



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

I Believe: Leaders' Dreams Create ASPAN's Legacy

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During my frequent airplane travels, there isn't much to do other than chat about my seat mate's life and beliefs, sleeping and listening to my iPod. I find music very inspirational. Recently, while listening to Elvis sing "I Believe", I recognized how much I believe in ASPAN and each of you who create ASPAN's legacy.

Do you remember the good old ASPAN days? They began in the 1970s when "recovery room" nurses and managers from around the country met to discuss specific needs for this fledgling specialty. Nineteen nurses dreamed of an organization that would serve to educate and strengthen recovery room nursing practice. These dedicated nurses ultimately turned a dream into reality by defining the preoperative and postoperative clinical nursing specialty. In 1980, ASPAN was born.

A Green Legacy

Each year, ASPAN leaders identify key initiatives and accomplish so much for our nursing specialty and YOU, the member. Our organization is beginning this New Year with a "Going Green" campaign. As I explained in my last *Breathline* column, our organization has chosen to participate in a journey toward preserving resources and the environment.

One major step toward resource preservation involves reducing the use of paper and transitioning from printed materials to an electronic format. Electronic publications are increasingly being adopted by professional specialty organizations to alleviate the use of massive amounts of paper. ASPAN is joining this movement.

This *Breathline* edition is the last issue that will be printed and mailed to members. *Breathline* will continue to publish bimonthly and be available to all members on the ASPAN Web site, as it has since 2004. Every active member can access, read and save an electronic copy of *Breathline* by logging on to our fantastic new Web site. Printing the pdf file is easy and is always an option if you prefer a hand-held copy.

An overall reduction in paper use will truly serve to care for the environment. We ask for your support in this initiative. Many other conservation strategies will be incorporated into ASPAN's "Going Green" initiative. Our Go Green Strategic Work Team will keep members informed regarding the project's activities, beginning with several articles presented in this edition.

Taking Action

ASPAN's history, its leadership and the commitment of so many members grew this organization into the present day. ASPAN continues to be the only professional nursing organization to address and advocate for the diverse needs of the perianesthesia nurse. Our first president, Ina Pipkin, hailed from Seattle, Washington. She once said, "Many nurses felt a national association would be very helpful to draw us together for better communication, and to speak for our interest to those groups whose action influences our practice and meets the educational needs of the greatest number of nurses."

Since ASPAN's birth, the organization has had the typical, and some not so typical, ups and downs. Many organizations and families go through similar cycles. Such trials, tribulations and challenges ultimately

create new opportunities. I believe we are blessed because ASPAN has endured the challenges and developed into a successful not-for-profit organization.

Realizing Dreams

Our past presidents and boards of directors took us from nonexistence and an original dream, to a strong, reputable organization that gives voice to the delivery of safe, quality care and the needs of all perianesthesia patients.

The annual ASPAN National Conference themes, generally related to the host city, reflect both ASPAN's growth and pertinent nursing issues of the day. (See Table 1 below) When looking at the Conference titles, note common messages emerge across the years that chronicle our past and guide our future.

Like Elvis, I believe. I believe that there is so much more to learn and develop for our specialty. I believe it starts with each of you. Become involved! Participate in the Go Green initiative and embrace change! Please send me your ideas, thoughts and dreams (<mailto:lschick@aspan.org>). I really believe we can best continue to create OUR LEGACY together!

Table 1. ASPAN's Leadership Legacy

1980-1982, Ina Pipkin, OUR Beginning, Saint Louis, MO
1983, Hallie Jane Ennis, Nurses in Action, Washington, D.C.
1984, Jeanne R. Maher, New Horizons, San Diego, CA
1985, Marilyn Schneider Glaser, Caring, Sharing and all that Jazz, New Orleans, LA
1986, Clara Conn, Spirit of '86: PACUnity, Boston, MA
1987, Meg Danielson Alexander, ASPAN Directions for Change, Los Angeles, CA
1988, Jean Sutton, Challenge of Excellence, Fort Worth, TX
1989, Anne Allen, Magic of Caring, Orlando, FL
1990, Deborah Johnson, Sailing into the Future, Seattle, WA
1991, Debby Niehaus, Bridging Knowledge and Growth, Cincinnati, OH
1992, Cindy Smith, In Session, Nashville, TN
1993, Jan Odom-Forren, Goldmine of Knowledge, Reno, NV
1994, Dolly Ireland, Reaching for Excellence, Chicago, IL
1995, Denise O'Brien, Champions of Caring, Atlanta, GA
1996, Lois A. Roberts, Proud Past Bright Future, Phoenix, AZ
1997, Terry McLean, Attaining New Heights, Change and Transition, Denver, CO
1998, Lisa Jeran, Professional Growth through Knowledge and Fitness, Philadelphia, PA
1999, Maureen Iacono, New Milestones in a New Millennium, Honolulu, HI
2000, Myrna Mamaril, Creating Visions for the Future, Kansas City, MO
2001, Nancy Saufl, Making the Connection: Through Teaching, Touch, & Technology, Boston, MA
2002, Susan Shelander, Transforming Visions into Reality Our Journey, Our Legacy, San Diego, CA
2003, Linda Wilson, Reach Beyond the Horizon – Make Dreams a Reality, Albuquerque, NM
2004, Sandra Barnes, Circles of Influence: Shaping Tomorrow's Definition of Perianesthesia Nursing, Philadelphia, PA
2005, Dina Krenzischek, Vision in Action: Values, Power, Unity, Passion, Chicago, IL
2006, Meg Beturne, Perianesthesia Nursing Diversity ... Touch the World that Touches You, Orlando, FL
2007, Pamela Windle, Soaring on the Magical Journey to Excellence, Anaheim, CA
2008, Susan Fossum, Be the Voice: Advocacy through Education, Practice, Research and Legislative Involvement, Dallas, TX
2009, Lois Schick, Dreams Create Lasting Legacies, Washington, D.C.