

AANA

On the Move:

Tracking the Association's Office Locations through the Years

For the past 26 years, a northwest suburb of Chicago conveniently located near O'Hare Airport has been home to the headquarters of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. But prior to settling in Park Ridge, Ill., the AANA relocated like a busy locum tenens CRNA, first from Cleveland, Ohio, to Chicago; then within the city limits of Chicago; and finally out to the Chicago suburbs.

By comparison, the AANA's Washington, D.C. office opened in 1990 and has moved only twice to date. Its present location, just one and one-half blocks from the House office buildings, enables AANA's D.C. staff to easily wear out a path to and from legislators' offices.

To commemorate the AANA's 75th Anniversary (1931-2006), following is a brief history of the various AANA locations and Washington, D.C. offices.

1931—University Hospitals, Cleveland

After the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)—then called the National Association of Nurse Anesthetists (NANA)—was founded in June 1931, the headquarters were located at University Hospitals of Cleveland. Two of the forces behind the early development of the Association—Agatha Hodgins and Gertrude Fife—ran the nurse anesthesia school at Lakeside Hospital, now a part of University Hospitals, and the nucleus of the Association was the Alumnae Association of Lakeside Hospital School of Anesthesia. Records indicate that from 1934 to 1937 the office was located on Adlebert Road.



1937—18/22 E. Division St., Chicago

Once the organization was on firm ground and had a good balance in the treasury, NANA felt continued operation of the headquarters in Cleveland would be an imposition on University Hospitals. Chicago was selected because it "is the center of medical and allied activities" and could serve "as a pivotal point around which the National and State organizations may function with increasing effectiveness."¹ On Oct. 16, 1937, the headquarters moved to 18 E. Division St. to the third floor of the American Hospital Association (AHA) building. Initially, the headquarters consisted solely of a desk in an office, but in 1946 the space expanded into an entire suite. This was also the year that the treasurer's office moved to Chicago in November, uniting all of the executive office functions in one city. Sometime in 1947, the office moved to the fourth floor of an annex to the AHA building.

1951—116 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago

A move was required in 1951 because the AHA needed all of the space occupied by the AANA offices. On Jan. 1, 1951, the AANA relocated to 116 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1508, located across from the Art Institute of Chicago. The space consisted of four offices and a work room.

1957—Prudential Plaza, 130 E. Randolph St., Chicago

By 1956, space was becoming inadequate due to rapid growth of the Association. A move was put on hold until the AHA's plans for its new building were finalized; the AANA hoped the new AHA building would once again have space for allied groups. Space was not allocated for allied groups, and office space in the Prudential Plaza building at 130 E. Randolph St. was chosen because the members felt that a better space than the current building could be found and it was the newest office building in Chicago. In February 1957, AANA moved into Suite 3010. The suite had five offices, a board room, and a work room surrounding a central office area.

In 1965, the need for additional office space promoted the AANA to acquire additional space on the same floor, which increased space by 50 percent. The suite number stayed the same, but the offices moved to the east side of the 30th floor.

1970—111 E. Wacker Dr., Chicago

In October 1969, the Prudential Company requested that the AANA vacate its current office space, and it could not guarantee a new space in the building. The Board of Directors decided that the AANA should stay in Chicago and chose to move the executive office to a building being constructed at 111 E. Wacker Dr.—only two blocks from the old location. On the evening of Sept. 25, 1970, the office moved to its new location in Suite 929 on Wacker Drive.

1979—216 Higgins, Park Ridge

At the 1978 Annual Meeting, a resolution authoring the Board of Directors to purchase a building to house the executive office was to be presented. The lease on the Wacker location did not have a renewal clause and was to expire in 1980; rising rental fees also contributed to the desire to purchase a building. The resolution stipulated that the new building be large enough to accommodate future growth and offices to lease to other tenants. At the Board's preconvention meeting, it adopted an emergency resolution, to be presented at the business meeting, authorizing the purchase of 216 Higgins Road in Park Ridge, Ill. The members approved the resolution.

The two-story office building was purchased in October 1978 for approximately \$565,000. Alterations were made to the 14,608 sq. ft. building, and the offices were moved on June 30, 1979. The office was closed July 2-3 to allow staff to be ready for business July 5. The AANA dedicated the building on Feb. 15, 1980; nearly 100 people braved a snowstorm to attend the dedication ceremony.

1990—Washington Office Opens

In February 1990, the AANA Board of Directors approved moving the Federal Government Affairs Department from the Park Ridge office building to Washington, D.C. The Board felt the new location would strengthen the AANA's ties with lawmakers and the AANA's input on the U.S. healthcare agenda. The D.C. office was first located at 777 N. Capitol St., NE, Suite 803, near the U.S. Senate. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held on May 18, 1991, during the Government Relations Workshop. The lease was set to expire at the end of 1995, prior to which the AANA decided to seek new office space.

