2026 TANA PAC Report

Current PAC Account Balance: $ 70,125

$46k contributed over the last 12 months by 114 donors. $8,209 contributed in the last month.

92 Current monthly contributors, several monthly contributors recaptured during recent Region Challenge.

2026 TANA PAC Legislative contributions:

- Senate Subtotal: $16,500
- Leadership Subtotal: $20,500
- House Subtotal: $25,250
- Governor/Inaugural: $10,000- PENDING FUNDS

TOTAL PLANNED: $ 72,250 (appox. $23,000 has cleared the account)

Government Relations Committee Report

October 12, 2026

The Government Relations Committee remains focused on protecting CRNA scope of practice, addressing reimbursement inequities, and improving access to anesthesia care throughout Tennessee.

Reimbursement Advocacy: Following the unsuccessful provider parity effort during the 2026 session, TANA continues working with our lobbying team, coalition partners, and the AANA to evaluate alternative strategies and obtain data addressing the fiscal concerns that prevented legislation from advancing.

Federal Supervision Opt-Out: Pursuing Tennessee's federal supervision opt-out through executive action remains a priority. Continued advocacy emphasizes improving access to anesthesia services, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

AA Rulemaking: TANA continues monitoring the Board of Medical Examiners' rulemaking process following the April hearing, with a focus on appropriate safeguards and protecting CRNA practice.

2027 Legislative Session: Preparations include evaluating potential legislation, strengthening relationships with policymakers and coalition partners, and coordinating advocacy strategies with our lobbying team and the AANA. Reimbursement reform and protection of CRNA scope of practice remain central priorities.

As my tenure concludes, I sincerely thank our CRNA committee members: Jim Alberding, Eric Callan, Katie Chmelicek, Alan Davenport, Jeremy Donegan, Maria Freeman, Chris Hulin, Jeff James, Brad Koss, Vic Martin, Rachel Nall, Russell Proffitt, Meagan Serratt, Jerrod Weems, and Matt Wilder; and our SRNA committee members: Colby Dome, Ashley Ivey, and Kayla Raines. Your time, perspective, and commitment have strengthened TANA's advocacy efforts.

I also thank Tausha Alexander, the MNA Government Relations team, Erica Vick Penley and the Bass, Berry & Sims team, and TANA leadership and staff for their support. It has been a privilege to serve alongside you and help prepare the way for continued progress on behalf of Tennessee CRNAs.

Respectfully,

Stephen Finder, DNP, CRNA
Government Relations Chair
Immediate Past President

TANA Public Relations Committee
Annual State Meeting Report FY 2026

Chair: Hope Ferguson

The Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TANA) Public Relations Committee has continued its dedicated efforts to support the organization and keep our membership informed, engaged, and connected.

We began the year by celebrating CRNA Week, which generated excellent engagement across our social media platforms. Our members actively participated in these efforts, helping increase visibility and promote awareness of the CRNA profession.

The committee continues to update the TANA website weekly with relevant topics, professional updates, and healthcare news to keep members informed. We also highlight important healthcare articles, professional developments, and events across our social media platforms to encourage continued engagement and provide valuable resources to our membership.

At the end of February, I attended the AANA Public Relations Town Hall, which provided valuable information and insight into upcoming public relations initiatives. Updates were shared regarding the focus areas for the Mid-Year Assembly.

Over the past year, TANA engaged a public relations firm to strengthen our communications and outreach efforts. The committee has worked with the firm on a weekly basis to ensure our public relations initiatives align with the needs, interests, and goals of our members.

Additionally, this past month, we partnered with other state associations for the PAC Challenge, which was a success. This collaboration provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships across state associations and support our collective advocacy efforts.

Moving forward, the committee will continue to prioritize member engagement, consistent website updates, strategic social media outreach, and collaboration with our public relations firm and other state associations.

This concludes the TANA Public Relations Committee Board Report.

Very Respectfully,

Hope S. Ferguson

Hope S. Ferguson, DNP, MBA, CRNA, FAANA
TANA PR Committee-Chair

Leadership Identification Committee Report
October 16, 2026
Suzanne Wehner, Bethany Seale, Sheila McCarley

The Leadership Identification committee met in February in preparation for the upcoming elections in Districts 1, 3 and 5. We worked to identify and recruit strong candidates to create competition in our elections and bring in new interest and talent to TANA. We succeeded in Districts 1 and 5. Each having 2 strong candidates running for office. We hope that any new engagement with our membership brings long-lasting involvement with TANA .

TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

WELLNESS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

October 2026 | Committee Chair: Katie Cooper, CRNA

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Wellness Wednesday:** Continued monthly and as-needed social media posts; the committee is encouraging short videos, CRNA/SRNA wellness tips, and book or podcast recommendations.
- **Education:** The successful June webinar, “Rethinking Eating Our Young: Improving Preceptor-Preceptee Wellness in the Clinical Environment,” focused on stressors, communication, psychological safety, and practical strategies to improve the clinical learning experience. A QR quote for TANA members to view the webinar will be available at the Fall Meeting.
- **Committee engagement:** NAR/SRNA representation has been added to help identify learner needs and guide future wellness programming.

TANA FALL MEETING | OCTOBER 16–18, 2026

- **Interactive Wellness Activity Station:** Planned for Friday’s welcome reception and Saturday expo hours, with activities such as cornhole, mini golf, foam-board axe throwing, large coloring page, other crafts, motivational stickers, and make-your-own wellness bags. Volunteers and donated raffle-basket items are needed and many items have been received.
- **Wellness panel:** “Rethinking Eating Our Young: Improving Preceptor-Preceptee Wellness in the Clinical Environment” is scheduled for Friday at 1:45 p.m., with Brittney Wright and Kristina Heering presenting and Katie Cooper moderating.
- **Guided meditation:** Planned for Saturday at 6:30 a.m., led by Katie Cooper in a separate room.
- **Additional engagement:** The committee is coordinating wellness giveaway items and the bar will serve 2 wellness beverages, The Yellow Brick Road and The Ruby Slipper for the expo. Massages will be offered Saturday morning and the dogs will be visiting Friday afternoon.

UPCOMING PRIORITIES

- **Future webinar:** A second webinar is being considered, preferably for January. Potential topics include sleep hygiene, occupational stress, imposter syndrome, second-victim syndrome, substance-use concerns, transitions to practice, and boundaries.
- **2027 retreat:** Explore a possible April or May 2027 wellness retreat at Bask Retreat Center in Centerville, Tennessee.
- **Resource development:** Explore wellness journals for students featuring reflection prompts and QR codes linking to TANA/AANA wellness resources. These will be offered at the Fall meeting, but future donations are being considered.

Committee support requested: Fall Meeting station volunteers, wellness-basket donations, and ideas or presenters for the next webinar.

October 15, 2026

2026 Education Committee Report

TANA Board of Directors,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the chair of the TANA Education Committee. Below is a summary of activities this year.

- Language for proposed legislation and TN Board of Nursing rules hearing items were reviewed and included discussions with the TANA Lobbyists and CRNA members of the Board of Nursing.
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- TANA Day on the Hill participation was strong from CRNA program faculty and SRNAs.
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- Seven programs had students attend the AANA Mid Year Assembly.

Suggested focus for next year:

With new programs opening and others in the planning stages, competition for clinical sites will become even more of a problem than it currently is. TANA and the Education Committee could be helpful in establishing a communication channel for shared clinical site needs and other educational shared initiatives.

Sincerely,

Richie Flowers, DNP, CRNA, FAANA
2026 Education Committee Chair

Program Administrator

Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia