



March 1, 2024

TO: ARC-AA Sponsoring Organizations: American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants

FROM: Ty Townsend, CAA, Chair  
Jennifer Anderson Warwick, MA, Executive Director

RE: Highlights from the ARC-AA Board Meeting – January 2024

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The Accreditation Review Committee for the Anesthesiologist Assistant Board of Directors met on January 30, 2024, via web meeting. The highlights from the meetings:

1. Programs. Currently, there are 20 CAAHEP Accredited Anesthesiologist Assistant Programs. For the list of accredited programs, visit <https://www.caahep.org/students/find-an-accredited-program>.
2. Request to Sponsor the ARC-AA. The ARC-AA is proceeding with adding a sponsor, increasing the number of organizations from two to three. When a national professional organization believes that its membership has legitimate concerns about, and responsibilities for, the quality of personnel prepared in Anesthesiologist Assistant educational programs accredited by CAAHEP, the organization may petition the ARC-AA for approval to join them as a sponsoring organization. If the CoA determines that it wishes to recommend this organization for sponsoring membership, it will convey that recommendation to CAAHEP for a vote by the full Commission. Such votes take place at the next Annual Meeting. Any organization wishing to sponsor the ARC-AA must also be approved as a sponsoring member of CAAHEP.
3. Branding. The ARC-AA is conceptualizing, developing, and launching a branding campaign and a website. The rollout of the new website will take place later this spring. The rollout of the logo is taking place now.
4. CAAHEP Report. The relationship with CAAHEP continues to strengthen.
  - a. On October 26, 2023, the CAAHEP Commission approved changes to the CAAHEP Bylaws. The updated Bylaws have been published on the CAAHEP website at <https://www.caahep.org/about/governing-documents>
  - b. The 2023 CAAHEP Annual Report is now online at <https://www.caahep.org/news/annual-report>. Some highlights:
    - The reports list the occasions where the CAAHAP Board provided letters of support, including the letter of concern CAAHEP sent to the NCCAA about their substantial changes to exam eligibility requirements.
    - At the end of the fiscal year, CAAHEP had 2,555 accredited programs from 31 professions.
    - Over the past ten years, CAAHEP added seven new health profession disciplines - Art Therapy, Assistive Technology, Clinical Research, Inclusive Rehabilitation Sciences, Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring, Orthoptic Fellowship Programs, and Orthotist and Prosthetist Assistant.

- The July 2024 CAAHEP CoA Day event and Accreditation Workshop will be held July 18-19, 2024, in Austin, TX. Educators, program administration, clinicians, and those involved in the accreditation process will benefit from the general sessions, breakout workshops, networking events, and the opportunity to meet CAAHEP leaders and members of the Committees on Accreditation (CoAs). Attendees can expect to gain a greater understanding of the role CAAHEP accreditation plays in assisting your program to achieve excellence in health sciences education.

## 5. Next Meetings.

2024

Saturday, April 13 @12-4 PM Eastern Time	@AAAA, Orlando
Tuesday, July 9 @6-7:30 PM Eastern Time	web meeting
Thursday, October 17 @3-7 PM Eastern Time	@ASA, Philadelphia

The Purpose of ARC-AA: Act under the auspices of CAAHEP<sup>1</sup> (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs), which is the national voluntary accreditation agency for the Anesthesiologist Assistants, assessment of educational outcomes, and recommendation to CAAHEP for accreditation of AA educational programs that meet the CAAHEP Standards.

AAAA and ASA sponsor the ARC-AA:

- a. each organization nominates individuals to the ARC-AA, and the ARC-AA elects them.
- b. fiduciary responsibility of the directors of the board is to the ARC-AA and not the ASA or AAAA

Board Members of the ARC-AA:

Ty Townsend, CAA (AAAA), Chair	Lindsey Amerson, CAA (AAA)
Jermaine Leclerc, CAA (AAAA), Vice Chair	Sam Gumbert, MD (ASA)
John Scott, DO (ASA), Treasurer	Gaurav Patel, MD (ASA)
John Kimbell, CAA (AAAA), Past Chair	Matthew Pinegar, MD (ASA)

<sup>1</sup>CAAHEP = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs