

Experiences at ASPAN National Conference 2013

By Lori A. Silva, RN, CCRN, CPAN

“Towering Opportunities – Endless Possibilities” was the theme of this year’s ASPAN 32nd National Conference held in Chicago, Illinois. This truly says a lot about my personal experiences as an ASPAN member attending national conference. This was my 7th ASPAN National conference and I never stop learning and enjoying the experience.

Whether you are a first time attendee or a seasoned veteran, the national conference, has something for everyone. ASPAN reaches out to include perianesthesia nurses across the country in a variety of positions. This year I volunteered as an ASPAN Hostess to assist attendees to find classes; taking tickets for the various events, and assisting the speakers or moderators in any way needed. This was a great opportunity to meet nurses from across the country, as well as the delegation of Korean nurses attending the conference for the first time. I enjoyed greeting and meeting nurses I hadn’t met before, as well as familiar faces that I could finally start putting names to faces. It never hurts to give a smile to someone even on those early morning exhibits or help someone find where the bathrooms are located. Remember next year’s national conference is in Las Vegas. As the Coordinator for next year’s hostesses, I hope you’ll please take the opportunity to sign up to serve as a hostess. It is a great experience.

The ASPAN Representative Assembly met on Sunday, April 14, 2013. It was a great experience to meet and see ASPAN and component leaders coming together to discuss the business of ASPAN. President Sue Carter and the rest of the ASPAN Board of Directors reported on the activities of ASPAN for last year and future projects and ideas for the coming years. It was exciting to hear how ASPAN represented in other organizations and involved in decision making that affects our practice. The candidates running for the new ASPAN Board of Directors presented their vision for ASPAN’s future. I would definitely recommend attending the Representative Assembly, as a guest to hear what’s going on in the organization and learn how we can influence our practice.

The educational seminars were excellent. The speakers are experts in their field and you learn not only the speaker’s presentation, but from questions and answers at the end of each session. I learned what issues other people face in various other facilities across the country. You would be surprised if you are having an issue or problem, someone else may have already found a solution that you can take back home to improve your practice. I was the only one from our facility this year who was able to attend National Conference, so I wanted to vary what educational seminars I attended. Even though I work in our PACU, it was important to get some information to take back to our Same Day Surgery department and Pre Admit testing area. We are also seeing more post procedure cases from interventional radiology and GI lab

procedures with general anesthesia, so PACU nurses need to understand the unique issues in recovering these patients. There were so many valuable educational sessions related to management issues and education to take back to my facility to help improve the care we provide our patients, as well as staffing safety and satisfaction. Truly this conference had "Towering Opportunities and Endless Possibilities".