

MONITOR



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

WINTER 2021

MESSAGE FROM VANA PRESIDENT JEAN SNYDER, DNAP, CRNA

Happy New Year! Traditionally, we say “out with the old and in with the new” but VANA is starting a new tradition. We now say “build on the old to make a #CRNASTrong new!” We all had a trying year in 2020. Despite this, VANA had several notable successes.

The Virginia Dental Board now recognizes CRNAs as anesthesia providers in dental offices working with unpermitted dentists. For CRNAs working in dental offices and clinics, this is a huge win that we have been pursuing for many years as CRNAs had previously been excluded but anesthesiologists were included. For CRNAs not in dental anesthesia practices, this opens a new employment opportunity. If you are interested in expanding your practice into dental anesthesia, please reach out to VANA and we can connect you with a dental CRNA already in practice.

Thanks to the very astute CRNAs at UVA, we were made aware that there would be an attempt to restudy the need for AAs in Virginia. VANA was able to relay this information to our lobbyists, Michele Satterlund and Kassie Schroth, and this agenda item was removed from the Board of Medicine meeting. This is a lesson for all of us: the AA initiative is alive in the minds of some Virginia anesthesiologists and we cannot let our guard down. Every CRNA in Virginia is tasked with being the eyes and ears for our organization and any rumor should be escalated to VANA so that we can address it in real time. Thank you UVA CRNAs!

We continue to work with DMAS to obtain Medicaid reimbursement. They have asked for a 90 day holding period but be assured, we will not let them rest until this is complete.

At this critical time for vaccine administration in Virginia, VANA is working on getting Virginia CRNAs who may not be associated with a healthcare system vaccinated. We can connect you with your local Department of Health to see if they are offering vaccines. If your DOH is not vaccinating, we can work with you to contact your state legislator to alert them to the need. Please email me or your district director

(see email addresses in District Round-Up article in this newsletter) if you:

1. Need a vaccine
2. If you have or if you will reach out to your local DOH or legislator
3. Can volunteer to help administer vaccines
4. If you already are helping to administer vaccines with your local DOH

This can be your 20 minutes of micro-volunteering this month. As always, we would appreciate you signing up to donate \$20/month to the CRNA-PAC. Be a gem!!

Please take a moment to read your newsletter. Talk to your colleagues about what you read. Let’s build excitement for all we have achieved and all we can achieve. I am always interested in hearing from VANA membership. Tell me what we are doing right and what we can improve upon. Tell me your story of how Covid has impacted you, your profession, your job.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Jean

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SAVE THE DATE

**2021 ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE
NORFOLK, VA
OCTOBER 2-3, 2021**

VANA is busy planning the [2021 Annual Fall Conference](#). This year we return to the beautiful Hilton The Main in Norfolk Virginia, October 2-3, 2021. The Norfolk Main is located within walking distance of the Norfolk Waterside with plenty of restaurants, shopping and the Nauticus museum for your family to explore while you are in the conference. We are looking forward to another fulfilling year of education.

Check your email and the [VANA website](#) for updates.



BON SECOURS MERCY HEALTH

You belong with Bon Secours Mercy Health.

New grad or experienced CRNAs — Be part of a team that embraces medicine with a Mission.



We are currently looking for CRNAs for three full-time positions in the coastal Virginia/Hampton Roads area. Relocation assistance available.

- Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–3 p.m.
- Covering two to three hospitals/surgery centers
- Case mix will include cardiac thoracic, structural heart, orthopedic, endovascular, general surgery and ENT patients
- Anesthesia certification required. Must be proficient in general anesthesia, spinal and epidural procedures
- Must have current Virginia license
- Must be team oriented, have a positive attitude and work well with others
- Competitive compensation and sign-on bonus. Robust benefits package includes medical, Rx, dental, vision, FSA, HRA and 403b retirement
- Paid time off plus CME allowance
- Paid DEA, CRNA licensure

To learn more or submit your CV, contact:

