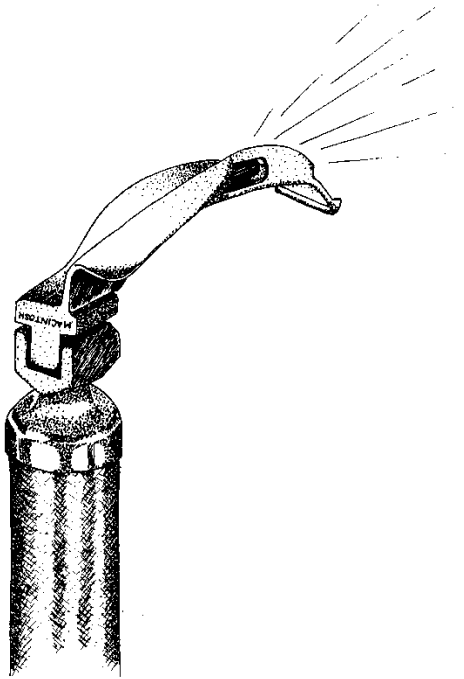


AKANA

ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

C/O ALASKA NURSES ASSOCIATION · 3701 E. TUDOR RD., SUITE 208 · ANCHORAGE, AK 99507



Newsletter

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Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Board of Directors Contact Information

3701 East Tudor Road, Suite 208

Anchorage AK 99507

September 1, 2017 thru August 31, 2018

President	Nicole Bonfoey 907-978-6741 nbonfoey@hotmail.com
President Elect	April Erickson 907-444-5577 tcurna@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jessica Jule 907-342-2216 jessjule@yahoo.com
Secretary	Jennifer Lent 907-750-2220 jenniferlent@me.com
Director	Nicole McCune 330-357-1795 daveandnicolesol@gmail.com
Director	Matthew Harringer 907-602-2229 mharringer@hotmail.com
State Reimbursement Specialist	Sheila Jensen 907-242-9864 akcrna@gmail.com
Education	Jessica Harrison 817-905-2129 jtmccall1@gmail.com
Education	Sara Slater 618-610-4651 saraslater84@gmail.com
State Government Relations	April Erickson 907-444-5577 tcurna@gmail.com

Nominations Committee

Kathy Madej
907-317-1711
malaska98@gmail.com

Nominations Committee

Lois Miller
907-222-3044
shilohrenata@yahoo.com

Nominations Committee

April Erickson
907-444-5577
tcucrna@gmail.com

Newsletter

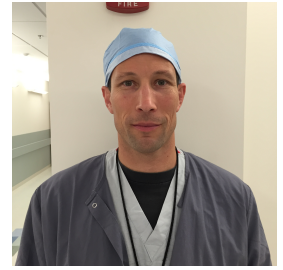
Ryan Hokanson
907-317-1754
ryanhokanson@hotmail.com

Peer Wellness

Suzanne Maynard
603-833-0635
smrun63@gmail.com



Editorial



I hope everyone is having a lovely Thanksgiving and spending time with friends and family. While it's important to be thankful for things in our personal lives, we should also remember to be thankful for our fantastic profession made even better in no small part by our local association, the AKANA. Our 100% volunteer run group provides a voice for our small profession, and along with the AANA, constantly watches out for our practice. Due to our small population of anesthetists in Alaska, it is even more important that we stick together and maintain close professional contact. I love being part of our professional community, and for that I thank the hard work and dedication of the AKANA board members past and present.

Currently, we're looking to fill two leadership spots on our board, specifically the State Peer Advisor and Treasurer. Neither of these jobs takes much time, but both are critical. For the CPC certification cycle 40 hours of Class B credits are required, and all of your time volunteering for the AKANA counts. So please consider stepping up to help our organization, and at the same time fulfilling your CPC requirements.

All the best,

Ryan Hokanson, CRNA
Editor

PUBLISHING INFORMATION

This newsletter is the official newsletter of the Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists and is published twice a year.

This newsletter is meant as a source of information for members of AKANA, students and other interested parties. Articles from readers are encouraged and will be accepted for publication if they have a specific value to AKANA and/or the anesthesia profession.

Letters to the Editor are also welcomed and will be printed on a space available basis. All correspondence sent to the Editor must be typed or e-mailed. Contents may be edited without submitter's approval. While being responsive to the readership of the AKANA newsletter, the Editor reserves the right of refusal of letters and articles.

Editorials and letters from readers do not represent the official view or stance of the Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Presidents Update

Nicole Bonfoey, CRNA

President Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

November 2017



Alaskan Nurse Anesthetists,

I am the 2017-2018 president. I have worked in Fairbanks for almost six years. I graduated in 2011 and was encouraged to participate in state association activities throughout school. While attending my first state meeting in 2013 Jeff Worrell said to me, after I was done explaining how inarticulate I am, CRNAs are nevertheless their own best spokesmen for their practice. Whatever doubts I had then have completely disappeared, not about how inarticulate I am, but how no one knows more about the practice of CRNAs better than CRNAs. We have seen this year in our own state no shortage of opportunities to stand up to defend our practice and the cost effective care of patients in our own communities. Doubtful there will be more calls to write letters and call your legislators speaking out for your practice. The fight seems continuous and uphill but please don't give up. You get lots of appeals for your time and money. Please carve out a little for your profession.

