



advancing quality anesthesia care, serving our members, promoting the nurse anesthesia profession

ALANA NewsBulletin

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I sit down to write my final presidential update I cannot help but smile as I think back over my years of service to the ALANA. My feeling is that a lot of CRNAs believe that in order to serve on the board that you need to be exceptionally motivated, know everything about anesthesia billing, have a keen sense for politics, and be the most polished public speaker around in order to “fit in” and be a useful member of the board. I can tell you from my own personal experience, and people who know me well will certainly vouch for this, that none of the above applied to me when I was first elected, and to be completely honest, a lot of it does not apply even now.

Back in the early 2000's my chief was on the board and they needed someone to run from North Alabama, so he asked me. He said, “it will be fine, I'll tell you everything you need to know.” I wanted to please my chief so I agreed. Two years later and ten minutes prior to presenting the ballot for the upcoming election I was “convinced” with similar statements by a group that had surrounded me outside the meeting room in Destin that I needed to fill the vacancy in the ballot for president-elect. The next year my president-elect told me he would run again if I did, so once again I agreed. Fast forward almost ten years to the night before the ballot was to be presented in Destin just two years ago. Only after multiple discussions did I finally agree that although I had been off the board for a period of time, that I would run for one final term.

I never sought this position, much less for status, recognition, personal gain or otherwise. I did it because I was so grateful to be a CRNA that I wanted to give something back. As I grew more comfortable in this role and became more knowledgeable about our issues, I eventually began to feel like I might be making a contribution. However, it was only through the patience and dedication of many CRNAs and others that served with me that I learned about billing, and politics, and public speaking. Well, maybe not public speaking, but that's kind of obvious.

The reason I share my story with you is that I believe there are a lot of you out there that are just like me, reluctant leaders. You are not going to raise your hand, but given a nudge (or several) and the right opportunity, you might just jump in. While each of you has a lot in common with the rest of us, you also have a unique set of talents and gifts. You can be an asset to the ALANA, and to your fellow CRNAs. The most important thing you can do is join AANA. I realize that if you are actually reading this you are most likely a member, so please forgive me for preaching. If you are already a member, support the ALANA PAC, hopefully by becoming a buck-a-day donor. These two things will cost you less than one hours pay per month. Finally, give of your time. If you don't want to run for the board we have a variety of committees that need your help, often with minimal time commitment.

When I was elected this last time I told Joe Knight that I would keep the association “between the navigational buoys,” but in hindsight that was not enough for myself or for the board. We continue to develop our new web site, and our PAC had the most successful year I can recall. Our PR committee was involved in numerous events over the last several months, and did a great job of promoting CRNA awareness. We added new information related to wellness and a new welcoming packet to our web site, and we implemented a new system for rapid and effective communication to our members. We are trialing new meeting venues and formats while improving on the ones that are time tested. We are currently developing a tool by which we can demonstrate the worth of CRNAs to the citizens of Alabama. We have strengthened old relationships in Montgomery, and developed new ones. We increased

“A true and safe leader is likely to be one who has no desire to lead, but is forced into a position of leadership by the inward pressure of the Holy Spirit and the press of the external situation. I believe it might be accepted as a fairly reliable rule of thumb that the person who is ambitious to lead is disqualified as a leader. The true leader will have no desire to lord it over others, but will be humble, gentle, self-sacrificing, and altogether as ready to follow as to lead, when the Spirit makes it clear that a wiser and more gifted person than them self has appeared.”

- A.W. Tozer

membership in the AANA, and certainly hope to again this year.

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank the members of the board, as well as Larry and Karen, Susan, Ryan, and Joe. I really have been blessed by you this year, and cannot tell you just how important you have been to me, and to all the CRNAs across our state. You are the reason that all of these things have been accomplished, and that the ALANA is better and stronger for it. I am a better man too, just because I was given the opportunity to get to know each of you, and I will always be grateful that the members allowed me to serve with you.

- Brent

An Update from the Alabama Board of Nursing

Dawn B. Daniel, MSN, RN
Director – Advanced Practice

Now that the 2017 NBCRNA recertification is in the books, I'm sure we are all happy to be on the new quadrennial recertification schedule, the first of which will occur in July 2020. We want to thank each of the CRNAs who work so hard to provide quality patient care.

I want to remind you that RN Renewal will be coming up in September 2018 and that My Profile (www.abn.alabama.gov/My-Profile) on the ABN website enables you to monitor and document your personal CE Record for accuracy moving forward.

