

# Oregon CRNA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- ORANA Celebrates 75 years
- Yuri Chavez is recognized for his work
- Nationally CRNAs are in multiple studies
- ORANA PAC has a successful year
- OHSU graduates another class

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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**



Moving Our Association Forward: "ORANA, Re-energizing and Revitalizing".

Greetings! I hope that 2011 is off to a very bright and successful start for each of

you. It is an honor and privilege to represent our 300 CRNA members as your State President. During the first six months as ORANA President, the Board of Directors and staff have been quite busy implementing our strategic vision set forth by our Immediate Past President, Thomas LeBlanc, CRNA. During our strategic planning session led by Mr. LeBlanc in January 2010, the Board set a very long term strategic direction for our association: "ORANA, Re-energizing and Revitalizing".

Staying the course and implementing our strategic direction thus far has been made easier working with such a dedicated and committed Board and staff. A heartfelt thank you to our Board: President –Elect Christy Cowgill, Vice President Scott Rigdon, Secretary Les Sturgis, Treasurer Ann Palenshus, Directors, Gabriel Aron, Tiffany Bui, James P. Nelson, Renee Sale, Julie Sheehan, student representative Kristen Stephenson and our staff, Executive Assistant, Evelyn Bloomhart and Lobbyist Jo Bell. Recently, the Board accepted the resignation of Director Susan Van Gorder, we wish her the best and thank her for her work on behalf of ORANA.

Implementing ORANA's new strategic direction has been guided by our newly adapted mission and vision that was voted on by the mem-

bership during our May 2010 business meeting. Our vision is to ensure high quality, safe and effective nurse anesthesia care for all the people of Oregon. Our mission is driven by Advocacy: Advocating for unfettered access to high quality, cost-effective and safe nurse anesthesia care for Oregonians; Education: Continually educating Oregonians on the role of CRNAs in health care and maintain the membership's knowledge of evidence based anesthesia care; and Representation: Establishing working relationships with concerned parties and stakeholders in order to accurately convey nurse anesthetist's unique contribution to the health care of Oregonians. The following is a brief overview of our work thus far on behalf of our membership to bring life to our strategic direction: "ORANA, Re-energizing and Revitalizing".

During our fall meeting we celebrated ORANA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "1935-2010". For those of us in attendance and those that did not have an opportunity to join us, this conference and the Saturday celebration of our 75 years as an association provided evidence that we are on the path to "re-energizing and revitalizing ORANA". We had an opportunity to thank and celebrate our Past Presidents' contributions to the association and get reacquainted with many key stake holders from other organizations. This celebration was an opportunity for ORANA to advocate, educate and represent our vision to ensure high quality, safe and effective nurse anesthesia care for all the people of Oregon to many key stake holders in attendance. A "BIG" thank you for all that worked on this meeting and celebration, it was a huge success!

Continued on Page 2

## P R E S I D E N T S M E S S A G E C O N T I N U E D

The Board has been leading in Advocacy, Education, and Representation efforts on behalf of our association and our 300 members in a variety of venues. We are actively involved, present and collaborating with Oregon Rural Health Association, the Oregon Nursing Leadership Council, the Oregon Nurses Association, and the Oregon Association of Hospital and Health Systems along with key representatives in our state government. Our message is clear and compelling: telling our story about our vision to ensure high quality, safe and effective nurse anesthesia care for all the people of Oregon. With the untiring efforts of Jo Bell, our lobbyist, we are always actively seeking out other venues and key stakeholders to tell them our compelling story about nurse anesthesia. Please remember it is not only the Board, but each member of our association should also advocate, represent, and educate key stake holders and government representatives in your local community about our rich association history of ensuring high quality, safe and effective nurse anesthesia care for all the people of Oregon.

Our education missions is not only continually educating Oregonians on the role of CRNAs in health care, but maintain the membership's knowledge of evidence based anesthesia care. To that end we are very pleased with our association's efforts to host two CEU events per year in this small State, it is no small feat. These meetings allow you, the Oregon CRNA, a chance to get your CEUs right here and network with your local colleagues at the same time. Our new education committee, under the co-direction of Julie Sheehan, CRNA and Jim Nelson, CRNA has planned their first meeting in March 2011. Their unwavering efforts along with that of Evelyn Bloomhart are paramount to the success of our CEU meetings. Jim, Julie and Evelyn are always eager to gain

feedback and find out what YOU our membership would like at our state meetings to continue to make them informative and successful. We have some exciting speakers and topics for our March meeting in Bend March 4-6<sup>th</sup>. Thanks Julie, Jim and Evelyn!

Finally, I am very pleased to report that three ORANA members are serving on AANA Committees for FY 2010-11. Les Sturgis was elected to the Nominating Committee. AANA President Paul Santoro appointed Stephen Yermal to serve on the State Organizational Development Committee and Scott Rigdon to serve of the Government Relations Committee. Please congratulate them on their election and/or appointment to these AANA Committees.

Again, I thank our very dedicated and steadfast Board of Directors and staff for all their hard work! I look forward to gaining insight from all of our members on how to keep moving forward with our strategic direction, "ORANA, Re-energizing and Revitalizing"

In closing, I am humbled by your confidence in allowing me to serve and represent each of you and all the hard work you do daily to ensure the people of Oregon access to vital anesthesia services. I look forward to seeing you in Bend for our ORANA Spring meeting March 4-6. Please feel free to contact me with any input at 773.520.1542 or [yermals@ohsu.edu](mailto:yermals@ohsu.edu).

*"...not only the Board, but each member of our association should also advocate, represent, and educate key stake holders and government representatives..."*

Your 2010-11 President,

Stephen J. Yermal, Ph.D., CRNA

**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**



Hello fellow Oregon CRNA's, as we welcome the new year, we again will prepare for another spring conference being held in Bend. This issue is packed with many pictures and articles reminiscing last years accomplishments, but it also has a lot of positive news for the future of our profession. Steve Yermal

writes of the vision our association has and of the plan that has been laid forth with our new slogan of 'Reenergizing and Revitalizing'. In our regional directors report Dan Simonson has very exciting news that in recent months has given CRNAS good press through the release of three very important studies. Jo Bell, our lobbyist writes of the recent legislative session and difficulties our state faces with budget shortfalls. ORANA celebrated 75 years and with that Yuri Chavez was recognized with a much deserved award in the Mary Diggles Award for his efforts in helping to define the current scope of practice for Oregon CRNAs by passing SB-112 which allowed Oregon to become the 14th opt-out state. Gabe Aron writes of the PAC's successful fundraising. Then we have OHSU reports from Kristen Stephenson and Stephen Yermal. May the next 75 years for CRNA's in Oregon be more successful and more influential than the last, I believe it will. I want to thank the BOD and officers for allowing me to edit the newsletter for the last 5 years, it was a great honor and because of it I have met many amazing practitioners. This will be my last, I am going to pass the torch to someone with a different perspective and fresh ideas. Again thank you to all CRNA's in Oregon, we truly have a great association.

**CALENDER OF EVENTS**

March 4-6, 2011

**ORANA Spring Conference**  
Bend, OR – The Riverhouse Hotel

August 6-10, 2011

**AANA 78th Annual Meeting**  
Boston, MA – Hynes Convention Center

September 16-18, 2011

**Northwest States Anesthesia Conference**  
Spokane, WA – The Davenport Hotel

November 4-6, 2011

**ORANA Fall Conference**  
Portland, OR – TBD



**OREGON CRNA NEWSLETTER**

The Oregon CRNA Newsletter is the official publication of the Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists and is published semi-annually in Salem, Oregon. The Oregon CRNA newsletter aims to provide readers with balanced information and publishes articles that foster our current events knowledge, and investigates issues, ideas, innovations, and developments that affect our practice locally in Oregon.

The Opinions in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists or its members or Board of Directors. Validity of opinions presented, drug dosages, accuracy and completeness of content are not guaranteed by ORANA.

**ORANA Executive officers:**

President– Stephen Yermal  
Immediate Past President– Thomas LeBlanc  
President Elect– Christina Cowgill  
Vice President– Scott Rigdon  
Secretary– Les Sturgis  
Treasurer– Ann Palenshus

**ORANA Board of Directors:**

Jim Nelson  
Susan Van Gorder  
Renee Sale  
Gabriel Aron  
Tiffany Bui  
Kristen Stephenson \*  
(OHSU Student Rep)

**Committees**

PR/Communications: Tiffany Bui Chair

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Marlene Lovenguth  
Roylene Rangel  
Isaac Kobzef

Nominating: Thomas LeBlanc

Education: Jim Nelson & Julie Sheehan, Co-chairs

GRC: Christy Cowgill, Chair

Dennis Gundersen  
Michael Wray  
Gabe Aron  
Todd Hixson

Finance: Ann Palenshus, Chair

Renee Sale  
Scott Rigdon

PAC: Gabe Aron Chair

Christy Cowgill  
Les Sturgis

FPD: Scott Rigdon

Address *Newsletter* editorial comments, questions, letters, suggestions and all advertisements to [Isaackobzef@gmail.com](mailto:Isaackobzef@gmail.com) or by mail at:

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**Salem, OR 97302**

## BYLAWS REVISIONS

Recommended revisions to the ORANA bylaws are as follows:

**Article V: Section 1:**

**The government of this association shall be vested in 9 members consisting of President, President-Elect, Treasurer and (6) six Directors. Immediate Past-President will serve as an ex-officio member.**

For the full bylaws, please go to [www.oregon-crna.org](http://www.oregon-crna.org). These changes will be voted on at the March 6th ORANA Business Meeting during the Spring Conference.

