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Letter from President Waters

Fellow Nurse Anesthetists,

Having just passed the half-way mark in my term as President of the NBCRNA Board, I think this newsletter offers a timely opportunity to report on the progress we are making. I want to thank AANA President Sharon Pearce, as well as the members of both the AANA and NBCRNA Boards, for their continuing diligence as we work through our respective challenges. We have accomplished a great deal over the past several months, after having signed The Memorandum of Understanding and Recognition Agreement, which paved the way for both organizations to work together effectively to meet the needs of nurse anesthetists.

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, we have established a productive relationship with AANA at both the Board and staff levels, and we advertised and received applications for the first Certificant Elected Director. Once we've received the AANA Board's input on the applicants, we will interview qualified candidates in May. Nurse anesthetists who have been certified and recertified by the NBCRNA then will have an opportunity to vote for the Certificant Elected Director during June 2015. All of this represents change, and progress.

One final thought. Throughout last fall and into the spring we've been providing speakers at state conferences around the country to discuss the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program. We've been encouraged by the substantive interest nurse anesthetists have shown, and the quality of the questions being asked. I'd also like to extend my thanks to the individual CRNAs who are volunteering their time on CPC committees, ensuring that the future of nurse anesthesia recertification is guided by the experience and knowledge of practicing CRNAs. The CPC Program will be stronger thanks to your help.

We are confident that when the CPC Program begins, nurse anesthetists will continue to demonstrate the commitment and dedication that has characterized our profession since its inception, characteristics that have stood the test of time and served us well.

Sincerely,

Edward Waters, DNP, CRNA
President, NBCRNA Board of Directors

Update on Elections

There are four open positions on the 2015-2016 Board of Directors: Certificant Elected Director, Public Member Director, Emerging Leader Fellow, and Surgeon Director. The AANA Board will provide input on the applicants for Certificant Elected Director and qualified candidates will be interviewed in May. The application process and selection criteria are the same for all Board-elected nurse anesthetist Directors, whether the Director is elected by the Board or by certificants. Nurse anesthetists who are certified

and recertified by the NBCRNA will have an opportunity to vote for the Certificant Elected Director during an open election in early June 2015.

Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Update

Are you interested in learning more about the history and background of the CPC Program? The NBCRNA recently posted a video by Chuck Vacchiano, PhD, CRNA, FAAN, which discusses the history, evolution, and development of the CPC Program. The history and development of the CPC Program was also the subject of a letter to the editor in the April 2015 *AANA Journal*. Visit the NBCRNA [website](#) to learn more about the CPC Program.

New NSPM Subspecialty Launched January 2015

Congratulations to the first five certified nurse anesthetists who received the NSPM Nonsurgical Pain Management Subspecialty Certification (NSPM-C) in February. The NSPM credential program measures the knowledge, skills, and abilities of NBCRNA-certified registered nurse anesthetists for practice in the NSPM field. The NSPM subspecialty certification was fast tracked when it became clear that changes in reimbursement criteria had the potential for not permitting CRNAs to be reimbursed for pain practice. A second group of certified nurse anesthetists recently completed the NSPM exam in early April. Applications will be accepted from July 1 through August 14 for the October 5 through 9 examination window. For more information on the NSPM subspecialty certification, visit the NBCRNA [website](#).

Professional Practice Analysis (PPA) Planned for May 2015

The NBCRNA will be conducting a professional practice analysis (PPA) for Continued Professional Certification (CPC) in May 2015. A PPA is used to determine the scope of knowledge that would be expected of certified (and recertified) nurse anesthetists in clinical practice, regardless of practice focus. The 2015 PPA is a follow up to the first practice analysis conducted by the NBCRNA in 2009, which was used to build the content outline for the CPC Examination. The CPC Examination will not be as encompassing as the NCE, rather focusing on the core domains relevant to every CRNA: airway management technique; applied clinical pharmacology; human physiology and pathophysiology; and anesthesia equipment and technology. The 2015 PPA will be used to validate and refine the existing content outline for the CPC Examination.

