Patricia Fleming receives 13th Annual
Agatha Hodgins Award for Outstanding Accomplishment

The 13th Annual Agatha Hodgins Award for Outstanding Accomplishment was presented during the Annual Banquet to an AANA past president, who was elected to that office with the mandate of changing the direction of the Association. In presenting the award to Patricia Fleming, CRNA, President Peggy McFadden (1986-87) quoted a statement which Ms. Fleming had made in a 1986 AANA Journal editorial. "The future is in our hands, not the hands of the physicians. CRNAs will determine the future of nurse anesthesia, not anesthesiologists. We can achieve what we set out to do if we are willing to accept the costs of necessary actions."

Ms. McFadden pointed out that Ms. Fleming was the first chairman of the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists, and is currently a member of the editorial board of CRNA Forum. Since leaving the office of president, Ms. Fleming has remained active in government affairs for the Association, serving as 1984-86 Government Relations Committee chairman.

"The future is in our hands..."

In accepting the award, Ms. Fleming said, "I am deeply moved by this honor. In reality, this honor belongs to all those who have been responsible for the achievements attributed to me... It is all of you and those who could not be with us tonight who really earned this award for me. And how I do appreciate being your representative in this honor!"

Ms. Fleming acknowledged the North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists and her professional CRNA colleagues, "who taught me what leadership must be and gave me the opportunity to practice these skills"; and thanked the AANA Board of Directors, Council on Certification members, and CRNA Ed Kaeila, past executive secretary of the Council, for working with her in the development and formalization of the Council.

She also recognized the AANA members, "who desired a shift in the course in which AANA was moving, and elected me their leader to pursue that new direction."

Ms. Fleming is a graduate of St. Mary's Medical Center School of Nursing, Knoxville, Tennessee, and Charity Hospital School for Nurse Anesthesia, New Orleans. She is chief nurse anesthetist at Wesley Long Community Hospital in Greensboro, North Carolina. The Agatha Hodgins Award, named for the founder and first president of the AANA, is presented each year to the individual "whose foremost dedication to excellence has furthered the art and science of nurse anesthesia."

Mary Alice Costello receives 8th Helen Lamb Educator Award

Mary Alice Costello, CRNA-ret., was honored with the 1987 Helen Lamb Outstanding Educator Award during the AANA Annual Meeting.

Miss Costello served as AANA president from 1963 to 1964. In 1945, she founded the Cincinnati General Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia, the forerunner of the University of Cincinnati Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia, and served as its director for 27 years. More than 200 nurse anesthetists graduated from her school, and more than 50 of them were in the audience during the award presentation.

Shortly after her graduation from Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Hamilton, Ohio and her anesthesia education at Cincinnati General, Miss Costello was offered the opportunity by a physician to learn to administer spinal and epidural anesthesia, resulting in her being the first nurse anesthetist to become adept at regional anesthesia administration. She became known for this skill, instructing nurse anesthetists from around the country in regional anesthesia.

In presenting the award to Miss Costello, AANA President Peggy McFadden (1987-88) said, "Mary Alice has told me that when she volunteered to teach other nurse anesthetists regional anesthesia, she thought that only a few could be interested. Fifty people showed up."

"In addition to this historic first," said Ms. McFadden, "Mary Alice was the first nurse anesthetist to use a ventilator in the anesthetic care of a patient."

Ms. McFadden commented that she had been a student at Cincinnati General during Miss Costello's tenure as director of the School of Nurse Anesthesia. She said that although she did not know Miss Costello personally, when she was traveling frequently as president of the AANA, Miss Costello's reputation at Cincinnati General was legendary.

"Mary Alice was the first nurse anesthetist to use a ventilator in the anesthetic care of a patient."

AANA Executive Director John Garde also spoke about Miss Costello's contributions to nurse anesthesia education. "To those of you who were not around when Miss Costello was president, and during her active educational and clinical years, you really missed something. She was a true educator, practitioner and role model," he said.

"When I was in anesthesia school, my director, Sister Yvonne Jenn, traveled to Cincinnati General to learn endotracheal and regional anesthesia from Mary Alice," Mr. Garde added.

"Miss Costello was offered the opportunity by a physician to learn to administer spinal and epidural anesthesia, resulting in her being the first nurse anesthetist to become adept at regional anesthesia administration."

Miss Costello passed on her knowledge and experience in other ways. She was very active on the state level, serving as vice president and president of the Ohio Association of Nurse Anesthetists. On a national level, she was a member of many committees before serving on the AANA Board of Trustees and as AANA president. In the 1960s, she traveled to Algeria to serve as the sole anesthetist for a health care team sponsored by CAHE.

As the award was presented, Miss Costello said, "In accepting this honor, I salute all of you as winners. It is a true joy and a source of pride to me to be honored by you, whose work I so deeply admire. I say my thanks, and I also want to say your work and progress have brought distinction to the field of anesthesia. I'm deeply honored, grateful and proud, and I thank you from my heart."

The Helen Lamb Award was established in 1980 in memory of Helen Lamb Frost, an AANA founding member, past president, and nurse anesthesia educator.