



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Taking ASPAN Into the Next Millennium

July/August 1997

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ASPAN President 1997-1998

This is a very busy time of year for ASPAN. This is the time when we look ahead and plan our activities that will be completed over the next year. Our committee chairs, board of directors and I use our strategic plan to write our action plans. Action plans are the outline for our activities over the next year. Our aggressive strategic plan was weighted and approved by the Board of Directors in Denver. The weighting of the plan gives a time of completion for each objective. Our objectives are weighted to be completed in one to three years. There were a total of eighteen objectives and the average weight was 1.6, meaning that each of these objectives will be completed in 1.6 years. We also have eight objectives that are ongoing. An ongoing objective is one that will not be completed such as a project, but one that needs to be a continuous activity. Having an aggressive strategic plan is good news for you the member. It means that our committees will be very busy providing the activities that reflect our mission, promoting societal strength and viability and promoting leadership growth within ASPAN. Eighteen objectives with an average weight of 1.6 is my definition of an aggressive plan!

We use our strategic plan as a tool to plan for ASPAN's future. As your ASPAN president, it is one of my goals to plan well beyond our three year plan into the next millennium. I ask myself questions such as: What type of perianesthesia nursing will we be practicing then? How will our membership benefits need to change? What will our healthcare system look like? What changes will occur in healthcare that will impact ASPAN? What can we do now to ensure ASPAN's viability and strength into the next millennium? I feel the answers to our strength and viability for the future are in our organizational structure transformation, promoting financial growth and stability, promoting ASPAN as the specialty organization for perianesthesia nurses and our membership.

This is our year of transformation. Our new organizational structure began with the first meeting of the new board of directors post conference in Denver. As president, I have already experienced the quick responsiveness of a board this size. In today's world, rapid response to issues is necessary to survive and excel as an organization. Plans are also underway for the first representative assembly meetings in Philadelphia. Representatives and conference participants will be busy attending open forums, representative assembly meetings and a town meeting. These meetings will promote communication with you, the member and assist ASPAN leaders to chart the right course into the future.

The new board voted on measures to ensure financial growth and stability at the Denver meeting. The board approved a cost/benefit program to be developed by the finance committee. The finance committee will complete a cost/benefit analysis on all ASPAN projects that involve money. The analysis will be provided to all board members prior to voting on the project. Executive Director Kevin Dill and I will be developing a business plan this year that will be presented to the board. The board also approved the formation of an ad hoc committee for the development of a Total Quality Management program. The TQM program will promote and improve the quality of ASPAN's membership benefits. I feel these business principles will assist ASPAN to continue our recovery from our prior financial losses and promote financial growth and stability in the next millennium.

To promote ASPAN as the specialty organization for perianesthesia nurses into the next millennium, we must be visible on a national level. This visibility helps to educate consumers, potential members and other organizations about the uniqueness of perianesthesia nursing. ASPAN was represented by past

president Terry McLean, RN, CPAN at the AORN Congress in Anaheim. Ellen Sullivan, BSN, RN, CPAN, Standards and Guidelines Chair, attended an ANA Standards meeting in Washington, DC. Myrna Mamaril, MS, RN, CPAN, CAPA, Clinical Practice Director, attended an ANA Nursing Practice Guideline meeting on Telehealth in Washington, DC. Jane Ehrhardt, BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA, Secretary and AACN liaison, exhibited at the AACN's National Teaching Institute in Orlando with Linda Boyum, RN, CPAN, Region 2 Director and Health Care Products Committee Chair Designee and Nancy Saufl, MS, RN, CPAN, Education Director. I represented ASPAN at the annual meeting of the Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association in Boston. I also had the pleasure of being invited to attend the spring conferences of the MaSPAN in Hyannis and the MAPAN in Troy.

Because the president cannot represent ASPAN at every national meeting, the ASPAN Ambassador program was developed. The ambassador program encourages local ASPAN leaders to represent us at national conferences and meetings in their region. We have been represented this spring by the following ASPAN Ambassadors: Kathy Constantin, RN - National Legal Nurse Consultants conference in Pittsburgh; Sylvia Hartmann, MSN, RN, CPAN - Oncology Nursing Society Congress in New Orleans; Jane Ehrhardt, BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA - Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology Symposium in New Orleans; Myrna Mamaril, MS, RN, CPAN, CAPA - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioner's Conference in Washington, DC; Susan Shelander, RN, CPAN - Society of Gastroenterology, Nurses and Associates Annual Meeting in Orlando, and Linda Wilson, MSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA - National Association of Orthopedic Nurses Congress in Philadelphia. I would like to thank our ASPAN representatives and ambassadors. It is through the donation of their time that ASPAN will be recognized as the specialty organization for perianesthesia nurses.

As your president, I feel the key to our strength and viability into the next millennium is in our membership. Our new organizational structure is designed to offer direct communication from the member to the ASPAN leadership. I encourage you to participate in this by contacting your component presidents, regional directors, and officers. Participate on a local level by attending component board meetings and educational offerings. If you are attending National Conference in Philadelphia, plan on attending our representative assembly meetings. Through collaboration we will shape the ASPAN that you will need in the healthcare environment of the future. Promoting strength and viability can also be accomplished through our membership. Let's work together in providing the right membership benefits to gain new members but most importantly to retain the members that we have. You are all ASPAN ambassadors. I ask you to spread the word about the benefits of ASPAN membership and how it is the specialty organization for the perianesthesia nurse. I would like to thank you for the opportunity of serving as your ASPAN president. I encourage you to join me in visionary thinking and assist me in laying the foundation that will take ASPAN into the next millennium.