**The Spring Conference is only weeks away!**

**REGISTER ONLINE NOW**

**at [www.oregon-crna.org](http://www.oregon-crna.org)**



# ORANA Spring Conference



March 4-6, 2011 (10 CEs)

*Bend, Oregon*

*Our Spring Conference will take place in scenic Bend, Oregon at Riverhouse Hotel, nestled along the beautiful Deschutes River and just minutes from downtown Bend and Mt. Bachelor.*

*Dubbed the "outdoor playground of the West" for a thousand good reasons, Bend is world famous for both its outdoor pursuits and pristine beauty. You can catch an art exhibit downtown, dine at an award-winning restaurant, spoil yourself at one of our many spas, or summit South Sister, the state's third highest peak.*

*Come join us for a Bend adventure!*

**REGISTRATION:** We are pleased to offer online registration with secure payment!

*(If you prefer to register and pay by mail, you may download a mail-in registration form from our website.)*

**Go to [www.oregon-crna.org](http://www.oregon-crna.org) to register**

## **The Riverhouse Hotel**

3075 N. Business 97 Bend, Oregon 97701

<http://www.riverhouse.com/>

**Group rate: \$109 (standard or riverview)**

Call hotel reservations at 1-800-547-3928 to book the discounted group rate & let them know you are with ORANA



**SATURDAY EVENING DINNER:** Come join your peers for dinner along the Deschutes River!

Enjoy a gourmet dinner & decadent dessert, accompanied by a complimentary glass of Oregon wine for only \$40. Guests are welcome!



## REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT



### Introduction

The world is shaking. CRNAs have been on the good side of so many events recently that I wanted to take this opportunity to discuss them. I want to cover 5 separate events that are going to reshape the world of anesthesia care as we know it. We cannot underestimate how important it will be for us, when it comes time next year at the MidYear Assembly in Washington, DC, to present ourselves to our legislators fully prepared to discuss these vital issues. So please read my short summaries, and resolve to visit the AANA website for more details. I have also, at the end of this article where I cite my references, provided URLs so that you can download copies of these articles and thus be ready to provide them to all comers at a moment's notice. We must capitalize on our good fortune to prepare ourselves for the troubled waters ahead.

### The Dulisse/Cromwell paper in Health Affairs

Published in the August issue of Health Affairs, the most influential health policy journal in the US, if not the world, the article entitled No harm found when nurse anesthetists work without supervision by physicians (1) took our little anesthesia world by storm. The AANA, and in particular our Director of Research, Lorraine Jordan, CRNA, Ph.D., have been working with prestigious researchers at the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) for several years now to prepare this report. Coming as it does on the heels of my paper (2), published in 2007, that showed no difference in outcomes between CRNAs and anesthesiologists in Washington; and then the 2009 paper by Needleman and Minnick (3) showing similar results for an even larger population of patients in 6 states; this article represents a coup de grace. It demonstrates that there was no significant change in the safety or quality of anesthesia care provided after States opted-out of the Federal requirement for supervision of CRNAs.

Anesthesiologists can no longer claim, with any scientific credibility, that their supervision or medical direction of CRNAs provides any meaningful improvement in the quality of anesthesia care. In the short span of three years, we have three separate studies covering nearly 2 million anesthetics, published in reputable peer-reviewed journals, clearly demonstrating that there is no difference in the quality or safety of anesthesia provided by CRNAs vs. that of anesthesiologists.

### Nursing Economics: Cost Effectiveness of Anesthesia Providers

Next, let's look at the paper published earlier this year in Nursing Economics: Cost effectiveness analysis of anesthesia providers (4). Based on the work of our own Dr. Juan Quintana, CRNA, DNP, and written by The Lewin Group, a widely-renowned Health Policy research and consulting group, this article demonstrates by exhaustive analysis the cost effectiveness of 4 different anesthesia delivery models: (1) anesthesiologist alone, (2) CRNA alone, (3) Medical direction (anesthesiologist directing one to four CRNAs), and (4) supervisory (anesthesiologist supervising more than 4 CRNAs). As any one of us could have predicted, the most cost-effective of all of the models was

CRNA alone.

The great advantage of this article is not so much that it will cause hospitals to rush to employ all-CRNA anesthesia models. I think that is an unrealistic expectation. Rather, the advantage is that it injects into the public debate on the provision of anesthesia services some credible and much-needed information on costs. In addition to the economic advantage provided by the use of CRNAs, we can now cite a reference demonstrating that educating a CRNA costs society about 15% of what it costs to educate an anesthesiologist; that there are 4 ways (if not more) of providing anesthesia services; and that there are ways of providing anesthesia services that do not require costly subsidies.

