



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Dealing with Challenges: Winning with Power • Practice • Purpose

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Today, I invite you to be a part of the next year with my new ASPAN journey—a time of change and challenges in life and work for all of us. This will truly be an exceptional journey. It was Kelly Morgan who said, “Changes are inevitable and not always controllable. What can be controlled is how you manage, react to and work through the change process.”¹

My theme for the upcoming year is *“Dealing with Challenges: Winning with Power • Practice • Purpose.”* The word “challenges” is defined by Wikipedia as “referring to things that have a sense of difficulty and victory, that which encourages someone to do something they otherwise would not—a difficult task.”² It is the dedication of ASPAN’s grassroots members, its committees and strategic work teams that make ASPAN the premier resource for perianesthesia nurses. ASPAN leadership, by way of strategic planning, constantly charts the course of the organization. ASPAN must maintain vigilance in recognizing the constantly evolving changes in healthcare. ASPAN must continue to be the premier professional perianesthesia nursing organization that embraces challenges, and through education, research and strategic decision-making processes, consistently improves the practice of all perianesthesia nurses.

Power

There is powerful strength in ASPAN’s numbers. Its voices and strategic decision-making processes are built on evidence-based information. We, the members and leaders, are liaisons to various organizations such as the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Patient Safety Foundation, the Council on Surgical and Perioperative Safety, the Society of Anesthesia and Sleep Medicine, the Nursing Community Forum and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, to name a few. We have collaborated with these organizations and have brought powerful voices to the table through our partnerships, which ultimately have enhanced our goal of excellence in our perianesthesia nursing practice.

These powerful words were written by author and speaker Steve Maroboli: “Do not dilute the truth of your potential. We often convince ourselves that we cannot change, that we cannot overcome the circumstances of our lives. That is simply not true. You have been blessed with immeasurable power to make positive changes in your life. But you can’t just wish it, you can’t just hope it, you can’t just want it.....you have to live it, be it, do it.”³

ASPAN can meet the challenges through its power, purpose and practice
to fulfill its compelling vision.

Practice

Excellence in perianesthesia nursing is ASPAN’s strength. We, the members, have the knowledge and passion to provide the best possible care to our patients and their families. The Perianesthesia Nursing Standards, Practice Recommendations and Interpretive Statements are the foundation of knowledge for daily clinical practice. ASPAN’s Clinical Practice Committee provides answers to both ASPAN members and non-members alike. The committee goes above and beyond to ensure that sound evidence-based practice resources are provided in the answers. With these responses, they encourage the member and non-member to achieve their full potential. Many times, the answers include attachments, examples, internet links and other valuable information. Our nursing practice provides ASPAN with a broad base of

knowledge and experience that enables its members to practice in varied settings, in a variety of roles, caring for a diverse group of patients ranging from the pediatric to the geriatric, with the goal of excellence in our daily delivery of perianesthesia nursing care.

Purpose

With 15,000 members and growing, ASPAN has strength in numbers. United, we support the concept that the perianesthesia nurse is the first line of defense for the safety of patients. In the landmark case, Laidlaw versus Lions Gate Hospital, the court referred to the Phase I PACU as "the most important room in the hospital because it poses the greatest potential dangers to the patient."⁴ ASPAN's reason for existence is exemplified in its core purpose "to advance the unique specialty of perianesthesia nursing."⁵

Next year, we will be in Las Vegas for National Conference. To many, this city is an oasis in the middle of the desert. What started as barren land is now full of lights, hope and dreams for those that think they may win a fortune, or for those that want to escape to nonstop fun and adventure. Whatever the purpose, it is a beacon of light in the horizon of hope and power of what might be. ASPAN can meet the challenges through its power, purpose and practice to fulfill its compelling vision. ASPAN will also remain true to its core values: "building integrity, modeling respect, honoring diversity, promoting stewardship, providing mentorship, cultivating passion, supporting community, vigilance to safety and standards and upholding excellence."⁵

The following is an excerpt from the book, *The Power of One*, by Steve Maraboli: "When a new day begins, dare to smile gratefully. When there is darkness, dare to be the first to shine a light. When there is injustice, dare to be the first to condemn it. When something seems difficult, dare to do it anyway. When life seems to beat you down, dare to fight back. When there seems to be no hope, dare to find some. When you're feeling tired, dare to keep going. When times are tough, dare to be tougher. When love hurts you, dare to love again. When someone is hurting, dare to help them heal. When another is lost, dare to help them find the way. When a friend falls, dare to be the first to extend a hand. When you cross paths with another, dare to make them smile. When you feel great, dare to help someone else feel great. When the day has ended, dare to feel as you've done your best. Dare to be the best you can-at all times, dare to be!"⁶

I look forward to the coming year as a time when together, we move forward with ASPAN's power in numbers, its specialty practice and its purpose to be the best it can be. ASPAN is now. ASPAN is here to stay. As your ASPAN leader, I will strive to fulfill my presidency by embracing changes and meeting the challenges through all of you--the members.

REFERENCES

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