

2024 ASPAN National Conference – Orlando, FL

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I was very excited to hear that I had been awarded one of the \$1000 ASPAN scholarships for In-person attendance at this year's National conference held in Orlando Florida. Working part time for the last 6 years and being widowed for 9 years my income had been drastically reduced, making it a little harder to attend each year, and of course the inflation and cost of living has taken its toll on everyone. For me airfare alone was over \$800 (from California) Conference \$600, then there is Hotel and food expenses.

The location was beautiful, close to many attractions, rooms were nice, good food at resort. The sessions were excellent with many wonderful speakers/topics making it hard to choose from, luckily, we have access to all sessions via computer in June so that is an added bonus, to see/hear all other topics at our leisure. From Component night, opening ceremonies, President's reception to Closing ceremonies it was wonderful to see so many colleagues both young and seasoned, from newbies in perianesthesia to those who have been there for 40 + years mingling and sharing stories and experiences.

I would like to see the exhibit hall and the ASPAN store open all day so attendee's can pop in at their convenience, having limited hours made it difficult for some to visit, and to have time to really talk with the vendors.

I would recommend to anyone thinking about applying for an ASPAN scholarship to print out the requirements, make a folder and then place in your items as you obtain them, keep referring to the list and checking off the items as you go. Ask colleagues for letters of recommendations and have a backup plan just in case. Do not wait until the week it is due to try to collect all the requirements.