A Message from LANA’s President

KATRINA VICE O’CON, DNAP, CRNA

The past year has been anything but normal.

This has been an intense year for healthcare and the CRNA profession. We, as a community of professional advanced practice nurses have come together and rallied when our elective caseload was cut to bare minimum. Many of us were asked to go back to our roots and work as bedside nurses in the intensive care units and did so with great pride and unwavering professionalism. Some colleagues were thrust into the ICU environment with little direction except to manage airways, insert invasive lines, order and manage vasopressors, etc. LANA sprung into action and immediately started working with the LSBN, the Louisiana Department of Health and the Governor’s office to suspend the requirements of supervision so that we could be independent in those areas of care. On March 31, 2020, The Hon. John Bel Edwards issued an executive order, which temporarily suspended the requirement of supervision for CRNAs. This order was extended to May 15, 2020, and then again extended to June 5, 2020 (as of this writing.) The hope of the LANA Board of Directors is that this executive order may lay the groundwork for future legislation in order to remove supervision on a permanent basis.

After talking with CRNAs who were working as bedside ICU nurses and hearing about the mental anguish that many were experiencing due to the escalating crisis combined with the “no-visitor rule” that many hospitals had in place, LANA’s leadership also felt compelled to initiate dialogue with our mental health APRNs. Together with the LSBN leadership and the APNA LA Chapter, LANA helped establish a free mental health network for all nurses in our state for anyone that needed to talk about their experience.

This year during our Board Retreat in New Orleans we focused on future legislative action. Our guest speaker was LANA’s legislative lobbyist, Gina Goings. We discussed strategy and finances. Although we did not sponsor any legislative actions this year, no doubt because of the current state
of healthcare due to the COVID-19 crisis, there may be cause for action in the near future. Keep in mind that any future request for removal of supervision will be strongly opposed by our physician colleagues, not only anesthesiologists, but by all of the physician community. Removal of supervision is something that will not harm any CRNA working in a supervision model or affect the physicians that work in those settings. Removal of supervision will help bring more access to surgery and anesthesia care in those areas that do not have anesthesiologists, particularly in the rural areas of our state. So, please keep this in mind when we begin our efforts.

We continue the efforts of our Membership and Recruitment task force with regional updates and funding for CRNAs who are interested in getting involved. We awarded scholarships this year for CRNAs to attend Mid-Year Assembly in Washington, D.C. as well as the AANA Annual Congress. Unfortunately, both of those events have been canceled. We will continue to offer financial assistance for CRNAs who express interest in our meetings. I encourage CRNAs to take advantage of these scholarships and attend a meeting.

The goal of the Membership and Recruitment task force was to increase CRNA involvement and engagement. We began with a membership rate of 71%, one of the lowest in the country and now have 76% membership. This is a good increase but when I look over the non-member list, I feel a bit de-energized as I notice many CRNAs who are quite vocal on social media do not belong to AANA, thus do not belong to LANA. This is discouraging since the AANA now offers quarterly payments for dues so as to lessen the one time financial burden. LANA counts on the dues from AANA membership to support our mission and we continue to strongly encourage CRNAs to join or re-join our organization. There are a great many more benefits of membership other than just “keeping up with CEs.” Please contact the LANA office for more details about membership benefits.

There is a great deal of talent on the 2020 and 2021 boards and more waiting to be tapped. I respond to phone calls and e-mails monthly from SRNAs and CRNAs who want to be more involved. There are always opportunities to help LANA support the practice of CRNAs. It is encouraging to see so many run for leadership positions in LANA. Do not be discouraged if you are not successful, we have lots of opportunities to become involved.

LANA continues to monitor healthcare legislation that may affect CRNA practice. We do this by creating relationships with legislators so we can call with concerns or with support. We also educate legislators about who we are and what we do so that when that inevitable fight arises to bring AAs into Louisiana, our legislators are already knowledgeable. The LANA BOD works continuously to put out small fires that may adversely affect our practice. Remember that just because an issue comes up that doesn’t affect YOUR practice, small subset victories will help the whole and small subset defeats will eventually upset the entire CRNA community.

