



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Journey to Perianesthesia Excellence: Recognizing the Best of the Best

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Ah, spring is in the air. Last spring, in Orlando, Florida, I began the most memorable year of my professional career. As I set goals for the year, I promised and committed to lead this nursing organization on Our Journey to Excellence through many initiatives such as: safety; safe staffing; succession planning; perianesthesia data elements; evidence based standards and guidelines; new educational seminars; Breathline communications from Regional Directors; Specialty Practice Groups (SPG); and in the three perianesthesia domains of education, clinical practice, and research.

ASPAN enjoyed a period of growth and success in 2006. I cannot believe how much our organization accomplished in this short time period, with our members providing strength to make the dream a magical reality and a success! Our diversity focus and journey to excellence continued to navigate toward our perianesthesia nursing future. This chartered course ensures that ASPAN will continue to grow and succeed.

Collective Strength

There are so many talented individuals who step forward to support ASPAN's initiatives while keeping our mission and vision a reality. As we continue our journey in Anaheim, California, I want to thank ALL of YOU who serve ASPAN.

The opportunity to travel and meet so many members during my presidency has been a wonderful gift, and I truly enjoyed visiting component conferences and meeting new and longtime members. Many stimulating conversations took place that will leave lasting memories in my heart and mind. Without you, ASPAN cannot move forward to reach our goals and I will always remember the amazing members I met throughout my travels.

This year has been challenging, busy and rewarding for all ASPAN committees, SWTs, Ad Hoc committees, SPGs, the National Office (NO) staff, our board of directors (BOD), and me. My crystal ball predicts that ASPAN will face new challenges that test our skills and determination. So as we move into the future please remember my words of advice, "Start succession planning now. Identify leadership potential in members and coach, mentor and nurture them so they will become capable leaders in one to three years."

Organizational Assessment

Daniel Goleman describes emotional intelligence as the ingredient that distinguishes good leaders from "star leaders".¹ Goleman, Boyatzie, and McKee describe a framework for emotional intelligence focusing on personal and social competence.²

Personal competence represents how we manage ourselves. I believe that ASPAN's BOD, National Office staff, and members possess great personal competence.

Social competence determines how we handle relationships, and the authors assert that in order to achieve star leadership, eight social skills are required.^{1,2} Let's examine ASPAN's social competence using the requisite eight skills:

1. **Influence** involves wielding effective tactics for persuasion. Without a doubt, ASPAN is among the most influential nursing specialty organizations, recognized among the elite at the bargaining table.
2. **Communication** includes openly listening and conveying convincing messages. Our board and NO staff are open minded and always available to listen to members' input or questions. Our representatives deliver convincing public messages pertaining to practice, education, and policy issues for our profession.
3. **Conflict management** is negotiating and resolving disagreements. ASPAN has increasingly matured over the years and learned to turn our conflict into collaboration with other nurses, physicians, professional organizations and the public.
4. **Leadership** entails inspiring and guiding individuals and groups. Our national and component leaders provide inspiration and support for many members, guided by our association's mission and vision.
5. **Change catalyst** necessitates initiating or managing change. Every day, ASPAN creates or is involved in change related to the nursing profession, healthcare delivery, and our perianesthesia specialty.
6. **Building bonds** requires nurturing instrumental relationships. ASPAN continually nurtures instrumental relationships with members, other healthcare providers, professional nursing organizations, legislators and the public.
7. **Collaboration and cooperation** incorporates working with others toward shared goals. ASPAN's many ongoing coalitions, collaborations and partnerships are well developed and built upon mutual respect.
8. **Team capabilities** involve creating group synergy in pursuing collective goals. ASPAN's many committees, SWTs and task forces, exemplify our capacity for developing team capabilities.

I can eagerly report that ASPAN possesses social competence and our stellar organization will continue to assist any member in maximizing his or her professional capacity. I encourage each of you to use your emotional intelligence to support our organization and ensure ASPAN remains a star leader in the nursing profession.

Salamat Po, Muchas Gracias, Thank You!

ASPAN Ambassadors represent the organization at professional meetings, and our Star Recognition Program allows members to nominate a colleague for exceptional perianesthesia nursing practice. I want to thank our ASPAN Ambassadors and Stars for setting a wonderful example for all perianesthesia nurses to emulate! Your hard work, collaboration, words of wisdom, continued communications, enthusiasm, dedication and passion assisted me in advancing our Journey to Excellence.

Spring, with the ASPAN National Conference and installation of new board members, signals the start of a new year for our professional organization. The National Conference SWT has performed superbly and I thank them for their hard work. As we gather in Anaheim, I look forward to the opportunity to meet and greet new and old perianesthesia friends.

What an exciting year this has been! I am proud to have served as ASPAN's 26th President. My sincerest gratitude goes to the 2006-2007 ASPAN Board members who dedicated time through service and commitment. Thank you to every member for this honor and awesome opportunity to serve. ASPAN could not advance ***Our Journey to Excellence*** without **YOU**.

REFERENCES

1. Goleman D. Working with Emotional Intelligence. Bantam Books: New York, NY, 2000.
2. Goleman D, Boyatzie R & McKee, A. *Primal Leadership: Learning to Lead with Emotional Intelligence*. Harvard Business School Press: Boston, MA, 2004.