

## ASPAN National Conference 2013

Commitment, passionate, patient focused, involved- these words are only a handful to describe the feelings experienced during the ASPAN national conference in Chicago. My trip to the national conference started and ended with “Endless Possibilities”. Starting with the opening speaker who taught me to never number my grocery list - to the last day I was amazed to see the commitment and passion for perioperative nursing. On Sunday I participated in the Item Writing Workshop presented by ABPANC. I learned about the process for test question development and actually create a question that will be reviewed for inclusion in the next test. The dedication and focus of the review committee members showcases the quality of excellence in perianesthesia nursing. Towering Opportunity—Endless possibilities—maybe this is my opportunity for growth-becoming an Item writer.

Component night was a swing, a hit and a homerun. Food, fun, raffles and dancing the night away. OPANA (Ohio) representatives were present with the Ohio buckeyes (peanut butter centers covered in chocolate). Did you get your buckeye---don't forget to stop in next year.

The presentations I attended covered a wide variety of topics ranging from Post op nausea and vomiting, adult and peds pain management, capnography to the electronic health record. I learned that perianesthesia nurses across the country are dealing with the same issues/concerns that are presented in my work environment. The conference provide me with an opportunity to network and to share ideas, educational trends and concerns, and creative solutions to perianesthesia issues.

I chose to attend CPAN/CPA luncheon and the Development luncheon-showing support for perianesthesia nursing and certification. I was honored to be recognized as the Patricia E. Hansen Scholarship Award winner. It is overwhelming to stop and look at what I

have personally and professionally accomplished. I believe mentoring is the key—I had a great mentor and am now passing it forward by mentoring the next generation of perianesthesia nurses.

The knowledge I gained at conference will be shared with other perianesthesia nurses. Who attends meetings at 7am in the morning, presentations all day and then still has the energy to dance in the evening—the answer I discovered is PeriAnesthesia Nurses at National Conference. The week was tiring but filled with fun and learning opportunities—and I will attend a national conference again.

Thank you ASPAN for supporting my attendance at national conference.

So what is next---towering opportunities and endless possibilities.

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Northwest Ohio PeriAnesthesia Nurses Association

Ohio PeriAnesthesia Nurses Association