

2021 All-Virtual ASPAN National Conference

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I want to thank ASPAN for the scholarship to attend the National Conference! It was quite an honor. It was a disappointment that last year's conference was cancelled due to COVID. This year's National Conference was something new with it being all virtual. Again, I am amazed how ASPAN is so professional and accepts the challenge of the changing times and made this year's event excellent!

I was not sure what to expect with the entire week being virtual, but it felt like I was there in person! I took the week off and watched the classes when they were presented. The technology that was used virtually was without many flaws. That's amazing. The schedule was like being there in person. The President's Reception was really done well. I didn't know what to expect, but the DJ was fun and kept the "party" going. I really liked the Jazz music while waiting for a class to start. One thing I really like about the conference being virtual, is that I can attend classes that I would have missed as they were offered at the same time in the in-person conference. I am still watching classes that I want to attend when I have time. That is huge and I hope you will offer this when attending the conference in person.

National Conference is such a big celebration of nurses; the networking, the atmosphere, the topics, the education, the camaraderie, and just plain fun is what the week is all about! I look forward to the education, which is my passion. I want to absorb all I can from the national speakers on multiple topics that I don't normally have access to. Seeing the officers, who are the most visual, made it seem like seeing friends from the past. Everyone who is part of ASPAN is so welcoming and want to uplift our profession. That was such a surprise for me during my first National Conference and attending LDI or now CDI. I thought the officers wouldn't be approachable and friendly, was I wrong! Since we didn't attend in person this year, I did miss meeting new friends who understand the same medical lingo and sharing nursing stories.

I have brought some information back to my hospital. I'm working in a smaller facility now and they are resistant to change. It's a fight, but one I'm willing to do as it is better for our patients and safer for us. We need the education, so we become better nurses. Elizabeth Card's passion for research is huge! I hope that continues and we stay in the forefront of nursing research for the perianesthesia area. Who else can do it better than ASPAN and its nurses?

Precision Vision – empowering innovation and well-being was a great pathway to follow last year. We need to continue to uplift our fellow nurses and continue to make it safer for our patients. It's all about caring! I have followed that mantra for my 40 years of nursing and have never wavered from that passion.

Thank you!