



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Fulfilling the Dream with Foresight Vision

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Fulfilling the Dream with Foresight Vision: A World of Belonging, Innovation, and Solutions

Celebrating Nurses Month

Greetings everyone. I am so excited to begin this journey with you all. How excellent it is to begin this journey during the month in which we celebrate nurses. I applaud all of you and celebrate nurses nationwide. Nursing is still the most trusted profession.

In her article entitled, *Nursing Ranked as the Most Trusted Profession for 21st Year in a Row*, Kathleen Gaines states, “The Gallup Honesty and Ethics poll originated back in 1976 and has been conducted every year since 1990. If you’re doing the math, that means that—yup—nurses have ranked as #1 almost the entire time. (The only year they were displaced was after 2001, when firefighters claimed the top spot, understandably.) Only a small percentage of professions have been on the list every year.”¹

Continuing with her article, Gaines says, “The 2022 poll was conducted between November 9 and December 2 among Americans, and the results placed nurses above medical doctors as the most trusted profession. 79% of Americans ranked nurses as trustworthy based on the Gallup poll scale of ‘very high, high, average, low or very low.’ Last year [2021], nurses garnered even more trustworthiness at 81% ranking, but we’ll just say it’s been a tumultuous year, so those high marks are still very impressive.”¹ Gaines goes on to state, “Medical doctors landed in second place, falling behind nurses as the most trustworthy by a full 17 points or only 62% of Americans ranking them.”¹

So, you all should be proud to call yourself a nurse and not “just a nurse,” but a perianesthesia nurse.

I completed a dual bachelor’s degree in Biology and PreMed in 1996. I then received a diploma in nursing in 1999 and a BSN in 2002. At the time, I wondered if nursing would be the best choice for me. Should I go back and continue in medical school and complete my medical doctor degree or just stay as a behavioral therapist? I stopped and knew I had made the best decision. Nursing became my passion and I never looked back. I continued to look forward. I began to dream big with understanding there were people before me that paved the way to make this time in my life possible. We see diversity, equity, and inclusion advancing within our profession and it is because your voices are being heard.

I was so happy to see all my friends and colleagues in Denver and you all made my heart proud. It is truly an honor to be entrusted to carry on with fresh vision for our organization as your 2023-2024 ASPAN president: *Fulfilling the Dream with Foresight Vision*.

Foresight Vision

Nursing foresight is the ability and act of forecasting what will be needed in the future in light of emergent healthcare trends. This forecasting will have consequences for population and planetary health, as well as the profession’s purpose, definition, professional scope, and standards of practice.²

The purpose of the Foresight Leadership initiative is to design and build a transformational leadership capacity ecosystem organized around five design elements: Purpose (why the work is important to the community), Principles (what rules must be obeyed in order to realize purpose), Participants (who must

be included to achieve the purpose), Structure (how will organization distributes control), Practice (what is to be done - what and how will offers be to users and clients).²

We understand our purpose for ASPAN is, "To empower and advance the unique specialty of perianesthesia nursing."³ Within the purpose of foresight leadership, the principles are our standards that offer our nurses a road map on evidenced best practices to ensure our patients are continually given quality care. Participants are each and every one of you who deliver that initial assessment call to ensure that patient will be optimized prior to surgery, hold the hand of a patient in preop prior to surgery, comfort a caregiver during surgery, and safely recover a patient after a procedure postanesthesia. Our structure will be controlled by you, our members' voices and delivered through your Board of Directors. Our practice will offer transparency to our members so they can benefit from their dedication to continued membership within our organization.

Bright Future

For many centuries, we all have had the need to belong. We have empowered our perianesthesia nurses with toolkits on creating healthy workplace environments. We owe it to our colleagues to ensure the workplaces we go to are environments in which we can feel safe. In other words, we want a place to belong as a member of the team. At my facility, Medstar Georgetown University Hospital Perianesthesia Services, we altered PeriAnesthesia Nurse Awareness Week, PANAW, to be inclusive and include it as PATAW, which stood for PeriAnesthesia Team Awareness Week.

These changes were done to include our unlicensed team members who work alongside us to ensure quality patient care. This was a true statement of how our nurses began to establish inclusivity.

Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, "Don't allow anybody to make you feel that you are nobody. Always feel that you count. Always feel that you have worth and always feel that your life has ultimate significance."⁴

Innovation

Nurse innovation has advanced. Our goal is to continue to advance our perianesthesia nurse innovators to build tools that will challenge from the status quo and eliminate "It's always been done that way" and "If it's not broke, don't fix it." We are innovators who have clinical inquiry that will seek to see how we all can benefit from equitable solutions with justice and fairness for all our members. These innovators are our forward future thinkers. They are finding ways to improve our work collaboratively with current trends and solutions for our specialty practice.

Solutions

The time is now for you to make sure your voice is heard. It is my goal to ensure ASPAN has the best year ever to build on what my predecessors have done, and to take it a step further to increase our membership with creative solutions to revitalize components. We want to increase our visibility on advocacy and sit at the table of hospital and ambulatory surgery center boards. We will be the key stakeholders and the agents of change for our profession. Our goal is to offer educational activities and events that are continual and will provide professional growth and development. We have even begun to offer an educational leadership event for our nurse leaders, a conference specifically for nursing leadership to advance their skills.

The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered a speech about his dream for the future. His dream was how he viewed racial injustice and how he saw a nation that worked together regardless of the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.⁵ We, together, will take care of our well-being. We are nurses who are fit for duty who take care of ourselves first, then take care of others. Let us all remember to roll up our sleeves and began our work as a cohesive team of change agents. I challenge each and every one of you to remember your first day of nursing. If you had foresight vision, would you have thought you would be where you are today? Join me on this journey as we Fulfill your Dream with Foresight Vision!

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