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Update



*Terri M. Cahoon, DNP, CRNA, Chair,
Nurse Anesthesia Department, Ida V.
Moffett School of Nursing*

The nurse anesthesia program is excited to share that the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) has named two students to the 2017-18 class of Alabama Schweitzer Fellows. William Gafford and Newton Tinsley are among 16 graduate students in Alabama and approximately 240 nationally who will learn to effectively address the social factors that impact health and developing leadership skills during the year. Schweitzer Fellows develop and implement service projects that address causes of health disparities in under-resourced communities while also fulfilling their academic responsibilities. William and Newton will work to address unmet medical needs for adults with developmental disabilities at Unless U, a Birmingham-based education program committed to serving these adults and their families through continuing education, life skills and social skills. Their project will work to implement preventative measures to optimize the physical well-being of students, including developmentally appropriate teaching on physical fitness, nutrition and hygiene. The project will also focus on preparing teachers and families for medical emergencies that may be encountered by this vulnerable population. Vice Provost Nena Sanders said of William and Newton, "These men are true Moffett nurses, living out the maxim of our namesake, Ida V. Moffett, who said, 'Compassion means taking action.'" How exciting that William and Newton sought the opportunity to fulfill the ASF mission to become "professionals who will serve and empower vulnerable people to live healthier lives and create healthier communities."

The nurse anesthesia program at Samford continues to move toward the transition to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) entry level degree. The final MSN cohort (Class of 2020) will start in January 2018 with the first DNP cohort (Class of 2021) starting in May 2018. Admission interviews for both classes were conducted in July. A strong applicant pool of 85 accepted invitations to come to campus for interviews. Acceptance into the program has been offered to 25 in each cohort including some from states including Virginia, Mississippi, Illinois, Georgia, Utah, Tennessee, Texas, New York, and Florida.

The department was recently awarded a Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship (NAT) Program grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) This grant will provide \$25,238 to both first and second year students to help defray tuition, books, and living expenses. This is the 14th year for Samford to receive a NAT grant. To date, Samford has received more than \$260,000 through the HRSA NAT Program.

The Class of 2017 had a 92% first-time pass rate on the National Certification Exam. Our 5-year average for first-time pass rate is 94%. Our employment rate for the class is 100%; the attrition rate is 0%. The 24 graduates are employed in five different states with 17 remaining in Alabama. Fifteen out of the 24 are working in rural or medically-underserved areas. During their clinical education at Samford, these 24 students averaged 828 anesthesia cases and 2210 clinical hours. The Class of 2017 also clocked approximately 1372 hours of service including professional service, community service, and medical missions.

Nine students in the class of 2019 will be attending the AANA Annual Congress in Seattle,

Washington in September. Brittany Thompson and Liz Kudirka are representing Samford in the 2017 Anesthesia College Bowl on Monday night. Haley Silver is campaigning for the student representative to the AANA Education Committee and William Gafford will be receiving one of the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists Scholarships at the AANA Annual Meeting Student Scholarship Luncheon. Dr. Lisa Allison will lecture on Monday, September 11, about TXA use in pediatric trauma cases.

Several students have volunteered with different community ministries as part of the program's service learning program. Leslie Sellers, Whitney Jones, Newton Tinsley, Sarah Mallinak, Katie Perry, and Amy Snow assisted with the ALANA medicine preparation for Med Hope Africa. Sarah and Leslie also joined forces with several ALANA members and their pets in the Do Dah Day Parade. Several students assisted with preparing lunches for the Next Level Football Camp hosted by Jeremy Towns. In May, William Gafford received funds from the Jackie Davis Medical Missions Fund to serve in Uganda in a medical clinic in May with Med Hope Africa. Newton Tinsley will be travelling with Kenya Relief to serve in November. Mrs. Amy Snow will continue to host the "Lunch and Learn" sessions to inform the students of professional, community, and ministry service opportunities.

Sara Piel, class of 2017, had a case study, "Subcutaneous emphysema during laparoscopic cholecystectomy," published in the Spring issue of the *International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia*. Dr. Lisa Herbinger has had a paper, "Evidence based use of cuffed endotracheal tubes in children," accepted for publication in the *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing*. Drs. David Fort and Ken Taylor, classes of 2005 and 2012, will be speaking at the ALANA Fall Meeting. Amy Snow and Terri Cahoon had a poster presentation at the IMSON Faculty Research Lunch and Learn in April, "Service and knowledge in nurse anesthesia students after service learning program implementation." Dr. Lisa Herbinger also presented her poster regarding pediatric cuffed endotracheal tube cuff pressures.

The faculty, students, and alumni of the Samford Nurse Anesthesia Program are excited to welcome Dr. Beth Ann Clayton as the speaker for the Lonnie Funderburg Lectureship at the ALANA Fall Meeting. Dr. Clayton serves that the Program Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Major at the University of Cincinnati. She will share her vast regional, pharmacologic, and obstetrical clinical knowledge during her four lectures.

