RNAs all across the country are gearing up for the seventh annual National Nurse Anesthetists Week, to be celebrated Jan. 22-28, 2006. Promotional packets will be available in early November through the AANA Bookstore and Resource Center, and can be obtained via email at shorton@aana.com, or by phone at (847) 655-1129.

Nurse Anesthetists Week has rapidly gained in popularity since it was first introduced in 2000. Last year, more promotional materials were requested and sent out than in any previous year. Nearly 2,600 promotional packets were mailed to CRNAs and others around the country, 500 more than were sent out the previous year.

This year’s packet will contain posters, press releases, public service announcements, and information for ordering buttons, pins, and other materials to help promote the nurse anesthesia profession and its dedication to patient safety. In addition to making excellent use of the materials provided by the AANA, CRNAs found a variety of meaningful ways to promote their profession in 2005. Billboards, movie ads, television commercials, and proclamations were just some of the creative efforts undertaken by CRNAs during Nurse Anesthetists Week in 2005.

For the third year, the winner of the PR Recognition Award in the special category “Best Promotional Effort for National Nurse Anesthetists Week” was chosen by the AANA Public Relations Committee and honored on stage at the Opening Ceremonies during the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The 2005 winner was North Central Anesthesia Services, LLC, in O’Neill, Neb. Join the celebration! Order your promotional materials for National Nurse Anesthetists Week 2006 today!

CPIA to Set Strategic Framework for AANA Wellness Program

The Council on Public Interest in Anesthesia (CPIA) has agreed to take on the responsibility of overseeing the AANA Wellness Program. Acceptance of this role by the CPIA will fulfill the recommendation of the AANA Wellness Advocate and the AANA Blue Ribbon Panel on Wellness to identify a structure and process that assures the AANA Wellness Program has continuity over time. The CPIA will design the strategic framework for future wellness activities including marketing, budget allocations, and communications.

“The council believes the wellness program is a good fit with the CPIA’s focus on patient safety and advocacy functions. Studies have shown that provider wellness and work environment issues can have a significant impact on the quality of patient care” said Debra Malina, CRNA, MS, MBA, APN, chair of the CPIA. “The AANA has defined wellness as a balanced state of mental, spiritual, and physical well-being. Broad goals for the program are to enhance CRNA self-assessment and awareness and to develop strategies that promote healthy lifestyles for our professional colleagues and ourselves. The council is looking forward to working with AANA leadership to implement this exciting and challenging process.”

The AANA Wellness Program is a collaborative effort that was initiated in February 2004 when the AANA Board of Directors recognized the need for more specialized resources in the area of overall wellness for AANA members. Everyone, at some time in their life, feels overwhelmed by life’s circumstances. Finding and cultivating ways to help members cope and manage the pressures inherent in the nurse anesthesia profession and the stressors in their personal environments led to the approval of funding for the wellness initiative. Understanding that in addition to the unique job demands, CRNAs are exposed to high levels of workplace stress related to hostile environments, emotional problems, physical disabilities, addiction,

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Delegate on Education Committee

The Education Committee is seeking candidates who are interested in serving as a delegate on the Education Committee. The deadline for receiving completed candidate packets is January 31, 2006.

If you would like a candidate information packet sent to you, please contact the Education Department, AANA, 222 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068-4001, (847) 692-7050, ext. 1165, or via email at ksutkus@aana.com. Packets may also be obtained from our website at www.aana.com.

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fatigue, and other significant catastrophic events, the Board of Directors launched the initiative to address wellness concerns. Subsequent discussions and work of the Board of Directors, the Peer Assistance Advisory Committee, the Wellness Advocate, and the panel of experts confirmed that CRNAs often neglect their own health while providing the highest possible care for their patients.

Concurrent to the work of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Wellness, the Board of Directors moved to establish the Jan Stewart Wellness Lecture series, the first being held at the 2004 AANA Annual Meeting in Seattle, Wash. The lecture series is focused on bringing information and expert opinions to the members on a variety of issues including healthy aging, managing stress, substance abuse, and strategies for building a “well” workplace. In addition, the wellness project consultant, Dirk Wales, worked with the panel and the Board of Directors to develop the wellness program logo (represented by a lighthouse to guide the way) and the design of the wellness amulet (two-sided coin incorporating the AANA Watchful Care seal and the Wellness Program logo along with the wellness message of caring for our patients and caring for ourselves and others). The coins and other promotional items were distributed to the members at the wellness exhibit during the 2005 Annual Meeting. Wellness information will continue to be available at future AANA meetings.

The council will consider all the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Wellness, solicit suggestions and comments from members, and seek input from members of the AANA Board of Directors, committees and task forces, and external consultants in its efforts to develop the goals and strategies for implementing the program. During this transition year the CPIA will focus on promoting CRNA wellness and patient safety; developing strategies to implement the expert panel recommendations; coordinating activities currently in progress; and formalizing the structure, function, processes, budget, and staffing for the wellness program.

The CPIA is a multidisciplinary body with public representation concerned with issues involving public safety in anesthesia care including patient and practitioner education, advocacy, and wellness. Additionally, the CPIA acts as the autonomous appellate body for the credentialing of nurse anesthetists and their educational programs. The CPIA will continue its current responsibilities, as well as assume additional responsibilities for the Wellness Program.

Wellness is a skill set and a “life plan” that promotes career longevity and personal satisfaction. To follow the progress of the wellness program and to identify your own wellness quotient, watch for future announcements and information on these pages.

Choices—The First Steps on the Path to Wellness
AANA Director of Practice Sandra Tunajek, CRNA, DNP, is the primary staff responsible for all of the CPIA activities and the wellness project as well as the staffing for the AANA Peer Assistance Advisors Committee. Questions and comments can be addressed to stunajek@aana.com or 847-655-1115.

Office-Based Research Grant Applications Available

The Office Based Research Grant will be awarded to a CRNA researcher studying anesthesia outcomes in the office setting. The grant will be awarded up to the maximum amount of $10,000.

Eligibility Criteria: The investigator must be a CRNA who is an AANA member and is capable of conducting a research study regarding quality anesthesia care.

Deadline Date: November 15. For further information and an application, visit the AANA Foundation Web page at www.aana.com/foundation/, send an email mccollins@aana.com, or call the AANA Foundation at (847) 655-1171.

This grant was made possible through a contribution from the Society of Office Based Anesthesia.