### The Institute of Medicine Report

Just last month, the Institute of Medicine (IOM), via the Committee on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing, published The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health.(5)

To quote from the "Key Messages" of the report:

1. Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
2. Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
3. Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.(Emphasis mine, op. cit., pg 30)

And:

Some states have kept pace with the evolution of the health care system by changing their scope-of-practice regulations to allow nurse practitioners to see patients and prescribe medications without a physician's supervision or collaboration. However, the majority of state laws lag behind in this regard. (Emphasis mine, op. cit., pg 31)

This reports from the IOM, like the oft quoted To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System, published in 1999, will be tremendously influential on the debates that take place not only at the level of state and federal health policy, but also at

*"...we have three separate studies covering nearly 2 million anesthetics...clearly demonstrating that there is no difference in the quality or safety of anesthesia provided by CRNAs vs. that of anesthesiologists."*

## R E G I O N A L D I R E C T O R S R E P O R T C O N T .

the level of hospital consortia and even individual hospitals trying to put together effective responses to the problems we will face as we try to meet the mandates of the Affordable Care Act of 2010:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patient\\_Protection\\_and\\_Affordable\\_Care\\_Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patient_Protection_and_Affordable_Care_Act)

We must use this report to our advantage as we advocate for the removal of the requirement for CRNA supervision in Medicare payment regulations.

### The Colorado Opt-Out

On September 27th, the Governor of Colorado, Bill Ritter, opted out of the CMS requirement for physician supervision of CRNAs for all rural and critical access hospitals (CAHs). It is important to note that this is the first "qualified" Opt-out, in that it only applies to a subset of Colorado hospitals (rural and CAHs). It remains to be seen if this will be the first step as Colorado experiments with the idea before opting out entirely. In any event, the Governor's caution did not prevent the Colorado Association of Anesthesiologists (CSA) from filing an injunction against the Governor for his actions, similar to that filed against the Governor of California (see below).

### The California Opt-Out: CSAs lawsuit thrown out

Finally, also in September, the Superior Court of California threw out the lawsuit against Gov. Schwarzenegger filed by the California Society of Anesthesiologists (CSA) and the California Medical Association (CMA) by granting a motion for summary judgment filed by the Governor's office. For those of you with a particular interest in these things, I have placed a copy of the Motion for Summary Judgment, written by the Attorney General and candidate for Governor himself, Jerry Brown, at

<http://www.dansimonson.com/Files/SchwarzeneggersMotionforS>

[ummaryJudgment.pdf](#)

I want to thank all of you who contributed to the California Association of Nurse Anesthetists (CANA) fundraiser and who thus took part in protecting this jewel in our crown of Opt-Out States: the largest State in the Union has had its membership in our select group affirmed by the Court in the State of California.

More to come, however- the Superior Court in California is the trial court, and thus the CSA and CMA may decide (and probably will decide) to appeal the lower Court's decision to the Court of Appeal, and then there is still the California Supreme Court above that. So your donations are still needed - we cannot let this decision be overturned for lack of resources. Please donate by going to

<https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/cana/donation.jsp>

### Summary

To summarize all of these events: our work is cut out for us. Our anesthesiologist colleagues must be feeling tremendously put upon. Now is the time for us to work together to transform the provision of anesthesia care in the United States such that quality is maintained while cost effectiveness is maximized.

I encourage all of you to join me in the discussion of these and other issues by joining the AANA-members only listservs. Here you can read what other AANA members are saying about all of these important events, and even join in the debate yourself. We need to hear from you! If you would like to join my listserv, CRNANews, just send me an email with your full name and AANA number to:

[dsimonson@mac.com](mailto:dsimonson@mac.com)

I look forward to hearing from you!

Dan Simonson, CRNA, MHPA

AANA Region 5 Director

1. Dulisse, B. and J. Cromwell, *No harm found when nurse anesthetists work without supervision by physicians*. Health Aff (Millwood), 2010. 29 (8): p. 1469-75.

Download at: <http://www.aana.com/optoutstudy/>

2. Simonson, D.C., M. Ahern, and M. Hendryx, *Anesthesia Staffing and Anesthetic Complications During Cesarean Delivery: A Retrospective Analysis*. Nursing Research, 2007. 56(1): p. 9-17.

Download at: [http://www.wana-crna.org/CRNA\\_Outcomes.htm](http://www.wana-crna.org/CRNA_Outcomes.htm)

3. Needleman, J. and A.F. Minnick, *Anesthesia provider model, hospital resources, and maternal outcomes*. Health Serv Res, 2009. 44(2 Pt 1): p. 464-82.

4. Hogan, P.F., et al., *Cost effectiveness analysis of anesthesia providers*. Nurs Econ, 2010. 28(3): p. 159-69.

Download at: <http://www.aana.com/lewinstudy.aspx>

5. The Institute of Medicine, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, 2010, Washington, D.C.: National Academy of Sciences.

Download at: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12956](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12956)

(Note that you can download the entire document (587 pages!) as a free PDF if you order it as a pre-publication uncorrected version. The publication version will cost you \$51.26.)

# 75TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

For the full slideshow, go to  
<https://www.oregon-crna.org/site/category/topic/media>





## ORANA CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

Saturday October 23, 2010 our state professional association celebrated 75 years, with a memorable dinner and night of dancing at the Allison Inn and Spa in Newberg, Oregon. A wonderful venue for such an anniversary. In attendance were over 100 CRNAs and guests.