In closing, I would like to offer my gratitude and thanks to my Board of Directors for their insight and enthusiasm in regards to Louisiana CRNA practice. The up and coming leaders certainly are getting brighter each year. I would also like to thank from the bottom of my heart the past presidents of LANA for all of the wisdom and advice I have received. We as an organization and community would not be what we are today without each and every one of them and the foundation they have laid. It has been my utmost honor and privilege to serve each of you as your President and I am so excited for our future.

Katrina Vice O’Con, DNAP, CRNA, APRN
President

Sir Isaac Newton

If I have seen further it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.
National CRNA Week was celebrated January 19-25, 2020. The LANA Public Relations Committee, along with continued support from the LANA Board of Directors continued our statewide efforts to increase the public's awareness for the profession of Nurse Anesthesia, continuing our national slogan “Every Breath, Every Beat, Every Second, We Are There.” Throughout the state of Louisiana, CRNA representatives met with public officials and received proclamations publicly recognizing CRNA Week and with that our contribution to healthcare in our state. Proclamations were issued from the Mayors of Natchitoches, Lafayette, Youngsville, and Lake Charles in addition to a statewide proclamation from Governor Edwards. LANA continued to fund billboards around the state targeting key markets including Shreveport, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles and Covington. We will continue to look for more ways to spread the great work of CRNAs throughout the state. The board of directors also delivered king cakes to almost 100 healthcare facilities during CRNA Week. If you would like to be on the list for future treats from LANA, please email us at office@lanacrna.org. This year the BOD has continued to engage our members around the state. As of this writing, we have held two social gatherings to engage and inform our colleagues. Our Shreveport update was held at the Great Raft Brewery and almost every hospital was represented. Our second was held in New Orleans and had a good turnout. All CRNAs and SRNAs are welcome to join us and meet members of your board for these low-stress networking events. Our goals are to bring our message of advocacy to you in your area and hope that you will allow us some time into your busy lives to update you on practice issues that may affect us all. Although we have not been able to hold additional updates look for emails from LANA to announce a Regional Update coming to your area soon and please join us. Several Louisiana CRNAs have been featured in their local print media or on national media outlets for their experiences during the COVID-19 crisis. LANA always wants to know if one of our colleagues is spotlighted for their efforts, please keep us in the loop. At the Annual AANA Congress held in Chicago in August 2019, LANA won the award for best National CRNA Week Public Relations effort. The Board of Directors was honored that our multi-faceted outreach to CRNAs, the public, and legislators were acknowledged on the national level. If you have any ideas for advertising or increasing awareness for CRNA practice or would like to join the LANA Public Relations Committee, please email office@lanacrna.org.
REGIONAL UPDATES
CURTIS SANFORD, DNAP, CRNA

In January of 2020, your Board of Directors approved and organized regional updates for CRNAs throughout the state of Louisiana formally for the third year in a row. These leisure socials started several years back very informally and have grown to immensely popular annual events throughout the year in several regions of the state.

Shreveport kicked off the year in February with the first regional update of the year. Guests from the north Louisiana region enjoyed craft brew and dinner from Great Raft Brewing while visiting and networking with anesthesia providers and members of the Board of Directors.

The Wrong Iron on the Greenway in New Orleans hosted the second regional update of the year on March 11, 2020. CRNAs from the Greater New Orleans area were treated to food and spirits and were updated on the status of our profession in the state of Louisiana.

The week after the New Orleans Regional update, our lives were quickly thrown into a tailspin into what we now know as the “new normal”. The regional updates planned for Lafayette, Lake Charles, and Baton Rouge had to be delayed….not cancelled!

Look for notices on the LANA Facebook page, website, and via email regarding the future updates. I anticipate that the Lafayette Update will be sometime in June or July with Lake Charles and Baton Rouge coming late summer or fall.

We look forward to seeing all of you there! Due to the impact of Covid-19 in all of our lives, we could all use a chance to get together and let loose and share our battlefield stories!

If you would like to see a regional update in the future in your area, please contact myself or any member of the Board of Directors. If any CRNA from one region wishes to attend a regional update in another region other than their own, they are always welcome!

