



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

“Reaching Out” Has Meant for ASPAN and For Me

“The brightest stars are those who shine for the benefit of others.”

March/April 2003

Linda Wilson, PhD, RN, CPAN, CAPA, BC
ASPAN President 2002-2003

This past year ASPAN reached out for perianesthesia nursing. Perianesthesia nursing benefited from the hard work of the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Strategic Work Team Leaders, Ad-hoc Team Coordinators, Committee Members, Component Leaders, ASPAN Office Staff and all of you...the ASPAN membership!

ASPAN worked with the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) to obtain a Fall, 2002, endorsement for our Thermoregulation Guideline. We will continue working with the ASA on the development and the production of the new ASA / ASPAN Anesthesia Patient Teaching Videos.

ASPAN reached out to address the nursing shortage. ASPAN President Linda Wilson and Vice President / President Elect Sandra Barnes participated in the American Nurses Association's "Call to the Profession." Gena Near, ASPAN's Governmental Affairs Chairperson, has worked diligently with her committee to keep ASPAN and the membership informed of current legislative issues, and, most importantly, the Nurse Reinvestment Act. To introduce new nurses to our specialty and to encourage their participation and membership, ASPAN continued a presence at the National Student Nurses Association's National Conference.

The ASPAN leadership continued reaching out through collaboration with our professional colleagues in related specialties such as: the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN), Nursing Organizations Alliance (NOA), Emergency Nurses Association (ENA), American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN), New York Society of Anesthesiologists (NYSA), American Nurses Association (ANA), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center-Commission on Accreditation (ANCC-COA).

ASPAN also reached out to improve perianesthesia clinical practice. The ASPAN 2002 Standards of Perianesthesia Nursing Practice were published, as well as the Competency Based Orientation Manual (Second Edition), and the ASPAN Thermoregulation Guideline. In early Spring 2003, ASPAN will also publish the ASPAN Pain and Comfort Clinical Practice Guidelines and Resource Manual.

ASPAN has reached out to collaborate with our international colleagues. In October 2002, I had the wonderful opportunity to present at the Cuban Nursing Congress and the New Jersey / Bermuda PeriAnesthesia Nurses Conference. This spring I plan to attend the national conferences of the British Anesthetic & Recovery Nurses Association and the Canadian PeriAnesthesia Nurses Association. Because of increased international contacts and collaboration, we have seen an upsurge in the number of questions from international countries. We have received questions from countries as far away as such as Kuwait and Brazil.

On a personal note, I have traveled to over 22 states during my term, and I have been the delighted recipient of many components' hospitality and warmth. I could not put into words how invigorating and exciting this experience has been for me! Thanks to all of you, for your support, encouragement, and all the reaching out you have done this past year!