

# NDANA

North Dakota Association of Nurse Anesthetists

## Vital Signs...

### Mid-Year Assembly

Rebecca Heilman, CRNA

Heidi Stahl and Rebecca Heilman represented the NDANA at the Mid-Year Assembly of States this past April, along with three students from UND, David Neulle, Tim Schmiederberg and John Hoscheid. The main topics for this year's meeting included nurse education funding, potential Medicare cuts and House Bill 1932.

#### **NURSE EDUCATION FUNDING:**

We have a huge advantage in this area because Senator Conrad, Dem., ND, now chairs the Senate budget committee. The original budget from President Bush's office had cut all of the \$57 Million for advanced practice education and had also cut general nursing education funding from \$151 Million to \$95 Million. Our NDANA representatives went to Senator Conrad's office asking for the funding to be restored. Once we arrived, we found that Senator Conrad had already put the money back in the budget and the changes had al-

ready made it through committee.

**CMS CUTS:** We are scheduled to sustain a 10% reduction in anesthesia reimbursement for this year. All of our congressmen are supportive of removing the cut, but where the money will come from is another thing. There is some talk about changing the RVU (relative value unit) weight of each procedure in anesthesia in an attempt to balance this out; there is also talk of increasing the anesthesia reimbursement again for next year (2008). As with any branch of medicine and reimbursement, this is going to be a constant battle every year to protect our reimbursement.

**HR 1932:** By now I hope you have all heard about House Bill 1932, because our own Congressman, Earl Pomeroy is one of the original sponsors of this bill. HR 1932 is designed to allow equal reimbursement for CRNA students and anesthesiology residents.

HR 1932 allows for equal reimbursement for all students and residents. Part of our 'sales pitch' in D.C. was to find Senators willing to sign on to a companion bill to HR 1932 on the Senate side. Shortly after our visit in Washington, Senator Conrad co-sponsored the bill in the Senate. There is wide spread support for this bill, but as always the question is funding the cost.

Once again it was a great experience to spend time in Washington and watch the wheels of politics turn. It's always a great learning experience whether you are a board member, a student, or a practicing CRNA concerned about the future of our practice. Please remember to stay involved by writing to our Congressmen, especially when the legislation pertains CRNAs.

Picture on page 3

NDANA  
Elections

**CAST YOUR  
BALLOT FOR  
NDANA  
OFFICERS!**  
[www.ndana.org](http://www.ndana.org)

# VOTE

**President  
Elect**

Darla Adams

**Board of  
Directors**

Kevin  
Beuttner

Joel Vance

**Nominating  
Committee**

2 Nominations

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Support  
NAPAC

**SILENT  
AUCTION  
ITEMS  
NEEDED!!**

Contact the  
State Office for  
Details!

REGISTER  
NOW!

NDANA FALL  
EDUCATIONAL  
MEETING

NOVEMBER  
2 & 3

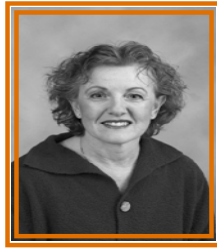
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# President's Report

Char Manstrom, CRNA, MS

Fall

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Short words are best, and old words when short are best of all." W. Churchill. I will try to abide by his wise words, although he was known for his verbosity.

I implore you to be the first CRNA to request PTO or Education to attend the 2008 Annual meeting in Minneapolis. I just returned from Denver; it was awesome! From the pageantry of opening ceremony, Exhibit Hall, 1200 students, AANA staff, meetings, and visiting with CRNAs my pride in our profession was reinforced.

The PAC \$\$, annual fees, and foundation monies are outlined and documented for all in the Annual Report. It is wisely allocated to protect, promote, and advance the profession of Nurse Anesthesia.

Why belong to AANA and your state association?

The analogy made was in reference to the Blacksmiths. When the automobile was invented and became popular there were Blacksmiths in all communities. At first they repaired the parts. It was when the car manufacturers began making and repairing parts the Blacksmiths' profession changed drastically. Within 5 years they were obsolete. CRNAs are fortunate our leadership is visionary and proactive which prevents this from becoming a reality in our profession.

#### Points of interest from meeting:

\*\*AANA and ASA-- Nothing tremendous, nothing catastrophic either.  
\*\*AANA-- formally supports 2025 as PhD entry into practice.  
\*\*AANA -- financially sound-met FY 2007 budget.

\*\* Continued growth in AANA. Other professions are seeing a decline or tapering.

TRENDS: 57.1% have Masters Degree. 1.2% PhD. or JD

Age 50-54--20.5% members. 2006- 55% female, and. 45% male.

PALS- 42.3%

NALS-11.3%

Primary practice-82% hospital, 10 % in ambulatory settings.