Debra McCarthy, Physician Recruiter
Debra_Mccarthy@bshsi.org
C: 757-634-6333

bsmhealth.org/physicians

GRC UPDATE

By Howie Goodwin and Cathy Harrison, Co-Chairs, VANA Government Relations Committee

Our government relations committee continues to be proactive in the management of VANA's political and organizational interests. During the past six months, we have continued our focus on CRNA reimbursement, active engagement with legislators, APRN leadership engagement, and Virginia legislation monitoring and engagement. We are consistently providing successful advancements in CRNA practice. Here are some of our current accomplishments:

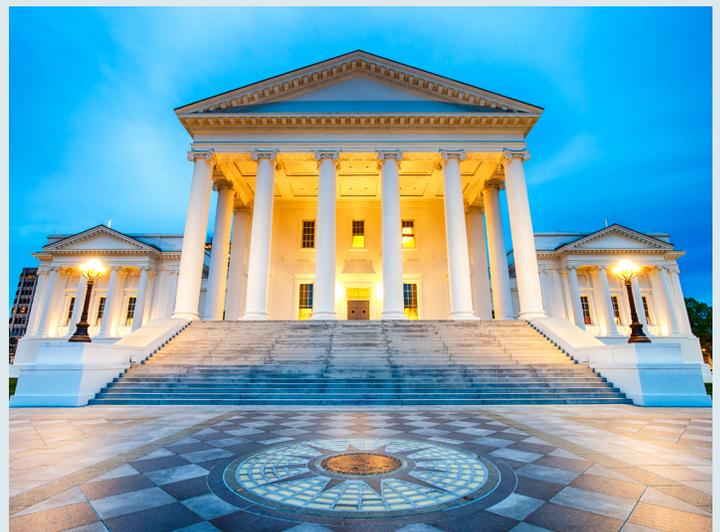
1. Medicaid Reimbursement – DMAS has confirmed that direct reimbursement for CRNAs has been prioritized. We have had some unexpected delays from DMAS due to Covid-19 and system upgrades within their department. We expect reimbursement to be in place within 90 days.
2. At the Virginia Board of Dentistry Business meeting on December 11, 2020, 18VAC60-21-291(A)(1) was updated to allow CRNAs to administer sedation in dental offices with non-permitted dentists. This is a significant achievement for CRNA practice. The estimated timeline for implementation of the regulation is 6 months.
3. The four APRN groups, CRNAs, NPs, CNMs, & CNSs, meet monthly to discuss the advancement of APRN practice. We are continually working toward the APRN Consensus Model with the long-term goal of a multistate APRN compact.
4. We are frequently monitoring Anesthesiologist Assistant activities in Virginia and continue to be successful in preventing legislation which would be considered favorable to the advancement of their practice. This year we were able to prevent a reevaluation of AA Licensure in the Department of Health Professions due to quick actions from our lobbying team.

Over the remainder of the year we ask for your help through building relationships with your legislators and contributing to the [CRNA-PAC](#). These relationships and funds will be essential for our future VANA initiatives. 20 minutes a month and \$20 a month will provide the resources necessary for us to protect and advance our practice. Thank you for your support and membership.

2021 VANA LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021
6:30 PM TO 9:00 PM
VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

Each year, VANA hosts a Legislative Summit during CRNA Week. This year, the VANA Legislative Summit will be Thursday, January 28 via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please join your CRNA peers for an evening of educational content on the advocacy and legislative process. Learn about regulations and compliance from the state of Virginia perspective, VANA issues at the General Assembly, PAC giving and why it matters and tips for talking with lawmakers. This virtual event is **FREE** to all Virginia CRNAs and SRNAs. [Register](#) today!



