for 4 education credits. The date for the next conference is January 9, 2017. If an interdisciplinary group interests you please let me know so you can participate in the meetings. We can always use more representatives.

Mary Holman
mkolman@gci.net

Education Committee Report

Kelly Rygh, CRNA

Julie Christensen, CRNA

Nicole Bonfoey, CRNA

The AKANA annual meeting for 2016 took place in Fairbanks, Alaska on March 5th & 6th. AKANA members traveled from across the state to network and learn with their peers. CRNA's from Fairbanks, Anchorage, Ketchikan, Kodiak, and Valdez were represented. We even had an attendee from Alabama!

The weather was sunny and bright and attendees had the opportunity to attend the World Ice Art Championships. The education committee would like to thank all of the Fairbanks CRNA's who helped to make the meeting a success. In particular, Nicole Bonfoey was instrumental in planning the meeting. Thanks again Nicole!

We are pleased to announce the date and venue for the 2017 AKANA annual meeting. The meeting will take place at the Hotel Alyeska in Girdwood, Alaska on March 25-26, 2017. We are in the process of booking some very exciting speakers! The meeting for 2017 will also feature a four hour ultrasound-guided nerve block workshop. Please plan to attend and invite a friend. This is going to be a great meeting for recreation and networking.

The education committee is dedicated to providing high quality educational opportunities for Alaska CRNA's. If you are interested in volunteering with education committee or would like to provide feedback please email us at akanaeducation@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you in Girdwood in 2017!

Sincerely,
Kelly Rygh & Julie Christensen

Calendar of Events

- **AANA Business of Anesthesia conference**, June 24-25 2016, Chicago, IL
- **AANA Annual Conference**, September 9-13 2016, Chicago, IL
- **Alaska APRN Alliance Meeting**, January 7, 2017, Anchorage, AK
- **AANA Assembly of School Faculty**, Feb 23-25 2017, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- **AKANA Annual Meeting**, March 25-26, 2017, Girdwood, AK
- **AANA Mid-Year Assembly**, April 8-12, 2017, Washington D.C.



2016 AKANA Annual Meeting Minutes

AKANA General Membership meeting held on March 5, 2016, during the AKANA Annual Meeting at the Wedgewood Resort in Fairbanks, Alaska. Meeting called to order at 12:29 pm by Wendy Monrad, President.

President's report:

Wendy delivered a brief review of activities during the past year. She reported on a successful change to the statutes clarifying the scope of practice of Alaska CRNAs with the Alaska Board of Nursing. The newsletter will be delivered via email now rather than hard copies. The Board will continue the use of Go-To Meeting software to facilitate meetings with board members in all geographic areas. Wendy mailed out CRNA week materials to all CRNAs from the AANA. Successful Juneau Fly-In in February attended by Chris Logan and April Erickson. The AKANA's practice map and facility contact list was updated at this meeting. AKANA members sponsored this past year for AANA meetings: Jeff Worrell, Nicole Bonfoey, Wendy Monrad, and Sheila Jensen to the Midyear Assembly 2015; Mary Holman and Suzanne Maynard to the Annual Congress 2015; Dave Kwiatkowski, Teresa Sellars, Jessica Jule, and Jennifer Lent to the Fall Leadership Assembly 2015; and Wendy Monrad, Lisa Kwiatkowski, and Ralph Moseley will be attending the Midyear Assemble 2016. Organizational review and strategic planning conducted under the auspices of the AANA is continuing. The consultant reviewers plan on meeting with AKANA leadership this summer for a strategy leadership planning meeting designed to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our organization over the next 2-3 years. An update of the progress of the Alaska APRN Alliance was reviewed. Mary Holman is currently working on that committee but at least one additional CRNA member would be appreciated. APRN Summit to be held in Anchorage in January, 2017. APRN meeting will be held in September, 2016. A CRNA speaker is requested for September 23, 2016. Also, a brief review on the progress of SB 53. If the budget is not passed by the end of this session, a vote on this bill will be delayed at least another year.

Federal Political Director's Report:

Please see David's attached report.

Treasurer's Report:

Please see Jessica's attached report.

Secretary's report:

Jennifer gave a brief update on the progress on the website and its new webmaster, Sundog Media LLC. It is within 4-8 weeks of its beta test with the board members.

Education Committee:

Kelly and Julie reviewed the educational needs survey results. The 2017 meeting will most likely be held in Girdwood, Alaska, on the weekend of March 29. It will focus on ultrasound guided regional anesthesia. The meeting times will be changed a bit so that attendees might attend early morning and late afternoon meetings in order to have the peak daylight hours free to enjoy the amenities Of the ski resort. Any ideas for speakers are welcome.

Thank you to Jeff Worrell for his work as past president of the AKANA. Thank you to all past board members.

Election results: The new board member positions will run from September 1, 2016, to August 31, 2018. Congratulations to Nicole Bonfoey, President-Elect and FPD; Jennifer Lent, Secretary; Kathy Madej, Lois Miller, and April Erickson, Nominations Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 1:32pm.