



# ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

## Message from the President

### Making a Difference is All About You!

*March/April 2002*

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**ASPAN President 2001-2002**

The most memorable year of my professional nursing career began in Boston, MA, April 2001, and will end in San Diego, CA, May 2, 2002. Serving as your President has been a special and unique privilege.

What seemed like an endless journey has now become a race to the finish line, as many try committed volunteers finalize projects of this fiscal year. Without the help of the ASPAN Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and members, Editors, Past Presidents, the National Office Staff, and countless component volunteers the operation of our Society would be difficult to achieve. There are so many talented individuals who step forward each year to support ASPAN and keep our mission and our vision a reality. Your volunteerism brings excitement, spirit, and soul to ASPAN. As we sail into San Diego to validate "Transforming Vision into Reality: Our Journey, Our Legacy," it is each of you who have served this year and contributed to our legacy and our journey who I choose to honor in my final editorial as President of ASPAN.

Visiting component societies has been a highlight that will forever foster memories of dedication and promise. Your passion for advancing perianesthesia nursing, standards, and practices at the local level through education programs and community projects was a delight to witness. Articles and stories published in newsletters inspire and motivate our membership and invite non-member participation. The Component Development Writers Institute, encouraged editors to be creative and savvy with the published word. Birth of the ASPAN "Press Corps" emerged from the ranks of our grass roots editors and will be visible for the first time during our San Diego National Conference. Volunteer leadership is always hard pressed for new recruits, however, component mentoring and coaching efforts for many critical roles are creating a gracious bridge for new leaders with valued experienced leaders. Involvement in local political issues in several components has assured safe practice for the bedside caregiver. Mentorship, followership, and leadership are unmistakable as a priority. Component societies, YOU made a difference and really made it look easy!

ASPAN committee leaders are the reason our vision and mission is achievable on a grander scale. The reward for serving is knowing someone will benefit from the many hours dedicated to projects that need committee leadership and direction, so our projects will prevail. Without committee leaders the real work of ASPAN would not prevail. It is important I mention a few names, as volunteerism is what makes a difference for ASPAN. Please know it will be difficult to mention everyone and surely I will unintentionally overlook a meaningful project or contributor.

Kathy Miller, Chair Standards/Guidelines, assumed the responsibility for reviewing and revising our Standards for Perianesthesia Nursing Practice 2002, no small task since it serves as a substantial reference for perianesthesia units everywhere. Our clinical standards are our hallmark and this committee took this role seriously. The Governmental Affairs Committee, led by Gena Near, has kept us abreast of all congressional activity and involved many of us in our political process for the first time. This committee has kept us all on our toes and well-informed. Vicki Lewis, Ethics Chair, worked to update and prepare our Ethics statement for web publication. National Conference Chair Helen Buss and her committee can be very proud of the San Diego National Conference. This committee has worked nonstop so we will experience an ASPAN education event worthy of our time and attention. There are just no words to say

thanks adequately to this group of volunteers. Come to San Diego and express your appreciation in person.

Under the direction of Barbara Hannah our ASPAN education programs met approver criteria for the granting of many contact hours this year. A team of thirty four made this happen with ease. With the combined task of Membership/Marketing, Sue Carter as Chair provided a great PANAW theme, as well as new logo items: our first Media Kit, special membership activities, and exhibit activities for our components. Publications Committee, led by Joni Brady, was instrumental in developing the Writers Institute and assisting with our editorial projects. Barbara Godden is recognized for organizing the rewrite of our Competency Based Orientation Manual and Kim Litwack and Donna Quinn have expressed a desire to participate in the revision of the Core Curriculum. A congratulation to each of you as your commitment to ASPAN's major projects is valued.

ASPAN Editors, Jackie Ross – *Breathline* and Jan Odom and Vallire Hooper – *JoPAN*, have certainly set volume standards for our publications this past year. Manuscripts and newsworthy items are being submitted continually making selection of quality and interesting material for our readers a possibility. Our Specialty Practice Groups for Pain (Laura Habighorst), PreOp Assessment (Katy Flanagan), and Management (Shirley Norris) experienced growth and mentored the development of a Publications SPG that will be finalized during the national conference. Of course, our Past Presidents are always active and contributing in ways too numerous to count. A special thank you to Lisa Jeran for her work in facilitating completion of our thermoregulation project and the publication of ASPAN Clinical Guidelines For The Prevention Of Unplanned Perioperative Hypothermia. This information is now available on our web site. And to Denise O'Brien, Liaison to the ASA-APSF, NPSF Ambulatory Surgery project, seminar presenter, mentor and website coordinator, your continued participation is invaluable.

