

2024 ASPAN National Conference – Orlando, FL

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My name is Pat Williams, a seasoned perianesthesia nurse and five time National Conference attendee. I am grateful to have received two scholarships to attend the 38th National Conference in Nashville, TN, in 2019, and now the 43rd National Conference in Orlando, FL. in 2024!

I was thrilled to be a part of the planning and implementation of this years' conference as my home component (Florida) was "Hosting" the conference this year. I was able to assist, being a "Hostess" by collecting admission tickets for the sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. I helped with providing and setting up refreshments for my components' Meet and Greet". I sold the beautiful conference pins depicting beautiful downtown Orlando with its' Lake Eola Fountain on them. They were very popular. It was great to be able to help people who were not from Florida, to find their way around.

The social events "What's Happening" and the President's Reception were great ways to meet and network with nurses from all over the country. I found out that ASPAN board members are pretty good dancers as well! I was moved by past president Alfonso Bakers' Inclusion and Belonging contribution, the addition to the ASPAN position statement.

The World Marriott Hotel was a beautiful venue. It was a gigantic facility. We all got at least three times the normal amount of steps in a day, keeping our fitness up and giving us a break from sitting. The pool area and meeting spaces were great. Everything we needed was right there.

It was wonderful having so many historically great ASPAN Educators and Speakers providing sessions, which are so useful to our practice. I attended three Maureen McLaughlin lectures as she is quite expert at presenting. I also enjoyed learning the history of Nursing at the session "More than the Lady and the Lamp", which taught me that Florence Nightingale was the pioneer of Evidence Based Practice. I saw Myrna Mamaril receive her FASPAN credential.

I am a certification coach with ABPANC and they really delivered! They gave a spectacular Certified Nurses Luncheon as well as Certification Updates and session content which I will take back to my component to help with certification efforts. I was surprised to learn that certification has now been expanded to the "International" level. I was also happy to learn the ICPAN conference in 2025 will be held in Dublin, Ireland. I may have to go!

I attended the ASPAN development breakfast for the first time this year and learned about the many great leaders and contributors to ASPAN's "Legacy of Life". I proudly snapped pictures of my winning component FLASPAN accepting the award, and my good friend accepting as an individual.

I cannot thank ASPAN enough for being the "Premiere" organization for perianesthesia nursing education, and for all they have done for me in my nursing career since I joined ASPAN.