

FROM: Director, District of Columbia Society of Anesthesiologists
Subject: Annual Report
Date: September, 2006

The membership of the District of Columbia Society of Anesthesiologists (DCSA) is:

Active - 237
Resident/fellows - 57
Retired - 50
Affiliate - 4

Anesthesiologist Assistants (AA) continue to work in the Anesthesia Care team model. The AAs have helped with the shortage of anesthesia providers in the District. The AAs obtained licensure last year. The ratio of physician to AA was 1:3. This is obviously different from the Nurse Anesthetist (NA). DCSA lobbied the DC council and the ratio was changed to the traditional 1:4. DCSA continues to strive to ensure that AAs are equal participants in the anesthesia care team.

DCSA has had discussion with the Department of Anesthesiology and the Department of Allied Health at George Washington University. The discussion has been focused on the opening of an AA educational program. To date, both departments have looked favorably upon this idea. There is concern regarding the financial needs in establishing such a program. DCSA and George Washington expect to seat the first class of Anesthesiology Assistants students in September, 2007.

Membership continues to be a challenge. The executive committee is attempting to have more attending and resident participation in DCSA matters. DCSA this year sponsored a residents' party in celebration of the completion of the in-training exam. All were welcome to drive home the point that our profession is "one generation away from extinction". This was well received and DCSA plans to have this event as a standing function.

DCSA continues to struggle with the low turn-out in ASA/PAC contribution. To address this apathy, DCSA has arranged for a one-day Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) re-certification program. This program is free to all DCSA members. The program is designed specially for anesthesiology residents/attendings, since the background of the participants allows ACLS educators to focus on training the students on more practical matters.

The only requirement to take part in this program is to make a donation to the ASA/PAC. DCSA is looking forward to have another ACLS training program before the national meeting.

DCSA will continue to work closely with ASA/DC. DCSA's goal is to be a liaison between ASA/DC and legislators. DCSA will accomplish this goal by bringing a legislative aide to work with a member for the day so that there is a more complete appreciation of the anesthesiologists' role as operating room, intensive care, and pain physician. As a result of the increased awareness, we hope that the aides will convey our concerns to Congress in terms of relevant legislation and payment issues.

All of the above would be impossible to accomplish without the help of special people, including Drs. Eileen Begin, Susan Verghese, Carl Sylvester, Raafat

Hannallah, Joel Zivot, Johan Suyderhoud, Ms. Claire Chandler, Ms. Lisa Percy, Ms. Diane Turpin, Mr. Ron Szabat and Mr. Manuel Bonilla.

John F. Dombrowski, MD
Director