

ASA Director's Report

Defining purpose, safeguarding members



Steven L. Sween, M.D.

One of my responsibilities in serving as your Director to ASA is to submit an annual report to the ASA House of Delegates highlighting the activities and status of our component society. My 2005 annual report was submitted in August in which I stated the mission of the GSA and explained many of the ways that our organization is serving to achieve that mission. The mission statement

of any organization essentially defines its primary purpose, its reason to exist. I believe it is prudent for all organizations to revisit their mission statement from time to time as a means of self-assessment. I have taken the liberty of including several excerpts from my report in the summer GSA Newsletter of 2004. At the risk of repeating or perhaps plagiarizing myself, I believe the thoughts presented in 2004 bear repeating in my effort to determine whether GSA and its leadership are realizing the provisions stated in its mission.

The second portion of this article will be my brief reflections upon this year's highly successful "provisional" ASA Annual Meeting held in Atlanta on October 22-26.

GSA Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists to associate and affiliate into one organization all physicians and others in Georgia who are engaged in the practice of, or otherwise especially interested in anesthesiology and its subspecialties; to encourage specialization in this field; to raise the standards of the specialty; to safeguard the professional interests of its members; and in all ways to develop and further educate within the specialty of anesthesiology for the general elevation of the standards of medical practice and patient safety.

Education ("and in all ways to develop and further educate")

In keeping with its mission, the GSA continues to provide two excellent weekend educational meetings each year. The 2005 winter meeting "What's New in Anesthesiology?" was held January 22 at the Chateau Elan Winery and Resort in Braselton, Georgia. Program director Carolyn Banister, M.D. compiled an interesting group of speakers covering various and timely topics in anesthesia. Again this year, the winter meeting was held one full day rather than the former two half-days (weekend). As we have come to expect in the GSA,

Dr. Bannister once again did a fabulous job. To those of you who know her, I am certain that you will agree that she is truly an extraordinary person and professional, and a tireless community servant.

In July, the GSA held its annual summer meeting at the King and Prince Beach and Golf Resort on St. Simons Island, Georgia. An exceptional group of invited speakers discussed topics relating to "Anesthesia and Inflammation: The Next Challenge", under the fine program direction of Nathan Lewis, M.D. Nathan is the first anesthesia resident (now fellow) to take on the challenge of program director for a GSA educational meeting. Together with his co-directors, Manuel Castresana, M.D. and C. Alvin Head, M.D. from the Medical College of Georgia, they produced a world-class panel of speakers including ASA President Dr. Gene Sinclair. GSA is proud of the extraordinary quality of our semi-annual meetings.

Georgia is home to two excellent GME programs in Anesthesiology, one at Emory University in Atlanta under the leadership of Dr. Jim Zaiden, and the other at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta under the leadership of Dr. Al Head. GME in Anesthesiology is once again thriving in Georgia, with excellent opportunity for the bright and talented medical students who are now selecting our specialty for their life's work. GSA promotes and values the membership and participation of its resident component. We were especially pleased to have three anesthesia residents as members of the GSA delegation to the 2005 ASA Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. Established members of the anesthesia

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Rep. Price winter headliner



Rep. Tom Price

U.S. Representative Tom Price, MD, (GA-R,6) heads a nationally-regarded lineup of faculty at the GSA Winter Meeting, January 21, 2006 at Chateau Elan. An orthopedic surgeon and former state Senator, Dr. Price has vaulted to prominence in the Congressional health care debate even as a freshman.

"Anesthesia, Vintage 2006" provides registrants 8 CME hours in a one-day setting. For more information, go to www.gsahq.org.

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Editor's Corner**Carolyn Bannister, M.D.**
Editor

Hello Everyone,

Happy Holidays. I hope this finds all of you doing well. I hope you are making arrangements to attend the winter GSA meeting at Chateau Elan on January 21. The meeting is being coordinated by Dr. Eddie Johnston; the GSA member business meeting will take place at lunch. See Dr. Johnston's article in the newsletter for more details.

Please make plans early in the year for the summer GSA meeting. The meeting will be at Sea Pines and is coordinated by Dr.

Bruce Hines. Sea Pines is a popular draw for our Society and this meeting will be educational and fun.

This is the year that liability reform will have to be defended in the legislature. MAG worked very hard on behalf of all physicians in Georgia to achieve liability reform and every physician's help is needed in lobbying for its preservation. If you are not a member of MAG, please consider becoming a member. A phone call or visit to your representative's office speaking in favor of liability reform also will leave a great impression. We also need to actively educate our patients as to what this legislation means for them.

Our Society membership continues to grow; we added an additional ASA delegate last year when we exceeded 700 active GSA members.

I want to welcome Cynthia Thomas, recently recruited by Cornerstone to serve as GSA manager of member services, who has done a great job in her new role. Also we would not have the newsletter without the help of Jet Toney and Todd Holden at GSA and my executive assistant, Carole Vinnik.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season for each of you and your families. I hope to see many of you at the winter meeting!

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Report from the President

Brian L. Thomas, M.D.

Three years, well spent



How time flies! Only a year ago incoming GSA President Brian Thomas, M.D. was presenting predecessor Dr. Jordan Wetstone with an engraved crystal bowl for service. Dr. Thomas passes the leadership baton to Dr. Eddie Johnston at the Winter Meeting on January 21, 2006.

As I write what will likely be one of my last *GSA Newsletter* articles, I am relaxing on a balcony overlooking the Caribbean. Near the end of an enjoyable voyage away with family, palm trees swaying in the breeze, the gentle but relentless progression of the waves against the shore. It is an atmosphere quite conducive to reflection.

My three years as a GSA officer have likewise been a rewarding journey for me, in no small part due to the

remarkable group of people with whom I've been privileged to associate. While my tenure in the GSA has been relatively brief, the organization is successful year in and year out as a result of a core of individuals who give selfishly of their time

have been invaluable to me, and his work as governmental affairs chair has been invaluable for us all.

Dr. Peggy Duke has served our society well as alternate director, and has always been a good friend and more recently a trusted advisor. Dr. Yung-Fong Sung, whom we once designated "Treasurer-in-Perpetuity," will be handing in the keys to our cashbox at the end of this term. Our meetings run in the black, and our dues are among the lowest in the country. And we are all indebted to Dr. Carolyn Bannister, who spends too much of her time prodding procrastinators like me in her capacity as *Newsletter* Editor, in addition to serving tirelessly as chair of the Program and Education Committee.

I admit I was reluctant when I first answered Carolyn's invitation to coordinate a summer meeting. While it was a significant undertaking, with Carolyn's guidance and Jet's help, it was by most measures a success for all involved. This led to a second invitation from Dr. Bannister and the GSA nominating committee to serve a three-year stint as a GSA officer. I consulted with my good friend Dr. Chip Clifton, who assured me that while this was clearly a serious commitment of time, the GSA staff did the heavy lifting, which indeed they have.

Chip's service to the GSA has been legendary, watching over government payers in our state and fighting their oversights on our behalf. His tenure as a GSA officer is still talked about in smoke-filled rooms, when during his year as president he persuaded and cajoled 117% of the GSA membership to contribute at least half their net income to the PAC.

Unfortunately, space constraints prevent me from acknowledging all of the other individuals who make the GSA what it is. But I must offer most special thanks to my wife Lisa, who spent those evenings when I had meetings at Cornerstone home with our sons, corralling them into bath and bed without my assistance. Fortunately, being married to an Anesthesiologist (the best in the family, I'm told) we were able

I now know how great we have it here in Georgia

and energy and confer upon the GSA its true identity. Our association is arguably one of the most effective state societies in the country. After being this closely involved with the GSA and meeting others outside of our state, I now know how great we have it here in Georgia, both politically and professionally.

Our success as an organization is in no small part due to the executive secretary of the GSA, Mr. James (aka Jet) Toney. Jet has done so much to allow me to do so little, and made my time as an officer essentially painless. He is a respected, effective political lobbyist and is a tremendous asset (and value) to our organization. He has always managed to surround himself at Cornerstone Communications with effective people despite a difficult market for "public relations" types. I offer him my sincere thanks for making me look like I knew what I was doing. Perhaps with the exception of that one article...

There also exists a gifted core of Anesthesiologists who are truly the heartbeat of the GSA. Dr. Steve Sween is a beacon of stability as Georgia's ASA director, who has risen to prominence in the Southern Caucus of the House of Delegates by giving years of dedicated service. His advice and counsel

Tort reform will have no better chance of long-term survival than Alex's sand castle on the beach

to attend the GSA's family-friendly meetings as a unit.

Rest assured our Society will be in good hands for the next several years with Dr. Eddie Johnston of Rome ready to

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Report from the President:

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assume the president's duties, and Dr. Arnold Berry ascending to the president-elect position. The GSA has a remarkably "open" leadership organization, and will always need talent for the future. Your involvement does not have to entail running an education meeting or being an officer, though we certainly can use that help at any time.

Going forward, I can only plead with each of you to become more involved in your Society. Sadly, most of our members do not attend a single educational meeting in the course of the year. And for reasons that are very difficult for me to fathom, a number of members do not give any amount to the GSA-PAC. As I've said before in this publication, the return on your PAC contribution is phenomenal, considering the passage of tort reform in our state earlier this year and the relatively benevolent climate in which we practice.

The return on your PAC contribution is phenomenal

It has been a wonderful ride for me

But the work is never complete. The trial lawyers have already begun the predictable assault on key provisions of SB 3. They will be as relentless as (and much less pleasant than) the waves I'm listening to now. They will continue to pound the legislature until the political landscape has been altered to their liking. We're up against a well-funded adversary, and tort reform will have no better chance of long-term survival than Alex's sand castle on the beach unless you and your colleagues shore up our PAC, make key contacts with your politicians, and join us at the meetings.

While we're all pulled from many directions, a commitment to the GSA should be part of your time and effort, one that I'm sure you'll find worthwhile. It has been a wonderful ride for me; it would have been even better if a few more of you were along.

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ASA Director's Report:

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community must continue to encourage and emphasize participation and leadership within the medical student, resident and young physician groups. Our future depends on it.

