



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Celebrate Strengths: Elevate Practice

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Amy Dooley, MS, RN, CPAN, CAPA
ASPAN President 2019-2020

Welcome to a new year for ASPAN! It is my honor to lead this amazing group of perianesthesia professionals through 2019 into 2020. You are one of over 14,000 nurses who subscribe to the importance of this professional organization. Hopefully, you have been able to take advantage of the many educational opportunities or the clinical practice resources ASPAN offers to elevate practice. The strength of ASPAN in offering these opportunities and supporting perianesthesia research and standards is primarily because of our volunteers. Over the past year, I have been privy to the extraordinary work of all the volunteers within ASPAN. WOW, is all I can say for the breadth of issues ASPAN addresses.

ASPAN Volunteers

To meet the need, there are 272 nurses involved within ASPAN who volunteered last year in some capacity. The time commitment of these positions varies greatly from one hour per month to two hours per week. Here is a breakdown of the variety of areas in which volunteers are used within ASPAN:

- 13 strategic work teams (SWT)
- 7 committees
- 8 specialty practice groups (SPG)
- 21 liaisons
- 14 Board of Directors members
- 3 editors
- 2 historians
- 1 parliamentarian

Overall, there are 492 positions within these groups filled by volunteers. The beauty of these groups is the variety of experiences within the groups as nurses and, specifically, as perianesthesia nurses. The different roles the volunteers play adds diversity to each team.

Willingness to Participate Opportunities

Sharing your talents with ASPAN is easy to do. In the fall, just submit a Willingness to Participate (WTP) form online on ASPAN's website, and then just wait for your assignment. Volunteers are assigned to a committee/SWT based on their selections and role in perianesthesia nursing, and the number of members who volunteer. You will be notified of your assignment in 2020 prior to National Conference, so there is a delay once you put in your WTP form. Elizabeth Card, vice president/president-elect, has written an article in this issue that describes further the great opportunities for growth within the WTP choices.

This past year had both good news and bad news status for these volunteer opportunities. MANY nurses volunteered, which is good. But that meant not everyone got all their choices. How do you know which assignment is best for you? Just follow your heart. You know what interests you and those things at which you excel. Chances are, those are your strengths. So, use them to benefit ASPAN. If, after a year, your interests change, you can fill out the WTP for a different committee next year. Every volunteer must fill out a WTP every year.

Board of Director Volunteers

The Board of Directors is also part of the volunteer force for ASPAN. They are called upon to lead this specialty for the good of ASPAN. All the members of the board began their journey many years ago by volunteering at the component level. This led to a natural progression to leadership within their component and beginning to dabble at the national level. First, they became committee/SWT members and learned the ropes of the organization. Many were then asked to become leaders within that committee/SWT. The next logical step was to run for a position on the Board of Directors.

Volunteering and stepping up takes commitment and courage to risk being on such a public stage without a guarantee of success. I ran and lost two times for a Board position before becoming successful. I admire the poise of the candidates and the dedication they demonstrate to ASPAN. The success of this organization depends on the strength of the volunteers, and there are MANY of those. Thank you for sharing your strengths with ASPAN.