



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

**INANA**

PROTECTING OUR PATIENTS, SERVING OUR MEMBERS

## February 2024 Newsletter

We are off to a busy start in the new year, and I am excited to start off 2024 as the President of the INANA! Since taking office in November 2023, the new board has been busy preparing for the legislative session. Eric Pinkie, Director, attended the Senate Majority Campaign Committee Holiday Reception at The Skyline Club in Indianapolis on behalf of the board on December 7. Melissa Fitch, Megan Engelman, Dan Hayden, and UE student representative Stacey Rutledge attended the House Republican Campaign Committee Holiday Reception at The Columbia Club in Indianapolis on December 12. We were able to have productive conversations with legislators and staff regarding our upcoming efforts.

We worked with our lobby team, The Capitol Group, and legislators to see a bill drafted that would allow CRNAs to work with podiatrists and dentists in Indiana. This was a VERY short legislative session, and we met with legislators at our annual CRNA Lobby Day at The State House on January 22, 2024. Unfortunately, the bill did not get a second reading, so it died in committee. We will regroup, continue to build our relationship with Indiana dentists and the IDA, and continue fighting for the practice change that would allow us to work under the direction of and in the presence of dentists and podiatrists. I assure you, the Board of Directors is doing everything it can to build stronger relationships with stakeholders, but it takes all of us. If you don't know how you can help, ask one of us, and we will be happy to talk to you.

In other news, the University of Evansville Nurse Anesthesia Program graduated its inaugural cohort on December 16, 2023. The program is proud to have hooded sixteen new Doctors of Nurse Anesthesia Practice. Best of luck to these individuals as they take the National Certifying Exam and enter the ranks of our amazing profession.

Current membership: As of February 1, 2024, our membership roster is 631 members strong, including all student members. There are 71 Indiana CRNAs on the non-member roster. Did you know that as an AANA member, \$232.50 of your annual membership dues of \$645 go back to the state you have designated? That \$232.50 per member is how we develop an operating budget to work and advocate for our membership. So, if you aren't up to date on your AANA membership, PLEASE join and list Indiana as your home state! If you don't believe it benefits you, please talk to me. I'll be happy to share with you how it does!

Registration is now open for the AANA Mid-Year Assembly on April 20-24, 2024, in Washington, D.C. This is an awesome opportunity to lobby for nurse anesthesia on Capitol Hill and to meet with Indiana legislators and staff on The Hill. Will you join us??? I would love to see attendance from the Indiana membership continue to grow at MYA so that we can make a statement AND a difference.

The INANA DEI Scholarship is now open to students from the Marian University and University of Evansville students! Applications for Marian students will be open Jan 16-Feb 29, 2024, with recipient selection by March 31st, 2024. Applications for University of Evansville students will be open Aug 1-Sept 14th of each year, with recipient selection by Oct 31st of that same year. Please visit <https://inana.org/Scholarships> to view criteria.

The Board of Directors held its annual retreat in January, and we made plans for our 2024 state meeting and other events. Information will be forthcoming. As always, if I can be of service to you, please reach out at [inanapresident@gmail.com](mailto:inanapresident@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook and on our website at [www.inana.org](http://www.inana.org), where you can set up recurring donations to the Indiana CRNA Dream PAC and the Student Conference Scholarship Fund.

All my best,



Melissa Fitch, DNP, CRNA  
President, INANA  
Administrator, University of Evansville Nurse Anesthesia Program

