

**2017 National Conference Scholarship Report**  
**“Energizing Generations: The Race to Distinction”**  
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**Nurses: Take your Position**

After returning home from ASPAN’s 2016 National Conference in Philadelphia, I set my goal to apply for the tuition reimbursement scholarship. My start line was June 2016 when I sent in my application. I began the race to National Conference in September 2016 when notified I was receiving a scholarship.

**Nurses: Approach the Start Line**

The excitement of the 36<sup>th</sup> National Conference grew at the Registration desk. The checkered flags and race car decorations added to the thrill of the race.

**Nurses: Start the Race**

My race started when I participated in my first Dream Walk. Even though it was held indoors due to inclement weather, the enthusiasm was in the air. We toured the convention center by foot and encouraged each other on to the victory line.

**Nurses: Start your Engines**

The opening ceremony of Monday morning had everyone’s heart beating with the emotional speeches and the beautiful Star Spangled Banner sung by mother and daughter. The energy continued to grow as the keynote speaker told his heartfelt story of his journey to recovery after his tragic car accident. The “I am” slogan will be a constant reminder as I care for my patients. The energy “revved up” as I attended the CPAN/CAPA luncheon. It is always a thrill to see so many committed nurses in this field that have achieved certification. The keynote speaker had everyone smiling, clapping, relating to stories and reminiscing to our favorite songs.

The week was full of interesting sessions with a take home note from each. The Standards sessions introduce the new theory on acuity and OSA. The urinary retention session reinforced the study we are doing in our department on spine patients and urinary retention. The trauma sessions had new and invigorating information as technology advances. The Perianesthesia Nurse Educator SPG group met and shared interesting ideas for competencies as we networked and exchanged email addresses. I will take my new knowledge to facilitate development in my job as educator.

Wednesday’s Development Breakfast continued to show the passion of nurses as the Legacy for Life program inducted two nurses and a component. Congratulations to Nancy Fishman RN on being the Patricia E. Hansen Memorial honoree.

**The Final Lap and Finish line**

The closing ceremony was highlighted with an energizing and rejuvenating speech. The memories made at the 36<sup>th</sup> National Conference will not be forgotten. The spirit of racing continued as we toured Indianapolis and visited the speedway. May the energy from the conference live on within me as I carry the torch to work and my home component.