

# IMAGINING IN TIME

**Kevin D. Corbitt, MA**

AANA Executive Assistant to the Executive Director  
(previously AANA Archivist-Librarian)

*This is a review of the history of the AANA Journal and its predecessor publications, the Bulletin of the National Association of Nurse Anesthetists, the Bulletin of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and the Journal of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.*

**Key words:** AANA Journal, Bulletin of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Bulletin of the National Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Journal of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

## CAPSULE HISTORY OF THE AANA JOURNAL

When the National Association for Nurse Anesthetists (NANA) began in 1931, there were no clinical journals for nurse anesthetists. The *AANA Journal* developed from a single published volume reporting on the clinical and business sessions at the NANA Annual Meetings in the early 1930s to become the premier clinical journal for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs).

Although NANA had been founded in 1931, its first foray into publications to disseminate information to nurse anesthetists came with the *Report of First Annual Meeting of the National Association of Nurse Anesthetists Held at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 13-15, 1933*. While this report in its unassuming green cover with black lettering was not numbered at the time of its publication, it

would be counted as the first volume when NANA began numbering its only publication in 1935. The 6-inch by 9-inch format of this initial report would be retained by what was to become the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists' (AANA) clinical journal until 1975.

Following the next NANA Annual Meeting in 1934, the Association published the *Report of Second Annual Meeting of the National Association of Nurse Anesthetists Held at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 25-27, 1934*. As with the previous report, it was not numbered at the time of publication, but it would be counted as the second volume when numbering began in 1935.

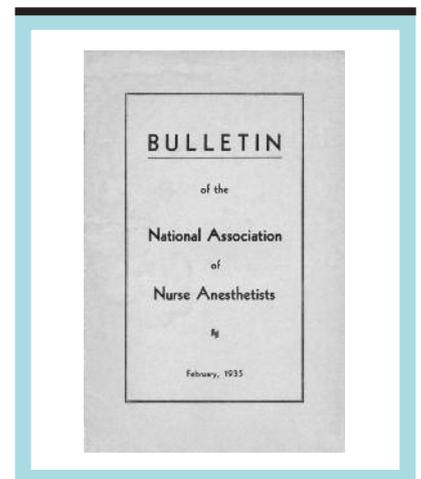
## First quarterly bulletin published in 1935

At the Annual Meeting in 1934, the members voted to refocus NANA's publication strategy from a compilation of presentations and descriptions of the NANA Annual Meeting to the production of a quarterly bulletin.<sup>1(p218)</sup> The first *Bulletin of the National Association of Nurse Anesthetists (NANA Bulletin)* appeared in February 1935 (Figure 1). The *NANA Bulletin* contained a mixture of clinical articles and reports, as well as information on the activities of individual members and developing nurse anesthetists' associations. The first 2 *NANA Bulletin* issues remained unnumbered as the reports from the first 2 Annual Meetings had been. Like the reports, the first 2 issues would retroactively be considered as the first 2 numbers (issues) of the *NANA Bulletin's* third volume. NANA began numbering the issues

of its only serial publication with the August 1935 issue, which was published as the third number of the third volume. Despite NANA's intention to publish the *NANA Bulletin* quarterly, only 3 issues made it to press in 1935.

With the January 1936 issue (volume 4, number 1), the *NANA Bulletin's* masthead changed to *The Bulletin of the National Association of Nurse Anesthetists* for a single issue. As a brief history of publications in *Notes on the History and Organization of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists* indicated, the publication "...shed its green cover and acquired a blue and silver cover."<sup>2</sup> The next year, a silver cover with blue accents and type replaced the blue and silver cover. The more formal title for the *NANA Bulletin* also would return with the February 1937 issue (volume 5, number 1). This title would be retained until 1939 when the members approved changing the organizational name from NANA to the American Asso-

**Figure 1. The first quarterly Bulletin of the National Association of Nurse Anesthetists was published in February 1935.**



ciation of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) at the Annual Meeting, according to Virginia S. Thatcher in her *History of Anesthesia with Emphasis on the Nurse Specialist*.<sup>1(p234)</sup>

