

2025 ASPAN National Conference – Dallas, TX

Lee-Anne Waterman, RN, CAPA

Reflecting on the 44th National Conference in Dallas: A Career Energizing Experience

The 2025 44th National Conference in Dallas marked my fourth time attending, and it exceeded my expectations. As I approach the final decade of my career, I wanted this conference to boost the excitement and engagement I already feel in my professional life— and it delivered. From inspiring and humorous keynotes to cutting-edge educational sessions (for example A-I applications), the experience once again expanded my perspective and inspired a new energy to bring back to my practice.

A standout moment was the keynote address by Joel Zeff, a stand-up comedian who used humor and interactive games to highlight communication and improve teamwork. His session reminded me that every individual plays an integral role in achieving an outcome, whether leading or participating. Joel's hilarious delivery set a tone of inclusivity and collaboration that carried through the rest of the conference.

I consistently enjoy the oral presentation sessions at conferences and encourage my co-workers to attend them. These sessions highlight innovative nursing work on current issues like process improvement, resilience, and safety. Most importantly, they demonstrate to nurses a way to begin to effectively share their knowledge and work. Learning from peers and hearing about practical applications is helpful and inspiring.

I'm deeply grateful for the scholarship I received from ASPAN, which made my attendance possible. ASPAN's unwavering commitment to supporting peri-anesthesia nurses through professional development, collaboration, and celebration is amazing. The resources and opportunities they provide make ASPAN an invaluable community for those of us dedicated to safe practice and lifelong learning.

Overall, the 2025 National Conference was more than just an event—it filled me up and affirmed the excitement and purpose I feel in my career. I look forward to bringing new ideas back to my hospital and sharing them with colleagues. I'm already anticipating next year's gathering to continue growing alongside this incredible community. Thank you, ASPAN, for another amazing experience that will undoubtedly help shape the final chapter of my professional journey.