

2018 ASPAN National Conference Scholarship/Award Report

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The ASPAN 2018 National Conference in Anaheim, California was a week of great fun, inspiration, and connections with old friends and new. Last year, my mentor, Rose Durning, encouraged me to apply for the ASPAN 2018 National Conference scholarship and I was happy to have won. They say people often visit California to catch a glimpse of a celebrity, well I feel really lucky to have seen, spoken with and learned from the rock stars of the perianesthesia world. Lois Schick, one of the authors of the "Core Curriculum" was taking pictures of *us* during the Dream Walk. Many of the ASPAN past presidents were in attendance and I felt like I was in the presence of royalty, but they made me feel as if I were talking with a good friend or colleague.

Wow, what great speakers! Maureen Iacono shared her secrets on becoming an outstanding, engaging, knowledgeable presenter. Armi Holcomb was so warm and welcoming, her enthusiasm for ASPAN encourages everyone to become involved. I volunteered as a hostess for the first time this year and had a fun time talking with participants as they entered sessions. I was afraid that I would not do something right or know where something was, but Lori Silva and Karen Woods were kind, giving helpful instruction during hostess orientation. That is definitely something I will do again.

I was able to share my experience with the scholarship application process at the ASPAN booth in the exhibit hall. Many people I spoke with are somewhat intimidated by the paperwork, but we explained the steps and the ultimate reward. To top the week off, my component, OPANA won the Gold Leaf Component of the year! Beth Cooper, our component Gold Leaf Chair, did an awesome job of collecting the evidence of our passion for perianesthesia greatness. My friend, fellow scholarship winner, and colleague, Tina Harvey, editor of the *Snooze News*, also won newsletter of the year for OPANA.

I greatly enjoyed this year's conference and look forward to the 2019 National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. I encourage anyone interested to take the time to read and learn more about ASPAN scholarships at www.aspan.org. A little effort can result in such a rewarding experience.