

MONITOR



One Voice: Guiding, Protecting, & Serving Our Patients & Our Profession

WINTER 2019

MESSAGE FROM VANA PRESIDENT MYRA K. BRANCH, MS, CRNA

Recently I wrote a letter to the SRNA graduating class of fall 2018 asking the questions: Do I want a “job” in anesthesia, or do I want to become a “member” of the anesthesia profession? The answer will guide how you will view and care for your career as an anesthesia practitioner. How does a job differ from a profession?



on you being active in protecting and promoting the profession of nurse anesthesia. Defending the right to full scope of practice, the right to independence of practice, and the right to unencumbered compensation for services will ensure our profession into perpetuity. As is the case with all rights, they must be continuously guarded or they will be lost.

All CRNAs practicing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, I challenge you to become an active member by doing three things:

1. Attend at least one event annually sponsored by VANA. Your presence at these educational meetings will provide the opportunity to earn CE credits, as well as receive critical information regarding our profession and the current challenges we face.

2. Visit your legislators. Do they know the valuable services you render on a daily basis to patients in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a CRNA? You are VANA’s best public relations tool. They want to hear from you. **Who’s my Legislator?:** <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

President’s Message continued on page 2

A JOB: *The work that a person does regularly in order to earn income; a duty, task, or function that someone or something must perform.*

A PROFESSION: *A vocation founded upon specialized educational training, the purpose of which is to supply disinterested, objective counsel and service to others; for a direct and definite compensation, wholly apart from expectation of other business gain.*

Major milestones, which may mark an occupation being identified as a profession, include:

- The establishment of a training school
- The establishment of a university school
- The establishment of a local association
- The establishment of a national association
- The introduction of codes of professional ethics and conduct
- The establishment of state licensing laws

Additionally, a profession is comprised of individuals who go above and beyond to create schools, associations, codes of ethics and are **actively engaged** in the creation of laws and regulations that dictate and govern their chosen profession.

My fellow CRNAs, it is your turn to answer the question. How you answered the question will build the foundation and continued achievement of our profession. It depends

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3. Donate \$99 to the CRNA-PAC, Virginia CRNAs Who Care About Healthcare. We are “#Team-VANA” – CRNAs who care about healthcare in the Commonwealth of Virginia. **PAC** – Protection, Advocacy, Community. How much do you care? Learn about the CRNA-PAC at <http://virginiacrna.org/individual-pac-contribution/>

By doing these three things, it will ensure VANA has the means to protect and defend the honorable and amazing profession of nurse anesthesia. Can VANA's Board of Directors and Leadership Team count on your support? Decide today to be an active member of our **PROFESSION. #Team-VANA**, keeping Virginia CRNA Strong!

2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OUTLOOK

By Jan Setnor and Cathy Harrison, Government Relations Committee Co-Chairs

Greetings from your Government Relations Committee (GRC) co-chairs! We hope your holidays were filled with much love and happiness.

The first half of the VANA GRC fiscal year has been a busy one, starting with the defeat of the admission of anesthesiology assistants to gain licensure in Virginia. We also supported and applaud the success of the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners. Governor Northam signed House Bill 793 allowing most nurse practitioners to gain the autonomy to practice without physician oversight. There is still much work to be done and we will be there to support them every step towards independent practice.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 23rd for the 2019 VANA Legislative Summit in Richmond. We will be applying for 3.5 Class A credits this year, not yet approved by the AANA. A continental breakfast and box lunch will be served. And more importantly, there will be lots and lots of networking!

This year we're honored to have two very special speakers. The first, is Ms. Maureen Cahill from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). She will discuss “Current Legislative Trends for APRNs.” She is the point person on the APRN Consensus Model (now under review) and also on aiding states in furthering legislation supporting full scope of practice for all APRNs. We will also be honored to have Jay Douglas, immediate past-president of the Virginia Board of Nursing, answering questions from the Virginia perspective.

Our next speaker will be Mr. Frank Purcell, President of Cardinal Waypoint, LLC. For 16 years he was the senior director for the AANA Federal Government Affairs in Washington, D.C. There, he successfully advanced federal advocacy issues to promote patient safety and quality improvement and to advance the practice of nurse anesthetists. Mr. Purcell's presentations will include lectures, which will be interactive and include some role-playing. Specifically, he will address: “How to be heard & get results in Richmond: Evidence-based Professional Advocacy” and “Effectively Communicating CRNA Issues: Questions, Answers and Time to Practice.”

Throughout the morning, we will continue to address potential AA licensure, reimbursement (particularly as it relates to Anthem), CRNA's response to the ongoing opioid crisis and supervision repeal.

So as you can see, we will have a packed morning! If you would like to visit with your delegate/senator, please let us know and we'll help facilitate an afternoon meeting for you.

Don't forget to go to the AANA Marketplace and get your materials to celebrate National CRNA Week January 20-26.