ALA - CRNA PAC UPDATE

ALANA held its first ever Family Fun Night with the Birmingham Barons this past weekend. It was a huge success with almost 100 CRNAs, family and friends in attendance. We raised over \$2,500 for ALA-CRNA PAC. It was a great night and we want to thank PAC Chair Salima Mulji and Government Relations Representative Susan Hansen for making it all happen.



Susan Hansen, Matt Hemrick, Heather Joiner, Krista Niedermeier, Salima Mulji, Pat Smith and Justin Carroll enjoy the game.



Heather Rankin, Michael Humber, Representative April Weaver and Ray Dunn pose between innings.



Update

*Todd L. Hicks, DNP, MNA, CRNA
Assistant Professor, Nurse Anesthesia
Program*



Late spring and early summer are busy times for the University of Alabama Nurse Anesthesia Program. It is a transitional period, where didactically prepared SRNAs first enter the clinical realm – a time that they have been looking forward to for months – and new students begin. Our first DNP cohort began matriculation in didactic courses in May of this year and, as summer closes, they are looking forward to beginning their first on-campus semester. The faculty and staff of UAB also continues to grow as we prepare to educate our DNP students.

The UAB Nurse Anesthesia Program is proud to welcome our newest full-time faculty, Dr. Edwin A. Aroke, PhD, MSN, CRNA. Dr. Aroke joined UAB in July, following completion of his PhD in 2016. Edwin received his Bachelor's of Science in Biochemistry from University of Buea in Cameroon. After relocating to Massachusetts, Dr. Aroke completed a BSN from Salem State University, then was a 2011 MSN graduate of Duke University. While at Duke University, Edwin received both the Annie Beery Award for Outstanding Leadership as well as the Sigma Theta Tau Ingles Ward for Outstanding Clinical Skills and Scholarly Accomplishment.

While working full-time as a CRNA at University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center, Edwin completed his PhD from University of Massachusetts where he was awarded both the Chancellor's Award and the Fairlawn Scholar Award for his work. In 2014, Dr. Aroke was invited to attend the National Institute of Health Summer Genetics Institute and received intensive training in molecular genetics as it related to research, clinical practice, and society. Also in 2014, Edwin was granted the Emerging Scholar Award by the International Society of Nurses in Genetics.

Dr. Aroke is well known to the CRNA community in the United States following his invited podium presentation by AANA at the 2016 Annual Congress in Washington, DC. The topic of his presentation was "Pharmacogenetics of Anesthesia", building on his doctoral research. In addition to his work with AANA, Edwin has lectured at many other international, national, regional, and state meetings.

While at UAB, Dr. Edwin Aroke will teach foundational sciences for first-year students in addition to select topics from anesthesia principles, pharmacology, and senior board review. Edwin has recently started his clinical practice at UAB hospital and is looking forward to continuing his research in pharmacogenetics.

Edwin recently relocated to Hoover, Alabama with his wife, Mado Aroke, and his four children, ranging in age from three to ten. Please join us in welcoming the Aroke family to Alabama, and more importantly to the UAB Nurse Anesthesia Family!

In addition to Dr. Aroke's arrival, the UAB NA Program is pleased to announce that Program Director, Susan P. McMullan, PhD, MSN, CRNA, has been selected to present her doctoral research at the 2017 AANA Annual Congress in Seattle, Washington. Joining her is Dr. Bryan Wilbanks, who was named Researcher of the Year for his work on the AANA closed claims analysis. Both Susan and Bryan will be participating as faculty members in the AANA Annual Congress College Bowl, joined by two UAB SRNAs, Shelby Woltjen, BSN and Alicia Herges,

BSN. John Woods, BSN will also represent the UAB NA Program as he continues his work with the AANA Foundation.

For 2017, UAB Nurse Anesthesia was awarded an Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship grant of just over \$48,000! This money will be used for student tuition and fees as directed by HRSA – a benefit welcomed by UAB NA students. We are also excited to announce that Dr. Susan McMullan was awarded the AANA Foundation Post-Doctoral Grant, valued at \$22,000, to continue patient safety research.

The UAB NA Program will soon send out a save-the-date for our annual continuing education conference. Please look for this email! We are planning for a wonderful conference, featuring recent graduates, faculty members, and UAB alumni. Thanks, as always, for your support of the UAB Nurse Anesthesia Program and for helping to educate our future.



Taylor Walker, SRNA and Victoria Miles-Nance, SRNA perform cricothyrotomies on porcine tracheas.



