

TASNA NEWSLETTER

March, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

- AANA Mid-Year Assembly: April 21st-25th, Washington, D.C.
- TANA Conference: Fall, 2018

TANA PLANNING RETREAT RECAP

At the end of January, TANA leadership and TASNA representatives from each school travelled to Franklin in order plan the 2018 TANA conference. This was a great experience and much was learned about our great profession. NBCRNA Chief Credentialing Officer and former UTK program director, John Preston, joined us to teach us about the future of continuing education for CRNA's. After hearing the NBCRNA's vision for our profession, I left encouraged and excited about the future of Nurse Anesthesia. Along with planning future TANA events, we also took part in some team-building exercises by solving puzzles and finding clues in order to win an 'escape game' (see pictures at the end of the letter). Overall, this weekend has left me excited about the future of TANA and the CRNA profession as a whole. Hopefully you will be able to enjoy the events planned over this weekend.



SRNA's from schools throughout the state at the TANA Planning Retreat



TANA Day on the Hill Recap

“The upcoming (2018) election cycle will be one of the biggest in recent Tennessee history.”

On February 28th CRNA's and SRNA's from across the state converged on our state capital to advocate for our profession to legislators. This was a very eye opening experience as one is able to see first hand the process of making and passing laws. Between meeting one on one with local law makers and getting recognized at the Senate Health Committee, our profession and organization was well represented.

This day drove home the importance of being involved politically and advocating for our profession. Many of the legislators I talked to had no idea about who CRNA's are and what we do. After educating them on our profession, many of the legislators were curious if there were any bills currently under discussion that would impact our profession. TANA day on the hill allowed those in attendance to have a direct impact on future laws that that could affect CRNA's in Tennessee.

Another eye-opening moment from the day on the hill, was the recognition of how important the 2018 elections are in the state of Tennessee. There are approximately 30 seats that must be filled this election cycle. The positions up for election are multiple State Senate and State Representative seats, three U.S House of Representative seats, one U.S. Senate seat, as well as the office of Governor. To quote our lobbyist report "the upcoming (2018) election cycle will be one of the biggest in recent Tennessee history. It will be expensive, and it will likely impact the next decade in the political landscape." With this in mind, one can see that it is imperative to elect officials that share the goals of TANA in order to protect our profession not only in Tennessee, but nationwide.

One way you can get involved to advocate for your patients and profession as a student, is to donate to the TANA-PAC. For more information on this, see the section "Q&A with the TANA-PAC Chair"

CRNA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Whether you are preparing to graduate and enter the workforce or are just beginning your journey to become a CRNA, the CRNA Mentorship Program is here to help you out. The purpose of the program is to *Guide, Protect, and Support* SRNA's. The program accomplishes its goals by partnering you with a CRNA in your current district OR with a CRNA in the district of which you intend to work after graduation. As one can imagine, this is a powerful networking tool, especially if you intend to move to an area outside of your clinical rotations after graduation. The program is for SRNA's at any point in their education, whether a first year or a senior, this program can help you succeed in school and ease your transition to a practicing CRNA.

A question that is often asked of the program is; "what if I am planning on moving out of state after graduation?" No worries, the mentorship program will attempt to find a CRNA in the location that you are planning on moving to in order to get your foot in the door.

All you have to do to sign up for this program is donate \$25 to the TANA-PAC and fill out the application attached to the email. Also included in the email is a brief overview of the program.



Q & A WITH THE TANA-PAC CHAIR, DR. HOPE FERGUSON

Q: What is TANA-PAC?

Dr. Ferguson: The Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetist Political Action Committee (TANA PAC) is a committee of CRNAs and SRNAs around the state of Tennessee, who volunteer numerous hours in an effort to fundraise, educate, and advocate on behalf of the anesthesia profession.

Q: Why is supporting TANA-PAC important?

Dr. Ferguson: Supporting the TANA PAC is important, not only to current CRNAs, but also SRNAs. Some may ask why is it important to support the PAC? To answer that question, the answer is simply all PAC dollars are voluntary and without the support of the community, the PAC would not be able to continue and maintain its educational and advocacy goals.

Q: Is there anything, like an election or proposed bill, currently in Tennessee that requires action from the TANA-PAC?

Dr. Ferguson: There are currently no active bills that we are concerned about that will directly impact the anesthesia profession. We do have a few bills that we are monitoring. One bill is SB2257, which concerns the reporting and dispensing of opioids. With the election, this election year is very important. There will be approximately 33 seats available during this election. With numerous seats being available, it is imperative we have the support of our Tennessee members to support the TANA PAC.

Q: I'm a broke SRNA and can't commit to giving to the PAC monthly or I can't give a large amount to the PAC. Can I still donate smaller amounts?

Dr. Ferguson: The TANA PAC is open to all donations. We accept anywhere from one dollar to 100s of dollars. I remember being a student and during my time as a student, my program director, Dr. Jill Oswaks, influenced me to give and be active with the PAC and advocated on behalf of the profession as a professional. I never lost that drive, and as a student, I became a student committee member active with the PAC and now, as a professional, I am now the chair of the committee. So, as a student, no donation is too small, and remember that your support keeps this profession safe.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TASNA REP

I hope this news-letter finds you all in good spirits. These past few months have been busy for TANA as outlined in the sections above. Getting to know SRNA's from each program in our state was quite a pleasure at the TANA retreat.

An issue that has been brought forth is difficulty disseminating information to all SRNA's in the state. In order to address this, the SRNA's present at the planning retreat and I have proposed a new position within TASNA. This position is the TASNA School Representative. In short, there will be an official TASNA representative from each school that works with the TASNA Representative to the Board of Directors in order to improve communication amongst SRNA's. Keep in mind this is just a proposal at the moment, and it will have to be approved by the education committee to become official. If you have any questions or would like information about the proposed position, please contact me.

I would also encourage everyone to donate to the TANA-PAC as much as possible for this upcoming election cycle. As Dr. Ferguson pointed out, we need to protect our profession.

Finally, I would also encourage all SRNA's to take advantage of the Mentorship program. This is a great opportunity to get a "jump start" on transitioning from SRNA to CRNA.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about the content of this letter. I am looking forward to the future of TANA and TASNA.

-Mike Koenig

TASNA Liaison to the TANA Board of Directors



TANA Planning Retreat Goes After We Escaped!



TANA Day on the Hill Attendees in the State Capital