Cases exceeding 1000/year =35%

[ambulatory settings]

You may all know Wanda Wilson is our new President, and Dan Vigness[our Region IV director] is Vice President elect.

On the State Level---It was a quiet legislative year.

At the fall meeting I will discuss the letter our Board sent to Patricia Hill[BON]. She requested an advisory opinion relating to the Scope of Practice re :N2o by RNs at Merit Care that were supervised by physicians.

I also sent a letter from the NDANA as per Terry Wicks request to our Federal Delegation re: "Medicare Academic Anesthesiology and CRNA payment Improved Act.", which refers to the payment inequities for the teaching rule. I hope you did so as well. At National I again signed a letter that was sent to the state specific Congressmen and Senators.

The NDANA Board extends a HUGE thank you to all Military CRNAs. May God Bless and keep you safe, and sustain your loved ones as you serve our country.

Thanks to Board members who served during my presidency. I hope others will consider volunteering for office. It is a great way to get to know members and learn about issues that affect our practices.

The NDANA is fortunate for Ken Tupa and APT who serve our administrative and lobbying needs. They are very streamlined and efficient. We appreciate their competent and professional approach to CRNA issues.

I hope you plan to attend the fall meeting, and anticipate bidding on a silent auction item or donating one. When you contribute to NDPAC your name will be entered to win a very cool license plate holder. It reads "Nurse Anesthetist and Dreamland. I picked some up at the AANA bookstore/gift shop.

Sincerely,

Char H-Manstrom



## Directors Report: AANA Region 4

Dan Vigness, CRNA, MS

For the last 2 years it has been my honor to represent the members of the NDANA and the rest of the states of Region 4 as your Regional Director. It has been a wonderful experience and I am very grateful to you for allowing me this wonderful experience. And, I am very happy that I will be continuing to serve the profession as Vice President of the AANA. Again, I thank you all for your support to allow me this experience.

I was able to meet many of you this spring while speaking at the NDANA meeting. Certainly, that is one of the great parts of being in an elected position in the AANA... getting to travel to many state meetings and getting to meet so many CRNAs.

Gary Clark will be your new Region 4 Director. I have known Gary for many years and I know he will work hard to represent you and all the states of Region 4. Be sure to meet him when you get the chance.

This year has been very busy and productive. While some of the work

we have done isn't flashy or high profile, this year's BOD has grappled with decisions that will affect anesthesia practice and the AANA for years to come. Certainly the issue of doctoral education as entry for CRNA practice was a major issue. This was brought to us by other sources and many felt we had little choice but to go along with it. While the Council on Accreditation will make the final decision, the BOD did vote to encourage education to move to the doctoral level in the future. We also have been grappling with setting up agreements with all of the Councils to more accurately reflect that they are truly autonomous entities. It is fair to say this has been an issue that has taken a lot of time and effort. We have made some great progress and the agreements should be all signed very soon. We have also implemented a new evaluation process and form for the AANA Executive Director and also a self evaluation for the BOD to evaluate the effectiveness of the Board.

Like I said, this might not

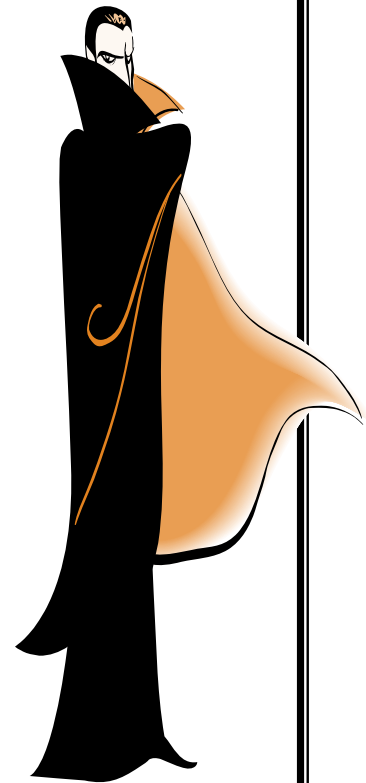
be flashy, but it is a very important accomplishment and will serve the AANA well for many years to come.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity you have given me. Even though I will not be the Region 4 Director, I will remain on the AANA Board and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have!

