



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Huffin' and a Puffin'

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To what in the world does “huffin’ and a puffin’” refer? The 2006 Surgeon General’s report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco or second hand smoking.¹ Many hospitals will implement a tobacco-free environment this year to create a healthier environment for their work force, patients and visitors. Implementation of this change provides a challenge for many. Meanwhile, the legacy of leading by example and initiating change is being created. This is only one among many huffin’ and a puffin’ experiences in today’s world. ASPAN members demonstrate others.

A Capital Experience

Members of the National Conference Strategic Work Team (NCSWT) met at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, just outside of Washington D.C., to plan the 2009 National Conference. The NCSWT is working diligently to create another enticing and successful Conference program. Myrna Mamaril, MS, RN, CPAN, CAPA, FAAN, and her team are developing an action packed educational program and fun-filled week for the attendees.

Thanks to a generous 2008 ASPAN Development Silent Auction item donated by Representative Virginia Foxx from North Carolina, seven members of the NCSWT had an opportunity to tour the Capitol dome. This was a real huffin’ and a puffin’ experience! Over 365 steps were climbed and descended in order to see the inner dome and canopy over the Rotunda.

During our guided tour, we learned that the first dome built of brick and wood, and then covered with copper, was too small after the House and Senate wings were added. Because it became a fire hazard, Congress decided in 1855 to replace the old dome with a new version made from cast iron. What a task! Upon completion, the new dome had an exterior height of 288 feet. The inner height is 180 feet from the Rotunda floor to the canopy. Amazingly, the Statue of Liberty, at approximately 151 feet tall, could fit inside the Capitol dome with room to spare.²

The art work in the dome is magnificent. A Constantino Brumidi fresco depicts George Washington rising to the heavens in glory, with two female figures representing Liberty and Victory/ Fame by his sides. The central figures are surrounded by thirteen maidens symbolizing the original states. The perimeter of this ceiling painting features six allegorical groups representing war, science, marine, commerce, mechanics and agriculture.³ It’s incredible to think that we climbed to where this ceiling is painted, and then went higher to look out over the city! This was a memorable experience, for sure.

There is so much to see and do in Washington D.C. while celebrating our country’s heritage and legacy. For those of us from the West, it was great fun and convenience to take the Metro to reach many different destinations. ASPAN looks forward to welcoming you to the capital area next spring! So get out those walking shoes, save some dollars and start planning your trip to the 28th National Conference being held on the shores of the historic Potomac River.

Around the World

Our international involvement in perianesthesia nursing issues is steadily increasing. ASPAN has been busy on the global scene. I had the opportunity to attend the National Conference of the National Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses of Canada held in Winnipeg last May. ASPAN Immediate Past

President Sue Fossum, BSN, RN, CPAN, and *Breathline* Editor Joni Brady, MSN, RN, CAPA, represented ASPAN in London at the British Anaesthetic and Recovery Nurses Association (BARNA) Annual Conference in June. Joni serves in an elected position as the BARNA Committee (governing board) International Representative. Kudos to Sue and Joni for such great representation of our organization!

Mission Climbing

Our many committees, including Evidence Based Practice, Publications, Research, Standards & Guidelines and Safety, are integrating and orienting new members to their specific committee's processes. The Clinical Practice Committee is adjusting to its new team format while continuing to answer clinical queries from members and nonmembers alike. Our Celebrate Successful Practices and Research poster presentation teams are gearing up for the 2009 National Conference. Be sure to submit these abstracts for consideration by the deadline.

The Education Approver Committee is organized and getting its members oriented to the education program approval process. The Education Provider Committee met in August to review and update current seminar programs and create new offerings in the upcoming year. The Governmental Affairs Committee and Advocacy Strategic Work Team (SWT) are keeping tabs and actively educating the membership on congressional and legislative issues affecting nurses and healthcare.

Our Membership/Marketing Committee initiated the 2008-2009 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign and is preparing for the 2009 PeriAnesthesia Nurse Awareness Week. Meanwhile, the Perianesthesia Data Elements Committee is busy getting information compiled to distribute to our members over the next year. Finally, the Scope of Practice SWT met in August to assess and analyze what current perianesthesia practice truly encompasses.

We Want You

Become involved on the national level. ASPAN's Nominating Committee is looking for YOU, the interested ASPAN member. Huff and puff: submit your name into nomination for one of several ASPAN positions on the 2009 election ballot. "Legacies aren't about tomorrow. They are about now. What will your leadership legacy be?"⁴ Thanks to ALL for your involvement in our ASPAN!

REFERENCES

1. 2006 Surgeon General's report: The health consequences of involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke. Available at www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/sgr_2006/consumer_summary.htm. Accessed July 28, 2008.
2. The Statue of Liberty. Available at www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0101054.html. Accessed July 21, 2008.
3. The Apotheosis of Washington photograph. Available at www.aoc.gov/cc/art/rotunda/apotheosis/apotheosis_1.cfm. Accessed July 21, 2008.
4. Yount SA, Pyecha J, Boggan D, & Versteeg A. Leaving Your Leadership Legacy: Creating a Timeless and Enduring Culture of Clarity, Connectivity and Consistency. Richmond, VA: Competitive Solutions, Inc.; 133, 2007.