REGISTER TODAY FOR 2021 WINTER WORKSHOP

By Karen Gillikin, Education & Programming Committee Chair

Registration is now open for the [2021 Winter Workshop presented by District 5](#). This year, the conference will be a live virtual event held Saturday, February 6, 2021 and will feature top-notch speakers on cutting-edge topics in anesthesia, student presentations from nurse anesthesia programs across Virginia and a virtual silent auction to benefit the CRNA-PAC (see more below). Registration fees depend on your registration type. Learn more on the [registration page](#). We are using a fun and robust virtual conference platform to make this meeting a productive and enjoyable experience. This isn't just your normal Zoom meeting! Registered attendees will be able to take advantage of our virtual event portal by networking and video chatting with colleagues and friends, attend and participate in educational sessions, play the exhibitor scavenger hunt to win prizes, and more! [Register](#) today!

SILENT AUCTION 2021!

By Diane Miller, CRNA-PAC Chair

The VANA 2021 Silent Auction is right around the corner. This year, due to COVID, things will run a bit differently but, rest assured, you will see things on this completely virtual auction you never imagined: items and experiences, travel packages, CEU courses and more! Everything will be available for review before the auction and throughout the Winter Workshop; early bidding is encouraged!

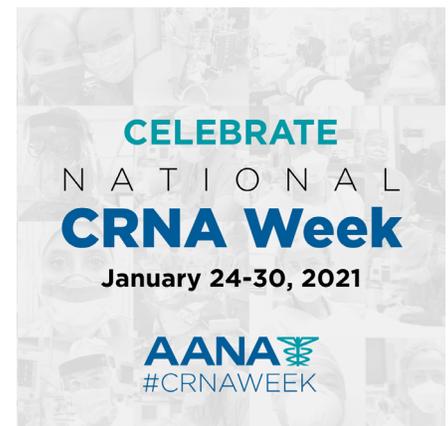
The 32 Auctions site hosting this year's silent auction will showcase as well as accept bids for the 10 days preceding and throughout the VANA Winter Workshop. The virtual silent auction will go live on January 27, 2021. Winners will be notified by 32 Auctions so logon with your existing account or create a new one. Look for a follow-up email to connect to the site or watch for announcements on the Virginia CRNAs and SRNAs Facebook group. You can also see auction items on the VANA Silent Auction Facebook page. Three ways to stay informed so don't get left out!

A donation to the VANA Silent Auction is also a great way to participate: This year, if you wish to donate to the silent auction, we will accept items that can easily fit in an envelope, like gift certificates, or services specific to your area, i.e. Botox, spa treatments, getaways, etc. We will, of course, need the proper paperwork but it's a simple form. [You can find the form here](#). Please fill it out and send it back to DWhitehead@mwellc.com.

Thank you all, in advance, for your help and participation! Together, we can make this a great auction and raise much needed funds for the CRNA-PAC! Learn more about the CRNA-PAC [here](#).

NATIONAL CRNA WEEK IS JANUARY 24-30, 2021!

National CRNA Week is the AANA's annual celebration of anesthesia patient safety and the nation's nearly 54,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and student registered nurse anesthetists who safely and cost-effectively provide more than 49 million anesthetics each year. Known as National Nurse Anesthetists Week as recently as 2014, the updated name for this popular event helps patients, hospital administrators, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and others become more familiar with the CRNA credential and the exceptional advanced practice registered nurses who have earned it. Join VANA in celebrating National CRNA Week, January 24-30!



DISTRICT NEWS ROUND-UP



Director – District 1: Kelli Kessler
skroberts13@gmail.com

Happy New Year from District 1. I hope everyone has had a safe and happy holiday season. We are optimistic that 2021 will be a better year. Although vaccines are becoming available, out of an abundance of caution, the District 1 Spring meeting will be held virtually on March 27. Please stay tuned for details.

Happy CRNA week! Thank you to all who have volunteered your time to participate in celebrating each other and our outstanding profession. 2020 was called the Year of the Nurse, let us carry that momentum forward in our practice and advocacy in 2021.

Please reach out to me at skroberts13@gmail.com or 360-929-9104 with any thoughts and ideas you may have towards networking (in person or virtual), with the hope we can look forward to in person events soon.



Director – District 2: Carolyn Connelly
district2@virginiacrna.org

Covid has prevented District 2 from hosting our normal activities in 2020, but hoping that will change for 2021. We hope to offer a triple recertification (BLS/ACLS/PALS) by March 2021. Stay tuned for Cherry Blossom Meeting plans.