Dan Vigness, CRNA,MS  
Region 4 Director 2005-2007  
AANA Vice President 2007-2008

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### Mid-Year Assembly



NDANA CRNA's visit with Senator Kent Conrad

# NDANA Fall Meeting Agenda

Friday, November 2, 2007

- |          |  |       |   |
|----------|--|-------|---|
| 4:00p.m. | <b>Registration</b>  | 9:15  | <b>Exhibit Break</b>  |
| 5:00     | <b>Welcome and Comments</b><br>Char Manstrom, NDANA President  | 9:30  | <b>"Anesthetic Applications for Oncologic Patients"</b> -Art Zwerling, CRNA         |
| 5:15     | <b>"Legal Charting &amp; Risk Management"</b><br>Lance Schreiner, Attorney, Zuger Kirmis & Smith       | 10:30 | <b>"Minimally Invasive Hemodynamic Monitoring-Flotrac"</b> -Michael Burns, CRNA     |
| 6:15     | <b>"Legal Charting &amp; Risk Management" Cont.</b><br>Lance Schreiner, Attorney, Zuger Kirmis & Smith | 11:30 | <b>"CLinical Pharmacology of Neuromuscular Blocking Agents"</b> -Art Zwerling, CRNA |
| 7:15     | <b>Exhibit Break</b>   | 12:30 | <b>Luncheon &amp; Business Meeting</b>  |
| 7:25     | <b>"Ultrasound Guided PIC Lines"</b><br>Karen Yankus, RN, CRNI<br>BARD Access Systems                  | 1:30  | <b>"Attitude Virus"</b> -Terry Fleck, Professional Consultant                       |
| 9:25     | <b>NDANA Social and PAC Fundraiser</b>   | 2:30  | <b>Exhibit Break</b>  |

Saturday, November 3, 2007

- |          |   |      |   |
|----------|---|------|---|
| 7:00a.m. | <b>Registration</b>   | 3:40 | <b>"Videolaryngoscopy: What's new"</b><br>-William Rosenblatt, MD     |
| 7:30     | <b>"Obstetric Anesthesia: Current Controversy"</b><br>-Art Zwerling, CRNA     | 4:40 | <b>"Preparation for Awake Intubation"</b><br>- William Rosenblatt, MD |
| 8:30     | <b>"Cardioprotective Antesthesia: Novel Applications"</b> -Art Zwerling, CRNA |      |   |

## Now Presenting...

### Art Zwerling, CRNA ,DNMP, DAAPM

Adjunct Faculty Member, Villanova University  
College of Nursing

### Terry Fleck, Professional Consultant

Bismarck, North Dakota

### Karen Yankus, RN, CRNI

BARD Access Systems

### Lance Schreiner, Attorney

Zuger Kirmis Smith Law Firm

### Michael Burns, PCRMC, CRNA

Flo-Trac

### Dr. William Rosenblatt, Professor of Anesthesiology and Surgery

Yale University School of Medicine

12  
Continuing  
Education  
Units



## Fall Meeting Registration

**12 CE CREDITS**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AANA Membership#:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Place of Employment:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Days Attending:** **Friday** **Saturday** (circle all that apply)

**Meeting Fees**

***Planning to attend Saturday Lunch?***

	Member	Non-member	___Yes ___No
Pre-registration	\$200.00	\$220.00	Saturday Luncheon Included with Registration Fee  Make Checks Payable to NDANA <u>Detach &amp; Return to:</u> <b>NDANA,</b> <b>PO Box 1755</b> <b>Bismarck, ND 58502-1755</b>
On-site Registration	\$220.00	\$250.00	
Friday only	\$95.00	\$110.00	
Saturday only	\$160.00	\$180.00	
Students	No Charge		

## UND Student Update-Arlee Mundy

On behalf of the Nurse Anesthesia Students from the University of North Dakota, we would like to send a grand hello. I would like to take this time to give everyone an update of what's happening within the College of Nursing and Nurse Anesthesia Program. On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, twelve second-year students participated in the Commencement Ceremony at UND. These students completed their program on August 17<sup>th</sup> and are now preparing to take the certification exam. We wish them the best of luck! Eleven first-year students, including myself, now move onto our second year of the program and will disperse across North Dakota and Minnesota to our various clinical sites. The Anesthesia program is now looking forward to welcoming 12 new, incoming students from across North Dakota, Minnesota and Utah. The Nurse Anesthesia Program has just obtained two new rural clinical sites, Detroit Lakes and Thief River Falls. We are very excited and look forward to starting clinicals in these two new areas that offer independent CRNA practice opportunities.

The College of Nursing has just purchased a new Medi-Human Patient Simulator. This simulator has many amazing capabilities, including the ability to recognize and analyze inhalational anesthetic gases.

This will be very helpful for students as they run their anesthetic patient simulations in class before heading to the clinical sites. We are excited to have Heidi Stahl back as part-time Assistant Director of the Nurse Anesthesia program and we would like to say a warm welcome to Jamie Sperle, CRNA, a new faculty member in the nurse anesthesia program. We also would like to acknowledge all of the hard work that Darla Adams, our Program Director, has put into this program. She will be completing her PhD in October of this year! Way to go Darla!

