

## **2022 National Conference – Philadelphia, PA**

**Arlene Thurston BSN RN CAPA**

It was my very first live in-person National Conference, very different from last year that was all virtual. April 7, Thursday overslept and missed the Development Treasure Hunt, but I was greeted with a warm smile and welcoming attitude as well as very helpful with my questions at the registration booth. Got some tasty food from the famous market by Market St. First Timers Orientation that same day was very informative. Ronda Dyer, Regional Director-Region 1 was very welcoming and encouraging. All of the Directors were lively and very good sense of humor as well as excellent stage presence. Region I nurses from Arizona, Colorado and Utah that I met after the orientation, was their first live in person or first attendance at a national conference, I was very happy and excited for myself and for them.

April 8, Friday morning, my spouse, my oldest daughter and I did some history sightseeing, the Liberty Bell, Constitutional and Congressional Halls. While in line to see the famous and historic Liberty Bell, the Easter Bunny was there and got some sweets and treats. Attended two sessions that afternoon and later in the evening was the Meet and Greet event for Region I, enjoyed meeting more nurses from the Westcoast. I was impressed with the service and food including desserts. Very yummy and tasty mini-Philly cheese steaks.

April 9, Saturday, attended five sessions all host/hostess were very hospitable and polite. Speakers and or presentors were great and got some insights how to recertify for my CAPA. Had a picture with Jane Certo who helped and or facilitated to claim my scholarship award check processing a little easier and or quicker. Thank you, Jane and appreciate you a lot. Got some useful items from the Exhibit Hall vendors.

April 10, Sunday, got lost going to the Developmental breakfast, met a nurse from Ohio who was lost as well and we sat together enjoyed the satisfying and delicious breakfast. The speaker and session was great and uplifting. Attended 6 sessions total that day that were very relevant as a preop nurse, reviewed and learned a lot that day. Excellent speakers with gold nuggets of information and knowledge of the topics.

President's Dinner Celebration was a blast and fun evening. There was a live band and dancing. Enjoyed the dinner and danced with nurses from Texas, Midwest and Eastcoast as well as with Ronda Dyer. The speeches were encouraging. I am excited and looking forward to attend next year conference in Colorado. See you there my friends and colleagues! Gain a wealth of knowlegde and information, some friends and enjoy the fun, food and sightseeing.