Political Action (“to safeguard the professional interests of its members”)

Political action at any level is all about establishing and maintaining honest and respectful relationships with your elected officials and representatives. For many reasons, GSA has been very successful in developing excellent and lasting relationships with many if not most of our members of the U.S. Congress, even though GSA is a state-based organization. Many of our members of Congress are former members of the Georgia General Assembly, and those members are universally fond of and respectful of our GSA lobbyist, Mr. Jet Toney. Jet's long-standing relationships with Nathan Deal, John Linder, John Lewis, Johnny Isakson, David Scott, Phil Gingrey, M.D., Tom Price, M.D., and others, and their high level of trust in

ASAPAC has been extremely generous to those members of Congress from Georgia who have supported our issues

him has served GSA very well for many years.

ASAPAC has been extremely generous to those members of Congress from Georgia who have supported our issues, building on those important relationships. Unfortunately, GSA members have not been appropriately generous to ASAPAC the past few years, and the goodwill and mutual respect that we have worked so hard to develop may be at risk unless we continue to aggressively support ASAPAC. In addition to ASAPAC, it is imperative that we support our members of Congress directly. Staying in Congress involves aggressive fundraising these days, and participation in the political process involves contributing to the candidates of your choice. Frankly, our future is at great risk if we choose to stand on the sidelines.

The 2005 Georgia legislative session was marked with huge successes. No progress was made by non-physician providers in their recurring bid to advance their scope of practice by legislation rather than education. The General Assembly early in the session passed a very substantive medical liability reform act, including many favorable provisions such as a \$350,000 cap on non-economic damages.

Georgia physicians through the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) and their state specialty societies have been uniquely successful in defending the practice of medicine. Other states have been far less successful. For all of its

continued efforts and achievement, membership in MAG is highly recommended and a great investment. Physicians must be involved in the process.

The practice of medicine is under attack on many fronts. Medicare and Medicaid are a mess, and there are no easy solutions. The uninsured population continues to grow large, and healthcare system cost shifting continues to the insured population and commercial payers. Insurance premiums continue to rise, and employers are rightfully protesting the substantial subsidy they are providing to the entire system. Providers at all levels are being targeted for concessions of many types, and especially even deeper discounts in their fees.

Yet, the expectations for level of service and quality outcomes accelerate at an unprecedented pace. Physician and hospital liability for untoward outcomes, whatever the cause, has outrageously escalated in recent years. Many of our peers are freely participating in this “scramble for dollars,” providing under oath expert witness testimony that is neither expert nor truth. Quite frankly, in my opinion the U.S. healthcare system is nearly broken and in need of urgent repair. When the solutions to our health system problems are proposed, will you have a seat at the table? If not you, then who?

Participation in the political process does not have to be complicated, and need not involve a huge time commitment from all interested parties. However, every physician should feel compelled to comply with some bare essentials of political action. First and foremost, every physician should belong to the AMA. No excuses, I have heard them all. AMA even at twenty percent participation is medicine's loudest and most effective advocate in Washington, D.C. Imagine how effective we could be if AMA represented unanimous membership. There is no

Will you have a seat at the table?

more effective advocate for physicians in any state than the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG). Membership should not be optional for any Georgia physician. Nearly everyone appreciates the value of membership in their state and national specialty societies (GSA/ASA), but that by itself is not enough.

Finally, relationships with elected officials are not and cannot be maintained solely by the dues paid to medical societies. That is why participation in ASAPAC and GSAPAC are so vitally important. The funds contributed to these important political action committees are used exclusively to support political candidates who are hopefully friendly to our causes and supportive of our issues. If we are to maintain the excellent relationships that we have established with our

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ASA Director's Report:

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members in Congress, GSA members must appreciate the significant benefit received from participation in political action. Will you answer the call to political action, to defend your livelihood, your patients, and your life's work?

GSA Activities/Participation ("to associate and affiliate into one organization")

In my opinion, GSA is a great organization. Our state component society is perhaps one of the top five or six in the country in terms of its organization, and what we provide to our members. Thanks to the GSAPAC, our solid relationship with MAG, and especially our professional relationship with Mr. Jet Toney and Cornerstone Communications Group, GSA is well-positioned in the political arena. Our meetings are very well done, with great opportunity to network with our colleagues across Georgia. Unfortunately, they are sadly under-attended, and usually barely profitable.

GSA has been and continues to be served by dedicated and talented leaders, but quite frankly, the apparent lack of interest and weak commitment to future leadership is troubling. Apathy is a terrible thing. Assuming that someone else will be there to "carry your caduceus" and bear your burden is presumptuous,

Every physician should belong to the AMA

and very unwise. If you think it is too expensive to be involved in political action now, just wait to see what the future holds for you without representation and relationships in the Georgia General Assembly and the U.S. Congress. I truly believe we are at a critical juncture in the life of the US Healthcare system. Who will answer your call?

ASA Annual Meeting-2005

Due to the most unfortunate, incomparably destructive and catastrophic effects of Hurricane Katrina on the city of New Orleans and our Gulf Coast states, the 2005 ASA Annual Meeting was relocated to the city of Atlanta. No city can replace the spirit and culture that is New Orleans, but ASA leadership in its wisdom decided to proceed with a modified and respectful annual meeting in Georgia's capital city. It was unreasonable to expect that this year's annual meeting planned with but a few weeks notice would be as comprehensive or perhaps as enjoyable as it would have been in the Crescent City. In fact, in many ways the meeting deviated from what we have come to expect.

