



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Vision In Action: Celebrating Success

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ASPAN President 2005-2006

"If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric - one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place."¹ These words of Margaret Mead accurately define the heart and soul of nursing and ASPAN. They will guide the ASPAN Board of Directors in all strategies and decisions relevant to our organization in the coming year. They will serve as a reference point for all plans and projects initiated by the mind and body of our membership. They will, ultimately, enable us to reach out and touch the world around us.

As we move forward during this special year marking our twenty-fifth anniversary, there will be ample opportunities to reflect on past accomplishments that resulted in our rich legacy; one that we intend to continue into our envisioned future, a future that will be safe, secure, and inviting; one that will stress inclusion rather than exclusion; one that will strive for acceptance instead of rejection, and one that is marked with pride, passion, honesty, respect, and diversity. Our words and actions will be focused on advancing the unique specialty of perianesthesia nursing while reaching our goal of making diversity a reality.

Diversity can become a reality in the coming year in all areas of our involvement, influence, and practice. I believe that our image, reputation, and identity of excellence can become that of eminent influence if we think, speak, plan, and act in different, creative ways. I have charged my Diversity Strategic Work team with many initiatives to explore and new ways of thinking to embrace. I have empowered them to think outside the box and utilize risk-taking and critical thinking skills. Most of all, I have told them to dream the impossible dream and share their vision of how to make diversity a reality for all of us.

Based on their input, the recruitment of members will be extensive and will tap diverse sources. Geographic borders will be crossed and an inviting hand will be extended equally to all. We will grow stronger in numbers and reputation as we begin to appreciate and celebrate the differences that exist among us. Retention will naturally result as our members feel united in one voice to advocate for a common goal of patient safety and quality care. Our joint ventures with ABPANC will enable us to be successful in recruitment, as well as with certification.

ASPAN will visit diverse practice settings and discover avenues for partnering and mentorship, which will add to our image and credibility. The needs and satisfaction of all members will be kept uppermost in mind when planning and implementing uniquely diverse educational offerings. Communication links between the grassroots members will be improved with the addition of a fifth Regional Director. Modern technology will aid in the communication effort and raise the ceiling of opportunity for enhanced growth and development in education, clinical practice, and research. Diverse areas of research and different clinical practice links will increase our visibility and extend our influence into the greater health care community.

Publications will take on a vital role in moving the diversity project forward. Guest authors, case studies, book reviews, and nurses' stories will have the thread of diversity running through them. Cultural competence will be visible in the written word and will be clearly articulated to our stakeholders.

ASPAN's political impact is only limited by space, time, membership interest, and participation. What is now necessary is for the space around the table to be shared by diverse organizations that include ASPAN. Our timing with collaborations, joint projects, and alliances will improve as we rise to the challenge and 'walk the talk' of true advocates.

Diversity will become reality with the help of our national office staff. They are a group of individuals who believe in ASPAN. They touch our world of practice, influence, and membership with their expert advice and resources. They believe in the individual worth of our members and will strengthen our efforts to be the premiere organization for perianesthesia nurses.

It is with great honor and privilege that I serve as your President during this milestone year. I ask that you give of your time and talent in whatever way you can. I urge you to counteract the apathy, mediocrity, and insensitivity that surround your practice. I challenge you to keep your mind open to creativity, diversity, and change! Finally, I encourage you to remember the wisdom that exists in the following words by past President Jimmy Carter: "We became not a melting pot, but a beautiful mosaic with different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams!"¹ Together as caring, committed perianesthesia nurses, let us reach out and touch our world so that diversity can and will become a reality in all areas of our existence!

REFERENCE

1. The Princeton Language Institute: 21st Century Dictionary of Quotations. New York, The Philip Lief Group, Inc., 1992.