Hello IANA CRNAs

It’s hard to believe that it is time to start preparing for Spring! We have had a busy last 6 months in the IANA with legislative battles and practice issues. Here is a run-down of what has been happening in the association:

Chronic Pain Legislation

HF 2064 was introduced by our opponents that would completely abolish our ability to perform ANY type of chronic pain management procedure. In the state of Iowa, 70 of the 118 community hospitals have chronic pain management services provided solely by CRNAs. As you can imagine, the access to healthcare would be devastating. If this bill were to come to fruition as written, 43 physicians in the state would be providing all of the interventional management! The bill originated in the Human Resources Committee but was then moved to the State Government Committee shortly after its introduction. The first funnel date has passed, so theoretically the bill is dead for the session... but there is one HUGE potential. Although the bill is dead, the language will live for the entire session and can be added as an amendment to another bill at any time. Our opponents have been very quiet this year concerning their proposed legislation; therefore, I am very weary and am keeping a close eye on a last minute move! They have now failed twice at a frontal attack. They will be looking for another route!

General Legislation

Other proposed legislation being followed:
- Prescribing of Respiratory Care - this bill places us specifically in the Respiratory Therapy section of the code. We already have this currently covered through Prescriptive Authority language; this merely places us directly in this section.
- Nursing Chapter 152 - proposed changes to this chapter include an official definition of ARNPs, licensing of ARNPs instead of recognition, and clarification of the IBON’s authority to govern nurses. This piece of legislation was fraught with controversy as the medical community continues to have issues with any notion that medicine does not have a say in governing nursing and that no healthcare provider can evolve without the expressed permission of medicine.
- Licensing of Ambulatory Surgery Centers by the State
- Department of Public Health Bill - originally attempted to open Chapter 136 C for a change in Podiatry language, but this was stricken as the bill moved forward.

Fluoroscopy
An order for Summary Judgment was awarded to the IMS and ISA in a suit filed against the Iowa Board of Nursing (IBON) and Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). This judgment identifies that the rule making procedure completed was improper, and therefore invalidates the rules promulgated by these agencies. Although the rules are invalidated, our established practice of supervising fluoroscopy continues without interruption. This can be a difficult concept to comprehend. This entire proceeding was ONLY about the rule making process, not scope of practice. As professionals our practice is established by actuality. Our actuality is the safe supervision of fluoroscopy for over 15 years. Our opponents have tried their best to turn this into a PR nightmare, but only a few facilities currently have had their legal counsel advise against ARNPs supervising fluoroscopy. Through the tireless work of local CRNAs in conjunction with Jim Carney, the number of affected facilities to date has been kept to a minimum. It is our hope that as time moves on all the facilities will reinstate CRNAs utilization of fluoroscopy. The battle continues.

Iowa Board of Nursing Appeal
The IBON is appealing the above-mentioned Summary Judgment. We are awaiting details on the appeal process and timing.

Legislative Reception & Hill Day
What a wonderful event! Over half of the Iowa General Assembly legislators attended our event. The reception was held on the exact day that our opponents proposed their legislation...what a perfect storm! The timing for education and information dissemination could not have been more ideal. The legislators were incredibly receptive to our stance and understood that the access to healthcare for Iowans would be demolished if this bill were to pass. I want to thank every CRNA that took time out of their busy schedule to attend this event. Your contribution to your profession is so appreciated!
The following day the IANA BOD members spent a very busy day meeting with House and Senate Leadership, the Governor’s Office, and countless committee members to alert them to the realities of this chronic pain bill. We all need to express our thanks to the efforts put forth by these individuals.

**Spring Meeting**
Please come to attend our Spring Meeting April 27-29th at the Holiday Inn & Suites West Des Moines! There are many reasons to come to the IANA CME Meeting:
- CMEs we all require!
- Networking
- Hear first hand the NBCRNA’s new requirements! This is your chance to ask them direct questions about their finalized plan
- Last but certainly not least... if nothing else... please come to support your profession and the association that keeps you in your current scope of practice!

**Future**
We all want our association to grow with its membership. Times have changed and we want to change with those times. Please let us know your ideas that can help our association meet your professional needs! Thinking outside of the box is welcomed!

As I reach the end of my message, I want you to all keep something in mind. There is truly only one way for our practice as CRNAs in this state to maintain it’s current standing... and YOU are the answer. Times are changing. I feel that many of our battles over the last several years have revolved around more perceived “specialty” areas of anesthesia, subsequently, it is felt by many that chronic pain is not my battle. Your scope of practice is always your battle and chronic pain is only the tip of the iceberg. Our opponents want our practice! As healthcare continues to evolve and the healthcare dollar is stretched tighter, there are inevitably going to be questions raised. Who is proved to be a safer provider? Who is more economical? The screws are going to be tightened and without evidence of superior safety and at nearly twice the cost, our opponent’s focus may change. They may start to attack our common practice. The anesthesia practice that each one of us utilizes every day. I hope that I am way off the mark, but common sense tells me that we must be watchful. The IANA Leadership can be the watchdogs, but we all have to be there to fight the fight. I hope that we can count on you to do your part.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindy Miller CRNA, MSN, ARNP
IANA President
Governmental Relations

By Mary O’Brien

FPD Report

During this time of the year, state legislative issues overshadow federal issues by a longshot. IANA Board members did a lot of legwork early in the legislative session to lay the groundwork education needed by legislators to avoid potential threats to our practice. Thanks to everyone who attended the Legislative Reception in January, and from a national standpoint, thanks to everyone who answered the call by our DC office to write to your federal legislators when asked. These little things done by average members make our jobs so much easier when we approach members of the House and Senate, both on State and Federal levels, with matters of interest to all CRNAs.

As you may be aware, Congress did act at the last minute to avert substantial cuts to Medicare reimbursement that would have dramatically cut what CRNAs receive for their services to Medicare patients. This cut would affect all providers who bill under Part B of Medicare services, and that includes us as well as physicians. The threat of these severe cuts still exists, however, and is always one of the topics we discuss with federal legislators when we see them in April. A permanent fix to the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) is sorely needed, but difficult to negotiate. Any time you have the opportunity to mention this to a legislator, please do so, to keep it fresh in their minds. There are many potential threats to our practice as Health Care Reform moves forward, and our office in DC does an excellent job of keeping us informed of these. I will pass things along as they happen. If you have any questions about national issues affecting CRNA practice, please feel free to contact me or Frank Purcell, our Director of Federal Government Affairs in Washington, DC. His contact information is on the AANA Website.

We hope to take some students to the Mid-Year Assembly this April. It has always been a great learning experience, and I can say from experience that it gets students involved in our association and keeps them involved. Please consider a small donation to the Student Development Fund to defray some of the costs incurred for this trip. If you want to develop leaders for our association, this is the way to do it. Of course, we encourage any member to come to the Mid-Year Assembly in Washington, DC, April 15-18, for a crash course in how to work with legislators and learn about issues that affect us all. Donations can be sent to Mary LaMar, our IANA Treasurer. Her contact information is on our IANA website, www.iowacrnas.com

Speaking of the website, have you been there yet? We are working to update it and make it more useful. If you have ideas about how we can improve it, please contact Stephanie Klein, IANA BOD member. And, you guessed it; her contact info is on the website! I hope to see many of you at the Spring Meeting, April 27, 28 & 29, in Des Moines. Details of the meeting will be out soon. Guess where? On the website!!! As always please feel free to contact me, or any other Board member, at any time with questions or concerns. This is your association, and our job is to help you get what you need to make your practice the best it can be.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary O’Brien, MSN, EJD, CRNA, ARNP
PAC Report
By Randy Cornelius

I want to say hello to everyone in the association and introduce myself, Randy Cornelius, as the IANA PAC chairperson. I want to thank John Knorr and Dave Pederson for everything they have done for the IANA PAC in the last several years.

I hope this message finds everyone doing well, but unfortunately, this is not the case for several members of our association. These CRNAs have either had their practice restricted or lost their practice providing pain management to deserving citizens of Iowa. This is due in large to our opponents and their associated professional groups capitalizing on an ambiguous Summary Judgment ruling. This propaganda has further fueled the confusion and has resulted in certain facilities currently not allowing CRNAs to utilize fluoroscopy. Most recently, these same adversaries proposed legislation this session to abolish our ability to provide ANY chronic pain services! The only way to correct this continuous stream of misinterpretation and legislative attack is to clarify language in Iowa law, which requires constant education of our legislators and the public. To do this requires PAC funds; to gain access to legislators and the ability to disseminate our information and thoughts on any given situation. Regardless of what people may think, PAC funds buy access, not votes.

On a positive note, our Annual Legislative Reception was a huge success. We had at least 75 legislators attend (that’s 50% of the entire Iowa General Assembly!) and several CRNAs from across the state. I want to personally thank those who took time out of their schedule to attend and educate legislators on important issues, such as the current proposed legislation restricting chronic pain practice. Several legislators were unaware of this issue, but quickly understood the impact this legislation would have on the access to healthcare for Iowans. Opportunities like this would not be possible without PAC funds. To maintain our quality practice requires donations to the IANA PAC. I now ask this, have you been affected by misinterpretations of rulings, have you asked the association for assistance to protect your practice, do you enjoy your freedom of practice? If you answered yes, then have you donated to the IANA PAC? If no, what are you waiting for? The donation of a dollar a day, less than a cup of coffee, will help protect our practice!

Please donate and protect your practice.
Website Update
By Stephanie Klein

The new IANA website has many updates and improvements that I hope everyone has a chance to check out!

