

2. Policy Title: Participation in CANA Lobbying during AANA Mid-Year Assembly

Policy Background: Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) gather annually in Washington DC to attend the AANA Mid-Year Assembly (MYA), with the primary objective of visiting legislators and lobbying for CRNA-related legislative goals. Participation in this activity is most effective if planned carefully, limited to individuals appropriate to represent the Association, and restricted to simple, consistent messages explained clearly to legislators that are vetted by both the AANA and CANA. In the limited time available to meet with elected representatives, the most effective results are achieved when constituents of legislators participate in lobbying, and when the message delivered is direct, easy to understand and absolutely consistent. Possession of AANA and CANA membership and participation in the CANA group delegation helps to assure messages delivered by individual CRNAs representing the Association are backed by 1400 California CRNAs and 40,000 CRNAs nationally, and facilitate an effective impact on elected federal officials.

Procedure: To help facilitate the most effective lobbying results, CRNAs should meet the following criteria in order to participate in the CANA lobbying delegation at the AANA MYA:

1. Possess both AANA and CANA membership.
2. Sign up as a CANA volunteer officially via the CANA website, prior to traveling to Washington DC (preferred).
3. Establish contact with CANA Federal Political Director and/or CANA Association Manager via email or telephone to communicate intention to participate in MYA, so that pertinent documents, agenda items, instructions, and other important communications may be sent to the participant.
4. CRNAs lobbying for CANA will introduce themselves as CANA officers, committee chairpersons or members, or CANA members.
5. All CANA MYA delegation members will be issued CANA business cards to distribute during lobbying visits; no other business cards may be distributed by members of the CANA delegation.
6. CRNAs who are AANA members, wish to lobby for CANA, and have not signed up previously may volunteer on-site at MYA in Washington DC, and will be oriented to the lobbying procedure and agenda as time and scheduling permit.
7. Any individual who is not a member of AANA and CANA, nor serving as a volunteer for CANA in an official capacity, may participate in the CANA delegation without prior approval from the CANA Board of Directors.

Financial Impact: none anticipated.