I'm wandering into national issues now but our national and state associations are supportive of each other. We have an excellent advocacy organization (PAC) that is incredibly helpful and knowledgeable. They believe in what we do. If you haven't been to a national meeting consider attending one of three each year. We are reimbursed a set amount for up to four people to go. I have never been more inspired and impressed by the work of others than when I'm in the presence of a large group of anesthesia providers. If travel outside isn't realistic for you, consider attending the state meeting in the Spring. More information on that is in this newsletter.

Please reach out to me if you have questions about anything you have heard or concerns you may have. My contact information is on the website. Thank you for all you do!

Nicole Bonfoey

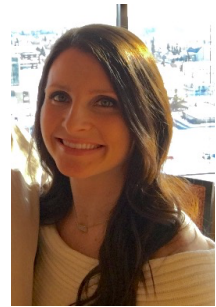
Education Committee Update

Jessica Harrison, CRNA

Sara Slater, CRNA

Education Committee, Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

November 2017



Hi everyone! My name is Jessica Harrison and I, along with Sara Slater, are taking over the education committee. Here is just a little bit about myself. I am originally from Texas and came up to Alaska to complete my clinical training at ANMC. After Graduating in 2015, I started working for Chugach Anesthesia. I am loving Alaska so far and enjoy doing outdoor activities and spending time with my husband and three step children.

I am excited to be a part of the education committee and look forward to planning an awesome meeting next year. Please feel free to contact me regarding any questions/concerns/suggestions regarding the meeting. You can also send submission to akanaeducation@gmail.com. Sara and I will do our best to ensure we have a successful meeting next year. As we are a small association we truly appreciate all those who support and participate in our annual meeting!

Please see the flyer announcing the upcoming education meeting next year! The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Hotel and Spa in downtown Anchorage on April 7th & 8th. Some of the topics to be discussed include, pharmacogenetics, LMA uses, obese patients, Ketamine use, OB emergencies, and pediatrics. We are planning on providing 3 topics that will satisfy pharm credits. We are excited to announce we have secured a discount at the ICE Spa. Check out their website to look at all the services they offer! There will be an afternoon break on Saturday to enjoy lunch on your own, shopping, or visiting the ICE Spa.

If there are any special request for specific topics you would like to hear please let us know. We are still in the planning stages and our speakers are flexible on their presentations. We had a great turnout to the 2017 meeting and we hope to repeat that this year. We look forward to seeing you all!

Jessica Harrison

Sara Slater



AKANA ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 7TH & 8TH

SHERATON HOTEL & SPA

Please join us for an exciting meeting as well as networking opportunities with your fellow CRNAs. There will be a break on Saturday for you to enjoy lunch, shopping, or a massage at the ICE Spa (We get a 10% discount!). Please visit Alaskacrna.com for registration and further information. We hope to see you there!

Treasurers Report

Jessica Jule, CRNA

Treasurer, Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists

November 2017

We continue to be prudent with our finances. Our investment account has had some terrific growth this last year, but unfortunately our financial advisor moved to the lower 48. As a result, we have a new advisor with whom I plan on meeting soon. It's also possible that Steve Edwards will be willing to keep us as clients. Our accountant will be working on our taxes in December. Also, the Treasurer position is up for grabs. If anybody is interested please let me know. As always if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Jess Jule

APRN Alliance

Wendy Monrad, CDR, USPHS, CRNA, MSN

APRN Alliance Liaison

November 2017



This year has been very eventful for the APRN Alliance. This group, which is just now becoming official with licensure and non-profit status, lead the charge to see our state nursing regulations updated in order to implement SB53 (APRN Consensus Model) signed into law last July. The Alliance took on the challenge of crafting the language changes and then submitted it to the BON for approval and submission to the public for an open comment period back in August. The BON met last week to confirm the changes after an arduous and frankly ridiculous comment period. They approved all of the changes with the exception of section 430 (Scope of Practice). The section was repealed due to vague wording. The intent of the change was for the BON to defer individual APRN Scopes of Practice to the respective professional organizations. This is simple for CRNAs and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM) as we have one single organization. Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists have multiple or hard to identify organizations. The BON repealed this section and replaced with the original. They will likely address this in the near future. A big thank you to all the CRNAs, physicians and professional organizations that rallied around our cause to address the misinformation presented in the public comments from our usual misinformed adversaries. We really came through! CRNAs are now APRNs and LIPs - officially - in the state of AK!

As the Alliance gets established, they will be calling for the four individual APRN state associations to join as associate members. The dues have not yet been determined. The mission of the Alliance is to be the eyes and ears for APRNs on legislative and regulatory issues. They plan to contract with a lobbyist that would be available to all four organizations. This group has also lobbied strongly over the last few months for the four APRN groups to remove membership from the Alaska Association of Nurses (AaNA). Two of the groups are quite small and not able to afford dues in both. Not surprisingly, this has created some concern from AaNA. This is now being addressed by the Alliance. Your AKANA board is also considering this move. We have not as yet removed membership from AaNA as AANA requires us to have an active lobbyist as part of the requirements for OHA funding. This is also important for us as we often need their services, as evidenced by the recent battle for regulation changes. More on this in the near future.

Wendy Monrad