



Mary Dale Peterson, MD, MSHCA, FACHE Candidate for President Elect

m.peterson@asahq.org 361-774-5530 (cell)

I have served as your 1st Vice President this last year after serving as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer seven years prior to that. So what has happened over the last year?

- ASA successfully fought the VA plan to exclude physician anesthesiologists from the OR- nobody thought we could win this, but the all-out grass roots efforts to ensure quality care for our deserving veterans won the day.
- ASA's journal, *Anesthesiology*, is the #1 Journal in the anesthesia profession.
- We continue to fight for ridiculous, unnecessary administrative burdens and are winning many of these: **not** labeling oxytocin as a hazardous material, clarifying the rules for compounding versus administration of drugs- **no 1 hr. rule!** These are just a couple of examples, but there are many more where other entities promulgate regulations and guidelines with little to no evidence.
- Improved educational resources with the simulation modules.
- **We are not done!** To ensure that the practice of anesthesiology remains vibrant and focused on improving patient care we need to invest even more in:
 - **Developing leaders of the future**
 - **Advocate for decreasing unnecessary regulations**
 - **Promote the value of physician led anesthetic care**

As I have traveled across the country this past year, I share your concerns about the future of our profession. We have seen much upheaval in a number of practice locations where large numbers of physician anesthesiologists who are practicing good medicine are being displaced because of contract changes. I think we need to clarify what the ethical practice of anesthesiology entails and the difference between medical direction and supervision. Another significant issue is the continued disparity in government payments for anesthesia versus the rest of medicine. This is an issue we need to revisit and is part of the reason we are seeing the hospital contractual changes more frequently, especially those working in hospitals with a large percentage of Medicaid and Medicare that must be subsidized.

I firmly believe the future is bright for our specialty as long as we are willing to be leaders practicing high quality of care and exhibiting professionalism at all times. I am committed fully to meet the many challenges that we face and advocate on behalf of all of our physicians. ASA needs to continue to provide the resources and encouragement to our members so they can maximize their potential. **I am confident that together we can strengthen the practice of anesthesiology and secure its future.** I hope you will give me the opportunity to serve you in this leadership role. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mary Dale