Ruby Hills Celebrates her 100th Birthday

Representative Mitch Greenlich and his wife Harriet were able to join us for our evening of celebration as well. As you may know, Rep Greenlich has been the chair of the House Health Care Committee, and has always been a friend to CRNAs. He recently heard testimony from Advanced Practice Nurses, including CRNAs during the special session on September 21.

ORANA has had the commitment of reaching our efforts towards other like-minded association through out the state. We were pleased to have in attendance so many representatives from these networks. We had representative from Oregon Board of Dentistry, NW Organization of Nurse Executives, Nurse Practitioners of Oregon, Oregon Society of Radiologic Technologists, Oregon State Board of Nursing, Oregon Nurses' Association, Oregon Association of Naturopathic Practitioners, and Anesthesiologists.

The committee worked tirelessly preparing for this event. The evening included ORANA highlights of the past 75 years, with 16 past presidents in attendance. While a wonderful dinner of sea bass or beef tenderloin was served; on the big screen was an edited version of Oregon's own CRNA centurion, Ruby Hills celebrated her 100th birthday just weeks before this event. We were able to capture her details of giving anesthesia overseas during the war. ORANA also went through the archives and collected the most memorable highlights of the past 75 years and presented this to the attendees.

## MARY DIGGLES AWARD

The Mary Diggles Award was established in 2005 to honor the outstanding efforts of Oregon's CRNAs. Yuri Chavez was the 2010 recipient of this award for his extensive work on SB 412, which passed in 1997, defining the scope of practice for CRNAs. He also collaborated with the OSBoN to develop the Division 52 rules which implement the bill. Additionally in 2003, he led efforts that resulted in Governor Kulongoski writing a letter to CMS. Oregon, thereafter, became the 14th state to "opt-out" of federal supervision. Thus, protecting Oregonians right to safe, cost effective and local health care.

The award was presented at this year's celebration night by the son of Mary Diggles and the President of On-Site Anesthesia, Grant Diggles. Grant has been able to keep Mary's vision and legacy alive. He works with 14 CRNAs providing anesthesia services to a vast range of out-patient settings in the Portland metro and surrounding area.

Other nominees of this award include Courtney Lenarduzzi, Christina Cowgill, Tim Kirby, Marilyn Hashimoto, Michael Wray, Brian Ryder, Randy Cima, and Candy Chapman.

A heartfelt congratulations to Yuri Chavez and to all CRNAs throughout the state.



Grant Diggles Presents Award to Yuri Chavez at the 75th Anniversary Banquet



Happy New Year fellow nurse anesthetists, we had a great meeting in October and our PAC fundraiser at The Allison was a resounding success. I would like

to thank the attendees and those of you who generously contributed and bid on the fantastic items we had on offer. Between the silent auction, wine sales and general fund-raising, we managed to raise over \$12,000.

Thanks to your advocacy, ORANA subsequently donated \$7800 to the campaigns of Oregon state legislature candidates who not only occupy seats in the house and senate, but also on many key medical committees. Chief amongst these are Governor John Kitzhaber, Senate President, Peter Courtney, Speaker of the House, Dave

PAC REPORT

Hunt as well as Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson and Representative Mitch Greenlick, who attended our 75th Anniversary celebration.

As we look to the future, there are many exciting and difficult challenges ahead. Advanced practice nurses are still a very under-utilized resource. With or without healthcare reform, medicine will need to eliminate a lot of inefficiency in order for our aging population to have access to healthcare. Nurse anesthetists are in a unique position to help reduce costs and improve productivity and safety and access to anesthesia services.

This year has brought challenges to nurse anesthetists basic rights to practice all over the country, by attempts to overturn states opt-out legislation, attempts to restrict prescriptive authority, attempts to restrict the prac-

tice of interventional pain management, and the practice of supervising flouroscopy. Also, many states are being confronted with a new type of challenge- anesthesiologist assistants.

With your generous contributions we have helped our Government Relations Committee and lobbyist remind the legislators that we are here. What is in store for us in Oregon is not clear. At the moment we have our opt-out status and a fairly liberal practice but there is a lot of work in store for us. We need to forge ahead and secure our place as a valued member of the healthcare system and be prepared for challenges along the way. Thank you for participating in your future. I look forward to seeing you this next year.

Gabriel Aron, MS, CRNA  
ORANA PAC-Chair

OHSU STUDENT REPORT

The OHSU School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program (NAP) is active this winter, as usual. The students remain busy as the newest cohort is just getting off the ground, another cohort is preparing for distance rotations, and the Class of 2010 is leaving us, the third cohort to graduate from the NAP. We are proud (and a bit jealous) to see Chris Andre, Sheila Bachand, Kayla Bendele, Brian Cook, Angela Curtis, Kristen DuPont, Todd Hixson, Chris Leger, Kellen Martyn, Dixie Mills, Jessica Slaughter, and Ying Zhang complete the program. Hopefully some of their wisdom has been passed to the classes below them; we hear that we have high standards to live up to.

