

ASPAN National Conference 2017
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The Dream Walk was a success even though the route had to be changed due to the rain. I started off by volunteering in the ASPAN Shoppe for four hours on Sunday. We met and networked with many perianesthesia nurses. We greeted the many first time attendees with a cheer and a welcome, offering to assist in anything they needed help with and making sure they had signed up for the first time attendee class. The RA was in session deciding the business of our organization.

Everyone had fun at Component Night. The food was wonderful and many people line danced to music by the DJ. Attendees also had their picture made with the Indy car and their favorite NASCAR driver.

Monday we kicked off with opening assembly and the keynote speaker, Marcus Engel. Marcus reminded us why we became nurses and how we can make a difference in a patient's life with a single touch. Many of the CPAN and/or CAPA certified nurses attended the CPAN /CAPA Luncheon where we networked with other certified nurses from different components. Later that afternoon, the Exhibit Hall opened. The vendors had new information to take back to work. I worked at the ASPAN Booth where we promoted membership and applications for the ASPAN scholarship program.

Tuesday started with committee meetings and then on to educational sessions. Many components met to share lunch or dinner to network with nurses from their areas. Those not meeting shared food and drinks with new and old friends met at conference.

Up early Wednesday morning to attend the Development Breakfast, everyone enjoyed breakfast, networking and Susan Shelander's lecture. Many nurses were honored with the *Hail, Honor and Salute*; the monies raised are to be used for scholarships. The money raised from the Silent Auction and the Dream Walk, also are used for scholarships.

We attended educational sessions for learning. That night, many nurses attended the President's Reception to meet current the president and president-elect, with more networking and dancing.

Thursday morning brings Closing Session and installation for the 2017-2018 ASPAN Board of Directors. Closing lecture was wonderful. Maureen Iacono presented *PeriAnesthesia Nursing: Our Future is Now*. I was inspired to bring back new ideas to my coworkers and recharged by the educational offering and the power of touch and being in the minute when caring for the patient.

I would encourage anyone to volunteer for ASPAN committees; most of the work is done by email or conference call. As a scholarship winner I encourage you to apply for a scholarship for next year, there are scholarships for the ASPAN Conference, tuition for BSN, MSN and Doctoral degrees, fee scholarships for the CPAN or CAPA exam, Humanitarian Missions, and the Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI).