



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

ASPAN: The Primary Connection for Perianesthesia Nurses

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ASPAN's mission is to promote quality and cost-effective care for patients, their families, and the community through public education, research, and standards of practice. As perianesthesia nurses, our mission is our calling. We practice to provide high quality nursing care and to advocate for patient safety. Therefore, it is our responsibility to speak out about the issues that impact our practice. ASPAN helps us make the connection between our personal mission and our professional commitment. Leah Curtin says that "we are at a turn-around time in nursing that will demand more from nurses: more shifts, more time, more commitment, and more communication." Nurses of the 21st century have to step up to the times and, perhaps, you are wondering how we can do this with the looming nursing shortage. To face the shortage head-on it is up to us to promote the value of the Registered Nurse and the need for appropriate staffing levels. We need to find a way to restore the caring and competent nurse. We must maintain a positive attitude, stay focused and current, offer ideas for improvement, and acquire new skills. We need a voice for perianesthesia nurses. ASPAN is that voice.

ASPAN makes it possible that perianesthesia nurses are present at the table and participate in dialog on nurse-patient ratios, staffing standards, and the nursing shortage. Every nurse must get involved in this dialogue and offer ideas and help create innovative solutions. We can't sit back and think the shortage won't affect our facilities, our specialty, or us. We can promote our perianesthesia specialty and nursing in general through mentoring. It is our professional responsibility and we are obligated to be mentors throughout our entire careers. We need to help make nursing a more appealing career for young men and women. ASPAN is collaborating with the National Student Nurses Association to promote awareness of perianesthesia nursing and to implement perianesthesia educational tracks for students. ASPAN has identified patient safety as a key strategic priority and we are collaborating with other professional organizations regularly to recognize and address issues that affect patient care. It is our plan to promote professional competencies, define educational needs, and conduct research to improve and enhance patient outcomes. We are aware that 21 states are currently looking at staffing ratios and mandatory staffing levels. We know that more data is needed in this area and we must help obtain that data. ASPAN is participating in forums on nurse: patient ratios and staffing standards. The new 2000 Standards for Perianesthesia Nursing Practice are the resource for our staffing ratios and guidelines.

ASPAN continues to work on position statements to help perianesthesia nurses address concerns and resolve patient care issues. Through the ongoing work to fulfill our mission, ASPAN will help promote safe and satisfying work environments for perianesthesia nurses. It is up to all of us to bring perianesthesia nurses together and set the direction for our profession. What can you do to make the connection in the 21st century and strengthen relationships as we move into the future? We have many opportunities to make a difference. We can:

- have a purpose and listen to the call of our mission;
- be caring and have compassion;
- be a team player and share our knowledge;
- communicate effectively by listening, observing and asking questions;
- be visionary and declare our ideals;
- continuously learn;
- be flexible and adapt readily to change;

- be balanced by being attentive to our personal lives and our families; and
- be a leader and show the way for others.

It is up to each of us to find our passion and connect our heart to our work and put our heart in all aspects of our professional nursing careers. ASPAN is your professional organization and is working for you and for our patients. Together we can move professional nursing into the future to make health care better and safer. After all, wasn't this Florence Nightingale's vision when she founded professional nursing in the 19th century?