To the ASPAN Board of Directors the words of courage, passion, enthusiasm, integrity, and honor all come to mind as descriptors of your leadership and focus this year. One trait is not more important than the other and all are the foundation and core of your willingness to make appropriate decisions for our Society. No one said your job would be easy or lack challenge, and you accepted every responsibility with professionalism and regard for your role and the Mission of ASPAN.

Immediate Past President Nancy Saufl provided guidance and support for everyone. Her wisdom and leadership never faltered in the transition of roles and I am grateful for having the opportunity to follow in her very distinguished footsteps. To Sandy Barnes, Secretary, your knowledge about our society and the legacy of your many years of service in a variety of roles is priceless; your attention to every detail and your resolve to present timely information to our membership about our Board activities never wavered. ASPAN Treasurer, Sara Waldron, quickly engaged in her role as a first-term treasurer and made sure every penny was accounted for and all our expenses were validated with wise decisions. As she transitioned from Policy and Procedure Chair, Sara also ensured all necessary changes were incorporated into policy or procedure. Thanks for wearing both hats.

Our Mission Directors have been on non-stop projects since the beginning of their term. Director for Education Lynn Drury spent countless hours working on our ANCC application and reaccreditation process for her first year in office, no small task that has enlisted the work of many others as this is critical to our future education programs. Unexpected circumstances presented the opportunity for Linda Ziolkowski to be appointed to the role of director for Education during mid-term and she continues to advance the activities of this committee. To Ellen Sullivan, Director for Clinical Practice, thank you for coordinating and answering over eighty requests a month for information about ASPAN Standards of Clinical Practice. Your commitment to this priority for many years is so appreciated and your passion has elevated our need for solid clinical practice standards. Director for Research Dina Krenzischek is a constant source of energy and shares a passion for making research look easy. Our goal to have a Pain and Comfort Focus Forum and Consensus Conference would not have happened without her connections and her relentless push to keep this project on target. The real work has just begun, as she will continue to lead us through the research phase of our consensus activities. Dina, you are awesome for all the responsibilities you accept for nursing.

The ASPAN Foundation is no minor responsibility and Maureen Iacono, Past ASPAN President 1998-99, served as our first Director for the Foundation and assumed a new voting position on the ASPAN Board of Directors. The activities and projects of the Foundation are vital to our society and Maureen and her Foundation members, with Greg Ciminera ASPAN Director for Marketing and Development, have been committed to meeting every challenge. Way to go!

Regional Directors are many times the four invisible heroes of ASPAN as they continually network with component leaders and make sure all issues, questions, and concerns are addressed quickly and correctly. This year Sue Carter, Pam Windle, Sue Benner, and Meg Beturne were able to visit many of the components in their regions and experience firsthand the work being accomplished and the issues needing resolve. Their roles and connections are vital as ASPAN and components must work together to advance our specialty, a great job of communication and regard for our processes and projects by everyone. Certification is definitely an accomplishment we wish for every member of ASPAN. This past year I had the pleasure of working with the ABPANC Board, led by President Shelly Cannon, and experienced the passion for their vision of unequaled excellence for the CPAN and CAPA credential. Together ASPAN - ABPANC will continue to make a difference for all perianesthesia nurses.

Many do not see the National Office Staff and, yet, there is not one project that would come to completion if not for our dedicated team led by Kevin Dill, CEO. I do not know how few of you keep us on track and I thank you for every single project that needed 'special attention.' Office staff, in communication with ASPAN leaders, spends many hours meeting deadlines, objectives, and goals for every project and ensures that every detail is attended. Gang, you never let us see you sweat! You are a great team, very appreciated, and your efforts are visible throughout ASPAN.

And finally, thanks to Linda Wilson, Vice President-President Elect. You are talented, prepared, and supported in your ability to lead ASPAN and make the next phase of our journey even more prolific and significant. Your directions will continue to brighten our future as you "Reach Out" and accept the leadership baton and continue our journey and our legacy.

To each of you, the ASPAN member, that serve daily at the bedside of our patients, never forget your role is significant and brings honor to those whose lives you touch. YOU make a difference every day for someone. Without you there is no legacy and the journey has no meaning. Nursing and our specialty need your expertise, passion, and inspiration. May you continue to make a difference by remembering your life's work is your most important message and a legacy for everyone.

Thank you ASPAN, it has been my honor to serve our society and be part of our legacy and journey. See ya'all in San Diego April 28, 2002, where you will experience Making A Difference is all about YOU!