



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Remain Vigilant: Be the Voice

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ASPAN President 2007-2008

I began a remarkable journey one year ago. As ASPAN's 27th president, I approached my term like those before me: with a vision and hope for collective accomplishment in the advancement of perianesthesia nursing. While the year ahead seemed endless last April, I am struck today with the realization of how quickly it has passed! Today, I hold a deep appreciation for the incredible amount of work accomplished through the tireless dedication, commitment and passion of so many talented individuals who contribute to our organization.

Standing Together

Florence Nightingale said: "Let us each and all, realizing the importance of our influence on others, stand shoulder to shoulder, and not alone in good cause." Over the past year, I asked you to stand shoulder to shoulder with me and respond to challenges that affect perianesthesia nursing and healthcare. I encouraged you to Be the Voice and advocate for our patients, practice and profession.

Nurses commonly seek best practices to enhance the provision of safe, quality care. Although perianesthesia practice settings vary, networking opportunities reveal that nurses share universal practice concerns. My visits to components and attendance at ASPAN committee meetings throughout the year provided many opportunities for open discussions about the challenges affecting perianesthesia nursing practice. Concerns include appropriate staffing ratios, use of ASPAN clinical standards and guidelines, and patient and workforce safety.

Margretta Madden Styles, PhD, RN, FAAN, past president of American Nurses Association and the International Council of Nurses, so eloquently stated:

"Imagine a world without nurses. Think of a world without persons who know what nurses know; who believe as nurses believe; who do what nurses do; who have the effect that nurses have on the health of individuals, families, and the nation; who enjoy the trust that nurses enjoy from the American people. Imagine a world like that, a world without nurses".¹

ASPAN, as the voice for perianesthesia nursing, promotes perianesthesia nurse awareness to enhance the public's understanding of our profession. We imagine a world empowered by nurses. ASPAN is reaching across the borders of our organization to secure and nurture collaborative partnerships with other nursing and non-nursing specialty organizations. Our partnerships strengthen the ability to reach, educate and inform policy makers whose decisions affect healthcare practice and the public entrusted to our care.

Remaining Vigilant

The nursing profession is faced with unprecedented challenges, such as the nursing shortage, an aging workforce, generational issues, insufficient numbers of nursing educators, and workplace violence. Today, the average age of a nurse is forty-seven. Many of our colleagues will retire within the next several years. Who will fill the vacancies? Will there be enough educators and mentors to support new nurses' professional development? In addition, our national healthcare crisis is real. Access to quality care, whether preventative or in a time of crisis, is currently unavailable to many American citizens.

Such challenges also bring opportunities. Nurses are strategically positioned to make a difference to the profession, and the healthcare delivery system in general! Nurses can, and should, harness the best resources available within ourselves and our profession. We must seize every opportunity to share our specialized knowledge, skills, experience and understanding of the healthcare system to present innovative suggestions for improvement on a variety of healthcare issues.

Nurses have long been comfortable with and willing to advocate for patients. Our influence must now extend beyond old comfort boundaries to support broader issues impacting professional nursing practice and healthcare as a whole. Your involvement in ASPAN enables collegial collaboration that can lead the way in advocating for change. Endless opportunities exist to become or stay involved. Remain vigilant. Be The Voice!

Sharing the Mission

An inspirational coach, Vince Lombardi, once said that achievements of an organization result from the combined efforts of each individual. ASPAN's viability and strength is realized through its members and willing volunteers' activities. Our members have extraordinarily heeded a call to advocacy and contributed to the success of ASPAN at the local, component and national level.

You, the member, and your voice represent ASPAN today and into the future. You can feel a deep sense of pride and accomplishment because your collective efforts serve to create, validate and improve safe, competent care at the bedside. Your incredible talent, passion, commitment to excellence and advocacy for our patients and profession will keep ASPAN positioned as the premier organization for perianesthesia nursing.

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combined efforts of each individual.”
~ Vince Lombardi

It has been an honor and privilege to meet and work with so many people who have lifted their voice and acted in support of ASPAN's mission. You have enriched my life. A special thank you is given to: the ASPAN Board of Directors; committee chairs and members; strategic work teams; liaisons; editors; specialty practice groups; component leaders; and the National Office staff.

Throughout my term, ASPAN members have raised the bar of excellence through unselfish devotion, professionalism, enthusiasm and continued collaboration. You are profoundly contributing to the advancement of our nursing specialty. I thank you for standing shoulder to shoulder with me while sharing your support and exceptional contributions. STAY THE VOICE for perianesthesia nursing!

REFERENCE

1. Madden Styles M. Nursing speaks for itself: A declaration on the education and work environment of the nurseforce. American Nurses Association, Silver Springs, MD: Nursebooks.org, p. 5, 2006