



# ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

## Message from the President

### Energizing Generations: The Race to Distinction!

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*"A leader has the vision and conviction that a dream can be achieved. He inspires the power and energy to get it done."* - Ralph Nader

Many people ask me why I chose the theme Energizing Generations: The Race to Distinction. The meaning of the word energize is to invigorate, rejuvenate, motivate and empower. As the leader of ASPAN, I want to energize everyone, but I want to focus my efforts on bringing each generation to distinction by drawing upon their strengths and desires, and to instill within them, the passion I have found in perianesthesia nursing. To all the people I meet, I tell my story: what I have seen, who I have become, what I have received and what I have to give to others.

#### **What I Have Seen**

*"If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants."*<sup>2</sup> - Isaac Newton

I remember my very first ASPAN Representative Assembly. It was quite a while ago. I was not a part of any delegation. I attended because I was curious. I sat quietly in the gallery, by myself, listening to what was going on. From that moment, I knew I needed to be a part of this movement. I witnessed members of the Assembly discussing, voting and ultimately changing aspects of the way I practice perianesthesia nursing. I was energized. I was shy back then...difficult to imagine, but I went on to ask members of the Assembly, "How do I get involved?" I realized then, each and every one of us has the power to change, amend and improve our practice. From that day forward, I never missed an ASPAN Representative Assembly. The simple act of attending such an event can really change the way you feel about a part of your life that you spend such a great deal of time in...your profession.

#### **Who I Have Become**

*"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."*<sup>3</sup> - Winston Churchill

When I decided to become more involved with my local component, I was still a bit hesitant to take that first step and attend a meeting. However, I was met with excited and friendly faces. Small tasks were assigned, which I accomplished, and I wanted more. I went on to become the treasurer, then the vice-president, and ultimately president. I was so honored to represent the membership of Massachusetts, to be its voice as an official delegate to the ASPAN representative assembly. Now it was my turn to be part of the debate, and to vote on issues that affect my day-to-day practice and the practice of every perianesthesia nurse.

During the years of representing my component, I yearned for more. I had joined a few national level strategic work teams, and worked hard on projects. I was energized to continue on. I took a leap of faith and decided to run for ASPAN treasurer. Surely I would not win, but I gave it my very best. I was not elected, but was determined not to fade away. Failure was not an option; it gave me the strength to continue. I knew back in 2007 I had so much more to give, so I remained committed. This is not about being elected as president of ASPAN. My journey does not cease at the end of my term – to me this is only the beginning. I know what I have to offer, and will continue to give back.

## **Give What I Have Received**

*"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."*<sup>4</sup> - Pablo Picasso

I have held many positions in ASPAN, and each one has brought knowledge, wisdom, understanding and insight. I have been given the gift of leadership, leading an organization which has energized me from the very start. I have met many individuals throughout my years and have tried to hear the voices of each one.

My gift to you is to pass on that energy I found within my heart, the energy and the passion that was nurtured by this organization over the many years. My desire is to create the drive within you, to be the best that you can be, by becoming involved and being part of something larger than yourself. If I could energize just one individual to take that step and see what I have seen, and go to where I have been, and for that someone to give back and make the difference, then I will have succeeded.

## **REFERENCES**

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