



# ORANA

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

# annual NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, June 2016

*"I alone cannot change the world,  
but I can cast a stone across the  
water to create many ripples."*

– Mother Teresa

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Douglas Bufkin, CRNA

# Letter from the President & President-Elect

Fellow CRNAs,

This year has seen both the culmination of hard work from years past, as well as the continued efforts of our awesome Oregon CRNAs. Not only has ORANA been successful within the political arena, we have also made great strides to continue to modernize and update our organization through improved communication and structure.

Despite being promised the contrary by the Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists, this year's short legislative session brought with it yet another AA bill. ORANA once again prevailed against this threat through the efforts of our GRC team and legislative advocates; however, the attack from the other side proved to be the most organized and powerful to date.

The month of February proved to be one of the most important within ORANA's recent history, for Division 52 was approved by the board of nursing. The scope of practice rules contained within the updated document codify modern standards of CRNA care and even include the use of fluoroscopy for non-surgical pain management. All of us owe a great deal of

gratitude toward Christy Cowgill and all of the involved stake holders that started us on this journey so long ago.

Although the aforementioned successes give us something to be proud of, our work is not yet finished. We expect the same if not stronger argument for licensure of AAs during this coming year's long legislative session as well as legislation that seeks to counter the new scope of practice rules found in Division 52. ORANA and AANA leadership have already begun to strategize and work on a defense for both a 2017 AA bill and legislation that seeks to limit an Oregon CRNA's ability to utilize fluoroscopy.

Thus, we call on each and every Oregon CRNA to become as involved as you possibly can. Realize that without your assistance, we could lose the great practice environment within our home state. It has been my pleasure to represent such a strong group of individuals and practitioners and I thank you for the opportunity to do so.

kindest regards,  
Douglas Bufkin, MSN, CRNA  
President

*“Leadership involves finding a parade and getting in front of it.”*

– John Naisbitt

## Public Relations Update

Fellow members of ORANA, your PR committee has been busy this year trying to develop novel ways to re-engage and re-ignite the enthusiasm of the ORANA membership. As new board members, the first couple of months were spent getting acquainted with other members of the ORANA board, deciding our priorities for the upcoming year and formulating plans for getting things done. The first priority was the design of a new, more engaging and easier to use ORANA website. Careful consideration was given to our construction needs and our vendor will be starting on the new ORANA website very soon. We will also be developing a new ORANA logo to go with the site. Look for it soon!

A small delegation from the PR Committee was present at lobby day with members of the GRC and had a very productive meeting with Senator Arnie Roblan regarding the AA bill and other areas of concern to the ORANA membership and CRNA practice as a whole. Senator Roblan seemed genuinely interested in our practice, and grateful for our dedication.

During CRNA week Governor Kate Brown signed a proclamation recognizing CRNA week and our efforts as a profession in the state of Oregon. It is certainly refreshing to practice in a state where our elected officials take real

interest in our practice and recognize that CRNA practice is a critical part of healthcare in Oregon.

In the remainder of 2016 and into the coming years we encourage the CRNAs of ORANA to take a more active role in the promotion of our profession. Single day activities like planting trees, serving at a soup kitchen, or volunteering at a high school career day are powerful ways to increase awareness of our great profession. Our group spent the day at the local soup kitchen, it was featured in the local paper and we heard for weeks about how much this simple gesture was appreciated by the community. Engage your communities as CRNAs, Let's all work together to increase our public footprint and add value to the hospitals and clinics where we work and to the communities we live in. We have a big year and some big battles ahead of us. Showing the people of Oregon our true worth will only help us.

Bill Prosser MSN, CRNA  
PR committee chair



William Prosser  
CRNA, MSN

# Annual Conference: Registration Open!



Kirsten McMillan  
CRNA

The annual ORANA conference will be here before we know it (October 7-9 at the Marriott in downtown Portland). It's going to be a great line-up! Whether you do OB anesthesia every day or just once in awhile you won't want to miss our OB break out session Friday morning. Dr. Pellegrini is a well-known speaker that will be covering:

- Innovations and Controversies in Obstetrical Anesthesia
- Pharmacological & Alternative treatment modalities used to treat or prevent hypotension during C-section
- Anesthesia for the pregnant patient requiring non-obstetrical surgery

Other great topics include:

- Neuropathic pain management
- Peri-operative pacemaker management

- Functional hemodynamics
- Business boot camp, and more.