The *Bulletin of the National Association of Nurse Anesthetists* became *The Bulletin of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists* (AANA *Bulletin*) with the November 1939 issue (volume 7, number 4) while the content remained a mixture of clinical articles and reports, as well as information on the activities of individual members and growing local, state, and regional nurse anesthetists' associations. As the *NANA Bulletin* had been for the NANA, the *NANA Bulletin* was AANA's only serial publication. Although the title changed, the cover remained silver with blue accents until it was replaced with a buff and tan cover in May 1942.

### More changes took place

- *First JAANA published in 1945.* In a short article in the first issue published under the title of *The Journal of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists* (JAANA), Edith Helen Holmes, CRNA, chairman of the Committee on Publications, explained the unannounced change to the members. Holmes indicated that many members felt that the *Bulletin* did not seem appropriate (Figure 2). She reported that the Board of Trustees took action to rename the publication starting with the May 1945 issue since it appeared that the Annual Meeting in October, where the decision would have been submitted to the members, might not be held.<sup>3</sup> Thatcher noted that, as the Board of Trustees expected, wartime restrictions forced AANA to cancel its 1945 Annual Meeting.<sup>2(pp245,252)</sup>

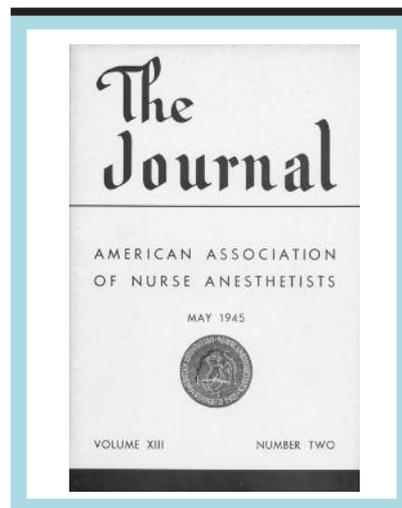
- *Separate member publication established in 1947.* Within 3 years of changing the publication's title,

AANA acted to provide for separate publications for delivering clinical information and Association news (Figure 3). According to Thatcher, who then served as AANA's editor, AANA added the *A.A.N.A. News Bulletin* (*News Bulletin*) on September 1, 1947 to accommodate the growing volume of information that the AANA wished to publish for its members.<sup>1(p257)</sup> Both the *JAANA* and the *News Bulletin* were issued on a quarterly basis with issues of each publication alternating throughout the year. *Notes on History* indicated “[b]asically the two publications serve different purposes...the *Journal* is primarily composed of clinical articles and the *News Bulletin* carries news of members, state, regional and national association affairs.”<sup>2</sup>

*Notes on History* recorded that “beginning with Volume 20 in February of 1952, an entirely new design for the *Journal* cover was adopted officially utilizing blue on white.”<sup>2</sup> Aside from the new cover, *JAANA* retained the same format from 1945 through the 1950s.

- *First Published List of Schools in 1954.* Although *JAANA*'s format did

**Figure 2. AANA's publication was renamed *The Journal – American Association of Nurse Anesthetists* in May 1945.**



**Figure 3. The A.A.N.A. News Bulletin, first published in September 1947, exclusively carried news of members, state, and regional and national association affairs.**



not change, the February 1954 issue (volume 22, number 1) was, as the editorial title announced, “Another Step Forward,” as it contained the first published list of approved schools of anesthesia for nurses. This historically significant *JAANA* issue is shown in a publicity photo (Figure 4).

- *Publication schedule changes in 1960.* As it entered the 1960s, *JAANA* moved from a quarterly publication schedule to a bi-monthly one starting with the February 1960 issue (volume 28, number 1). From 1960 through 1973, *JAANA*'s format remained unchanged.

