



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Transitions and Legacies

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May, and the 27th National Conference, generate a transition in ASPAN's leadership. Over the past five years, our organization has embarked upon meaningful paths. Together, with our leadership, we have experienced: circles of influence; vision in action; diversity and cultural competence; a journey to excellence; and the voice of advocacy. We can now look to see how these professional dreams and visions have created, and continue to create, our lasting legacies.

Developmental Stages

ASPAN weathered many adventures throughout the years. Our once small organization has grown into a sizable membership of almost 14,000 nurses. We members, comprising a mixed bag of growth and development stages, continually mature and strengthen the voice for our patients, their families and ourselves. This organization is action oriented, opportunity driven and vision focused. The morale and commitment of our leaders and members is high.

I attended the Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI) program during a recent visit to Washington D.C. Ten ASPAN members participated in NIWI this year! The power that nursing's voice holds, especially during this national election year, was evident from the NIWI experience. Nursing advocacy positions can only expand when we work together in greater numbers. As I spoke with our colleagues during the week, it became obvious that we nurses are still in the infancy stage on the growth and development chart, especially in terms of building up research and advocacy programs.

Infancy can be characterized by a strong commitment and purpose. During the organization's infancy stage, we developed policies, procedures and business systems. A judicious use of budgetary resources supports the best and most important aspects of programs and initiatives. ASPAN can be described as an adolescent, characterized by a period of ambiguity and the need for balance and direction.

Our National Office staff members serve a vital role while occupying defined positions that support ASPAN's mission. Their commitment and dedication will guide the organization through the adolescent stage of development. We thank the entire National Office staff for the creativity and ambition demonstrated as they oversee continued development of our clinical practice, research, education and advocacy initiatives.

Growth and Change

ASPAN must address infrastructure needs to keep pace with a growing membership and changing practice. This marks a next phase of organizational development. During a recent strategic planning meeting facilitated by an expert business consultant, ASPAN leaders discussed the need to restructure and define the scope of our society's future.

Some necessary changes must be made to fortify and further ASPAN's development. Through analysis and fine tuning of policies and procedures, ASPAN will experience some necessary transition over the next few years. Growth and change will lead our organization into its maturity stage.

Personal Evolution

I am prepared and committed to lead through the transition phase as your 28th ASPAN President. For those who do not know me well, I would like to share a little of my personal side. I am the youngest of twelve children. My parents were farmers in Iowa, until my father was diagnosed and treated for a brain tumor when I was two-years-old. His unfortunate early demise left my mother with twelve children under the age of seventeen. It was Mom's desire to raise her children with a Christian and high school education, so my graduation from high school was an honor to her and to me.

So many of our dreams at first seem impossible,
then they seem improbable,
and then, when we summon the will,
they soon become inevitable."
~ Christopher Reeve

Mom always wanted to be a nurse, but this aspiration was interrupted by life circumstances. I was fortunate and privileged to help fulfill the dream by becoming a nurse in her family. I am so glad that I did! For me, nursing has been the most wonderful profession. I truly look forward to this new adventure in my nursing career, and to leading ASPAN during my presidential year.

My goal is to build on ASPAN's dreams and add to the lasting legacy established by our insightful founders. To do this, I need YOUR help. This vision is not about me, but it is about YOU and ASPAN. I want to hear your thoughts and ideas regarding important issues. Please tell me what ASPAN can do to meet the needs of perianesthesia patients and nurses. What dreams do you believe must be fulfilled to help ASPAN with continued, purposeful growth and development? Tell me YOUR professional dreams, for they can become amazing legacies. Let me hear from you!