



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Vision In Action: A New Journey

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Today leaders face critical challenges in health care organizations. Tumultuous change is occurring in a fast phase and affecting all of us in our workplace environment and in our professional activities. These challenges and changes create the necessity for leaders to effect a new direction, to win the commitment of the organizational workforce and members, and to influence others to do what needs to be done to achieve a future vision. Each ASPAN President takes a unique course of direction as they start their term. Their visions and passions drive them to new dimensions and move the organization to the next horizon.

As I start my presidency, I think of the values, wealth of knowledge and expertise among the ASPAN members. I see leaders at the bedside making a difference everyday. I appreciate the leaders expanding their wings to influence others. I see leaders inspiring the direction of our organization. ASPAN has abundant leaders in all levels, driven by their passion, values, and commitment. Together, we have the unlimited positive power to design the course of our journey. I have chosen my presidential theme as Vision in Action. Joel Barker inspired me in my theme. He believed that, "Vision is a dream, action is a passing time, but vision in action will change the world." Vision in action is a way of life among the successful organizations. In reading books about Fortune 500 organizations, the size and volume of organizations did not necessarily define their successes, but it was rather their quality of service available to their customers and the quality of life accessible to their employees. In healthcare organizations, the American Nurses Credentialing Center awards excellence in nursing practice through The Magnet Recognition. Magnet Recognition program is very different from JCAHO approval process, because it strives for excellence in professional practice as evident in documentation of accomplishments and outcomes, actual observations, and interviews among organizational leaders, nurses, patients, family members, and community that they serve. Both the Fortune 500 organizations and Magnet Recognition Award place a value on employees, service, quality, and outcomes. Like all these companies and hospitals, we have specialty organizations and members to serve and the ASPAN organizational name to protect and respect with the highest standards.

So, we ask ourselves today as we start our journey: What are our professional acts of life? What is our process in becoming the premier organization in perianesthesia nursing practice? Ken Blanchard and Michael O'Connor described very well the trends of the Fortune 500 organizations. Their acts of life are defined in three ways: Achieve, Connect, and Integrate. Achieving is the act of setting goals. Connection is about relationships. Integration is bringing together both acts of achievement and connection. This sounds very simple, and I am sure we can relate by saying, "I do this everyday." My question to each individual ASPAN member is, "How well do we do this as individuals, at the district, component and organizational levels? Do we define or redefine our purpose and values? Do we put these into daily action as we reach other members in ways that are true meaningful to you as an individual, component, and organizational member?" Going back to the Fortune 500 organizations, they have two imperatives in their business world. First, four pillars as structure and secondly, a foundation base. The pillars are "CEOs": customers, employees, owners, and significant. How do we apply this to ASPAN organization?

Perianesthesia nurses are our customers, and we need to ask ourselves how well do we provide and communicate quality of service to one another and as an organization? If we have to stay competitive, we must not only satisfy the needs of perianesthesia nurses, but nurses must reach that point of positive power as they brag with pride about ASPAN. This positive power will influence and magnetize others to

join our organization and/or actively engage in our mission. Employees or ASPAN members must be treated as the most precious resources. As an organization, we must motivate the environment and work on goals that interest the members to increase commitment to the ASPAN mission. Owners represent stockholders or leaders in our organization. Leaders' successes are not only measured in terms of profitability, but by our ethical standards. Our integrity as an individual, component, and organization distinguishes us from our other competitors. Significant refer to other groups with which we interact, like other multidisciplinary organizations including our competitors. Similar to the Fortune 500 organizations, we must believe in the conscious building of spirit of shared responsibilities and mutual trust between our organization and other organizations and focus on creating alliances to meet the needs of our nurses in order to better serve our patients. Lastly, the foundation base is the ability to demonstrate "managing by values." It is not enough that we have ASPAN vision and mission; we must put them into action with our ethical values. As Joel Barker said, "Vision is a dream, action is a passing time, but vision in action will change the world." We must review and re-focus ourselves with what ASPAN believes. We must invest in our own and others' lives by sharing our time and talents through our involvement with districts, components, the organization, and others. We must integrate our purpose and relationship to find more meaning in what we do. As we put meaning in our professional lives, we then can influence others towards our common goal of excellence in perianesthesia nursing practice. This year, we will focus our vision in action through our initiatives: a culture of retention and recruitment, safety, practice standards, education, evidence-based practice, and leadership. These initiatives will be described as I address my presidential messages in upcoming issues of Breathline. Lastly, we must be united in our passion to gain positive power in propelling ASPAN to be the premier organization in perianesthesia nursing practice.

REFERENCES

1. Barker, Joel; *Future Edge: Discovering the new Paradigms of Success*; 1992
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3. Fisher, James, *Positive Power: Your Path to a Higher Leadership Profile*, Executive Excellence Publishing, 2002