

November 16, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

Thanks to everyone who participated in our survey. We had sincere input from many and will incorporate your ideas in our future educational experiences and will keep you posted on the potential formation of a CSA PAC and/or small donor committee. I will send out a summary of our questionnaire after our next Board meeting on Wednesday night.

As you know, our case to maintain supervision of the anesthetic care of patients is currently being reviewed by the Colorado Court of Appeals. Legal representation from both the Colorado Medical Society and our legal team presented the first round of written arguments on October 31st. The attorney general, nurse anesthetists, nurses, and the Colorado Hospital Association asked for a delay in their response. This was approved and they now will present their counter arguments in December.

We continue to work with Colorado Medical Society on Truth and Transparency legislation. Truth and transparency requires health care professionals to identify themselves to patients. It also is intended to prevent false or misleading advertising.

We are also going to assist Colorado's growing number of Anesthesia Assistants to apply for state recognition and the ability to obtain licensure. For those of you who do not know what AAs do, there is an excellent summary in the 2011 ASA newsletter. AAs are required to work with anesthesiologist medical direction much in the same way as physician assistants working with physicians.

On a positive note, the ASA prevented a National Opt-Out! Considerable pressure has been applied on CMS to revise the longstanding national requirement for physician supervision of nurse anesthetists. The administration's recently proposed "simplification" of the federal Conditions of Participation provided ample opportunity for opponents of physician supervision to make this change all across medicine. Fortunately, a change for anesthesia services was not part of the proposed rule-making.

Please save the date, January 24, 2012. We are co-sponsoring a dinner with COPIC. Dr. Jeff Varnell will present closed-cases. In addition we hope to many of you at the 19th Annual Anesthesia Symposium meeting at The Broadmoor, May 5-6, 2012.

Thanks for all you do! Every day you impact many apprehensive patients as they present for surgical or other procedure. Your vigilant care is extremely important and appreciated by your patients, surgeons, and hospital staff.

As always please feel free to contact me at any time. We have posted the AA summary as well as several studies that strongly support the importance of your care on our web site,

www.csa-online.org <<http://www.csa-online.org/>> .

Sincerely,

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