We are offering a total 23 CEs! There will be 3 available for the Friday morning OB breakout session and 20 for the "full conference" (Friday afternoon through conclusion on Sunday). For the first time ever, 6 of the CEs will be available online and you will have up to one year to complete those. This allows more time for networking at the conference, while staying current on your CEs.

Make sure to reserve your spot by August 1st to take advantage of the early bird special pricing and save \$100. See you in October!

Kirsten McMillan, CRNA  
Education Committee Chair

**Annual Conference**  
OCTOBER 7-9, 2016

**ORANA**  
OREGON ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS



Book your hotel room  
by September 14th  
for ORANA's \$179 group rate.

Reservations:  
Call 1-877-901-6632  
<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/OANA>

Portland Marriott Waterfront  
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Portland, OR 97201





**Register Early & Save!**

<http://bit.ly/ORANA2016conf>

**Early bird ends August 1st**

Marriott Portland Downtown Waterfront

Join CRNAs across the state to network and earn CEs while brushing up current issues affecting nurse anesthesia practice.

**20-23  
CEs**

**ORANA** Annual Conference  
OCTOBER 7-9, 2016

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS



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# Spring 2016 GRC Update



Michael Wray, CRNA

ORANA Membership,

Your ORANA GRC team has been busy these last few months and I want to take the opportunity to update on our efforts. Our success is only possible through the hard work and dedication to service that **YOU** provide to our organization. We continue to be well positioned and have developed strong coalitions with our regulatory body the OSBN, legislators and healthcare policy leaders here in Oregon. However, there continues to be the need and opportunity to assist your GRC team as we will be entering a busy election season

Although before we address our future needs, we need to pause for a moment to appreciate the successes we have achieved so far this year. As I'm certain

you all our aware, In January of this year, your GRC team had to quickly come together to again oppose HB 4108 which would license Anesthesiology Assistance into the state of Oregon. A similar bill was defeated in 2013, and 2015, so legislators were already informed on the issue. ORANA was able to successfully demonstrate the lack of a work force issue, and oppose this bill during

this session. However, of concern was a much more polished and influential presentation put forth by the bill sponsors and testimony presented. We are certainly going to see this issue come forward again in the 2017 session, as the ASA

tread nationwide is to promote licensure of AA's across the country. We will continue to keep you updated as this develops.

In February, at the Oregon Board of Nursing board meeting, language to revise Division 52 of the Nursing Practice Act which outlines the rules governing CRNA practice is Oregon was presented to the board. This was a culmination of work headed by Christy Cowgill over the previous 18 months. Several meetings were held with specific APRN stakeholders and CRNA's in collaboration with the OSBN Rules Advisory Committee (RAC), OSBN policy analysts and OSBN Attorney General to present the draft rules to the board. These rules did not expand upon CRNA scope of practice, but rather modernized our current rules to reflect and codify existing practice. After some discussion, the board voted on the proposed rules and elected to adopt the rules with an effective date of August 1, 2016. Included in these rules, was clarification that CRNA' practice includes both "acute and *chronic* pain management".

Clearly this issue has become bothersome to some within Oregon. Challenges to CRNA use of fluoroscopy and other imaging devices in practice settings has become a concern. ORANA is aware of these concerns, and is working closely with the OSBN, Board of Medical Imaging, our legal team and AANA to clarify our regulatory language is consistent among all licensing agencies. Again, ORANA will keep you informed.



Scott Rigdon, CRNA, MPH, presenting.

I want to stress upon our members the need for active involvement. At the annual AANA Mid-Year Assembly, I was fortunate to attending a working meeting with Jeff Kopecky, our lobbyist Fawn Berry, Luis Rivera, the AANA legal team, and several ORANA students to discuss future strategies for addressing continued attacks on our practice in Oregon. Suffice it say, we have been successful through the hard work, dedication to cause and relationships we have built over the years with regulators, legislators and policy analyst's. As we enter into a busy election season, it is critical that we continue to keep our friends close. We will be working with our state lobbyist to identify key races and find CRNA's who live in those congressional districts to hopefully participate in those campaign races. It is through this volunteer work that we continue to position ORANA in the light, so they know who we are and what we do. So I am asking you to take those call, help to participate where you can, and ensure ORANA stays strong.

