



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Professional Growth Through Knowledge and Fitness: The Key to Your Future

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ASPAN President 1997-1998

As you remember from my September/October 1997 *Breathline* article, "ASPAN: Getting Fit For You," one of the goals of my Presidency was to focus on societal fitness. As I write my last President's address, I look back at the year to evaluate our progress. Through the implementation of our organizational transformation, the Board of Directors has responded rapidly to issues affecting our society. This has given us our flexibility.

Through the institution of our Cost/Benefit Analysis Program, we have made sound financial decisions giving us our financial strength.

Through our single dues system we have experienced strength through unity. As of this writing, our membership is over 11,000. ASPAN is continuing to grow as other association memberships decline.

Our societal strength enables ASPAN to assist you with your professional fitness with our yearly National Conference. This year our theme is "Professional Growth Through Knowledge And Fitness: The Key to Your Future." Now it is your turn to work on your professional fitness by attending the National Conference. You know there will be many opportunities to attend educational sessions and obtain contact hours. A total of 88.5 contact hours will be offered this year. Not all perianesthesia nurses can attend the National Conference. As professionals, it is our responsibility to take the information home to our units and give presentations for our colleagues. The National Nursing Network audio tapes and the conference syllabus can assist you with this. I feel the most important activity that occurs at National Conference is networking. During the conference you will meet nurses from all over the country. You can make valuable connections that will assist you with providing high quality patient care. Now is the time to get your business cards ready to participate in the networking opportunities.

Through knowledge and fitness we can be assured that we will continue to grow. As we grow we will provide our patients with quality care based on education, research and sound clinical practice.

This has been one of the most exciting years of my life and career. It has been wonderful to meet the ASPAN membership and represent you as I have traveled around the country. I would like to thank you for the honor of serving as your President. See you in Philadelphia.