

were especially responsive to our cardiac patients; if necessary, coming back in the evening for the visit.

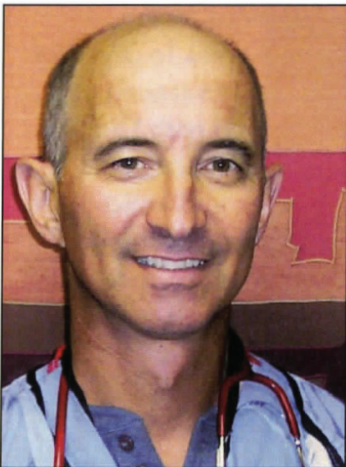
In 1988 I was elected to the South Dakota Legislature where I served from 1989 to 1992 in the State Senate during January, February, and early March. Upon my retirement in 1991, I was to learn a valuable lesson: one must retire to something. Unfortunately, I just retired! I worked briefly part-time at APL, but eventually took a part-time position with the Sioux Falls Veteran's Administration Hospital, though not doing anesthesia. Meanwhile, we had returned to Madison, South Dakota, and I was elected to the State House of Representatives, serving from 1995 to 1999. Dr. Les Steidl had also retired and moved to Colorado where he worked part-time in the Montrose Hospital, and in 2003, Dr. Ed Anderson retired and entered Blessed John 23rd Seminary in Massachusetts, from which he plans to return to South Dakota when ordained a year from now. That same year,

2003, I was appointed by Governor Mike Rounds to the South Dakota Board of Regents, a group of nine people, "with probity and wisdom," according to the constitution, which oversees our six public universities and two special schools, the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. I don't know about the probity and wisdom part, but I was pleased with the appointment and have been able to be involved in some aspect of State Government since 1989.

The practice at Anesthesia Physicians Limited is a direct model of the Mayo anesthesia care team. We worked with extremely competent nurse anesthetists and seeing our modest effort grow to what it has now become is indeed something to look back on with a great deal of pride. The hospital itself, with the new surgical tower and state of the art technology, is second to none in the area. With the \$400 million donation by philanthropist T. Denny Sanford, Sanford Health will be a leader in health care for years to come.

## Valley Anesthesiology Consultants

**Joseph Sandor, M.D., Scottsdale, Arizona**



Dr. Joseph Sandor

I always eagerly anticipate the springtime in Arizona. It signals an end to frigid winter temperatures, the arrival of Cactus League Baseball, rattlesnakes, and soon-to-be dropping green fees. In addition, it provides me with an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and associates at the Mayo Clinic sponsored "Symposium on Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine" in Scottsdale.

This past February, I had the good fortune to meet up with Peter Southorn and Kevin Ronan. Over a couple of lunches, we reminisced about training days in Rochester. We spoke of resident colleagues and where they ended up in practice. Recognizing the significant emigration from Mayo Clinic Rochester to the Valley of the Sun (with a sizeable number

of physicians ending up in my current group, Valley Anesthesiology Consultants), Peter felt it would be an interesting read for the *Mayo Anesthesiology Alumni Newsletter*, akin to the recent Mayo Clinic West article about those Mayo trained anesthesiologists in Sioux Falls. It is with great pleasure and thanks that I make this contribution to the newsletter.

I thought it would be worth talking a little bit about the evolution of Valley Anesthesiology Consultants. When I left Rochester in 1990, I joined a small group of anesthesiologists committed to the growth of anesthesia practice in North Scottsdale. I was the first Mayo-trained physician in the group, which grew quickly from five to nearly 30, when we merged with Valley Anesthesiology. Those Mayo-trained physicians to join after me in Scottsdale include Larry Drewsen (resident, 1995-96), Kyle Hagstrom (resident, 1994-97), Eric Gordon



(medical student, intern, and resident, 1996-2003), Jim Navratil (intern and, resident, 1999-2003), Brian Kuipers (resident, 1999-2002), and Michael Stearns (intern, 1995-96).

In 2004, we incorporated the other primary anesthesia group in Scottsdale adding Sharon Johnston (a member of my residency class, 1987-1990). The central and west side divisions of our group also have a Mayo bloodline with Kelly McQueen (resident, 1995-96), John Wolfe (resident, 1995-98), Anne Rahman (intern and resident, 1998-2004), Paul Simmonds (intern, 2001-02), and Parag Mathur (medical student, 1997-2001).

We are now one of the larger anesthesia groups in the country, numbering close to 200 anesthesiologists, providing general and subspecialty anesthesia care throughout the Phoenix and Scottsdale metropolitan area.

It is amazing that I am approaching the 20th anniversary of my decision to leave Family Medicine and enter anesthesiology training in 1987. I vividly remember meeting with my

first clinical attending, Mark Warner. He introduced me to my advisor, Alan Gould, and then promptly placed me in an operating room with my senior resident, Jeff Welna, who was given the responsibility of getting "the old guy" started. I am often asked if I have any regrets about leaving a busy practice to retrain in another specialty. My answer has two parts. The first part is the nanosecond that it takes to say "NO." The second part usually has some reference to a midlife crisis, deciding either to go back to school or get a red convertible, a hairpiece, and a young blonde. I wisely chose the former. Then I give the serious response, which is a dialogue about the quality of education and training I received, and the dignity and respect with which I was treated at the Mayo Clinic Department of Anesthesiology.

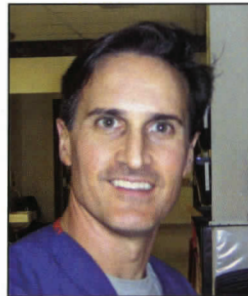
If you were to look at me now you would see that my anesthesia cap has turned nearly 180 degrees, with the ties between my eyebrows. According to my understanding of the "Southorn Clock" this is an indication that I have run out of both time and space!!



Dr. Larry Drewsen



Dr. Eric Gordon



Dr. Jim Navratil



Dr. Brian Kuipers



Dr. Michael Stearns



Dr. Sharon Johnston



Dr. Kelly McQueen



Dr. Anne Rahman



Dr. Paul Simmonds



Dr. Parag Mathur

Dr. Sandor's colleagues from Mayo in Valley Anesthesiology Consultants. Not Pictured: Drs. John Wolfe and Kyle Hagstrom