



Here's What's Up!

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Message from FSA President



Hello FSA Members,

Several members of your Society started 2018 immersed in an activity that, on the surface, might not make your list of Top 10 New Year Activities...they attended meetings. A lot of meetings. The place was Tallahassee, and thanks to the great work of our lobbying team at Johnson & Blanton, FSA was able to sit down with dozens of Florida lawmakers during our annual Legislative Day in our state capitol, where we continued our call-to-action advocating for safe, physician-led anesthesia in the state of Florida. Photos from the trip are included in this newsletter.

And we're already making plans to carry this same message to our US Senators and Representatives in the spring as a part of the ASA Legislative Conference taking place in Washington DC May 14-16. Legislative advocacy is a big part of what we do at FSA, to maintain and improve the practice of anesthesiology for our state and the greater nation, and I encourage any interested members to share your thoughts and opinions with us, or better yet, get involved with our advocacy efforts. We continue to face significant challenges that can impact our practice and profession, and there is indeed strength in numbers.

And as always, thank you for your membership,

D. Kurt Jones, MD MBA
FSA President

Click the Image Below to Register for FSA's 2018 Annual Meeting



FSA Legislative Days in Tallahassee

On Tuesday, January 30th, twenty members of the FSA traveled to the Capitol Building in Tallahassee, speaking to the state's leadership, advocating for safe physician-led anesthesia care in the state of Florida. Through the great work of our lobbying team at Johnson & Blanton, the group met with over 25 state representatives and senators during the course of the day!



THE GANG'S ALL HERE! FSA Legislative Days attendees included (from left to right) Drs. Joann Bolton, Jonathan Slonin, Moeed Azam, Jay Epstein, JC Lydon, Brence Sell, Steven Gayer, Jared Weiner, Leo Rodriguez, Frank Rosemeier, John Doyle, Kurt Jones, Knox Kerr, Christian Diez, Paul Anderson, Anthony Okafor and Philip Asmar. Additional attendees not pictured: Drs. Sean Daley and Chuck Chase.



FSA members Drs. Paul Anderson, Jay Epstein and Knox Kerr, along with Melanie Brown, Director of Government Relations for Johnson & Blanton, meet with Florida State Senator Darryl Rouson (19th District).

FSA President-Elect Dr. Knox Kerr with Representative Jay Fant (District 15).



Drs. Moeed Azam, FSA President D. Kurt Jones and Chuck Chase meet with Senator Linda Stewart and Legislative Aide Ali Kurnaz (District 13).

IN THE BREAK ROOM – 6 Questions for Jon Johnson

The FSA's annual Legislative trip to Tallahassee – and indeed all of your Society's legislative work – would not be successful without the continuous collaboration with our long-time colleagues and lobbying firm, Johnson & Blanton. Founder Jon Johnson took a moment away from the current session to answer a few questions for **IN THE BREAKROOM**.

ITB: Many people find politicians and the entire political process "dirty." How do you do what you do, and why should a practicing physician care?

Johnson: When we first opened our firm our mission was to "provide integrity-based representation to our clients." Always be honest, never make it up on the fly and be courteous to everyone in the process, whether elected or non-elected. As government takes over more and more of our healthcare system and is the **BIGGEST** payor, physicians should take an even more aggressive and keen interest in the process.

ITB: How has the Florida legislature changed in character over the years J&B has been involved?

Johnson: The single biggest change is that legislators do not honor their word to the degree they used to. So taking your spoken word seriously and with weight has diminished. Be clear – this is not to all legislators; there still exist some very honorable elected officials.



ITB: Your proudest moment professionally?

Johnson: There are two that are pretty equal, and the one isn't just because FSA is asking these questions. But passing the AA licensure bill after fighting for three years was a big accomplishment. We also worked to secure a tax decrease for Oil Fields in Florida that helped save jobs and keep one large operation open in NW Florida.

ITB: Your most challenging "throw in the towel" moment?

Johnson: In order to pass a bill that limited physician satellite offices and created tighter standards for supervision, I had to agree on the spot – with NO opportunity to check with clients – to allow PA's to sign charts without a co-signature. It caused a firestorm with a certain specialty, but I think ultimately they would say the trade off was worth it. But in the moment it was stressful.

ITB: Most unusual place you've ever found yourself lobbying?

Johnson: You've heard it before, but I have lobbied a legislator in the bathroom...also on a rollercoaster at Universal Studios.

ITB: Most surprising or unexpected turn-around decisions?

Johnson: Once I had a Senator – who has since passed away – flip his vote without warning on a contentious pharmacy bill. The bill passed by one vote, and we were trying to kill it. That one stings to this day.



RESIDENT'S CORNER



Anthony Okafor, MD – PGY-2 at the University of Miami joined the FSA on their trip to Tallahassee:

"Joining FSA's annual trip to Tallahassee was a fun and eye-opening experience. The fun part was visiting a new city and meeting seasoned anesthesiologists who offered me great career and life advice. Prior to the trip, I knew there were a lot of politics surrounding the practice and business of anesthesia, but I did not realize there are numerous bills in the works that will have a significant impact on how I practice when I finish residency. This experience has left me motivated to be more involved in how our practice is legislated, and to get my colleagues involved as well. I enjoyed my first trip with FSA, and look forward to continued mentorship from senior members!"



Dr. Okafor in TLH with U Miami colleagues
Drs. Steven Gayer and Christian Diez

From the Obstetric Anesthesia Committee

Happy Golden Anniversary, SOAP!



The Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology (SOAP) will be hosting its 50th annual meeting on May 9-13th, 2018 at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida. In honor of this 50th anniversary milestone, the US Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams, the first physician-anesthesiologist to serve in this position, will speak on the Opioid Epidemic. Given the ongoing opioid crisis nationally, special sessions will be dedicated to understanding and dealing with the opioid epidemic.

This year's meeting will begin with a day of pre-meeting workshops, including both hands-on skill development, such as the workshops on improving point-of-care ultrasound skills (e.g. transversus abdominis plane blockade, gastric ultrasound, transesophageal echocardiograms), as well as faculty development workshops for practicing anesthesiologists. In addition, a Spanish-language Latin American Symposium will include speakers from the US and Latin America, focusing on issues critical to care in Latin America.

The Annual Meeting will continue to feature current and groundbreaking research in obstetric anesthesia. Keynote lectures will include Gerard Ostheimer's "***What's New in Obstetric Anesthesia***" and "***What's New in Obstetric Medicine***." In addition, for the first time ever, there will be a one-day parallel clinical track with refresher course lectures for practicing clinicians on Saturday.

This year's meeting's theme is ***Obstetric Anesthesia: Past, Present, and Future***. We would like to extend an invitation to all Florida anesthesiologists to participate in this exciting meeting. More information about the Annual Meeting will be available on the SOAP website (www.soap.org).

Bring your flip-flops! We look forward to seeing you in Miami!

FSA - Upcoming Events

May 9-13, 2018	Society for Obstetric Anesthesia & Perinatology 50 th Annual Meeting	Miami
May 14-16, 2018	ASA Legislative Conference	Washington, DC
June 8-10, 2018	FSA Annual Meeting	Palm Beach

A calendar of national anesthesia-related events is located on the [ASA Website](http://www.asa-anesthesia.org).