



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

This is the Time

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ASPAN President 2010-2011

The New Orleans Conference seems like so long ago ... but surely it was just last week! The past year was full and has flown by while serving as your ASPAN President. I had the opportunity to meet many of you at your component meetings. You shared stories about your workplace, commitment to patients, and passion for perianesthesia nursing. Some of you have been ASPAN members since the beginning, while others were brand new to the organization. Many of you expressed excitement about recently becoming certified, shared your concerns about sitting for an upcoming exam, or articulated a desire to become certified in the future. Whatever or wherever the exchange occurred, it was evident that each of you were reinvesting in your professional potential. While the travelling was, at times, tedious, I always returned from the visits energized and renewed.

A Year in Life

I would like to share a few highlights from the past year. In May 2010, I was invited to give a presentation on the value of specialty certification for the National Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses of Canada (NAPANc). In June, the ASPAN Board of Directors sent a letter of endorsement to the Canadian Nurses' Association Certification Review Committee encouraging it to consider approving NAPANc's proposal for a perianesthesia nursing certification examination. Later that fall, ASPAN published the *Perianesthesia Nursing Standards and Practice Recommendations 2010-2012*, culminating work that began a year before as a collaboration between the Standards & Guidelines and Evidence Based Practice Committees. The publication's new name reflected a new approach - this wasn't your same set of Standards. The Clinical Practice Committee fields questions from around the country asking, "What is ASPAN's recommendation for/on ..." Committee members then refer the person to the Resources in the Standards - which were our recommendations for perianesthesia practice. It became time to call them such and provide the perianesthesia nurse with tools that carry more weight when advocating for patient safety.

As ASPAN President, I had the privilege of attending or participating at meetings of key stakeholder organizations such as the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), American College of Surgeons (ACS), American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) and the Nursing Organizations Alliance (NOA). At the NOA Fall Summit, leaders from specialty nursing organizations discussed the impact of the Institute of Medicine's report on the future of nursing and what role the organizations should play in fostering changes recommended in the document. ASPAN also has a voice at the table of the Council on Surgical and Perioperative Safety (CSPS) - a coalition of organizations whose members are involved in the care of surgical patients. A CSPS sharps safety summary article is found in this issue.

Changing Times

Several programs/projects were started or revised during this presidential year. The Recruiter of the Year program was enhanced to provide more awards for members who successfully recruited new colleagues. The awards include monthly drawings for the ASPAN Redi-Ref, ten additional \$75 awards to be presented during National Conference along with the top recruiter and top component awards. The Membership/Marketing Committee also revised and renamed the member service recognition award, now known as the Above & Beyond Award. Ten ASPAN members will be recognized during the 2011 Representative Assembly for exemplary service to ASPAN or its components. Last summer, ASPAN entered into an agreement with its international perianesthesia specialty organization counterparts,

NAPANc, the British Anaesthetic and Recovery Nurses Association (BARNA) and the Irish Anaesthetic and Recovery Nurses Association (IARNA), to develop the first International Conference for PeriAnesthesia Nurses to be held in October in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Speakers from around the globe will share practice perspectives and research with global attendees. A new Clinical Practice feature on the ASPAN Web site showcases members' stories about the caring practices of perianesthesia nurses. The Education Provider Committee introduced an advanced pediatric seminar and is currently working on a perianesthesia setting pain management seminar. Work began in December to offer on-demand ASPAN Seminars on the Web site. Watch for more information in the coming months!

A Compelling Vision

Perhaps the most notable endeavor is ASPAN's strategic and organizational transformation. The Strategic Plan Implementation Strategic Work Team (SWT), led by Immediate Past President Terry Clifford, met in November 2010 to begin working on the plan. The recently completed ASPAN/ABPANC Environmental Scan was utilized to validate or identify issues that may impact the organization over the next 10 - 30 years. The SWT agreed that long-range goals identified by predecessors remained valid, so the strategies were updated and new milestones (outcomes) were identified. ASPAN's Core Purpose remains unchanged, and two additional core values were added. ASPAN's Big Audacious Goal remains the same but is now called the Compelling Vision. The revised Strategic Plan was approved in February and will be presented during the 2011 Representative Assembly.

Over the past year we have shared information about ASPAN's 30-year legacy, which will culminate with an anniversary celebration during National Conference. I invite those attending the Seattle Conference to visit the anniversary display in the Exhibit Hall and share your story with us. It has been my honor to serve as your 30th President and I look forward to joining an amazing group of colleagues as the newest member of the Past Presidents' Council. I thank each of you for being the face of ASPAN at the bedside, for being the patient's safe care advocate, and for reinvesting in YOUR potential. To borrow from Reginald Hamm's lyrics, "I've tasted each moment and lived it out loud; I knew this was the time to be more than a name or a face in the crowd; I know this was the time of my life!"¹

REFERENCE

1. Hamm RG. The time of my life. Available at <http://www.metrolyrics.com/the-time-of-my-life-lyrics-david-cook.html>. Accessed February 15, 2011.