Most committee meetings and formal social events were cancelled, including the ASA Centennial Gala. However, nearly all of the valuable educational events and refresher courses continued, the expansive exhibit hall was full and the business of the ASA House of Delegates was conducted in a

very productive and successful manner. In short, the physician and executive leadership of ASA did a miraculous job in transferring the annual meeting to Atlanta, and our host city and its World Congress Center welcomed anesthesiologists from all over the world in grand style. By all accounts, this "provisional" annual meeting was a huge success. I have never been more proud to be an active member of the greatest physician specialty society on this planet.

There is no more effective advocate for physicians in any state than the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG).

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Special recognition is given to physicians in the NEXUS Medical Group practice in Macon who each donated \$300 in the autumn of 2004 and have repeated the donation in 2006. These doctors also donated \$500 each to ASA-PAC.

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Diane L. Chauffe, M.D.	Joseph F. Johnston, M.D.	Ronald D. Pace, M.D.	Cannon Turner, M.D. (R)
Bessie B. Chen, M.D.	Edwin D. Johnston, Jr., M.D.	Marvin M. Palmore, Jr., M.D.	James Donald Vinson, Jr., M.D.
Jonathan Clayton, M.D.	Aida I. Joiner, M.D.	Patricia E. Pardo, M.D. (R)	Annette D. Vizena, M.D. (R)
Charles L. Clifton, Jr., M.D.	Daniel M. Joseph, M.D.	Rafael P. Pascual, M.D.	Alan S. Walters, M.D.
Kamela Denise Coleman, M.D.	David Arnold Josephson, M.D.	Thakor B. Patel, M.D.	Timothy H. Ward, M.D.
Donald R. Cornutt, Jr., M.D.	Alan R. Kaplan, M.D.	Nirav M. Patel, M.D. (R)	Deryl H. Warner, M.D.
Gwen K. Davis, M.D.	Kevin Lee Kenworthy, M.D.	Amy Pearson, M.D.	Reuben P. Wechsler, M.D.
Lee S. Davis, M.D.	Grace S. Kim, M.D.	Stanford R. Plavin, M.D.	Philip H. Wells, M.D.
Preston Chandler Delaperriere, M.D.	Jung S. Kim-Wirsing, M.D.	Tonya R. Raschbaum, M.D.	Thomas B. West, M.D.
Frank W. DeMarino, M.D.	Jeffrey M. King, M.D.	Mary Ellen Raux, M.D.	Jordan M. Wetstone, M.D.
Sheryl S. Dickman, M.D.	Constantine Kokenes, M.D.	David A. Reeder, M.D.	Charles K. Williamson, M.D.
Alice Lachenal Dijamco, M.D.	Karolyn J. Kramer, M.D.	Carroll Reese, M.D.	Gordon S. Williford, M.D.
Janice Dodendorf, M.D.	Scott M. Kreger, M.D.	Jennifer Burdette Regan, M.D.	Robert Charles Wilson, M.D.
Lisa R. Drake, M.D.	Forrest J. Lane, Jr., D.O.	Linda B. Ritter, M.D.	Frederick P. Yilling, M.D.
Clark Driggers, M.D.	William A. Lardin, M.D.	Howard Keith Robinson, M.D.	
Wiley L. Drury, M.D.	Todd Lasher, M.D. (R)	Shannon L. Roden, M.D. (R)	(R) denotes Resident member,
Peggy G. Duke, M.D.	Erin F. Lawson, M.D. (R)	Kent H. Rogers, M.D., FRCP(c)	(AA) denotes Educational member
Rodrigo A. Duralde, M.D.	Thomas W. Lebert, M.D.	Luther C. Rollins, M.D.	
Henry M. Escue, Jr., M.D.	Edward W. Lee, M.D.	Tod L. Rubin, D.O.	
Faye M. Evans, M.D.	Nathan W. Lewis, M.D. (R)	Lawrence A. Sale, M.D.	
		James M. Sams, M.D.	

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Yung-Fong Sung, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of General Business Meeting - Aug. 7, 2005
King & Prince Resort, St. Simon's Island, GA



MINUTES

1. Welcome - Dr. Thomas called the meeting to order and thanked members for their attendance and participation in the weekend conference.

