



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Celebrate Strengths: Elevate Practice

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ASPAN President 2019-2020

In May of 2019, Regina Hoefner-Notz handed over the gavel to me and I became president of ASPAN. That ceremonial transfer of power came with a trust and a responsibility to lead this great organization. Regina, through her servant leadership, had given me the tools to be president and entrusted ASPAN would thrive. Ten months have passed, and this organization is humming.

My theme, "Celebrate Strengths: Elevate Practice," came with a commitment that knowing and using strengths can bring your practice to a new level. The 2019-2020 Board of Directors worked diligently to identify their strengths and share these strengths. There was an identified richness with the variety of board member strengths that offered an excitement for the work we were doing. Potential blind spots of the board were recognized, and we developed a game plan to address those.

The Strengths of Each ASPAN Board Member

The Board of Directors have done a wonderful job applying their strengths to enhance ASPAN's impact to our members. The five Regional Directors, Connie Hardy Tabet, Susan Norris, Deb Moengen, Bronwyn Ship and Keisha Franks, with their strength of Relationship Building, supported their components through communication, promotion of the Component Development Institute, and sharing ASPAN resources.

Director for Research Peggy McNeill has advanced Research and EBP activities by using her Strategic Thinking strength. Director for Education Mary Baird uses her strength of Relationship Building to encourage novice presenters at National Conference and she utilizes ASPAN veterans to update our education offerings. ASPAN's seasoned Director for Clinical Practice Diane Swintek continues to use her strength of Executing to develop new Clinical Practice Committee members and continually updates the Frequently Asked Questions on the ASPAN website.

Regina Hoefner-Notz has done an amazing job with the Emerging Leaders Program, clearly using her strength of Strategic Thinking to bring a new perspective and expectations to its members. ASPAN's ABPANC representative, Vicky Yfantis, offers her support of ASPAN's educational strength and promotes certification using her Executing skills. ASPAN Secretary Jenny Kilgore, with her Relationship Building strength, utilizes her team to review and update many of the policies, keeps the minutes of the organization and sets agendas. Chris Skinner, in her first year as treasurer, has kept the books and has new ideas for financial stewardship. Elizabeth Card in her role as vice president/president-elect, is becoming familiar with presidential responsibility and is using her Strategic Thinking strength to facilitate her strategic plan for 2020-2021. Last, but not least, is ASPAN's CEO Kevin Dill. His strength is Executing, which he does very well. His institutional knowledge and non-profit expertise are key to the continual success of each ASPAN president and the organization.

The Strength of the National Office

The National Office staff have used their strengths by updating the education website to make it more user friendly, more concise and easier to understand the types of educational offerings. This upgrade bolsters our online presence for any perianesthesia nurse looking for education. The staff also does an amazing job answering the questions of members and non-members, being the front line for inquiries, and bringing professionalism to our organization.

The Strength of Components

We have seen components use their strengths to create outstanding educational offerings to bring the latest and greatest to their members. I have had the good fortune this year to travel to several components and participate. I was able to see firsthand the commitment and passion the component leaders have for perianesthesia nursing. Being a component leader is not an easy job, but many of the leaders have a strong team behind them to support their mission and vision. Kudos to the grassroots members and leaders throughout the country who make ASPAN the strong professional organization it is.

The Strength of ASPAN Members

The application of strengths within ASPAN this year has been a testament to the amazing nurses who support ASPAN's core ideology "to be recognized as the leading organization for evidence-based perianesthesia nursing practice."¹ I have been honored to lead ASPAN this year, and very much regret not being able to see many of you in Denver this April.

REFERENCE

1. ASPAN's Core Ideology. <https://www.aspan.org/About-Us/Core-Ideology>. Accessed February 13, 2020.