TREASURER’S REPORT
GUY PICARD, MSN, CRNA

Your organization continues to remain financially sound and fiscally responsible as a result of the efforts of all serving on the board of directors. LANA's operating reserve continues to exceed that recommended by our national organization and, as a result, the board of directors has continued to conservatively invest, thus allowing for LANA's continued financial growth and diversification. We will continue to closely monitor political and professional developments and will utilize strategic reserves should the need arise. LANA’s financial viability continues as a result of vigilant monitoring of careful budgeting activities, spending money appropriately to continuously engage our members, and strategic, innovative saving and investing.

A heartfelt thanks to all members for entrusting your board of directors to continue to guide YOUR organization into the future. Thanks also to the dedicated men and women comprising the LANA board of directors who volunteer their time and expertise, allowing LANA to advance and protect the profession of nurse anesthesia for all CRNAs in the state of Louisiana.
LANA 2019-2020
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**TREASURER:** Guy Picard, MSN, CRNA
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**SECRETARY:** David Kalil, CRNA
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(225) 326-1244

New 2020-2021 Elected Officers

These officers were elected in the May 2020 Election and will be sworn in at the Annual Conference in October 2020

- President Elect: Dave Krobert, CRNA
- Vice-President: Kentry Adams, CRNA
- Treasurer: Guy Picard, MSN, CRNA
- Board of Directors: Nick McCullough, CRNA
- Board of Directors: David O’Con, CRNA
- Board of Directors: Mimi Primeaux, CRNA
Meet the Speakers:

- Ashley Fedan
- David Gomez
- Mike Mackinnon
- Randy Moore
- Kelle Logan
- Ryan Sexton
- Christian Falyar
- Steve Mundy
- Ron Ray
- Tom Baribeault
- Kristin Henderson
- Cheryl Carr
- Richard Flowers

ACLs/BLS/PALS Training

Join LANA for a fun weekend at the Omni Royal Orleans. We have a fantastic lineup of national speakers offering insight on various topics pertinent to our field. We look forward to seeing you all there!
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**LANA 2020 Annual Meeting Registration Form**

Name: _____________________________________________ Badge Name: ___________________

Spouse/Guest’s Badge Name (if applicable): ______________________________________________

Company: _______________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________________________

Street _______________________________________________________________________________________

City __________________ State __________________ Zip __________________

Telephone: (______)___________________ Email Address: _____________________________________

Member Type: _____________ Active _____________ Student _____________ Non-Member

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**ACLS/ PALS/ BLS Training** *Check Here if you would like to attend _________

This is a 3 hour course on Friday, 10-02-2020 from 12pm to 3:15pm and you will receive your electronic card from American Heart Association as well as 3 CE hours from AANA for attending. Time is subject to change. A fee of $150 will be charged if the course occurs. **Course offering dependent on registration numbers**

Check Number: ________ Credit Card (Circle One) VISA MC AMEX DISC

Card Number: ____________________________________________ Exp Date: _________

CVV (from back of card): ________ Cardholder’s Name: _____________________________

Total Enclosed $______________

For questions or to register by phone, please call 225.408.4430. For the security of your data, please do not email credit card information. Mail checks payable to LANA to: Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists; 8550 United Plaza Blvd., Suite 1001. Baton Rouge, LA 70809. FAX your registration to 225.408.4422. Registration is also available online at www.lanacrna.org.

Please note that due to the ongoing uncertainty regarding COVID-19, LANA will not charge a cancellation fee and will provide 100% refund if you decide to not attend the in-person conference regarding concerns around your health or travel pending you send notice via email to the LANA Office within 24 hours of the conference start date. Also, if the in-person conference is ultimately cancelled, LANA will provide 100% refunds to all pre-registered attendees.

