



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Opportunities and Possibilities – A Year in Reflection

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ASPAN President 2012-2013

There is an old adage that time seems to fly by when one is having fun. As I sit at my computer contemplating my final message as ASPAN's president, I can attest to just how true that statement is. It is incredible that the most memorable and rewarding year of my entire professional career, one that began in Orlando, Florida, and will be winding to a close in Chicago, Illinois this April, is reaching its final curtain. It has been a busy year, one that **has** flown by. Serving as your ASPAN president has been challenging, frustrating, insightful, thought-provoking, inspiring, joyful, fun and a most unique and exceptional experience. But mostly it has been great fun. I feel certain that the one man and thirty women who preceded me as ASPAN's chief elected officer would agree: serving as president of ASPAN is a lot of work, but also a unique privilege, as well as an extremely fun and enriching experience. It is an opportunity few have had, and one that has created many wonderful and unforgettable memories to be cherished long into the future.

ASPAN, however, is not an organization of one person. And it certainly is not all about the president. The work accomplished over this past year, like so many other presidential years, is **ONLY** made possible by the passionate, dedicated individuals and volunteers serving the perianesthesia community at both the national and component levels. It is most certainly due to the entire ASPAN Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Strategic Work Team (SWT) leaders and their members, Organizational Liaisons, Specialty Practice Groups, Editors, National Office staff, Past Presidents and the many unsung heroes volunteering in their home component who are committed to the practice of perianesthesia nursing. These are the people who make ASPAN the strong, vibrant organization it is. Each and every one of you brings your unique talents and special skills to each and every project. I never cease to be amazed by the number of hands that fly into the air when a new project is in its infancy with the "pick me, pick me" enthusiasm we so often only see in exuberant children. It is to each and every one of you serving at every level of our organization that I salute and honor in this, my final Presidential message. For while I may have served as ASPAN's figure head this past year, each and every one of you is ASPAN.

The components that I and the Regional Directors have been privileged to visit have all demonstrated an outpouring of enthusiasm and excitement for perianesthesia nursing and the advancement of our specialty. Educational programs offered to component members are of high quality and address the important issues facing nursing as a whole. The work of component leaders, editors and other volunteers spark the passions of your members and non-members alike. These are the things that keep people connected to your organization. You see the possibilities and seize the opportunities to advance the important work we do as perianesthesia professionals.

ASPAN's mission, vision and strategies are only accomplished because of the people serving as both leaders and members on the committees and strategic work teams this past year. This selfless band of devoted volunteers whom have graciously given many hours of personal time and talent has accomplished much. Susan Russell and the Clinical Practice Committee, a team of 67 volunteers, have meticulously researched, provided extensive in-depth answers and interpreted the *Perianesthesia Nursing Standards, Practice Recommendations and Interpretive Statements* for over one thousand member and non-member inquiries. Raquel Evans and the Component Revitalization SWT have solicited thoughts, ideas and feedback via surveys and best practice ideas in order to develop a toolbox for component use, regardless of the individual level of development. Terry Clifford and the Digital Media

SWT have surveyed members regarding your knowledge and use of various digital formats for social media, online education and other electronic tools. The findings have led to increased online educational opportunities and the in-depth exploration of potential ASPAN applications and mobile Web applications.

Educational aspects of the society have been well tended. Lynn Sekeres and the Education Approver Committee, a team of 35, have busily reviewed educational materials and program content submitted by components. They have expertly assisted and offered suggestions so that each component is able to provide contact hours to its membership. They are now busy updating materials to meet current ANCC changes. Nancy Strzyzewski and the Education Provider Committee have updated content for several of the ASPAN seminars, worked to assure the access of online, on-demand educational modules on the ASPAN Web site, and provided over sixty-four ASPAN seminars throughout these United States.

In response to a resolution at the April 2012 Representative Assembly, a new SWT was formed this year, expertly led by Amy Dooley. The Election Review SWT has actively reviewed all the policies, procedures and practices pertaining to the nomination, presentation and election of the various ASPAN elected positions. Research and Evidence Based Practice have been exploring new opportunities. Under the expert guidance of Daphne Stannard, ASPAN is now the only professional nursing organization offering membership to the prestigious Johanna Briggs Institute. Daphne and the Evidence Based Practice SWT have developed a new tool for conducting systematic literature reviews to aid in improved ranking of evidence. And in partnership with Kim Noble and the Research Committee, the two teams have successfully presented a Practice Recommendation on Obstructive Sleep Apnea. Their current project is revitalizing and updating the Pain and Comfort Guideline.

The Finance Committee, under Katrina Bickerstaff's leadership, provided skilled input to pricing of ASPAN publications, and maintains a firm financial foundation for ASPAN, allowing for increased funding for research, scholarships and educational programming. The Advocacy Committee, consisting of Governmental Affairs under Donna Goyer's guidance and direction; Gena Near representing the Americans for Nursing Shortage Relief; and Cindy Hill representing the Nursing Community, have provided ongoing and timely updates on legislative activities affecting nursing as a whole. As a result of their involvement and monitoring, ASPAN has been at the table and signed on in support of a number of bills and letters affecting funding and nursing advocacy.

