

2024 ASPAN National Conference – Orlando, FL

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It was a great honor to be the recipient of the National Conference Scholarship to attend the 43rd Conference in Orlando, FL. The highlight of my nursing career is attending the conference and coming home to update our department with the newest evidence based current practices and innovative technologies.

My excitement for the conference started on Sunday morning when I attended the Perianesthesia Leadership Academy. The three speakers did an excellent job presenting information and engaging the audience as we learned information to be an exceptional leader. Real circumstances and examples were incorporated to help the learner gain professional growth.

The tone for the conference was set at the opening ceremony when Dr. Alphonzo Baker, Sr. took the stage and fired everyone up for a momentous week. It was inspiring to see so many first timers at the conference. The energy continued throughout the week which included learning and collaborating. I attended many sessions, and each enhanced my knowledge with current information and ways to develop my skills. My role at work recently expanded as the perianesthesia surgical educator, into the cardiac cath and interventional radiology arena. I strategically picked sessions that would help me in this “NORA” area. My plan is to use the grids shown in the “Cues for Recognizing and Acute Myocardial Infarction in Your Unconscious or Anesthetized Patient,” as reference material for newer staff.

I am dual certified and enjoyed the Celebration Luncheon. It was invigorating to see so many committed nurses who have achieved certification. After I picked up my certification ribbon at the exhibit hall, I watched for people throughout the week that did not have the ribbon. It was an effortless way to bring up the topic of becoming certified.

The Development Celebration Breakfast was motivating as they collected for the “Hail, Honor and Salute” campaign. It was exciting to see new Legacy of Life awards given, and specifically to honor Esther Watson for her lifetime achievement. Regina Hoefner- Notz kept us all entertained as she humorously revealed numerous stories of her nursing career. Many of her actions we could easily relate to and some, we put in our back pocket to pull out at the next appropriate occasion.

Our new President, Lori Silva’s theme “Passion and Excellence: Growing, Learning, and Leading Together,” presented at the closing ceremony kept me motivated to return home and keep invigorated about Perianesthesia nursing. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the support to attend the national conference.