2. Review January General Business Meeting Minutes (published in Summer 2005 Newsletter). Minutes were approved.

3. Secretary-Treasurer's

Report- Dr. Sung presented the following report:

- Financial Summary Fiscal 1st Half 2005 (Budgeted v. Actual) showing total income of \$226,149.18 versus \$220,000 budgeted. Also shown, total expense of \$130,419.683 versus \$147,075 budgeted. Net income was \$95,729.50 versus \$72,925 budgeted.
 - P & L Last Three Years Comparison
 - P & L for meetings, Last Three Years
 - Balance Sheet showing Total Liabilities and Equities of \$151,172.71.
- The Financial Report was accepted as presented.
4. Government Affairs Report – Dr. Sween, immediate past chair of GSA Government Affairs Committee, presented the report in Dr. Richard Muench's absence. Dr. Sween stated that the GSA government affairs program is in good shape though participation in the GSA Political Action Committee is down from previous years. He said that much of the member contributions will be invested to save for use in the 2006 election year. On the federal level, Dr. Sween reported that ASA-PAC is an extremely strong and respected PAC. He said that U.S. Representative Tom Price (a physician) was supported at the highest level by ASA-PAC and that Dr. Price recognized that support when he spoke at the ASA Washington Legislative Conference earlier in the year. Dr. Price credited ASA-PAC for his victory in a close run-off election. He stated that members of the GSA can expect to see "hidden provider" legislation attempted again in Georgia as has been the case in other states. He also said that trial lawyers will go to the 2006 session of the Georgia General Assembly attempting to roll back the medical liability reforms which were passed in 2005.
5. GSA-PAC Report - *Dr. Sween provided the following financial report (see chart "A")*
6. ASA Director Report - Dr. Sween congratulated the summer

A	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Contributions to PAC	\$30,720	\$37,850	\$35,480	\$53,215	\$42,150	\$42,125	\$26,650
Number of Contributions	180	220	209	206	247	253	185
Interest Income	\$3,410	\$4,946	\$2,532	\$282	\$694	\$1,458	\$34
Political Contributions	\$5,650	\$42,000	\$33,100	\$78,600	\$24,410	\$47,250	\$2,350
Fund Balance Year End	\$50,239	\$50,444	\$55,246	\$23,144	\$52,227	\$45,845	\$61,095

meeting program directors for the excellent program and emphasized that the GSA is in good operational standing compared to other state societies.

7. Newsletter - Dr. Bannister thanked contributors to the Summer 2005 edition of the Newsletter and noted the increased level of advertising. She thanked advertisers for their support and asked for suggestions from readers.
8. Program and Education - Dr. Bannister thanked Dr. Lewis and Drs. Alvin Head and Manuel Castresana for their leadership in compiling the outstanding educational segment of the Summer Meeting. She noted Dr. Lewis is the first resident member to have served as program chair. The following list of future meetings was announced:
- August 5-7, 2005 Summer Meeting, Dr. Nathan Lewis, Program Director
King and Prince, St. Simons Island
 - January 21, 2006 Winter Meeting, Dr. Eddie Johnston, Program Director, Chateau Elan
 - July 28-30, 2006 Summer Meeting, Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head Island, S.C.,
Dr. Bruce Hines, Program Director
 - January 2007 Winter Meeting, Dr. Kathy Stack
9. Membership Committee Report/Approval of Applications – *The following membership report was accepted (see charts "B")*
The list of pending applications for membership was presented and approved by voice vote.
10. Committee Reports
- Bylaws -- Dr. Berry stated that the committee would review qualifications of Retired Members during the fall.
 - Anesthesia Care Team -- Dr. Odom reported that the

Continued on next page

Secretary Treasurer's Report:

(Continued from previous page)

ASA Committee on AA Education has plans for ongoing involvement in AA education accreditation. He noted the advancements of the AA training program at South College and nationally. He also noted the creation of a CRNA program at the Medical Center of Central Georgia with Mercer University.

- Resident Liaison -- Dr. Thomas introduced Dr. Thomas Philpot as the new Resident Liaison replacing longtime liaison Dr. Berry who is serving as GSA VP. Dr. Berry noted the quality of current residents.
- Resident Section -- Dr. Keith Johnson reported 20 resident attendees at the summer meeting and broad support for the GSA-PAC. He said the resident section is encouraging increased participation by residents in the GSA.
- Nominating Committee -- Dr. Johnston presented the following nominations based on ASA's notification that GSA qualifies for a 7th ASA delegate.
 - a. 7th ASA Delegate – Dr. Jay Johansen
 - b. 7th Alternate Delegate – Dr. Brian Thomas
 - c. To fill Dr. Johansen's Alt. Delegate seat – Dr. Richard Muench

The report was presented as information. The nominations were approved by show of hands vote.
- Crawford W. Long Award -- Dr. Duke urged members to write letters of nomination for the award.

11. New Business

Dr. Alvin Head stated that he is seeking election to the Council on Science and Public Health at the AMA and is doing so to "represent the Society and Anesthesiology." He encouraged membership in the AMA.

12. Adjournment

Membership Report (as of 6/21/2005)

Active Members		Pending Members	
Active	584	Active	34
Affiliate	21	Affiliate	0
Life	1	Resident	8
Resident	75	Retired	3
Retired	78	TOTAL	45
Disability	1		
In-Active	19		
TOTAL	779		



2005 Dues Report for Active

Paid	582 (active and p-active)
Non-Paid	66 (didn't pay/dropped)
PAC Contributors	185
Museum Donation	74

2005 AA-C Dues Report

AA-C Total Active	45
AA-C Active & Paid	32
AA-C P-Active	3
AA-C Student	4

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The Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists

SUMMER MEETING

July 28 - 30, 2006

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Committee Reports

Government Affairs Committee

Richard Muench, M.D., Chair



As we enter 2006, it is noteworthy to recall the accomplishments of 2005. We had a memorable year in 2005 due in large part to the passage of state level medical liability reform (SB 3) on February 16th and the commencement of Dr. Tom Price's inaugural term as Georgia's 6th District Congressman.