Welcomed in this fall is the Class of 2012: Christina Cournia, Jessica Graham, Nicholas Hedden, Brandon Herres, Erich Hunsaker, Austin Miner, Heather Morris, Kimberly Ronhovdee, Micah Scott, Daniel Smith, Leslie Vial, Nina Weber, Nickolas Willard, and Robert Williams. Their enthusiasm is refreshing as we all begin another academic year.

We enjoyed the ORANA fall conference in Newberg and appreciate those from the class of 2011 who presented: Lisa McLain, Julie Bigler, Nick Stoddard, Brain Matthews, Jeff Varga, and Chris More. The students also had a great time celebrating ORANA's 75th anniversary at the banquet. It is exciting to be involved in ORANA.

A special thanks to those who make our education possible: Dr. Stephen Yermal, Eric Vecchi, Gayle Larson, Laura Devlin, Bryan Read, and each of you who serve as our preceptors. You are all invaluable to the NAP, and we are grateful for the time and patience you spend with us as we prepare to represent nurse anesthesia in the future.

Kristen Stephenson  
OHSU Student Representative



## OHSU SCHOOL OF NURSING NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM UPDATE

The Oregon Health & Science University School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program (NAP) extends warm greetings to the CRNA community. The NAP is having a busy year thus far. The program has graduated its third cohort, enrolled the fifth cohort of students. We know have thirty alumni of the OHSU Nurse Anesthesia Program!

The program faculty is pleased to report that the third cohort of students graduated December 2010. Congratulation to Christopher Andre, Sheila Bachand, Kayala Bendele, Brian Cook, Angela Curtis, Kristen DuPont, Todd Hixson, Christopher Leger, Kellen Martyn, Dixie Mills, Jessica Slaughter and Ying Zhang. We are confident that this talented group of advanced practice CRNAs will impart excellent anesthesia care to their patients as well as make important contributions to the nurse anesthesia profession. Congratulations to the class of 2010!

In September, NAP faculty welcomed fourteen new students with diverse backgrounds arriving from many different locales. All have demonstrated academic excellence and possess a sound foundation in critical care nursing practice. Their energy and enthusiasm has

served to energize the NAP faculty and staff. Please join us in welcoming the Class of 2012: Christina Cournia, Jessica Graham, Nicholas Hedden, Brandon Herres, Erich Hunsaker, Austin Miner, Heather Morris, Kimberly Ronhovdee, Micah Scott, Daniel Smith, Leslie Vial, Nina Weber, Nikolas Willard and Cory Williams. We look forward to having their photos and short bio-sketches in summer newsletter.

The Program has been engaged in a national search for a full-time faculty member to join our existing school of Nursing faculty group. The search process has been extensive on on-going since July 2010. We have interviewed several candidates and are very close to having a new addition to our faculty. We are very hopeful that we will welcome a new faculty member in early spring.

At the upcoming ORANA meeting in March 2011, students from the class of 2012 will be presenting clinically relevant 'State of the Science Presentations.' Their talks are scheduled on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 am. We invite you to join us as Christina Cournia, Nicholas Hedden, Cory Williams, Jessica Graham, Erich Hunsaker and Daniel Smith share their findings on a

broad variety of topics which are of importance to practicing anesthesia providers. Last year's presentations were both timely and thought provoking, and we have every reason to expect that this year's topics will be equally as stimulating.

The OHSU NAP extends its thanks to both the membership and administrative staff of the Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists for all of their past and present support. Additionally, we would like to thank all clinical faculty members for their tireless efforts, and ongoing support. These contributions are central to achieving clinical excellence in our students and are key to the ultimate success the OHSU Nurse Anesthesia Program.

Stephen Yermal, Ph.D., CRNA

Bryan Read, M.S.N, CRNA,  
Gayle Larson, M.S.N, NP,  
CRNA, Laura Devlin, M.S.,  
C.R.N.A.

Eric Vecchi, B.S., the School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program Faculty and Staff, wish each of you wonderful winter and a bright spring!

