

2025 ASPAN National Conference – Dallas, TX

Cindy Fisher, BSN, RN, CAPA

When I applied for the ASPAN Scholarship to attend the ASPAN National Conference, I was hopeful and eagerly awaited the decision of the Scholarship Committee. Having worked alongside some of the most dedicated and knowledgeable perianesthesia nurses who shared their experiences of National Conference, I was anxious to see what was involved by attending the conference. I had held membership in ASPAN/MASPAN for 15 years and had attended our local conferences, certification review courses and obtained my CAPA certification. I was so hopeful that this year would be "My Year." How fortunate I was to experience "My Year" by attending National Conference as a recipient of an ASPAN Scholarship.

I have held membership in ASPAN/MASPAN for 15 years and attended our local conferences, certification review courses and obtained my CAPA certification. I have gathered an abundance of knowledge and skills through my attendance at our local conferences. My attendance at National Conference was truly one of the pinnacles of my career. The number of professional development conferences offered was unmatched. These courses provided career advancement, met educational /licensing requirements and were offered by national leaders. These were the nurses I had read about in our journal and are emulated by me as the most respected in our specialty. Being able to engage with them on this personal level enhances professional relationships and professional growth.

Despite holding membership in MASPAN/ASPA for many years of my perianesthesia career, I was unaware of the committees, subcommittees and dedicated professionals it takes to keep ASPAN thriving across our nation. It was an enlightening experience and opportunity to attend RA as a member and witness the process of the election of officers, board of directors and committee members. The RA is responsible for representing the membership and guiding ASPAN's activities and drives the organization in meeting its goals. Being able to bring ideas and initiatives to our component President or Region director has given me a voice in shaping national practice standards and policies that directly impact our specialty. At RA this year, the topics affecting our specialty were WAG- Waste Anesthetic Gases and the EOC- Enhancing Organizational Capacity. The EOC is of particular importance, as looking at ways to continue ASPAN's viability and accessibility is critical to continuing ASPAN's role in Perianesthesia Nursing Standards.

It is hard to put into words what this experience provided me with. I contemplated whether or not I would be able to attend the conference. I was in the midst of caring for my Mom with progressive dementia and needed to ensure a safe plan for her which included selling her home and moving her into assisted living. This was all occurring in the few weeks prior to National Conference. I thought about not attending to care for my Mom and all that was going on. As I thought long and hard about my decision, at the end of the day I decided I needed National Conference. I had family who could fly in and care for my Mom. My nursing practice feeds my soul and I needed to find myself and my passion for professional practice. Attendance at

National Conference was exactly what I needed to re-ignite and fuel my fire to continue to elevate and enrich my professional perianesthesia practice. Thank you ASPAN for providing such an exceptional opportunity. I am most grateful to finally have "My Year" !