UAB students John Woods (top right) and Shelby Woltjen (top, fourth from left) traveled to Honduras as a part of a mission trip.



UAB Junior SRNA Jordan Doss participates in a high-fidelity simulation.



UAB Junior SRNA Jess Carlyle Rutledge participates in a high-fidelity simulation.



New faculty member Edwin Aroke, PhD, MSN, CRNA



SRNAs Erin Smith, Eric Swinford, and Tyler Elmore receive instruction from Clinical Coordinator Katie Woodfin, CRNA



Dr. Bryan Wilbanks participates in an advanced hi-fidelity simulation with senior SRNAs Lance Murdock, Alicia Herges, and Lauren Thomas.



AANA Region 7 Update

Dear ALANA Members,

It is hard to believe that I am almost through the first year of my term as your Region 7 Director! It has been a very busy year and there are some exciting things for me to report. On July 24, Randall Moore, DNP, MBA, CRNA was announced as the new AANA CEO and will be replacing Wanda Wilson, Ph.D., CRNA, who announced her retirement earlier in the year. I have full confidence that Dr. Moore will lead our Association well! Also

new to the AANA BOD is Angela Mund, DNP, CRNA, new Region 2 Director, replacing Dina Velocchi, DNP, CRNA, who resigned from the BOD in July.

I want to remind you that this year will be the first time ever members who are unable to travel to the Nurse Anesthesia Annual Congress (NAAC) will be able to take part in the business of the AANA virtually! I personally am very excited to see the members have the opportunity to be involved virtually and hope that you participate if you are not able to be present. The video streaming from the meeting will be available as well for members to view prior to voting on the final amendments and resolutions brought to the membership. You will receive an email with voting instructions very similar to the email you receive with election voting instructions.

The AANA BOD has pushed to get information to the members in a variety of ways this year, and at the recent July BOD meeting approved a communication strategy to increase communication from the BOD to the members in the future. AANA Connect is one of the communication avenues we use and has grown a lot this year with new communities including Pain Management, Simulation, Program Directors, and Critical Access Hospitals. This is a great way to reach out to other CRNAs in similar practices, network, and get feedback from your colleagues!

The BOD and staff also continue to stay busy with issues regarding CRNA practice and reimbursement. Earlier in the year, Novitas implemented a Local Coverage Determination (LCD) stating that CRNAs would not be reimbursed for pain management procedures. The LCD would limit payment to CRNAs for epidural injections for pain management in 12 states and the District of Columbia. While this LCD was delayed, it ultimately went into effect in June. The AANA continues to work with other groups to change this LCD. Recently, the AANA Federal Government Affairs (FGA) office was able to secure language recognizing CRNA pain management fellowships in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2018. This language encourages the secretary of defense to establish educational opportunities for CRNAs to attend accredited CRNA post-graduate pain management fellowships.

Thank you all for the incredible work you do on behalf of our profession, providing safe, quality anesthetics to our patients. I am honored to represent you as the Director of Region 7! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or comments at hrankin@aanabod.com or at 205-249-0650.

Sincerely,

Heather J. Rankin, DNP, CRNA
AANA Director Region 7



Medical Business Management

“CRNA Billing Specialist”

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www.MBMPS.com



2017 ALANA Elections



President - Elect *Ray Dunn, MNA, CRNA*

Current Employment:
Corporate Director of Anesthesia,
DCH Health System
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Education:
BSN, Auburn University
Montgomery 2005
MNA, University of Alabama
Birmingham 2008
Service:
Board of Directors, Senior Director,
ALANA
Government Relations Chair, ALANA

I am asking for your support for President Elect of the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists. As a current Senior Director on the Board I have gained respect for the work your association has done and is currently doing. It has been an honor to be in their company and I plan to continue that steadfast support for the CRNA's in our great state. The respect I have for you is what motivates me to seek this position. Your ability to keep the day going, do one more case, and stretch that extra minute to keep patients alive makes me proud to be your colleague and motivates me to preserve, protect and advance our rights as excellent care takers in our profession. I have served our country in the military for over 20 years in peacetime and war. I have functioned as an independent provider, in medical direction and medical supervision models. I understand the value CRNAs bring. I intend to continue the work of the ALANA Board toward achieving our basic common expectations, while moving forward to leverage CRNAs as the solution for Alabama's access to quality care as well as our nations Veterans. I understand service and sacrifice and I am ready to continue serving you in this capacity. Together, we can do great things. Thank you for your consideration.



