

2024 ASPAN National Conference – Orlando, FL

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Destination is Orlando for the 2024 National Conference to the “happiest place on Earth.” I am always so excited to attend a National Conference to meet up with old and dear friends as well as the chance to make new friends at each conference. I was delighted to be able to volunteer at the ASPAN Booth as well as set up for the Foundation Breakfast. It is exciting to answer questions for the members and explain the benefits of membership or engage in conversation about our practice. Upon my arrival to the hotel there were hugs from members as I was standing in line. It is exciting to renew conversations with ASPAN friends just where we left off at a previous conference.

I attended the RA to observe ASPAN business in progress, listen to the election speeches and meet up with many of the Past ASPAN Presidents to, of course, start taking pictures. The Happening on Sunday was a nice way to kick off the week of non-stop activities to include meeting my daily steps! Opening ceremony is always enjoyable to see a packed room of attendees and to be amazed at the number of first time attendees that are in the crowd. I believe that this will be the first of many conferences for many.

It was sad when the “Fab Five” members attending every conference is now down to three incredible members. It was not the same without Esther being the Sergeant at Arms at the RA. The last few years I have enjoyed meals, helping at the Silent Auction with her and assisting her to where she wanted to go. I talked to her on the phone many times the last few years and the last few weeks before her difficulties. She was so looking forward to being in Orlando even when she was in the hospital and a rehabilitation facility for a while prior to her final days. Our organization lost such an incredible member and mentor when we lost my dear friend, Esther.

Monday evening, I did find a short cut to the sessions from my hotel room-my feet were thankful. I am amazed at the number of members that attend these late sessions and the amazing speakers that spend the time to educate our members. Tuesday morning was another early day as I volunteered at the ASPAN booth. I enjoyed the luncheon meeting to help with the cost of conference. Wednesday was another early morning to assist setting up the table for the Foundation Breakfast-Regina did a fantastic job as the presenter. I laughed so hard at her jokes and the witty remarks that she had. I did make a contribution in Esther’s name for the Hail, Honor and Salute donation. Thursday was another early morning for early breakfast and the closing ceremony. As my tradition, I had a picture with the incoming President, Lori Silva. I believe she will continue to lead ASPAN in the best interest of our members. It is always a sad day to say goodbye---but I also attended the post-con session with Nancy S. and her incredible knowledge of perianesthesia nursing. Her session was so informative and well-done. Friday I did go to Epcot for the opportunity to visit an incredible park.

My week at the ASPAN conference went so fast, but it was an incredible journey with such incredible topics. I think the other sessions that I enjoyed the most were the low dose Ketamine infusion, challenges of the obesity weight loss medications and anesthesia, and while you were sleeping.

Overall, it was another very successful educational ASPAN National Conference. Thanks so much to the selection committee that enabled me to become scholarship recipient.