- *New name and design in 1974.* With the February 1974 issue (volume 42, number 1), *JAANA* was retitled as the *AANA Journal* (the *Journal*) and given a “new design” with “...more and varied features of a non-clinical nature [which] will allow the *Journal* to reflect a broader view of nurse anesthesia as it affects and is effected by changes in our health care delivery system and the pro-

professionals and paraprofessionals with whom we work” reported an unsigned editorial (Figure 5).<sup>4</sup> The new design included different cover colors for each issue. One year later, the size of the *AANA Journal* page size expanded from the traditional 6-inch by 9-inch format that dated back to the first published report by NANA to a 7-inch by 10-inch format beginning in the February 1975 issue (volume 43, number 1).

- *Journal page size increased in 1980.* “There have been some changes made” announced the title of an unsigned editorial in the first issue of the *Journal* in the 1980s. The editorial continued: “Along with the obvious change in page size [to approximately 8.5 x 11 inches], we have also changed the design of the *Journal* somewhat. The style of type is different – it’s larger and clearer, making reading much easier. The combination of these factors will allow us to present clinical papers with their charts, illustrations and photos, in a sharper, less cluttered manner. Another reason for the increase in page size is advertising. A greater

**Figure 5. Beginning February 1974, AANA’s redesigned clinical publication was renamed the *AANA Journal*.**



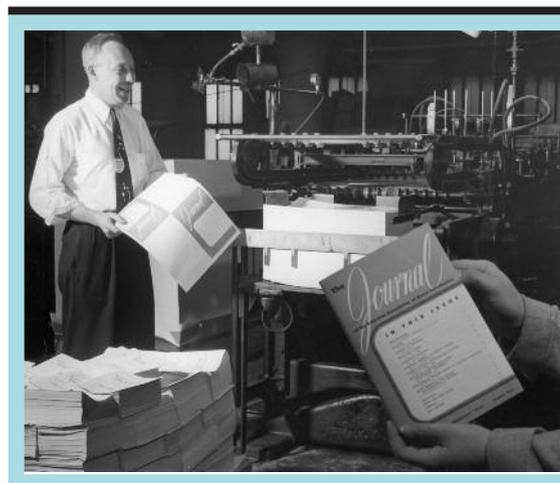
number of firms will now be able to utilize their standard advertisements (previously too big for our *Journal*), enabling us to obtain additional advertisers. It should be noted that advertising revenue, incidently, is what helps us to defray production costs.”<sup>5</sup>

- *1994 cover incorporates AANA seal.* In the 1993 annual report of the *AANA Journal* Editorial Advisory Committee, Chairman Chuck Biddle, CRNA, PhD, announced that the committee “...has recommended that the cover of the *AANA Journal* be redesigned.”<sup>6</sup> The following year Biddle reported that “[i]t was determined that the cover should incorporate the seal of the AANA and be rendered in the corporate turquoise color. Use of the AANA seal reinforces that the *Journal* is the official publication of the AANA and that the association has a long history, having been founded

**Figure 6. The February 1994 issue of the *AANA Journal* features a new cover that incorporates the AANA seal.**



**Figure 4. Publicity photo of the February 1954 issue of the *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists* at the printers.**



in 1931. The heritage of tradition and scholarship is part of the *Journal*.”<sup>7</sup> The first issue graced by the new cover was February 1994 (volume 62, number 1) (Figure 6).

- *Direct competition ends.* The *AANA Journal* lost its only direct competition for the nurse anesthetist market when W.B. Saunders ceased publication of *CRNA: The Clinical Forum for Nurse Anesthetists* after its November 2000 issue (volume 11, number 4). In her “Death of a Journal” article in *CRNA*’s final issue, Ira Gunn, CRNA, MLN, FAAN, noted that “[t]his has been the history of other professional journals specifically directed at the nurse anesthesia profession with the exception of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists’ own journal, which we receive as a benefit of membership in the organization.”<sup>8</sup>

### New millenium: new format

Taking a new look and format into the new millenium, the *AANA Journal* marches boldly toward its 70th anniversary in 2003 as the sole clinical journal for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists.

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