

2025 ASPAN National Conference – Dallas, TX

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ASpan's 44th National Conference, held in Dallas Texas did not disappoint. It was a delight to visit a new city and explore surrounding tourist attractions. Waco and Fort Worth Stock Yards were on the top of the list. The Dallas skyline from the Sheraton at night was just breathtaking and added to the experience. Conference started for me on Sunday, attending the Representative Assembly. It was good to see our ASPAN BOD at work and all the states representing their membership. The discussion on WAG was very thought provoking and opened conversations around further research to support the magnificent work that has already been completed by TSPAN and associates. I look forward to participating and supporting the research focused on occupational exposure and safety in the perianesthesia work environment in the future.

I was disappointed that the RA attendees did not get offered a financial report from the ASPAN Board. This has been standard procedure previous years when I have attended the RA. I hope to see a report coming out soon for full transparency and to take back to my component. [ASpan note: When ASPAN's auditor submits its completed audit, the financial information will be forwarded to all current RA representatives.]

The discussion surrounding the reconfiguration of components presented by Dunleavy & Associates was also interesting. More time should have been allotted to discussion surrounding such a huge change and ASPAN's future, as well as gain attendee participation and feedback. This discussion was cut very short by the ASPAN BOD.

For the first time, I participated as a host volunteer for several different sessions. It was nice to greet everyone arriving to hear a topic in which I was also interested. It was an extremely easy way give back and assist those who were lost and needed direction. It was well organized, easy to sign up, and switch if a hosting opportunity did not line up with my schedule for the day.

As always, national conference provided me with the opportunity to network and reconnect with peers, leaders, and experts from all over the country working in different geographical areas and managing healthcare throughout the US and beyond. It's always mind blowing seeing our peers are facing some of the same challenges we face, on a daily basis. It is the same work, just a different location.

In particular, the PAT clinic sessions were unbelievably valuable to me as my organization is starting a face-to-face clinic soon. It was so nice to collaborate with others who have existing clinics and could offer great advice on a start up plan.

One of the highlights of the conference for me was the CPAN/CAPA Celebration Luncheon. John O'Leary and his emotionally connected storytelling and humor helped inspire those in the room to be patient advocates, create inspiration, and stay resilient. His story and lifework were inspiring and a great way to kick off conference.

I am looking forward to San Francisco in 2026 and what it will have to offer. Thank you to ASPAN for the scholarship opportunity. This is huge to a nurse who is unable to get any assistance from their organization to attend their own specialty national conference.