President - Elect

Matt Hemrick, MSN, CRNA

Current Employment:

The Oxford Surgery Center

Experience:

NE Alabama Regional Medical Center 2012-2016

St Vincent's Hospital 2008-present

Sinai Hospital Baltimore, MD 2008-2012

CRNA-Only Office Based Practice, 2008-Present

Education:

University of Alabama, BSN, 2001

University of Maryland, MSN, 2007

Service:

Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Treasurer 2014-2016

Board of Directors 2012-2014

Finance Committee 2012-2014

Finance Committee Chair 2013-2014

Program Committee 2012-2014

Program Chair 2013-2014

As the AANA engages in national conversations about scope of practice for APRNs with interdisciplinary groups and policymakers, it is incredibly important that the ALANA is poised to participate. The opportunity for Alabama's message to be communicated directly to our AANA Region 7 Director is here, as we have had our first member elected to this position in nearly twenty years. If elected President of the ALANA, I would seek every opportunity to work closely with Heather on issues that will impact our practice in Alabama. I will make our state's voice heard at any pertinent legislative meetings or hearings, lobbying efforts, grassroots initiatives, or interdisciplinary meetings to aggressively promote opportunities to expand our practice and defend our current practice rights. Many changes are imminent for our profession, and it is important that we continue to improve our organization and represent the CRNAs of Alabama in a positive way at the national level. I want to continue fighting for equitable reimbursement for anesthesia services and help educate those that are unaware of the issues we face. I am honored to be nominated as President-Elect and I believe that my experience and guidance from our past-presidents has prepared me to take on this role to lead the CRNAs of Alabama.

I have served the ALANA as a director and most recently as the Treasurer. This experience, coupled with the skills I have developed in the board room as I regularly meet and negotiate with hospital administration in my role as Regional CRNA Manager, has prepared and inspired me to do more for our organization. Colleagues, there are many obstacles we face in our profession. Continuing education changes are moving forward with the NBCRNA. Changes are being made to insurance

reimbursement in Alabama. The Veterans Health Administration proposal to improve access to care for APRNs has been significant and we need seat at the table in order to have a say in how our future unfolds. I want to be in that seat, representing you.

Members, our voice can make the difference between reimbursement in Alabama remaining stagnate or improving—our membership declining or growing—or our scope of practice being threatened or expanded. If given the opportunity to represent and lead our state, I am confident that my expertise as leader, clinician, and activist will bring value to our board and organization. I am intimately involved in the business of anesthesia, the constantly changing practice of anesthesia, and listening to the needs and concerns of others. There is much work to be done ahead, and I am up for the challenge and unencumbered by any outside political influences. I can be the voice of Alabama CRNAs without fear of retaliation from external influencers. My priorities as President will be to work with the ALANA leadership to:

- Improve reimbursement in Alabama
- Encourage CRNAs to join the ALANA
- Continue improving our relationship with our legislators and other regulatory agencies
- Protect CRNAs from threats to our scope of practice

The ALANA is here for you. I encourage you to stay involved and help get others involved. Whether you run for a position, join a committee, or donate to the PAC, we can use all the support. It is important that we continue to encourage SRNAs to get involved after graduation to continue the legacy that has been given to us. Thank you in advance for your support of my position as President-Elect. I look forward to continuing to serve you in the future.

Vice President/Secretary

Willie Furr, DNP, CRNA

Health care continues to evolve, presenting challenges for many providers. CRNA's must be able to adapt and meet the healthcare needs of those we serve. It is an exciting time to be a CRNA, where we have the opportunity to practice our profession in increasing roles. With the right to practice, comes responsibility. Responsibility to our patients, our peers, and our profession. From Alabama's largest cities to the most rural practice settings, CRNAs are present, providing safe, affordable, quality care, in mixed and solo settings. I believe that CRNAs will continue to fill clinical leadership roles in an environment where we can practice to the full extent of our scope of practice, and our education and training.

CRNAs will play a vital role in care that is moving away from physician centered care towards patient centered care. An environment where CRNAs, will have equal, valuable, shared contributions in a collaborative environment. Where outcomes will be measured as a means of success and reflected in reimbursement for services. We must remain vigilant in our practice, be active in negotiations, and maintain a voice in our places of employment. I believe though continued education, research, and participation in our states professional association, any obstacles can be overcome. I am honored to be nominated to serve as Vice President on the ALANA Board of Directors, where I look forward to supporting and contributing to the success of Alabama's talented CRNAs.