The passage of SB3 was monumental in scope from both a state and national perspective. This legislation sets Georgia apart in medical liability reform and should help minimize frivolous lawsuits along with helping control rapid escalation of the cost of medical liability coverage. One must keep in mind the commitment organized medicine has made to the political careers of politicians sympathetic to the cause of physicians and their patients. Without such commitment, passage of SB 3 would not have been possible. Much thanks is due to physicians who for years supported the PAC and the grassroots effort for such legislation. This was a statewide effort involving many medical organizations including our own GSA and the Medical Association of Georgia, in particular.

The importance of supporting politicians who are pro-medicine and pro-patient cannot be overstated. These are our voices in the legislative process. It is far better to make the

The importance of supporting politicians who are pro-medicine and pro-patient cannot be overstated.

financial sacrifice to support these politicians than to find us at the mercy of unopposed legislators.

Please keep in mind that this is more necessary since the passage of SB 3. Those who were against the SB3 legislation are working harder than ever to support candidates who will weaken or turnover SB 3. We cannot allow our position to weaken after such a hard-fought victory. Contributing to both your state and national PAC provides those that represent us clout in the legislative process. The political process runs on funding, like it or not. Time and time again during the ASA Legislative Meeting in Washington, DC, congressmen and their staff informed us of the influence of the ASAPAC. This money gets us noticed and allows us to interact in the political process

Continued on page 15

Program & Education Committee

Carolyn Bannister, M.D., Chair



Residents attended "en masse" at the 2005 Summer Meeting at the King and Prince Resort on St. Simon's Island.

The Program and Education Committee currently has enlisted program coordinators for the educational meetings through the winter of 2007. We are seeking coordinators for meetings after winter 2007. Please notify the committee of any interested members who you think would plan an appealing educational meeting.

The winter 2006 meeting is being coordinated by Dr. Eddie Johnston and is being held at Chateau Elan. The curriculum has variety and excellent speakers. This one-day meeting

promises to be a great educational opportunity and lot of fun. Participants may earn up to 8 CME units; the General Business meeting will be held at lunch. See the flier and ad on page 16 of the newsletter.

The summer 2006 meeting will be coordinated by Dr. Bruce Hines with Northside Anesthesia Consultants. This meeting will be held at Sea Pines on Hilton Head Island so mark your calendars and plan to bring the entire family to the beach. Dr. Kathy Stack at Emory has agreed to plan and lead the winter 2007 meeting. The dates and location will be announced later.

Thank you to all these physicians who donate time and energy to coordinate our educational meetings. The committee also appreciates all those who took time to respond to the educational survey conducted over the last year. The comments and suggestions for future meetings were collated and will be

Continued on page 15

Bylaws Committee

Proposed Bylaws Revisions Regarding Retired Members

Arnold J. Berry, M.D., M.P.H.
Vice-President

At its last meeting, the Board of Directors recommended that the section of the GSA Bylaws regarding retired members be reviewed. As a result of this request, the Bylaws Committee, consisting of Carolyn Bannister, MD; Brian Thomas, MD; Jordan Wetstone, MD; and Arnold Berry, MD, MPH, Chair, met by conference call to consider the need for changes in the section of the Bylaws pertaining to membership categories.

Upon review, it became clear that the GSA Bylaws were not consistent with those of the ASA regarding the definition of Retired Members. As a result, the Bylaws Committee recommends several changes to the Bylaws. (see accompanying box) The recommended revisions provide for three circumstances under which an individual could be eligible for consideration as a Retired Member. Additionally, the terms "Educational Affiliate Member" and "Educational Affiliate Student Member" would be revised, removing the word

"Affiliate", to be consistent with ASA terminology for these membership categories.

The proposed revisions of this section of the Bylaws will be considered by the Board of Directors and come for a vote to members attending the 2006 Winter Meeting. If these changes are ratified, those GSA members currently classified as retired will retain their status and will not be affected by these revisions. The complete Bylaws are accessible through the GSA website www.gsaahq.org under Member Services.



(The following amendments [printed in green] will be considered via vote by members at the General Business meeting on January 21, 2006 at Chateau Elan.)