Finally, ORANA held a meet and greet event on May 14, 2016. This was a great success and 32 CRNA's and students attended. Scott Rigdon, former ORANA Past President who is now practicing in nonsurgical pain management  
*Continued on next page...*





# Spring 2016 GRC Update *Continued from page 5*

in Montana presented a 2-hour introduction to interventional Pain Management. ORANA took this opportunity to personally inform our membership of the work we are doing as an organization, and future plans. ORANA is planning to have more of these small meeting

formats throughout the year in addition to our annually meeting simply as a way of reaching out to membership, inform you of what is happening, and hope to engage you for greater participation in your organization. Look for future events and planning as your ORANA Board finalizes details.

Again, we thank you for your work. Please feel free to contact me directly or any of your ORANA board members with concerns or questions.

Michael Wray, CRNA

## Nominating Committee

This year your board voted to upgrade the board election voting system by switching to Election Buddy. This new online service will improve our Board election process by ensuring anonymity, increasing security and improving the ease of voting. The goal is to increase participation in our voting and to address areas in need of improvement identified by our AANA State Organizational Review. You can review the new system at [www.electionbuddy.com](http://www.electionbuddy.com).

Here is the timeline for our board election process per our Bylaws.

### A) Election Process Timeline

- 1) **June 1** – Names to be recommended to the Nominating Committee
- 2) **June 15** – Nominating Committee presents nominations to the Board with Board approval required one week later
- 3) **July 1** – Nominating Committee forwards ballot to members for vote; President may appoint tellers (see (E) below)
- 4) **July 15** – Deadline for ballots to be returned
- 5) **August 1** – New officers, Board of Directors announcement to members
- 6) All steps in process may be accomplished by either electronic or traditional mail or a combination of both.

**ORANA Nominations Committee:** David Andrews: [andrewsdave@att.net](mailto:andrewsdave@att.net)  
Doug Bufkin: [dougbufkin@gmail.com](mailto:dougbufkin@gmail.com)  
Jim Kollar: [johnphillip66@yahoo.com](mailto:johnphillip66@yahoo.com)

## Volunteer for the ORANA Board!

**ORANA is seeking nurse anesthetists for BOD positions beginning September 1, 2016.**

Board meetings occur by conference call each month, and face-to-face quarterly. They involve strategic implementation of the issues presented by the constituency. Terms are two years in length, at which point the board member can opt for re-election. To be eligible for a BOD position, you need to be a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist in the state of Oregon.

You do not have to be an experienced provider; you just need to bring your enthusiasm and ideas! ORANA is seeking nominations for President-Elect and three board positions.

To have your name placed on the ballot, please contact a member of the committee.

# AANA Mid Year Assembly

## April 5, 2016, Washington, DC:

During the AANA Mid Year Assembly the ORANA delegation attended a rally on the West Lawn of the Capitol to present Senator Jeff Merkley with the 2016 AANA National Health Leadership Award. Pictured are Hannah Secunda, SRNA, Eugene Dickens, SRNA, Senator Jeff Merkley, D-OR, ORANA President Elect Jeff Kopecky, Tina Franck, SRNA and ORANA Federal Political Director David Andrews.



PHOTO BY JOHN WHEELER, AANA PHOTOGRAPHER



PHOTO BY JOHN WHEELER, AANA PHOTOGRAPHER

Before a CRNA advocacy meeting in Washington, DC with Senator Ron Wyden's, D-OR Health Care Legislative Aide and Fellow, the ORANA delegation reviews talking points and strategy. Pictured are Eugene Dickens, SRNA, ORANA President Elect Jeff Kopecky, Tina Franck, SRNA, ORANA Federal Political Director David Andrews, and Hannah Secunda, SRNA.

## Lessons from Mid-Year Assembly

I recently had the opportunity to attend the AANA Mid-Year Assembly in Washington DC, and learned about proposed legislation that will affect the profession of nurse anesthesia across the country.

For the first few days of the assembly, I joined hundreds of CRNAs to learn about the proposed legislation and how best to present our profession and ourselves when meeting with our legislators. One session that struck me the most focused on advocating for legislation by telling a personal story. This session got me thinking about my own story, and how it could be used to connect with our legislators to protect and advance the practice of nurse anesthesia.

I grew up in a rural community in Missouri. My extended family hails from the Missouri-Arkansas border, where many of them live to this day.