Current Employment:
Andalusia, Alabama
Staff Anesthetist

Education:
Troy University, BSN 1999
University of Tennessee at
Chattanooga, MSN 2004

Troy University, DNP May 2016
Service:
ALANA PR committee, ALANA
Chair of Social Media, ALANA

Director - North

Phillip B. Fikes, MNA, CRNA

As CRNAs, we have to continue to protect and expand our opportunities in the healthcare industry. Four years ago, my business partner and I formed the first independent CRNA group in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. We are a group of CRNAs that provide anesthesia services for GI procedures, Plastic Surgery, and an Office Based Lab (OBL) peripheral cath lab. We provide cost-effective, quality care to thousands of people each year. I am asking for your support as a nominee to the ALANA Board of Directors. My experience includes: staff nurse anesthetist, chief nurse anesthetist, and CRNA entrepreneur. As a business owner, I have learned a lot about opposition, insurance reimbursement, malpractice, anesthesia billing, coding, contract negotiation, accounting, business management, legal consulting, and legislation. I am willing to devote my time and experience to serve on the ALANA BOD to continue to protect and expand opportunities for CRNAs in the healthcare industry. I appreciate your vote and support.



Current Employment:
Capstone Anesthesia
Services, LLC
Vice President, Owner

Education:
The University of Alabama,
BSN, 1998
UAB Nurse Anesthesia
Program, MNA, 2001



Director - North

Lisa Ghavam, MSN, CRNA

I have been privileged to provide anaesthesia care for patients in north Alabama for the past 24 years. I completed my training at University of Pittsburgh, and worked in the academic setting for one year. I then moved to Alabama, and my first position was at Shoals Hospital; here, I provided adult and pediatric anaesthesia for three years. I have since relocated to Huntsville, and now provide services primarily at the Huntsville Hospital cardiac catheterization lab, but also prn for in-office plastic surgery patients, fertility, cataracts, as well as a broad

spectrum elective cases at Crestwood Medical Center. I have also worked at Brookwood Medical Center and GI lab on a locums setting.

I have always been impressed with the quality of CRNAs in the communities in which I've worked. Without the professionalism and training of CRNAs, the safe, daily administration of sedation and anaesthesia to thousands of patients in Alabama could not take place. I consider CRNAs the front line of provision of care for surgical patients; we are the strongest patient advocates in a time which places our charges under stress. We provide the conditions which enable our patients to safely undergo simple and complex procedures, and return to their pre-morbid condition.

In the cath and TEE lab, I often see repeat patients, or family members of former patients, who are delighted to see a familiar, caring, and friendly face providing their sedation. These are some of the most critical patients we treat, and my ability to calm assuage their concerns and anxieties is integral in successfully sedating them.

My goal is to continue to promote the important role that CRNAs have in the provision of anaesthesia, and to support my colleagues during the forthcoming period of turmoil in healthcare. We must remember that our patients always come first, and must fight for them and their safety and comfort during their time of stress.



Director - Central

Krista Niedermeier, MNA, DNP, CRNA

I am excited for the opportunity to serve as a director for the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists (ALANA) and proud to be part of an organization that represents and so vigilantly advocates for its members. As nurse anesthetists in Alabama, we should each be proud of the cost-effective, high-quality care we consistently provide to ALL urban and rural areas of the state.

Alabama CRNAs face challenges daily including protecting our scope of practice, reimbursement and healthcare reform. A proactive approach to educating the public about what we do and how well we do it is our best defense. As the public relations and nominating committee chairs, I worked to help achieve the goals of the ALANA, to represent the membership and experienced first-hand the impact that building relationships with our legislators and community members can have. They DO listen to a respectful, unified ALANA front – and we DO make a difference!

Serving the amazing profession that has given me so much is now a life-long goal. It would be a privilege to continue to represent you as an ALANA director so I respectfully ask for your vote. Thank you.

Director - South

Trey S. Burg, MNA, CRNA, USAR, MAJ



What a privilege to be considered as a candidate for the ALANA Board of Directors. It is my desire to act as a sounding board to assist my fellow CRNAs to not only have a voice within our state association, but one that is heard. We have never before met such a challenging time in our state and nation's healthcare future. My experience as an independent CRNA in a rural setting has encouraged my passion as an advocate for CRNA scope of practice and the continued pursuit of excellence in our education institutions.

I have recently begun to instruct student nurse anesthetists in the clinical setting and consider it a privilege to convey to these future CRNAs the importance of their ability to practice independently. I have also had the opportunity to assist our state association in its work to defend our scope of practice as Alabama CRNAs.

In this ever-changing healthcare climate, we as a profession must show our worth and mount a well-organized and executed campaign to protect our ability to practice to the full extent of our education and training. We must encourage our schools of Nurse Anesthesia to maintain high standards in order to prepare future CRNAs to become independent practitioners, for it is imperative that our focus be on autonomy versus enrollment.

Through a coordinated effort with our association, state representatives, policy makers and more importantly our fellow colleagues, I will ensure that I dedicate my time and efforts to advancing our practice of Nurse Anesthesia.