4.02 Classes of Membership: The corporation shall have the following classes of Members:

- a) **Active Members:** A Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy who is engaged in the practice of the medical specialty of Anesthesiology, and who meets each of the following requirements, shall be eligible for membership as an active member: 1) the physician's "location of principal professional activity" (as defined below) is in the State of Georgia; 2) the physician is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Georgia (except for members of the United States Armed Forces or Public Health Service, who only need to be licensed to practice medicine in the District of Columbia or any state, territory or possession of the United States in order to satisfy this requirement); 3) the physician has successfully completed a training program in anesthesiology, accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education ("ACGME") or the American Osteopathic Association ("AOA"); 4) the physician concurrently maintains membership in ASA, as an active member thereof; and 5) the physician is not an active member of any other component society of ASA. The provisions of this Section 4.02(a) shall not affect the status of any individual who is already an active member of ASA. For the purposes of these Bylaws, the phrase "location of principal professional activity" shall mean the place where a member performs the greater part of his/her professional duties (as distinguished from his/her place of residence or location of temporary or other professional pursuits). In the event of uncertainty or dispute as to the location of principal professional activity, the matter shall be referred to the Committee on Membership for a ruling, and its decision shall be final.
- b) **Resident Members:** A physician who meets each of the following requirements shall be eligible for membership as a resident member: 1) the physician continues to maintain full time participation as a resident in an anesthesiology department in the State of Georgia whose core residency program is accredited by ACGME or AOA; and 2) the physician has not at any time been a resident member for a period exceeding four (4) years, unless an extension of the physician's training program has been approved in writing by the director of the program and an extension of the physician's status as a resident member has been correspondingly extended by the Secretary of the corporation.
- c) **Affiliate Members:** Any of the following persons shall be eligible for membership as affiliate members: 1) a physician not engaged in the clinical practice of anesthesiology; 2) a scientist, who, while not engaged in administering clinical anesthesia to humans, is nevertheless interested in anesthesiology; 3) a physician who is in the service of the United States Government; or 4) a physician who resides outside the United States and is not a member of any other component society of ASA.
- d) **Student Members:** Any undergraduate medical student attending an accredited medical school located in the State of Georgia shall be eligible for membership as a student member.
- e) **General Practice Members:** A physician who meets each of the following requirements shall be eligible for membership as a general practice member: 1) the physician is engaged in the general practice of medicine; 2) the physician performs some anesthesia, but such anesthesia constitutes a minority of his/her total practice; 3) the physician's location of principal professional activity, as defined in Section 4.02(a) of these Bylaws, is in the State of Georgia; and 4) the physician is licensed to

practice medicine in the State of Georgia.

- f) **Retired Members:** Any physician who has been an active member of this corporation or its unincorporated predecessor in good standing for at least a period of ten (10) years and who has attained the age of 65 years or has become permanently disabled or has retired from professional medical activity, shall be eligible to become a retired member. The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, modify or waive the ten (10) year time requirement. Retired membership terminates upon resumption of any professional medical activity.
 - 1) An individual who has been an Active and/or Affiliate Member for ten (10) or more years and has retired from practice shall be eligible for membership as a Retired member. The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, modify or waive the ten (10) year time requirement. If a retired member resumes active practice, they must so notify the Executive Office and shall thereupon be reinstated as an Active member.
 - 2) An individual who has been an Active and/or Affiliate Member for ten (10) or more years and has reached the age of 70 years shall be eligible for membership as a Retired member. The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, modify or waive the ten (10) year time requirement.
 - 3) Active members of this corporation who are disabled and therefore unable to engage in the practice of their profession for one year or more shall, at their request, be placed in retired membership status. When they resume active practice they must so notify the Executive Secretary and shall thereupon be reinstated as Active members.
- g) **Life Members:** Members elected as life members to the corporation's unincorporated predecessor prior to January 1, 1968, shall continue as such in the corporation and shall have the same status as active members. Wherever the term active member is used in these Bylaws, it shall be construed to include life members.
- h) **Honorary Members:** Any licensed physician or scientist who has rendered years of faithful service to the corporation or its unincorporated predecessor, has made a significant contribution to anesthesiology, or has attained exceptional eminence in anesthesiology and related subjects, shall be eligible for membership as an honorary member. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, a person shall be elected to honorary membership in the following manner: 1) an active member must request the Committee on Membership to consider such person for honorary membership, in accordance with such procedures as the Committee on Membership or the Board of Directors may from time to time designate; 2) the Committee on Membership shall then make such recommendations as it deems appropriate to the Board of Directors; 3) the Board of Directors may, in its discretion, approve such person for honorary membership or may request the approval of the membership by majority vote, in accordance with the provisions of Article V of these Bylaws; 4) upon approval by the Board of Directors or the membership, whichever is applicable, such person shall be deemed an honorary member of the corporation.
- i) **Educational Affiliate Member:** An individual who meets the following requirements shall be eligible for membership as an educational affiliate member: 1) He or she is licensed as a Physician Assistant in the category of Anesthesiologist Assistant by the Georgia Composite State Board of Medical Examiners; 2) and is a graduate of a CAAHEP accredited program for the Education of Anesthesiologist Assistants.
- j) **Educational Affiliate Student Member:** An individual who meets the following requirements shall be eligible for membership as an educational affiliate student member: 1) He or she is a student in a CAAHEP accredited program for the Education of Anesthesiologist Assistants in the state of Georgia.

A Family's Guide to Financial Planning



Greg Katulka exhibits at GSA annual meetings.

A family conversation about wealth and inheritance

Talking to your children about your finances is about more than telling them the location of your most important documents. It's also about imparting responsibility and respect for your values regarding money.

As parents grow older, they must eventually face the challenge of talking to their adult children

about wealth, inheritance and the financial implications of their mortality. Unfortunately, "many parents postpone [the conversation] because they think they have time," says Dr. Eileen Gallo, a Los Angeles psychotherapist who counsels families about the emotional aspects of wealth.