Stephen Yermal,  
Ph.D., CRNA, Program Director



## ORANA BOD MEETING MINUTES



October 22, 2010 ; October 24, 2010

Members Present: Steve Yermal CRNA; Tom LeBlanc CRNA; Christy Cowgill CRNA; Scott Rigdon CRNA; Les Sturgis CRNA; Ann Palenshus CRNA; Gabriel Aron CRNA; Tiffany Bui(Garey)CRNA; Susan VanGorder CRNA; ReneeSale CRNA; Julie Sheehan CRNA; Kristen Steveson SRNA

Guest Present: Jo Bell, ORANA lobbyist; Evelyn Bloomhart, ORANA Exc. Admin. Assistant

- 1) Meeting called to order @ 1528 and roll call acknowledged as noted above
- 2) Steve thanked all those involved with the conference, we have approx. 107 individuals registered/attending the banquet on Saturday evening. We have guests Lorie Monnes-Anderson and Mitch Greenleaf, both of Oregon Senate Health Committee members who have been helpful with our organization needs.
- 3) There is a business meeting scheduled for Sunday am post-meeting for 30 minutes. Comments made for encouragement for all BOD members to converse with members and ask questions with desires the members want for future meeting sites, quest speakers, activities, etc. Steve also noted that this could be a good time to encourage members to volunteer to be on committees and we as BOD members need to ask/encourage members to help out on these committees.
- 4) We have had requests from 2 CRNA's for nominations for national office, to be formally voted on later in BOD meeting and presented at our business meeting on Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010.
- 5) Conversation was brought forth after the mention of the 2 candidates that we (ORANA) should have a policy set forth that we only nominate from our Region 5 for candidates running for national office, due to other regions of the AANA not allowing candidates to ask for nominations from out of their state/region or advertise on their websites. This would apply to to Region Directors only as only the region that has a CRNA running for office can nominate from their own state as the member seeking the office of region director.
- 6) Motion was made by Les Sturgis to only nominate national officers as a ORANA policy (President-elect, VP, Treasurer) from Region 5. This was 2nd by Tom Leblanc, this was passed by a vote of 8 favored, 1 opposed.
- 7) Motion was made by Les Sturgis that the ORANA BOD support the nomination of Todd Herzog, CRNA from Washington for Vice president of the AANA. BOD passed this motion 11 for, 1 abstained. This will be presented to the member body at the business meeting for their vote.
- 8) Review of committee chairs--Education--Co-Chairs are Jim Nelson, Julie Sheehan; GRC--Christy Cowgill; PAC Committee--Gabe Aron; PR--Need chair, Scott Rigdon resigned due to family issues.; Nominating Comm.--Tom LeBlanc; Finance Comm.--Ann Palenshus
- 9) Treasurers Report--990EZ reports made; 36K has been reported as income from the AANA, this is allocated from the AANA at various

scheduled times from the AANA ( basically 1 time per quarter); the various accounts are in good shape, we only spend money that we have received. Currently have 36k in checking, 2 CD's with 10k, 18k amts., savings we have 34k, and just over \$1000 in a OHSU student fund. For greater information please contact Ann. Basically have \$118k in our accts. Discussion was made with regards to having contracts for government employees and decision made was not to apply for this due to high cost for application and amount of effort involved. Ann announced that she is looking for a replacement for herself as treasurer, due to family matters she does not believe she will be able to continue as our treasurer after her term of office is finished in August, 2011 or possibly a sooner date.

10) PAC treasurer Les Sturgis reported a balance of \$7157.58 in PAC acct. PAC funds can now be made via Pay-Pal, a 3% fee will be paid by PAC for this meeting and this will be decided at a later date whether we would continue this measure.

11) Report made of possibility to have a matching fund made by member, past president Ken Hoffman challenged members to match his donations to either candidate running for current governor of Oregon. This was addressed by Jo Bell as our PAC will be donating on a bi-partisan basis to candidates that are supporters of our cause/beliefs in the state offices. Steve relates information that the largest corporate donors to the national Tea Party donors are the AMA and Big Oil companies, and we may want to be careful as to whom we donate our monies. A consensus was related that we would elect not to ask our members to pursue this challenge. A PAC letter was sent out by Gabe Aron asking for donations, and he thanked all those that had sent in funds. There are now 3 levels of PAC donations based on a calendar year that will be named on the PAC donation list, (Governatorial-\$500 or greater; Legislator-\$250-499; and Capital-\$100-249). Members are encouraged to donate as they see fit to the level they are comfortable. A spread-sheet has been developed by Tiffany Bui and ribbons will be placed on name tag to designate the different levels.

12) GRC Committee--lobby day discussion was made, date of January 26, 2011 from 8am-4pm to have a booth/information table for our legislators and possibly having some CEU credit given for attendees. A BOD meeting is scheduled to be also conducted after our visits.

13) FPD Scott Rigdon will be attending the national meeting in Feb. 2011

14) Education Committee--Discussion again regarding the possible change of our 2/year meeting to a 1 week-end conference per year and then a rotating meeting of a 1 day conference in different locations in the state for the other meeting. Such changes would have to be made after the by-laws were revisited and possibly changed.

15) Renee Sale will be working with Educ. Comm. on the vendor side along with Evelyn and the scheduling of participation in both sponsorship and speaker involvement.

16) Brief mention by Steve on possible "white paper" work he desires our association to consider.