Current Employment:
Dale Medical Center
Director of Anesthesia Services
Education:
Troy University, BSN, 1997
University of South Carolina,
MNA, 2003
Service:
Board of Directors 2014 - 2016,
ALANA



Nominating Committee Chair

Morgan Reaves, MSN, CRNA

Education:
University of Alabama at
Birmingham, BSN, 2011
University of Alabama at
Birmingham, Nurse Anesthesia
Program, MNA, 2016

I am a recent graduate and have been active in the state and national associations since my early days of being an anesthesia student. As a newly licensed and practicing CRNA, I would like to continue to be active in our associations to ensure the advancement of our growing profession. Our ability to influence change within our government, as well as the facilities in which we practice, begins with strong and impactful leaders. As the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, I would work diligently to find qualified candidates from across Alabama. I will strive to seek out CRNAs with strong leadership skills and a determination to affect change to regulations that limit our practice roles and take away from the positive outcomes that are a result of the safe, cost-effective, quality care that we provide. I am committed to our profession and it would be my honor to serve CRNAs across Alabama. I thank you for your consideration.

FALL MEETING

September 22-24, 2017
Regions Field
Birmingham, Alabama

We will open on Friday at noon with Adult Cardiovascular Symposium, followed by the Pediatric Seminar. At the conclusion of the Symposium, ACLS and PALS testing will be made available for those interested in getting their card. The Pediatric Symposium will be moved up if the Cardiovascular session ends early, thus letting everyone finish earlier.

On Saturday we open with a breakfast buffet and the ALANA Update/Business Meeting. The Funderburg Lectureship Series follows, which is sponsored by the Samford University Nurse Anesthesia Program and its alumni. This year's Funderburg lecturer will be Beth Ann Clayton, DNP, MS, CRNA, University of Cincinnati.

We are providing a working lunch for the State and Federal Legislative Update and have invited Representative April Weaver, Chair of the House Health Committee to address the group. Later that afternoon, we invite ALL ALANA members to join us for a Welcome Reception in honor of our first-year students.

On Sunday, we start early again with more outstanding professional development sessions offering 4 CEs and 3 Pharm credits.

We promise an information-packed meeting with lots of time to visit old classmates and make new friends in the anesthesia profession. ALANA offers the absolute finest in nurse anesthesia continuing education. We've earned this reputation by offering excellent speakers, classroom seating, complimentary continental breakfast and beverage service, complimentary Saturday Luncheon, and the best exhibitors - all of which make for a first-class meeting at a very affordable price.

Reservations should be made directly with The Elyton Hotel at (205) 731-3600. Rooms blocked for ALANA are at a discounted group rate of \$169 per night. The cut-off date for hotel reservations is September 13th. Select the registration options you wish to attend, mail your registration form to the ALANA Office or register and pay online at the ALANA web site (www.AlabamaCRNA.org.) If you have questions, please contact the ALANA Office at (334) 260-7970.



ALANA FALL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 22 - 24, 2017

All meetings will be held at Regions Field. We have a small group of rooms at the Elyton Hotel. Rooms blocked for ALANA are at a discounted group rate of \$169 per night for single/double. Please identify yourself as a member of ALANA when making reservations at the hotel. They will sell out, so make your reservations today!

Call 205-731-3600 for Reservations

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Place of Employment _____

AANA Number _____

Do you plan to stay at the Elyton Hotel? _____

Method of Payment:

☐ Checks payable to: ALANA

☐ Credit Card: American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐

Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

Refund Policy: Refunds on tuition will be honored upon receipt of a written request prior to September 10, 2017, subject to a \$50.00 cancellation fee.

For those with special needs or questions, contact the ALANA Office at 334.260.7970 or Email alana@gmsal.com.

ALANA will be providing ACLS and PALS in Special Sessions on Friday. These sessions will have limited enrollment so early pre-registration is highly recommended. We are also offering a special Membership Reception Saturday afternoon following the session in honor of the first year students. Friday is 8 CEUs with 2 Pharm credits, Saturday includes eight CE hours with 2 Pharm and Sunday will offer four CE hours with 3 Pharm credits, for a total of 20 CEUs and 7 Pharm. Register early to get the discounted rates.