Having spent the last decade of my life working in cutting-edge, academic medical centers, I am often struck by the medical disparities I experienced as a child and that my family continues to experience. I knew going into anesthesia school that I wanted to find work in a critical access hospital here in Oregon, and use my training to be a part of the solution to improve access to medical care for people who live in rural communities.

Legislators are currently considering two bills that directly affect CRNAs working in rural practices. From the training at the assembly, I felt that my own story was a great opportunity to personally and meaningfully connect with my legislators. Each time I met with an elected representative, I found that they were truly interested to hear how their work affects the lives of their constituents. By talking about my rural upbringing and my plans to work in

a rural community, they were able to connect their actions to the person in front of them, not just a nameless, faceless hypothetical CRNA.

I learned two very important lessons at Mid-Year Assembly. First and foremost, our legislators are considering measures that affect our work as CRNAs, and because of this they truly want our perspective on these issues. For them to make sound decisions, our legislators absolutely need to hear from us about how their actions will affect lives in the communities they represent. Secondly, as CRNAs we need to share our personal stories. By sharing stories about each of our unique backgrounds, the patients we help, and the communities we serve, our legislators and those we live and work with can better understand and value our profession.

Eugene Dickens, SRNA

## Hannah Secunda, SRNA on her MYA experience...

*"This was my second year attending Mid-Year Assembly as an SRNA. Invaluable is the one word I would use to describe this experience. This conference opens your eyes to the work that is constantly being done behind the scenes to protect and advance the practice of CRNAs. The importance of professional advocacy is fully engrained in you by the completion of the conference. Networking with CRNAs and SRNAs from around the country was another high point of the conference for me. I enjoyed every minute of my time in Washington D. C. and would highly recommend that all CRNAs and SRNAs attend this conference annually."*

## Veterans' Healthcare Issues Focus of Capitol Hill Rally by Nurse Anesthetists



David Andrews, CRNA, MHS

country including a contingency from ORANA. President Elect Jeff Kopecky, ORANA Federal Political Director David Andrews were joined by three students; Student Board Representative Eugene Dickens and Tina Franck, SRNA, both from OHSU and Hannah Secunda, SRNA. Hannah is planning to relocate here from Charleston, SC.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) have been outspoken in their support of a plan proposed by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to expand veterans' access to healthcare by allowing advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), including CRNAs, to practice to the full extent of their education and licensure. The policy, recommended by a major Independent Assessment of the VHA as well as by the Institute of Medicine and already in place in America's military and Indian health systems, would help eliminate the dangerous wait times for needed care that America's veterans currently endure.

ORANA was proud to be part of the presentation of the AANA's National Health Leadership Award during the rally, honoring Oregon's own Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD). Merkley and Rounds are co-sponsors of Senate legislation (S. 2279) which expands veterans' access to care by supporting APRN full practice authority in VHA facilities. Both senators spoke at the rally. Senator Merkley and his staff included input from ORANA in crafting the legislation.

We need your help! You can help this effort right now by going to [www.veteransaccesstocare.com](http://www.veteransaccesstocare.com) and adding your voice. Please encourage friends and family to do the same.

ORANA also discussed with legislators and their staff the importance to Oregonians that we restore rural access to nurse anesthesia services and support patient access to quality care through nurse workforce development funding. Finally, as congress addresses a national opioid crisis, ORANA asked that they support and recognize role of CRNAs in pain care and patient safety.

If you have any questions or you are interested in becoming involved, please contact me or any ORANA board member. We appreciate your help and support.

David Andrews, CRNA, MHS  
Federal Political Director

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Are you looking to work in an independent setting to practice to your full scope of practice?

**Outpatient Anesthesia Services** is looking to fill several 1099 positions ranging 2-5 days per week doing a wide range of surgical procedures including orthopedics, podiatry, ENT, plastics, pediatrics and sedation for pain management.

Ideal candidates are experienced (minimum 4 years), charismatic, independent minded CRNAs who possess a strong desire to work in unsupervised environments. Knowledge of regional blocks is preferred or candidates must be willing to learn regional blocks such as ISB and popliteal.

**LOCATIONS:** Portland areas include: Beaverton, Hillsboro, Tualatin, Lake Oswego, Downtown Eugene

Please contact OAS at [contact@oasor.com](mailto:contact@oasor.com) or visit our website at [www.oasor.com/job-inquiries](http://www.oasor.com/job-inquiries) to inquire about these opportunities.

We will respond with an information packet including further details.