That can be a mistake. Communicating openly with your kids won't solve every problem, but it can reduce family conflict and provide you with more options for empowering your children to act on your behalf, should it become necessary. Open communication can also help prepare your loved ones to become responsible inheritors.

A Family Meeting of the Minds

For many parents, the key question is how and when to begin that conversation. Many people assume that family meetings are important only for the very wealthy. But experts say that regardless of your net worth, an annual family meeting can help you create a comfortable forum for discussing your values, priorities and goals related to managing money -- and important details about your wishes for the disposition of your estate.

Family meetings also enable parents to clarify their intentions related to any possible misunderstandings that might arise from disproportionate splits of an estate. This is especially important when remarriages and second families are involved, or when parents want to name charities or unknown entities as beneficiaries. "If there are no surprises, you may avert a legal battle later," says Steve Hartnett, Associate Director of Education at the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys in San Diego, Calif.

Conversation Points

Begin your family meeting with a discussion of the basics. You should identify your executor and specify where you keep your will and other important documents and account statements. Although it's not important that everyone know all the details of your financial situation, it is imperative to make at least one family member aware of the location of important records.

Some of the specific issues you may wish to discuss in this regard include the following:

- Have you granted someone a durable power of attorney and a power of attorney for health care? Where are the documents located?
- Do you have a safe deposit box? Where is it located, and

where is the key and the list of contents?

- Does your retirement program have a death benefit for survivors?
- Have you established any trusts, and for what purpose?
- How have you arranged to handle any applicable estate taxes?
- Have you shared the names and contact information of your financial, tax and legal advisors with your children?

A Trusted Strategy

When talking to your adult children about wealth, "it is important to provide a very practical financial education on managing your assets," advises estate planning attorney Jon Gallo, who with Dr. Eileen Gallo, his wife, co-authored *The Financially Intelligent Parent* (to be released in June 2005). One approach is to introduce your children to a trusted advisor who can help them understand their financial options and encourage them to make choices that support their long-term interests, such as retirement planning or education planning for their own children.

Many parents use trusts to transfer assets to their children or grandchildren. A trust may be used temporarily to hold and manage assets until a young adult matures. Other parents choose to set up a trust for life to protect their children's assets from creditors, divorce settlements and estate taxes. It's important to talk about the trust with one's beneficiaries and explain its purpose.

Wealth and Values

One option for parents seeking influence is an incentive trust, which enables parents to establish terms governing the distribution of funds. An incentive trust can provide financial motivation for adult children to excel and to meet certain goals. Still, Gallo cautions that there can be "a fine line between adding too many constraints and providing positive incentives for the beneficiary to be a productive member of society."

Regardless of how you plan to transfer your wealth, raising children who can identify their own passions and interests in life is the best way to ensure responsible money habits. "Trusts and inheritance decisions should provide enough money to encourage productivity, but not so much money that your adult children do nothing," says Hartnett.

Work with your attorney and your financial advisor to determine what funding vehicles are appropriate for your goals.

Gregory V. Katulka is a Vice President and Financial Advisor with Wachovia Securities in Braselton, GA.. Mr. Katulka's practice is focused on managing comprehensive financial plans for professionals and business owners in the areas of investments, estate planning and insurance. For more information, please call Greg at (770) 531-5104

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GSA Committees And Chairs For 2006

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Volunteer Needed

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Government Affairs Committee: (Continued from page 12)

at a level that would not be achievable by other mechanisms.

We need to also concentrate our efforts on the GSAPAC. Support of the GSAPAC has dropped this year due to the domestic and international need for disaster relief. But in 2006, our dedicated support of the political action committees must again be strong. After all is said and done, it is the level of our campaign contributions that determines our effectiveness in maintaining public policy that protects patient safety and keeps liability costs from ruining our practices.

A well funded PAC makes it easier for GSA to communicate viewpoints with legislators and their staff. Keep in mind that a long lasting rapport sometimes develops during those few minutes when making a contribution to a candidate. We are showing interest in their success as well as our own.

As 2005 closes, I would personally like to thank Jet Toney and Steven Sween, MD for their tireless efforts on behalf of GSA and for their guidance.

Program & Education Committee: (Continued from page 12)

circulated to future meeting coordinators to help in planning meetings that meet the needs of the membership.

The committee would like to hear from any members interested in coordinating one of the educational meetings held biannually for the GSA. We are fortunate to have the assistance of the staff at Cornerstone Communications. Their efforts on our behalf in securing desirable meeting locations, negotiating contracts for meeting facilities, obtaining speakers' materials, advertising the meetings, registering attendees and awarding CME credits under the auspices of MAG are invaluable.

We welcome ideas for improvement of format, dates, location, content, agenda, and potential speakers for the educational programs. This is your society; one of the important missions is educational advancement for the membership for life-long learning. Please let us know what you wish to have presented in the educational meetings.

Winter Meeting 2006

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ONE-DAY EVENT

8 CME HOURS



Chateau Elan

Anesthesia, Vintage 2006

Program Director
Eddie Johnston, M.D.

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January 21, 2006
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