



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Going ASPAN Green

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Lois Schick MN MBA RN CPAN CAPA
ASPAN President 2008-2009

Yes, ASPAN is talking about going green. This action stems from a desire to conserve and improve the natural environment and our organizational resources. Consider the profound impact from Earth's exponentially expanding population. With nine billion inhabitants projected by 2050, the demand for our planet's already depleted natural resources poses increased threats for future availability.¹

The Environmental Energy Technologies Division of the U.S. government reports that the average American office worker uses about 10,000 sheets of paper each year. This measures out to a stack of paper four feet high! American offices send four million tons of paper to the landfill each year.² Just imagine the huge amount of paper wasted each year from traditional ASPAN communication methods. The time for greener action is now.

Preserving Resources

An emphasis on ways for ASPAN to go green was explored in recent budget meeting discussions. In a first step toward action, the mid-year Board of Directors meeting is going green. The National Office will no longer print and mail voluminous board report packets, but instead will send the agenda to all board members via electronic files.

During the meeting, each agenda item will be computer generated and projected onto a screen. A second computer setup will project related, supportive and/or clarifying information for the particular agenda item discussed. The goal for the new meeting approach is to decrease the amount of paper used and potentially discarded, save on postage costs and preserve treasury resources.

ASPAN is joining other organizations to actively improve and save our environment. There will be more opportunities for your board, committees, strategic work teams and components to identify and implement green initiatives. An ad hoc work team was appointed to immediately address going green strategies and suggestions. This team will look at potential ways for ASPAN to adopt new practices and become more earth conscious. We will share more details in the upcoming months.

Boosting Economy

We know that ASPAN does not run by love, sweat and tears alone. Financial capital is required to support our many projects. While the membership numbers are stable, many of our colleagues do not belong to their professional specialty organization. I challenge each of you to go out and find one new member to join ASPAN.

The Member-Get-A-Member campaign is underway. Go get one! If each of our 13,725 members would recruit just one member, our organizational strength could grow immensely. Through such growth, ASPAN can continue to provide more for you, the member. Mission programs that currently support and develop our research, education, clinical practice and development programs can be augmented.

Team Building

The Component Development Institute (CDI) held in Salt Lake City was a great success. A wide variety of topics were presented to assist component leaders in getting "Back to Basics". Presentations included: the impact of colors on the professional and the patient; ASPAN strategic planning; component leaders'

fiscal responsibilities; research and clinical practice presentations; and a multitude of leadership topics. The live demonstration of a distance meeting online included a presentation on the education program accreditation process. Once again, the CDI provided great networking opportunities and a good time was had by all!

Green has always been associated with ASPAN. Our publications feature this color, as does the ASPAN Web site and logo. We now seek to operate as a conservationist and greener organization. ASPAN has always been blessed with the richest of resources: our members. The dedicated board of directors, committee and SWT leaders, Journal and Breathline editors, liaison appointees, Past Presidents Council and National Office staff consistently rise to meet the challenges and opportunities afforded.

It's hard to believe, but another year is coming to a close. Time seems to fly by. The winter holidays offer a time to reflect and be thankful for all we have. I am thankful for each and every one of you.

REFERENCES

1. Go Green Initiative. What's the problem? Available at <http://gogreeninitiative.org/>. Accessed October 1, 2008.
2. Bach, David. Go Green, Live Rich. New York: Broadway Books, 2008.