

2016 ASPAN National Conference in Philadelphia, PA

Report by Laura Yontz, MSN, MPH, RN, CPAN

Thank you so much for awarding me scholarship to attend the ASPAN National Conference in Philadelphia this year. I was very appreciative of the opportunity to attend and network with many peers from all over the country and experience this conference. It was re-energizing and exciting to be able to attend!

There is always new information to learn---and this conference was no different. I am amazed at the diversity of perianesthesia nurses and nursing, but humbled by the similarities. I listened to many different speakers about many different things: continuing education credit, standards, burnout, shared governance, sedation, laughter, etc.---all focusing on providing the best care we can for our patients and for ourselves.

I also had the opportunity to attend two lunch time presentations where staff nurses from all over the country shared best practices from their hospitals. I probably enjoyed these two presentations as much as anything---to recognize problems or ideas, and to hear new solutions or practices to make things better for the staff or the patients. I was particularly intrigued by the presentation around developing a perianesthesia residency program and have been conversations at my hospital around this idea.

The exhibit hall was an excellent learning arena again this year. I enjoyed meeting and talking with the many vendors, seeing the new products, and bringing the information back home. The setting for this conference was also great. After hours I had the opportunity to walk the historic streets of Philadelphia, to see many of the sights, and to get some much needed exercise after sitting all day! It was a good, safe area to do that!

Thank you again for the opportunity to attend this conference. This conference defines us as a distinct discipline and helps to keep me passionate about my work---even after 27 years in a perianesthesia setting!