

May 18, 2012

ASPAN 2012 National Conference Report

ASPAN's 31st National Conference is now history. Many hours by many very dedicated people went into the shaping and bringing to fruition *"Beacons of Change – Focusing on the Future"* in Orlando, Florida. To all of you, THANK YOU - it was a wonderful five days!

Ironically enough for me, a 2012 conference scholarship recipient, much of my time was a walk down memory lane along with my professional look to the future. I attended my first ASPAN conference in March, 1983, in Washington D.C. - "Nurses in Action." My first conference was ASPAN's second National Conference, and wow, what a turn-on it was! I was a seven year veteran "Recovery Room Nurse" and I remember leaving that conference brimming with excitement and a yearning to not only learn more, but to do more; it was a new beginning for a newly recognized nursing specialty and I was part of it. How great was that! It was the beginning.

Today, almost 30 years later, I am in the twilight of my career, still in the PeriAnesthesia realm working part-time in a hospital based preadmission unit. It has been quite a journey and I would not change any part of it! I am privileged to have worked with and learned from the many very talented, caring, motivated, and amazing nurses associated with ASPAN. Over the years we grew and matured together as did our specialty organization. Today the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses is a highly respected, internationally recognized nursing entity with a 15,000 strong membership base. Yes, it has been quite a journey! Once again I left ASPAN's national conference turned on and brimming with excitement about my chosen profession, but also grateful for the many wonderful nurses that have impacted my life over so many years. So, until next year, stay safe and never stop learning. See you in Chicago!

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