Pre-registration rates listed here. Walk up registration rates will be 10% higher.		CEUs	Member	Non-Member
All Sessions, ACLS & PALS	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	\$450	\$550
<i>ala-cart</i>				
Adult Cardiovascular & ACLS (Friday afternoon)	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	\$100	\$125
Pediatric Cardiovascular & PALS (Friday evening)	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	\$100	\$125
All Regular Sessions (Sat & Sun)	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	\$275	\$350
Saturday Only	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	\$150	\$200
Students if pre-registered	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$25	\$25
Sunday Only	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	\$125	\$150
ALA-CRNA PAC Contribution	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Sponsor-A-Student	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$25	\$25
Total (enter total CEUs and fees)				
See website for late registration and on-site registration fees				

Send completed registration form and payment to:
ALANA • Post Office Box 240757 • Montgomery, AL 36124

Up to \$150 of your registration fee will automatically be donated to ALA-CRNA PAC. PAC donations are not tax deductible. Please consult with your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of registration fees as a business expense.

{ ☐ } Please check this box if you do NOT wish to donate to the ALA-CRNA PAC, and your entire registration fee will go to the ALANA general fund.



In Memoriam



Grady Ronald Edmondson, 84 years of age, of Mobile, Alabama, was taken by Angels to be with Our Lord, Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 9:05 PM. Ronnie, as he was affectionately known by family and friends, is survived by his devoted and loving wife, Ella Joyce Edmondson and his twin sons, Grady Randall Edmonson and Ronald Anthony Edmondson, and he was also the loving grandfather of Grady Hamilton Edmondson and Caroline Christoph Edmondson, all of Mobile. Ronnie, a lifetime Mobilian, attended Barton Academy Elementary and graduated from Murphy High School. He then graduated from Perkinston Community College, currently Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Ronnie was then a proud graduate of Providence School of Nursing in Mobile, and refined his medical studies at Barnes Hospital School of Anesthesia in St. Louis. Later Ronnie's pursuit of higher education was realized as a CRNA-BA graduate of Ottawa University in Kansas. Ronnie was a distinguished veteran of the United States Army. As a Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Ronnie was highly regarded in his profession. He served as

a past President of the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists and was a long-time member of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). Ronnie was honored for his lifetime achievement by being instated as Emeritus Member of AANA whereby he was recognized in 2002 for his 44 years of dedicated CRNA practice and for his contributions as an active member of AANA. Ronnie was known for his genuine bedside manner and his nurturing service to countless patients. He was always on the frontline of developments and innovations in anesthesia, and for him, education was a lifelong endeavor. Ronnie was also an active member in his beloved community of Mobile. He was a past General Chairman of America's Junior Miss Pageant, currently Distinguished Young Women of America, and a past Vice-President of the Mobile Junior Chamber of Commerce. He was a dedicated patron of Mobile Opera. Ronnie was also an avid golfer and member of Heron Lakes Country Club, formerly Skyline Country Club, and much beloved by his many golfing friends. Ronnie was the kind of person who could literally light a room by his presence. His laughter and good humor were well known by the many lives he touched. He was a friend to anyone he met along his way through his generous life. His loving wife, Joyce, of 62 years, was devoted to her husband and spent every day beside him during his long illness, and was present by his side when Ronnie passed peacefully. Ronnie and Joyce met in Providence Nursing School and were selflessly devoted to each other throughout his wonderful life. Ronnie will be truly missed by so many who loved him dearly. Ronnie's parents were Mamie Callahan and Grady Hamilton Edmondson, both of Mobile. He is also preceded by his sister, Shirley Odom of Fairhope and Jerry Edmondson also of Fairhope. He is also survived by his nephews, Steve Odom, Tommy Odom, John Edmondson and his nieces, Carla Kant and Susan and Laura Edmondson. The Edmondson Family would like to express our deep, heartfelt gratitude to Springhill Senior Residence (SSR). The SSR staff provided the highest level of care and commitment to the well-being of Ronnie throughout his long struggle as a resident. Everyone with SSR treated Ronnie with abiding love and respect. Published in the Mobile Register and Baldwin County on Aug. 13, 2017



Mike Hollenbeck, age 55 passed away on Wednesday, July 19, 2017. Mike was a CRNA at Jackson Hospital through Montgomery Anesthesia Associates for 24 years. He graduated from Northview High School in Dothan, Alabama. Mike continued his education earning his Bachelors of Nursing from Troy State University. He then obtained his Masters of Science Nursing from Albany Medical College in Albany, New York. Mike is preceded in death by his father, M. Robert Hollenbeck. Out of all of Mike's accomplishments, he was most proud of his two daughters, Nina Hollenbeck and Melody Hollenbeck. Mike is survived by his mother, Catherine S. Brice; his brothers, Martin Hollenbeck, David Hollenbeck, Thomas Hollenbeck (Mary Ann), Joseph Hollenbeck (Tessa), James Hollenbeck, and Stephen Hollenbeck (Nancy);

numerous nieces and nephews; and his special friend, Kristin Vickery.