



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Celebrate Good Times

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ASPAN President 2008-2009

After returning home from ASPAN's 27th National Conference, I pushed the button on a musical bear given to me by my dear friend, Esther Watson. Immediately, the words from Kool and The Gang's chart topping song called out as the bear joyfully danced across my table. "Celebrate good times, come on! Celebrate good times, come on! ... Everyone around the world, come on!"¹

I am reminded of the need for us to celebrate an awesome conference week and the ASPAN legacy we continue to build. As one of only five members who have attended every ASPAN National Conference, I can report that this event seems to get better and better each year. With such outstanding speakers, networking time with colleagues and fun social events, the feeling of camaraderie is indescribable. Equally special is the renewal of old, and creation of new, friendships. We have many, many reasons to celebrate.

On the Move

Change is inevitable in our lives, and we continue to embark on multiple changes each year. Commitment is a quality that enables us to reach our goals. ASPAN's core purpose is to advance the unique specialty of perianesthesia nursing. This is coupled with a goal to be recognized by the healthcare community worldwide as the leading organization for perianesthesia nursing education, practice, standards and research. Our organization is successful because of the dedication and commitment of the mission directors and work teams.

The education team, under the direction of Linda Ziolkowski, MSN, RN, CPAN, presents many seminars and workshops throughout the United States. Some programs have been updated and new programs are in development for release this year. The speaker development program has been very successful. I salute each of the speaker development participants who presented a topic in Grapevine, not only to the 40 limited attendees as advertised, but to the over 300 people who attended some sessions! My hat goes off to you, and to ASPAN Meeting Manager Courtney Papp, CMP, who facilitated last minute meeting room changes to accommodate the demand for more space. Thank you Courtney!

Our Education Approver Committee, led by Barbara Hannah, EdD, MS, RN, CPAN, has reviewed and approved a total of 75 applications for contact hours over the past year. Beginning in July 2008, all contact hour applications must be submitted via electronic transmission to the ASPAN National Office. The application manual, and all required materials for submission, are available on the ASPAN Web site (www.aspan.org). The Education Provider and Education Approver Committees underwent a review by the American Nurses Credentialing Center-Certification on Accreditation (ANCC-COA) in late May. ASPAN now awaits the results of the re-accreditation review.

Best Practice

The Clinical Practice Committee continues to grow and will embark on a new team process this year. Led for the past two years by newly elected ASPAN Vice-President/President-Elect Terry Clifford, MSN, RN, CPAN, this committee fielded 1719 questions from February 2007 to January 2008! Terry and her committee did a remarkable job managing and responding to the high demand for questions to be answered. The Celebrate Successful Practices program featured 58 wonderful posters at National

Conference, with the authors present to discuss the featured findings. This was an added networking and educational opportunity for our attendees.

This year, ASPAN will strive to include more members in the clinical query answering process. Incoming Director for Clinical Practice, Barbara Godden, MHS, RN, CPAN, CAPA, will be implementing a new team process for answering these questions. Prior to being elected to this position, Barb chaired the Standards & Guidelines Committee. The revised *2008-2010 Standards of Perianesthesia Nursing Practice*, approved by the Representative Assembly (RA) in May, will become available for purchase later this year.

Expanding Research

Our research team has had a productive year through the directorship of Jacqueline Ross, MSN, RN, CPAN. A successful new workshop was developed and conducted to assist nurses in the design of a research study. This event focused on providing consultation for research question and methodology development. This year, ten research posters were displayed with the respective investigators present to discuss the study findings during poster grand rounds.

ASPAN supports members by providing a research grants program. If you are in the process of research, do consider applying for an ASPAN grant. In addition, a limited number of nurses are selected each year to participate in both the Education and Research Speaker Development Programs. If you are interested in participating, please contact Linda Wilson, PhD, RN, CPAN, CAPA, BC, CNE, ASPAN Nurse Liaison for Education, Research and Clinical Practice (lwilson@aspan.org or 877-737-9696 Ext. 21) for information.

More Development

The Development team, directed by Dolly Ireland, MSN, RN, CPAN, CPN, had a successful year raising monies for YOU! Our scholarship program supports continuing education and certification efforts, attendance at National Conference and the Nurse in Washington Internship program. Seventeen scholarships were awarded to ASPAN members this past year.

Our mission teams and committees have been busy and will continue to keep active this year. Who would have thought when ASPAN's legacy began in the early 1980s, that we would have such productivity and capability? Today, we use the Internet to conduct business and look forward to the use of Webinars and other new technologies.

Keep on dreaming...
for dreams create
lasting legacies.

Perianesthesia practice is ever-changing. We continue to experience increasing numbers of gastroenterology, interventional radiology and cardiovascular procedure patients who require care after sedation/analgesia. We are more involved in the care of obstetric patients and are frequently holding patients in PACUs and ambulatory care units because beds are not available.

ASPAN endeavors to network with other professional organizations to define the current scope of practice. This scope must incorporate, and best represent, the practitioners we have become. Nurses must embrace these changes so patients receive the safe, quality care they deserve.

Insuring the best care possible must start with each of us.

Dream outside the box, and who knows where we will be as the year progresses? Kermit the Frog says: "Dreams are how we figure out where we want to go. Life is how we get there."² We will celebrate accomplishments and your commitment to ASPAN's mission as we continue to dream to create lasting legacies.

REFERENCES

1. Kool and The Gang. Celebration. Celebrate. Delite: October 2, 1984.
2. Kermit the Frog. Before you Leap: A Frog's-Eye View of Life's Greatest Lessons. Des Moines, Iowa: Meredith Books, 85, 2006.