



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Passion and Excellence: Growing, Learning, and Leading Together

July/August 2024

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The excitement and passion for learning is still upon me as the summer months go by and fall is right around the corner. It is hard to believe it is just three months since many of us met in Orlando, Florida, for the 43rd ASPAN National Conference. I am enjoying watching online recorded sessions from the National Conference that I did not have time to attend in person for even more contact hours. There are 54 sessions that have been recorded and are now available for viewing free to those who attended the conference. Those who were not able to attend the conference this year can purchase access to these recordings. Please share with your fellow perianesthesia colleagues. ASPAN provides top-notch education for our specialty practice.

My presidential theme is “Passion and Excellence: Growing, Learning, and Leading Together.” In the May/June edition of *Breathline*, I spoke of passion and excellence, the definitions, and the passion and excellence seen in our perianesthesia members. I want to take a few moments to look at what it means in growing, learning, and leading together in our organization.

Growing, Learning, and Leading Together

Let’s take a moment to look at the definitions of growing, learning, and leading. Merriam-Webster defines growing as “increasing in size or amount,” “becoming great in prevalence, popularity, or influence.”¹ The definition of learning is “the act or experience of one that learns” and “knowledge or skill acquired by instruction or study.”² Leading is defined by Merriam-Webster as “providing direction or guidance.”³ One of the goals of my presidency is to grow our membership by reaching out at the grassroots level. My vision is to have every perianesthesia nurse across the country know about ASPAN and want to be a part of this amazing organization.

Alexandra Mihai defined professional learning communities as “an idea of creating a space for reflective practitioners to exchange and crowdsource ideas and support each other in their practice.”⁴ While she was speaking about professional educational faculty, this same learning community can relate to perianesthesia nurses. We have professional learning communities within our organization. Various events such as National Conference, Perianesthesia Development Institute, component and ASPAN seminars bring education and collaboration to advance our practice. ASPAN’s various committees, strategic work teams, and specialty practice groups collaborate to share ideas and reflect on issues to improve our practice. It takes time, commitment, and resources to build our learning communities. The engagement of our members is key to growing our organization. Think about inviting a friend or colleague to attend a conference or a meeting with you. It’s that one-on-one relationship reaching out to someone and getting them involved, encouraging them to step up in leadership, or participating in a committee or event that makes a difference.

These last three months since the National Conference have been busy with committees, strategic work teams, and specialty practice groups meeting together to establish goals for the coming year and work on doing the business of ASPAN. I had the privilege of participating in many of those virtual meetings, listening to great ideas and seeing experienced committee/SWT members mentor new members of each group. I am excited to see so many ASPAN members serving on committees and SWTs. There were over 209 Willingness to Serve forms submitted with 49 members new to serving on one or two of these committees/SWTs. Thank you to the many individuals contributing to the growth and success of the organization.

In June, the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL) sponsored Advocacy Days June 3-4, 2024, in Washington, D.C. I joined the AONL Advocacy Day ASPAN scholarship recipients Lori Erni and Laurie Laurino to learn how to advocate with our legislative leaders' national health issues. We were involved in policy discussions, legislative briefings, and training in preparation to meet with legislators and their staff. We met with our respective legislators at the Capitol to discuss national health issues and nursing issues related to our practice. This was a great experience, and we will share more in the coming months.

Fall will be soon upon us, and many components are planning fall seminars in the coming months. Take these opportunities to attend either in person or virtually one or several component educational seminars or ASPAN education in a variety of formats. On the ASPAN website, go to the section under Education and Events to see ASPAN seminars, ASPAN Learn, and Regional Events Calendar. There is a wealth of opportunities for all perianesthesia nurses to grow, learn, and lead together in our professional organization.

REFERENCES

1. Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Definition of growing. Accessed May 7, 2024. <https://merriam-webster.com/dictionary/growing>
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4. Mihai A. Growing together: what's the key to a successful learning community? The Educationalist. March 23, 2022. Accessed May 7, 2024. <https://educationalist.substack.com/p/growing-together-whats-the-key-to>