I was very fortunate to be able to attend the AANA's Annual meeting held in Denver, CO. Words cannot explain how proud I felt to be part of such a distinguished group of professionals, especially as I sat at the opening ceremonies and witnessed the camaraderie amongst all of the people. There were 3600 attendees at the conference and of those 1200 were students. I was able to participate in a student focus session which was held for 90 students.

It was interesting to see what concerns the other states had and I was truly impressed with some of the students who would like to be our future leaders at the AANA. The "Party for a Purpose" was fun for all and I was able to catch up with some of the CRNA's from North Dakota.

In closing I would like to take this time to thank all of our members of the NDANA for their support and encouragement of the UND students and UND Nurse Anesthesia Program, especially the clinical coordinators and clinical educators. Thank you!

## FPD Report: by Katy Kovar



Katy Kovar, Federal Political Director,  
GRC Co-Chair



Greetings NDANA Members,

This year the major battles for CRNAs at the federal level have been over federal funding and to be more specific; Medicare part B cuts in anesthesia payments of 8% in 2007 and an anticipated cut of an additional 10% in 2008. Worse yet, the anticipated cuts will add up to 40% of today's payments by 2012.

According to AANA Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs Frank Purcell, public comments and other initiatives from the AANA and the ASA to CMS over the last several years have convinced the agency to propose a rule to boost the value of anesthesia work 32% and the anesthesia conversion factor and anesthesia payment by 25% for each Medicare service.

However the Medicare "sustainable growth rate" payment formula cuts affecting Part B providers also applies to the 25% increase which reduces it to an actual increase of only 15%. Are you confused yet?

So in actuality, unless Congress does something soon even with the increase, payments in 2008 will be just a little over those in 2005 and 2006.

The Government Accountability Office (GOA) has recently issued a report that states that anesthesia payments are 67% lower than anesthesia payments from private insurance companies. They also confirmed what we already know, that CRNAs are essential to ensuring America's seniors have access to safe anesthesia care.

They noticed that in localities with high concentrations of Medicare beneficiaries anesthesia services were more likely to be provided by a CRNA than an anesthesiologist.

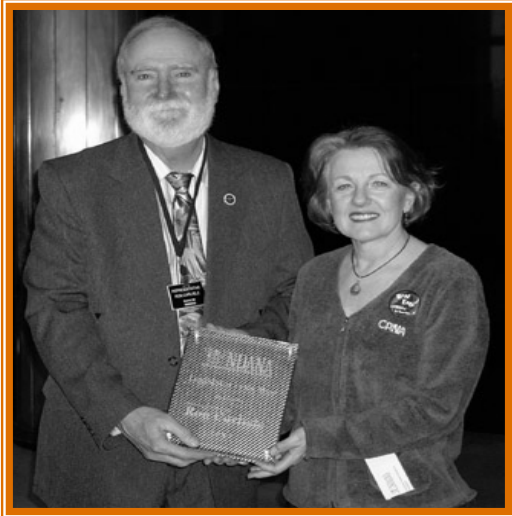
I don't have to tell you all how these things affect our Medicare patients and our workplaces in North Dakota. The AANA is working hard to get this Medicare payment policy reversed. So if you haven't responded to the AANA's CRNAdvocacy alerts that are emailed to all members please do! You can read more about this at [www.aana.com/federalissues.aspx](http://www.aana.com/federalissues.aspx).

Federal funding for advanced nursing education which is critical to CRNA educational programs and provides nurse anesthesia traineeships was passed in subcommittee, funding \$57 million for 2008. I haven't heard whether the full senate has passed this or not at the time of this writing.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Fall Educational Meeting!



# CRNA Day at the Capitol



State Representative Ron Carlisle, 2007 NDANA Legislator of the Year, was honored at the CRNA Day at the Capitol, January 25, 2007



Legislative Leadership and NDANA members with Representative Ron Carlisle.

## NAPAC Members

A special thanks to all who contribute to the Nurse Anesthetist Political Action Committee.

Your generosity has gone a long way to further the Nurse Anesthesia profession.

## Contribute to the Nurse Anesthetist PAC

Complete and return form to NAPAC PO Box 1755, Bismarck, ND 58502-1755

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contribution Levels

(Check One)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Gold Level Membership—\$200.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Active Membership—\$100.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Membership—\$50.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other—\$\_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are payable by check or credit card, if you wish to pay by credit card, please fill out the information below. FOR YOUR PROTECTION, the address you provide should be the same as the billing address of your Credit Card.

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Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Contribute online at [www.ndana.org](http://www.ndana.org)



NDANA Fall 2007

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**WANTED!**

**VOTERS!**

NDANA Candidates

- **President Elect**  
-Darla Adams
- **Board of Directors**  
-Kevin Beuttner  
-Joel Vance

We're on the web:  
[www.ndana.org](http://www.ndana.org)

# AANA 75th Annual Meeting

NDANA  
PO Box 1755  
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