There are many great resources for all aspects of anesthesia practice including links to educational websites, research articles, and an entire section dedicated to regional anesthesia. You can also register and pay for meetings entirely online.

There is also an employment section where members can post employment/locums opportunities for free or hospitals can post for a nominal fee. There is also plenty of advertising space, so if you know a company you think would be interested, please encourage them to contact IANA or let us know and we will be happy to contact them.

Please take a few minutes to browse the IANA website and we welcome any suggestions, comments and submissions for new material.

Thanks!
Stephanie Klein

Register and Pay On-line for the Spring 2012 Meeting!

Click on the link found on the home page – www.iowacrnas.com
Spring Meeting Agenda

Friday April 27
0730-0830: Peri-operative Cardiac Considerations: Mike Anderson
0830-0930: How Medication Management Systems Benefit Anesthesia: Troy Lang
0930-1030: Break
1030-1100: Drug Shortages: looking into the issue: Jillian Grund, Graduate SRNA
1100-1200: Panel Discussion
1200-1300: Lunch
1400-1500: Legally Mine: Part 2: Whitney Martinez
1500-1530: Break
1530-1630: Anatomy of a Lawsuit: Mary O’Brien
1630-1730: Panel Discussion

Saturday April 28
0730-0830: AANA Update: Bernadette Henrichs, CRNA, PhD, CCRN
0830-0930: Anesthesia for the Obese Patient: Bernadette Henrichs, CRNA, PhD, CCRN
0930-1030: Break
1030-1100: Peri-operative Anemia: Carla Aldrich, CRNA, DNP
1100-1200: Pre-operative Diabetes Assessment & Management: Carla Aldrich, CRNA, DNP
1200-1300: Lunch
1300-1400: Caring for Patients in Disastrous Conditions: Aaron Peterson
1400-1500: PTSD and Anesthetic Implications: Randy Cornelius, CRNA
1500-1530: Break
1530-1630: Continued Professional Certification Program Update: NBCRNA Representative
1630-1730: Panel Discussion

Sunday April 29
0730-0830: What CRNAs Need to Know About Higher Tax Rates: Larry Welder
0830-0930: Wellness Presentation: Bob Berger
0930-1030: Break
1030-1100: Anesthesia Abroad: Medical Missions: Dave Pederson, CRNA
1100-1200: Panel Discussion

** Agenda is subject to change

Hotel Reservations:
The cutoff for room reservations at the IANA discounted price of $129 is April 2nd, 2012.

You can reserve your room by calling the Holiday Inn & Suites at Jordan Creek - (515) 333-5666.

You can reserve your room online via our web site, www.iowacrnas.com, and click on the link for Hotel Reservations found on the home page.
Spring Meeting Registration

2012 IANA Spring Educational Meeting
April 27th - 29th, 2012
Registration deadline April 2nd, 2012

Attendee Name:______________________________________________________________

Exact Name for Nametag (including credentials):_________________________________

AANA Number: __________ RN/Student RN Number: __________ ARNP Number: __________
*The Iowa Board of Nursing/AANA requires we record these numbers at each meeting for each attendee.

Address:____________________________________________________________________

City:__________________________________ State:______________________________________

Zip: ___________ Home Phone: ___________ Cell Phone: _________________

Email Address: ______________________________________________________________

Hospital/Facility:________________________________________________________________

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Total ______ ______

Lunch Attendance
Friday lunch will be on your own - a limited menu will be provided for the hotel restaurant.

**Lunch is provided on Saturday. Will you be joining the group for lunch? _____ yes _____ no

Contributions
Contributions may be made to the below funds. Please make separate personal checks out accordingly.

_____ Student Development Fund _____ IANA Political Action Committee (PAC)

Fees
Non-AANA Members - $50.00
On-Site Registration - $25.00

Program Inquiries
Christine McNair
IANA Education Coordinator
cmshatzer@hotmail.com

Refunds - A $50.00 application fee is charged upon cancellation

Return by mail/email with completed registration form to:
Tara Anderson   jt-tara@iowatelecom.net
3774 20th Street (515) 681-9532
Grinnell, IA 50112

Make checks payable to: IANA
Credit card payment option available via our website - www.iowacrnas.com
Registration deadline April 2nd, 2012
Mark Your Calendars!

AANA Mid-Year Assembly
Renaissance Washington D.C. Downtown
Washington, D.C.
April 15-18, 2012

IANA Spring Educational Meeting
April 27th - 29th, 2012
Holiday Inn & Suites at Jordan Creek
West Des Moines, IA

AANA 2012 Annual Meeting
August 4-8, 2012
Moscone West Convention Center
San Francisco, CA

IANA 2012 Fall Educational Meeting
October 12th - 14th, 2012
Holiday Inn & Suites at Jordan Creek
West Des Moines, IA