All other cancellation requests must be submitted by September 11, 2020 in writing to the LANA Office for a full refund. A 50% cancellation fee will be assessed for cancellation requests submitted between September 11, 2020 and September 28, 2020 and not COVID-19 related. No refunds will be processed for non-COVID-19 related cancellations after September 28, 2020.
Hotel Accomodations

Omni Royal Orleans
621 St. Louis St., New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 529-5333

LANA has received the following group rates:
Petite Queen: $209/night for single and double occupancy
Deluxe Queen: $229/night for single and double occupancy
Premier King: $239/night for single and double occupancy
Premier Double Double: $249/night for single and double occupancy

Registrants and exhibitors must make their own room reservations. When booking your reservation over the phone, please identify yourself with the “Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists” to receive the group rates. If you are booking your room online, please use the code, “LAN”. You may also reserve your room online by visiting the following website: https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/new-orleans-royal-orleans/meetings/lana-10012020

Please reserve your rooms early. Although the hotel guarantees the room block at the above rates, this is only the case for reservations made under the LANA room block before or on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 (first come first served basis).
What is the LA CRNA PAC?
Simply put, a Political Action Committee (PAC) is a group of people who pool their monies to help elect candidates to public office who share the group’s interest and concerns about public policy issues.

Why do we need the LA CRNA PAC?
There is strength in numbers. A PAC is a way for like-minded individuals to join together and have a voice in the political process. The LA CRNA PAC strengthens the voice of CRNAs in Louisiana state politics.

Where does my money go?
With the governance of the PAC Committee and the guidance of LANA’s lobbyist, the LA CRNA PAC contributes to campaigns of CRNA-friendly state legislators. Candidates rely heavily on contributions to fund their campaigns, including campaign consultants, broadcast media, direct mail materials, and traditional political paraphernalia (bumper stickers, signs, and billboards).

DONATE NOW!
Partner
Special recognition on the monthly LANA newsletter
CRNA: $20/mo or $365/yr
SRNA: $5/mo or $40/yr

Affiliate
Special recognition on the monthly LANA newsletter
Free LANA T-Shirt
CRNA: $40/mo or $500/yr
SRNA: $10/mo or $80/yr

Patron
Special recognition on the monthly LANA newsletter
Free LANA T-Shirt
Save 25% on PAC fundraiser registration fees
CRNA: $60/mo or $750/yr
SRNA: $15/mo or $100/yr

Benefactor
Special recognition on the monthly LANA newsletter
Free LANA T-Shirt
Save 25% on PAC fundraiser registration fees
Discounted annual meeting registration fees
CRNA: $80/mo or $1000/yr
SRNA: $20/mo or $150/yr
The 2020 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature began on March 9th. The session was suspended to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the state. Legislators returned to the Capitol on May 4th to continue the regular session which must adjourn by 6 pm on June 1st. Legislators have since called themselves into a special session to begin June 1st at 6:01 pm. The special session will adjourn on June 30th. A number of items will be addressed in the special session including budgetary items and COVID-19 matters. Another special session is anticipated this fall.

MID-YEAR ASSEMBLY

DAVID KALIL, CRNA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mid-year Assembly was cancelled in Washington D.C. this year. The cancellation may have stopped the AANA members from personally lobbying their Representatives, but it did not stop the work of the AANA on Capitol Hill, especially in one area.

On April 21, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Undersecretary for Health Richard Stone, MD, issued a memorandum urging VA facilities to amend their bylaws to allow CRNAs to have full practice authority. This was a great step forward for all CRNAs in the VA system, especially in light of the COVID-19 crisis. Also, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services temporarily removed physician supervision of CRNAs during the COVID-19 pandemic. These moves have increased the capacity of the healthcare workforce at a time when that capacity is severely strained, particularly in rural areas.

You can still help by going to the AANA website below to complete an easy form that will ask your legislators to thank Dr. Stone for this important step towards improving access to care for our nation’s veterans and to urge him to take the necessary steps to make full practice authority permanent.


The AANA is focused on making removal of supervision permanent on the Federal Level. Your state association will keep you informed and may ask for your future support in contacting your Representatives and Senators in Washington.
Disability Insurance Specialist for CRNAs

• Best value available to CRNAs when considering benefits, company strength, price and agent expertise
• Experience handling actual claims
• 28 years working with graduates
• Over 1,500 CRNA clients
• One of the leading policies in the country, as it does not force you into another job (anesthesia specific)
• Only a handful of insurance companies can match MassMutual’s ratings
• Discounts available nationwide
• Licensed in over 30 states
• Presents at 20 schools annually
• 40% female discount

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