We hope to see you in Richmond January 23rd!

Mark Your Calendars

**Wednesday, January 23rd
2019 VANA Legislative Summit
Richmond, VA**

2019 VANA DISTRICT 5 WINTER WORKSHOP

By Coffee Bourne, Winter Workshop Chair

The 2019 VANA District 5 Winter Workshop will be held at a new location! We are excited to host this event at The Hilton Richmond Downtown at 501 E Broad Street on February 9 from 7:30 am - 5:30 pm. The Winter Workshop is a yearly opportunity for Virginia CRNAs to get together, learn something new, earn CEs, catch up with old friends and make some new connections. Learn about how to interpret a perioperative TEE, creating your own anesthesia business and troubleshooting your machine. Take a deep dive into our everyday anesthesia tools and monitors, challenge our commonly held practice beliefs and refresh your understanding of your cardiac drips. The student speakers are also excellent this year and you won't want to miss their lectures at the end of the day. Right after they wrap up, we will be hosting a reception for all attendees. The Winter Workshop is a great way to spend a Saturday, so register soon to get early bird pricing.

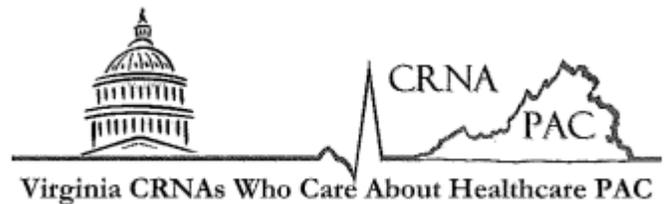
See you at the Winter Workshop!

CRNA-PAC FALL CAMPAIGN RESULTS

By Diane Miller, PAC Chair

Hello Team!

It is official: 2018 donations to the CRNA-PAC, Virginia CRNAs Who Care About Healthcare, exceeded the previous year's contributions by a healthy margin. Our fall 2018 campaign brought in a total of \$8,824.60. Thank you to each CRNA who contributed to the cause! YOU have made all the difference. Things are really moving now, but the fight has just begun. At risk of sounding like a broken record, now is the time for all of us to step up the game and contribute.



Many people rightly ask, “Why should I send money to Virginia CRNA-PAC? I already support the AANA PAC.” While the AANA PAC supports the general membership, the Virginia CRNA-PAC is focused on the intelligent, hard-working CRNAs here in Virginia. Our Political Action Committee bought YOU a seat at the legislative table. The tireless efforts of our GRC made many indelible strides this year. With your help, VANA became known and recognized by our elected officials. That helped us to defeat Proposal 20 which would allow anesthesia assistants in our state—lowering your salaries, taking your jobs and stealing the CRNA stronghold we’ve always enjoyed. But the times they are a changin’. The fight is ramping up. The proponents of this bill, the Virginia Society of Anesthesiologists (VSA) will try again and again. If you think AAs could never cross the threshold of this great Commonwealth, ask the CRNAs of Georgia (average income \$137,000) or Florida (\$150,000) their thoughts on the subject.

The best defense is a good offense. Our offense starts with our PAC. Believe me, the VSA knows this. They contribute to their PAC.

“But what can one person do to make a difference?” you ask. One person can join with another and another, arm-in-arm, until we have a line in the sand that cannot be broken.

Make a recurring donation at <http://virginiacrna.org/individual-pac-contributions>, bid at our upcoming Silent Auction at the Winter Workshop in February, or make a donation to the Silent Auction from you or a company in your community by emailing me at dmiller.teamvana@gmail.com. Finally, sign onto our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/182481075889869/>) to keep up with VANA and tag your fellow Virginia CRNAs.

Let's build a better 2019—together.

SPOTLIGHT ON ANNUAL CRNA WEEK

By Kimberley Van Alstine, Communications Committee Chair

CRNA Week is fast approaching. The website to order promotional items from AANA is: <https://www.aana.com/store/national-crna-week>. The deadline for ordering is January 14. Please order a few items to put out or up or to give away that support our profession. It would be great if you wanted to celebrate at your places of work!

Hopefully you have heard about some service projects in your area around CRNA Week or you'd like to start one yourself as a way to give back to your communities. It also provides an opportunity to educate the people we live with and serve about what we do and what we are working toward. With increased numbers we are able to show that we are a powerful force desiring to have an impact on the legislative front. Anything works— food drives, coat drives, volunteering at a food pantry or feeding the homeless, etc.

In addition to CRNA Week, we need to all remember how important it is to positively represent our profession. As discussed at the fall meeting, we are beginning the work to push for full practice authority for CRNAs in Virginia. We need to be able to speak about our profession and what are we seeking in a positive, supportive way.

RECAP OF 2018 ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

By Adrienne Hartgerink, 2018 Education & Programs Committee Chair

We had an awesome 2018 VANA Fall Conference October 12-14 with almost 150 CRNAs and SRNAs in attendance at the Hilton Main in Norfolk, Va. The hotel was beautiful and within walking distance of great restaurants and things to do. A spinal/epidural as well as a difficult airway hands-on pre-conference workshop were offered on Friday for an additional fee. The attendees really enjoyed the intimate setting with time for questions and hands-on practice. We also had a very exciting line up of excellent speakers for the main conference including AANA President-Elect Garry Bridges, newly elected AANA Vice President Heather Rankin, and a great conversation with our lobbyist Michele Satterlund, JD and member of the Virginia House of Delegate Glenn Davis.

We had a wonderful time on our Halloween-themed dinner cruise on the Spirit of Norfolk which helped raise some much needed funds for our CRNA-PAC! We really appreciate all who came out and especially all of the CRNAs who sponsored students to this fun event!

Sad that you missed this great event? No worries, we will be returning to this great location for 2019! Mark your calendars now for September 27-29 to attend the 2019 VANA Annual Fall meeting! Looking forward to seeing you there!

Turn to the next page for more photos from the conference!



VANA President Myra Branch and Past President Jerrol Wallace officially pass the gavel.



Congratulations to VANA member Tom Watters for receiving the 2018 VANA Excellence in Leadership Award!

PHOTOS FROM THE 2018 ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE



VANA members with Heather Rankin, a member of the AANA Board of Directors and featured speaker at the 2018 VANA Annual Fall Conference



Delegate Glenn Davis and VANA lobbyist Michele Satterlund discussed advocacy issues impacting CRNAs in Virginia



VANA leadership & members with Delegate Glenn Davis



CRNAs and SRNAs during the 2018 Annual Fall Conference



Participants get hands on experience during two preconference workshops at the 2018 VANA Annual Fall Conference

PHOTOS FROM THE 2018 ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE



AANA President-Elect Garry Brydges presents at 2018 VANA Annual Fall Conference



VANA Past President Jerrol Wallace with VANA Education Committee Chair Adrienne Hartgerink



VANA members at dinner with AANA President-Elect Garry Brydges



CRNAs and invited guests support the CRNA-PAC by taking a cruise on the Spirit of Norfolk, which took place during the 2018 VANA Annual Fall Conference.

PHOTOS FROM THE 2018 ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

CRNAs and invited guests support the CRNA-PAC by taking a cruise on the Spirit of Norfolk, which took place during the 2018 VANA Annual Fall Conference.



DISTRICT NEWS ROUND-UP

DISTRICT 2

By Carolyn Connelly, district2@virginiacrna.org

Thank you to those who attended our first PACtoberfest at Tyson's Biergarten in October. We had a lot of fun and raised over \$600 to benefit the CRNA-PAC, Virginia CRNAs Who Care About Healthcare!

To kick off 2019, District 2 is planning a happy hour during CRNA Week. First drink is on VANA! Join us on Tuesday, January 22 from 5-8pm at Matchbox in Mosaic District.



DISTRICTS 3 & 4

By Jessica Ray, rayjc1@yahoo.com

November 10 was our Districts 3 & 4 annual meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Roanoke, Va. I would like to thank the approximately 40 attendees from all over southwest Virginia who braved the wind and cold to attend. Additionally, I would like to thank my wonderful colleagues who presented on a variety of fascinating topics.

I would also like to recognize Joel Buhyoff CRNA, who tirelessly advocates for our profession. Most recently he arranged and attended a personal meeting with his state senator, David Suetterlein. Many thanks to Joel for representing our profession so well.



DISTRICT 5

By Tim Newell, district5@virginiacrna.org

The fall flew by and 2018 came to a close. Back in October and early November we had our annual chief's dinners at KubaKuba. We also had a social at Ardent on November 4, which saw a number of CRNAs from across the district come together for a good time. On December 8, the class of 2018, consisting of graduates from the DNAP program and the very last class of the Master's program, graduated. The next several months will be busy with CRNA Week and the VANA Legislative Summit coming up in January. In February, we have the VANA Winter Workshop and in March there will be a recertification class for ACLS/PALS/BLS. In April I'm hoping to put together a journal club - stay tuned for more details.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- January 19, 2019:** District 2 Chief CRNA & CRNAs in Leadership Luncheon
- January 20-26, 2019:** CRNA Week
- January 22, 2019:** District 2 Social
- January 23, 2019:** VANA Legislative Summit
- February 9, 2019:** Winter Workshop
- March 2019:** VANA District 1 Spring Meeting (date TBA)
- March 9, 2019:** ACLS/BLS/PALS Course
- April 6-10, 2019:** AANA Mid-Year Assembly
- April 27, 2019:** District 2 Annual Cherry Blossom Meeting

STAY ENGAGED LOCALLY

VANA groups its membership into districts based on county of residence. Find your VANA district [here](#).