Cheers to your good health in 2021!



Director – Districts 3 & 4: Jessica Ray
rayjc1@yahoo.com

I hope everyone is staying healthy and hopeful in these strange times. COVID has definitely limited our ability to be together but relief is on the horizon.

Since AHA certifications are a necessity for our profession, we will offer a BLS/ACLS/PALS triple certification on March 13, 2021 in Roanoke, Va. Registration coming soon.



Director – District 5: Nicole Damico
district5@virginiacrna.org

Happy New Year to all! I hope you and your families are staying healthy and well as we continue to face the many challenges related to COVID-19. The ‘big event’ for District 5 this Fall was the 2020 virtual ‘Mission Tomorrow’ career fair for 8th graders, sponsored by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. While we missed having the chance to interact with and share our passion for nurse anesthesia with the students at an in-person event this year, I would still say the event was a great success. We were able to chat online with dozens of 8th graders over a three-day period, and I am hopeful we inspired at least a few future CRNAs! I would like to thank and recognize ALL who contributed their time and talents to the event this year. Lukeythia Bastardi worked tirelessly on pre-event planning, media creation, and virtual booth set up. Tim Newell also assisted with event planning and virtual booth configuration. Mawiha Onyewu, Lukeythia Bastardi, John Kim, Nashon Levi, Joan Brown, Melissa Mitchell, and Rachel Gillman shared personal videos about why they love being CRNAs. Robin Blanchard and Doug Gatz (VCU SRNA) created an infographic for our booth and promoted the event. Jen Panosky (VCU SRNA) served as our booth

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volunteer coordinator. And, last but not least, our booth staffers included Lukeythia Bastardi (all THREE days, all day), Nancy Harrison, and Jordan Sharon (VCU SRNA). Clearly, this was a team effort!! Thank you again to everyone involved for your commitment to getting the word out about what we do.

I'd also like to mention another annual event in District 5, the VCU DNAP program graduation. The commencement ceremony was held on December 11, via Zoom, of course, but was still so special for all involved. Most of these 41 [new or soon-to-be] CRNAs will soon be joining us in the Virginia workforce and as members of VANA. They have chosen to stay in Virginia largely because of the great experiences they had at facilities across the state during their clinical training. Thank you to all who contributed in big and small ways to support and mentor these exceptional graduate students. Please extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our organization and continue to support them as they transition into their new roles.

There are several great opportunities coming up soon to 'gather' with other Virginia CRNAs in the virtual space. For the first time (to my knowledge), the January 28 Legislative Summit will be held in the evening, which will hopefully make the event more accessible to those who work during the day. The VANA VIRTUAL Winter Workshop on Saturday, February 6 will feature a fantastic lineup of speakers and many opportunities to network. Finally, the AANA 2021 Assembly of Didactic and Clinical Educators will be held on Saturday, February 20 and will be free this year. You can register via the AANA website or by using [this link](#). While I suspect we all have some degree of "Zoom fatigue" lately, I hope that you'll have the opportunity to join in on one or all of these virtual events as we continue to practice social distancing and count down the days until we can be together in person again. If you have any great ideas for other virtual events or offerings you'd like to see in the next quarter, please share them with me at district5@virginiacrna.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 24-30, 2021: National CRNA Week

January 28, 2021: VANA Legislative Summit, Virtual

February 6, 2021: VANA Winter Workshop, Virtual

March 13, 2021: BLS/ACLS/PALS Triple Certification Class, Roanoke, Va.

March 27, 2021: VANA District 1 Spring Meeting, Virtual

April 24-28, 2021: AANA Mid-Year Assembly, Washington, DC

August 13-18, 2021: AANA Annual Congress, Austin, Texas

October 2-3, 2021: VANA Annual Fall Conference, Norfolk, Va.

November 12-15, 2021: AANA Leadership Summit, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we share VANA emeritus member
Sally Spangler passed away on June 18, 2020.