



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Igniting Professionalism: It's Your Turn!

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Journey is defined as “traveling from one place to another; distance, course or area traveled; and passage or progress from one stage to another.”¹ This year has been all of that and more! It hardly seems possible that San Antonio is just around the corner and I will be passing the torch to Vice President/President-Elect Armi Holcomb. Other descriptors of this past year’s journey include breathtaking, amazing, exhilarating, productive, purposeful and enlightening. As president, it has been my honor to serve the ASPAN membership, continuing the legacy created by the ASPAN founders, while strengthening and positioning the Society for the future.

ASPAN continues to be over 14,000 members strong! As I have traveled across the country, I never tire of waving my ASPAN flag listing the many benefits of membership, including: FREE *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing (JoPAN)* subscription, discounted seminar and conference fees, \$100.00 off certification exam fees, access to *Breathline*, scholarships, research grants and free contact hours. Personally, the most important benefit has been the professional networking. The ability to reach out and contact colleagues when challenges or concerns arise is priceless. My experience has been, that even though similar issues are occurring across the country, the ability to have the conversation and opportunities to collaborate are empowering and enlightening. While you may not be able to immediately resolve a concern, the amount of problem-solving information and solutions received can be incredible.

My message this year has been ***Igniting Professionalism: Excellence in Practice, Leadership and Collaboration***. While these are characteristics embedded in ASPAN membership, reflection on these qualities is refreshing and invigorating. Listening, engaging in professional practice, mentoring, networking, demonstrating integrity and accountability are behaviors inherent to the professional perianesthesia nurse. Demonstrating and modeling them can be challenging at times, but understanding their importance will guide your practice. Creating a work environment that provides nurturing and support to colleagues allows for excellence in safe patient care. When a cohesive team “owns” their practice, patient outcomes flourish. Adhering to and implementing the ASPAN Standards into personal practice ensures continuity of patient care across all perianesthesia settings with a focus on safety. Sharing your knowledge of the Standards with colleagues, clinical leadership and administration strengthens the importance and value of incorporating them into best practice and cementing your reputation as a perianesthesia expert.

Incorporating ASPAN’s compelling vision into your work environment is my call to action for all of you. Speak to the fact that we are “the leading association for perianesthesia education, nursing practice, standards and research.”² Articulate ASPAN’s goals:

- ASPAN will be its members’ indispensable resource for perianesthesia education and knowledge.
- ASPAN will be the influential advocate for perianesthesia safety, public policy, nursing practice and standards.
- ASPAN will be the recognized source of perianesthesia information for the healthcare community and the public.
- The art and science of perianesthesia practice will be advanced through research and evidence-based practice.²

Become an authority for peers, both locally and nationally, on the benefits of membership in a specialty organization and its impact on personal professional practice. Be involved in helping establish best practices at the bedside in your organization. Always offer solutions, or be prepared to dialogue and brainstorm practice improvements. Be available to assist peers looking for resources to study for certification or to take advantage of educational seminars to enhance perianesthesia practice and knowledge. ASPAN offers all of this and more. Encourage participation locally and nationally. The strength of ASPAN depends on volunteers making the commitment to keep ASPAN's compelling vision a reality!

Finally, I offer heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for all of you and for those of you who have challenged yourselves to become active in ASPAN, either locally or nationally. It has been my pleasure to work with this dedicated group of individuals, and I look forward to continuing this relationship in the future. Without ASPAN's National Office staff to assist all of us along the way, our journey would be much more difficult. They are the fuel that keeps all of the many projects moving forward so that ASPAN's mission initiatives are completed. They would love to see all of you, if you get to Cherry Hill! Please, do not hesitate to stop by and say hello. Again, thank you for a tremendous year and a very exciting journey!

REFERENCES

1. Journey. Available at: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/journey%20?&o=100074&s=t>. Accessed January 8, 2015.
2. American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses. *2015-2017 Perianesthesia Nursing Standards, Practice Recommendations and Interpretive Statements*. Cherry Hill, NJ: ASPAN; 2014.