



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Celebrate Strengths: Elevate Practice, Investigate in Your Knowledge!

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ASPAN President 2019-2020

Benjamin Franklin once said: "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."¹ ASPAN is YOUR investment in knowledge. There is a plethora of avenues through ASPAN in which to gather knowledge. The National Conference is the highlight of sharing. This is where we listen to speakers, read posters, and gather with our colleagues to network. The coming together enriches our lives as we learn from each other and take back best practices. As a member of ASPAN, you have multiple opportunities to gather knowledge, such as through the *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing (JoPAN)* that comes to your house and online, and Breathline that comes directly to your email to read online.

Active Learning

Knowledge is gained not only by the passive flow of facts but by being an active learner. Seeking out information brings a sense of independence by being self-sufficient. ASPAN offers you the chance to seek information by utilizing the resources of its website to learn about perianesthesia nursing. Experts in the perianesthesia field are active within ASPAN, so utilizing their expertise brings knowledge to you. The Clinical Practice Committee offers free answers to any question posed regarding your practice. Think about the fantastic learning resources you have at your fingertips.

Obtain Knowledge Within ASPAN

Education abounds within ASPAN! Learning can take place whenever and wherever you want. There are live seminars to attend, live webcast opportunities from full day to two-hour presentations, and modules on-demand that you complete at your convenience. ASPAN is ready to assist you with your learning. Look for support from ASPAN when you return to school. Scholarships are available for BSN, MSN and Doctoral programs. Take full advantage of this great opportunity.

Becoming an Expert

The interest you receive from others related to your new knowledge is not always immediately apparent. But, gradually, you become an expert in your field with your colleagues respecting your knowledge. People identify how vested you are in your profession and they reach out to you to precept a new hire or ask you to lead a team to improve practice. Professional opportunities present themselves as you acquire more knowledge and take the initiative to learn. You can give back to nursing.

Where Will Your New Knowledge Lead You?

It is the time of year that people head back to school. As I thought about Ben Franklin's quote regarding returning to school, I thought about the investment I made in going back to college, twice. It paid real dividends. I became a clinical instructor for a nursing program, and I was also chosen to become the clinical educator for the PACU. When I started on the BSN and Master's trajectory, I was not sure what the end result would be. But, I knew it would not be wasted. And it wasn't!

Thank you for being a member of ASPAN. Utilize the benefits of being a member and invest in knowledge by taking advantage of the opportunities ASPAN presents. You never know where it will lead.

REFERENCE

1. Franklin B. Proposals relating to the education of youth in Pensilvania 1747. National Humanities Center Resource Toolbox Becoming American: The British Atlantic Colonies, 1690-1762 website. <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/becomingamer/ideas/text4/franklinproposals.pdf>. Accessed June 28, 2019.