



## MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS, INC

### **AANA Mid-Year Assembly Synopsis Dwayne Self, MANA FPD**

Hello everyone. With enthusiasm I report a very successful time spent in our nation's capital sharing information with other CRNAs/SRNAs, networking, raising money for the CRNA-PAC, and approaching, presenting, and discussing our CRNA issues with our elected leaders in Washington.

Within the context of our AANA meetings were opportunities to meet and listen to candidates running for AANA offices. For any questions outside of position statements that anyone may have about individual candidates for AANA offices please contact any of us who attended MYA and we will help fill in with information that we can as we had the opportunity to listen to their speeches and interact with each candidate.

After preparation for our Hill visits, we spent Tuesday and Wednesday visiting with our senators and congressmen on Capitol Hill. Tuesday morning, in response to an invitation from Senator Roger Wicker, all of us except for two attended Mississippi Morning Coffee hosted by Senator Wicker in the Dirksen building. The other two, Dr. Vickie Stuart and Sam Self SRNA attended a fund raising breakfast for Congressman Alan Nunnelee. CRNA-PAC, our national PAC, made contributions to this event allowing our representation. Dr. Stuart as President-elect and Sam Self with a direct personal connection with Congressman Nunnelee represented MANA.

As one would anticipate we were received warmly and were able to articulate well our concerns throughout our two days on the Hill. Four attachments to this piece are:

1. Nurse Anesthesia Issues for Mid-Year Assembly 2014;
2. Mid-Year Assembly 2014: Capitol Hill Visit Cheat Sheet;
3. Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Nursing Handbook FAQ; and
4. List of MYA 2014 attendees.

These attachments give you a picture of the exchange of information that we had in each of our visits with each of the members of our Mississippi delegation. We thanked all of our Mississippi delegation for their work on the SGR cuts since the cuts had recently been diverted for another year. It also seems that all the members of our Mississippi delegation are very interested in a permanent fix and are working toward that end. We also thanked them for supporting nurse education funding, particularly graduate nurse education funding, which historically all of our delegation has supported. Our two specific asks of our delegation were to protect provider nondiscrimination and to ensure veterans access to high quality care at VA facilities. All of our elected officials with whom we met personally voiced support for these issues. Of course, these issues and our concerns need to be reinforced here back home in Mississippi.

**NOTE: Please protect the information in these documents and do not copy and leave exposed to non-CRNAS items such as the 'cheat sheets' attachment.**

Members of Congress and District Key Contacts for Mississippi:

District One is Congressman Nunnelee. Our AANA District One Key Contact is Rob Rogers CRNA.  
District Two is Congressman Thompson. Our AANA District Two Key Contact is Michael Folkes CRNA.  
District Three is Congressman Harper. Our AANA District Three Key Contact is Rob Nichols CRNA.  
District Four is Congressman Palazzo. Our AANA District Four Key Contact is Dave Ware CRNA.

I am available for questions, concerns, strategy sessions, discussing key information that you have or key connections that you have with any of our elected officials, along with MANA president Audrey Ghatas and MANA president-elect Dr. Vickie Stuart.

Please review the four attachments to this piece and, if not already, please engage in the process.

Obviously, words unspoken can never be heard.

### **Addendum**

During MYA 2014, MANA's delegation participated in the following Hill visits:

#### **Members of Congress:**

District One: We met with Congressman Nunnelee and his Legislative Aide Eliza Jones.  
District Two: We met with LeMia Jenkins, Congressman Thompson's Legislative Aide.  
District Three: We met with Congressman Harper, his Chief of Staff Michael Cravens, and Adam Buckalew, Congressman Harper's Communications Director and LA.  
District Four: We met with Jill Duckworth and Jordan West, Congressman Palazzo's Legislative Correspondent and Staff Assistant respectively.

#### **U.S. Senators:**

We met with Senator Cochran and Constance Payne, Senator Cochran's LA for Veterans' Affairs and Health.  
We met with Senator Wicker and Sarah Lloyd Allred, Senator Wicker's Health LA.