Diane Swintek has overseen the dual task of Membership/Marketing. The team developed an exceptional PANAW theme, provided input and insight into a bylaw revision addressing Affiliate members, updated and improved the Gold Leaf Award criteria, and continue to oversee several member recognition awards. National Conference Coordinator Linda Ziolkowski and her SWT members can be extremely proud of the upcoming Chicago National Conference. This team has worked very hard to bring an education event of the highest standard to fruition. Not only have they taken into account suggestions for restructuring of time, they have creatively added more opportunities for achieving contact hours. It is well worth your time and energy to join them in Chicago. In keeping with ASPAN's core value of providing mentoring and experienced guidance to future leaders, Terri Passig leads a SWT that has developed a primer for future National Conference Coordinators. This primer will assist future leaders with the ins and outs of conference planning you only know if you've "been there and done that."

Dolly Ireland and the Perianesthesia Orientation SWT have made leaps and bounds in completing a comprehensive tool for institutions to utilize when customizing orientation programs to meet the needs of each individual and unique practice area. The Safety SWT, under the direction of Linda Beagley, has updated ASPAN's patient teaching tools, and completely revamped and updated the *Safety Tool Kit*. The toolkit will now be available as a member resource on the ASPAN Web site. Standards and Guidelines SWT, with Jennie Allen as the Coordinator, completed the revision of the *Competency Based Orientation and Credentialing Manual for Unlicensed Assistive Personnel*, and is busy at work preparing for the next update of the *Perianesthesia Nursing Standards, Practice Recommendations and Interpretive Statements*. Work is also underway, in collaboration with the American Academy of Critical Care Nurses and the American Society of Anesthesiology, to update the ICU overflow position statement.

Two new SWTS recently developed will continue their work into the next year. Developed in response to member need is the Electronic Documentation SWT headed by Dina Krenzischek. This SWT is tasked with developing a redi-ref for perianesthesia documentation as a resource tool for nurses practicing in the perianesthesia setting to enhance the education and transitioning to electronic documentation. The other SWT, newly created, is led by Regina Hoefner-Notz. Recognizing the unique needs of pediatric patients, the Pediatric Competency Based Orientation (CBO) SWT was developed. Using the current adult focused

CBO as a guide, the team will identify needs and skills for inclusion, and will then begin the process of developing and writing the material for publication.

The ASPAN editors – Jan Odom-Forren and Vallire Hooper, *JoPAN* editors, and Barbara Godden, *Breathline* editor – have provided consistent, high quality publications this past year. Both publications have received facelifts and updates to content. Readership is strong and growing. ASPAN's journal is now given an impact factor, which is a tribute to the excellent articles published and solicited.

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I owe a special debt of gratitude to the ASPAN Board of Directors. Throughout the year, you have demonstrated a commitment to exploring opportunities, taking calculated risks and engaging in open, honest and thoughtful discussion. You have, at EVERY turn, considered what was best for ASPAN and its component societies whenever there was a decision to be made. Your jobs can be challenging, but every challenge has been met with integrity, responsibility, professionalism, deep regard and respect for your role and for ASPAN. I must give a special nod of thanks to the Regional Directors. You keep your fingers on the pulse of the components. Your quick responses to questions, concerns and creative problem solving create the vital link between the national and local arms of ASPAN, allowing for further advancement of our specialty. Vice President/President-Elect, Twilla Shrou, thank you for being a sounding board for me this past year. Your sense of humor and long experience with ASPAN will serve you well as you soon take over the organizational reins. You are well prepared to continue exploring possibilities and forging new opportunities.

The unsung heroes of ASPAN are the small band of dedicated professionals working in the ASPAN National Office. ASPAN's office staff consists of only 11 people, not all of whom work full time. There is nothing ASPAN has achieved that this cohesive group of people hasn't had a hand in accomplishing. They excel at customer service, problem solving, assisting leadership at all levels of the organization, meeting deadlines, motivating, cajoling and supporting. You are all so very special and wonderful at what you do. Only using a modified song lyric can I fully express that you truly are all the wind beneath ASPAN's wings.

And finally, to my sister from another mother, friend, mentor and colleague, ASPAN Immediate Past President Chris Price, you have my undying thanks for preparing me so well to follow in your footsteps. Although you have tiny little feet, your shoes were large and oh so difficult to fill. Your wisdom, love and compassion were the beacon that lit my path every step of the way. I often found myself asking, "What would Chris do...?" Your guidance and support were pillars of strength for me this past year.

John Ruskin, a British scholar, once commented, "The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it."¹ I am truly grateful and humbled by the opportunity, honor and the privilege to have been able to serve you this past year. Thank you, ASPAN!

REFERENCE

1. Timberlake L. Imagination. In: First Thing Every Morning. Naperville, IL: Simple Truths, LLC; 2009: 42.