Les Sturgis, ORANA Secretary

**The Official Newsletter of the Oregon  
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# ORANA PAC DONOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

ORANA PAC was created by Oregon nurse anesthetists as a means for CRNAs in the state of Oregon to become more effective in helping provide assistance for campaigns to local and state level politicians that are "friends of CRNAs". It is in our best interest to be active in the political arena and continue to support people that are friendly to the issues that affect CRNAs and their families. The following donor clubs recognize ORANA PAC donors for their commitment to protecting our future.

## Gubernatorial Club

Your contribution of 500 dollars or more to ORANA PAC during one calendar year ensures Gubernatorial Club honors. Members of the Gubernatorial Club are recognized with a blue Gubernatorial Club PAC Donor ribbon on their name lanyard at all ORANA conferences. Gubernatorial Club members are recognized as the PAC's most generous donors and will have their name on display as an honored Gubernatorial Club member at ORANA member events.

## Legislator Club

Your contribution of 250 – 499 dollars to ORANA PAC during one calendar year ensures Legislator Club honors. Members of the Legislator Club are recognized with a white Legislator Club PAC Donor ribbon on their name lanyard at all ORANA conferences. Legislator Club members are recognized as generous donors and will have their name displayed as a Legislator Club member at ORANA member events.

## Capital Club

Your contribution of 100-249 dollars to ORANA PAC during one calendar year ensures Capital Club honors. Members of the Capital Club are recognized with a red Capital Club PAC Donor ribbon on their name lanyard at all ORANA conferences. Capital Club members are recognized as generous donors and will have their name displayed as a Capital Club member at ORANA member events.

It is not too late to join one of the 2010 ORANA Donor Clubs by donating today. Show your colleagues your commitment to protecting their practice and donate now. Remember, every dollar counts!

Instructions for making a donation to the "Oregon Nurse Anesthetists PAC" fund:

- (1) Fill out form below and detach at dotted line. Send in or return form to GRC table
- (2) Make your check or money order payable to: Oregon Nurse Anesthetists PAC
- (3) Donor name must match name on check.
- (4) Mail this form with your donation to the following address:

**Oregon Nurse Anesthetists PAC**  
**c/o Les Sturgis**  
**5495 SE Davis Ct**  
**Hillsboro, OR 97123**

For your records keep this portion. Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Oregon Law allows for a state tax credit for political contributions.

ORANA Political Action Fund, helping to elect "Friends of CRNAs"

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### PAC DONATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: CRNA or OTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
FULL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMPLOYER Full ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION, NOT "BUSINESS AS USUAL"



The Oregon Business Plan held their 2010 business summit, inviting policymakers and others to hear their plan for Oregon and the challenges Oregon has and the changes we need to make to address them. The title of their summit was "Not Business as Usual."

It strikes me that this is also a good title for Oregon's upcoming 2011 Legislative Session. More than usual, this year's elections in Oregon are bringing two history-making changes. But there is nothing usual about these changes.

The first change is a constitutional change. Ballot Measure 71, which passed easily, changes the state Constitution to require annual legislative sessions.

Since this is an odd-numbered year and the normal year for session, you would not at first think that passage of this ballot measure would impact this year's session. That is not the case, however.

Part of the constitutional amendment language in Ballot Measure 71 also establishes limits on the length (number of days) that a session can last. For odd-numbered years that limit is 160; even years is 35.

The impact on this session is a revision of the traditional process for session. In previous sessions, the Legislature has convened on the second Monday of January (as required by the Constitution) and remained in session until they passed a balanced budget, generally ending around June 30.

With the new 160 day limit, the Legislature is changing the process somewhat. They will convene as usual on the second Monday (January 10) and will be in session for that week to hold their swearing-in ceremonies, introduce bills, organize their committees and rules, and hold orientation for new legislators.

Then we will be in recess for two weeks, with no floor sessions and no committee hearings. They will reconvene on February 1 and begin the legislative session.

This gap of two weeks will allow them to continue session until the end of June and still remain within the limit of days allowed for odd-numbered years. Part of the reason for this is the timing of the April/May revenue forecast. This forecast provides the Ways & Means budget committees with the revenue amount that will be available to spend in the next (2011-13) biennium. Traditionally, finalizing the budgets and processing the paperwork takes until the end of June.

The second difference for the 2011 session is the 30-30 split in the Oregon House of Representatives. This is the first time that this even split has happened in the Oregon House. (The Oregon Senate had a 15-15 split in the 1999 session, a first for them at that time.)

Sharing leadership will involve new and different agreements (rules) for processing bills, organizing and selecting committee members and committee chairs, plus making decisions on many other organizational and operational issues (including even who will 'live' in what offices).

To date, each caucus has reached a decision on who their Co-Speaker selections will be. (For the Republicans, Rep. Bruce Hanna (Roseburg) and for the Democrats, Rep. Arnie Roblan (Coos Bay). Meetings and discussions on all of the details are underway.

Added to these two identified major changes is the fact that Oregon is facing an approximate \$3.5 billion budget shortfall. Certainly, the 2011 Legislative Session will not be business as usual.

Jo Bell

ORANA Lobbyist