



Breathline

July/August 2025

Volume 45 Number 4

INSIDE:

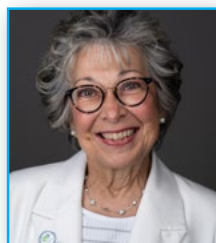
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Moving to the Future and Accepting the Challenges

Ursula Mellinger, BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA – ASPAN President 2025-2026

The National Conference was held over three months ago. Fall is fast approaching, as ASPAN embarks on its journey to the future. It has been a busy and exciting time since I took office as your ASPAN president. I have travelled twice to Washington DC to represent ASPAN at the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL) Advocacy Days and the American Nurses Association (ANA) membership affiliates meeting and Capitol Hill Day. The most urgent topics of discussion with our legislators focused on two bills, the "One Big Beautiful Bill" and the Save the Healthcare Workers Bills. The latter bill would make it a federal crime to knowingly assault a healthcare worker on their work property.

Relocating to a new home or job is never easy. There is always a certain amount of uncertainty, angst, and apprehension. You worry about your new neighbors and whether you will get along with them. You wonder if your new supervisor will have a positive impression and



Ursula Mellinger
BSN, RN, CPAN,
CAPA

like you, whether the unit has a copy of the ASPAN standards, and if there are others who are certified. But we recognize the challenges and accept them. And we move forward. As ASPAN moves forward, questions arise about whether the new Chapters will integrate smoothly with other states in the regrouping, and whether a new Chapter Director will be appointed. How will I contact the national office, will we have

policies and procedures, will we have opportunities for nursing professional development? Who takes care of the finances? We may feel lost in this process, but I can honestly say the Enhancing Organizational Capacity (EOC) SWT is moving along with precision, forethought, planning and integrating ideas and processes. They are leaving no stone unturned. All SWT members can share their views and ideas. Innovations and collaboration among the teams and even other SWTs (NextGen) has been amazing. Updates will continue as we progress through this. We look forward to seeing many of you at PDI, where we will discuss final ideas and processes.

This summer we also had the opportunity to welcome our new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Pete Pomilio. Pete was able to attend the National Conference SWT meeting in San Francisco to finalize plans for the 2026 national conference.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at ASPAN's PeriAnesthesia Development Institute this fall. We invite you to attend this high impact meeting, there will be opportunities for discussion and interaction. You will also have the opportunity to meet our new CEO Pete Pomilio. 🌿

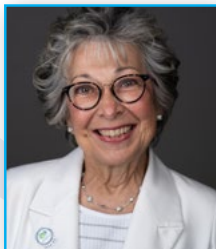


◀ (L-R) Annie Steffen, Ursula Mellinger,
Alphonzo Baker



Perianesthesia Development Institute – 2025 Louisville, Kentucky – November 7-8, 2025 “Moving to the Future and Accepting the Challenges”

Ursula Mellinger, BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA – ASPAN President 2025-2026



**Ursula Mellinger
BSN, RN, CPAN,
CAPA**

The 2025 Perianesthesia Development Institute (PDI) will take place on November 7-8, 2025, as scheduled by the ASPAN Board of Directors, and you are invited and encouraged to attend. The schedule of presentations is different this year. We are placing our energies and focus on “Moving to the Future and Accepting the Challenges”. Enhancement of ASPAN’s organizational capacity is a necessary and major undertaking. The Enhancing Organizational Capacity SWT and all SWT members are diligently focused on strategies, processes and outcomes. We prioritize members’ values, resources, and experiences. We need your input and want members to be a part of the journey.

This year, PDI will take place in Louisville, Kentucky, home of the Kentucky Derby. Tours are available at the derby grounds. Enjoy some of the best Louisville has to offer for restaurants along Main Street. Visitors have the option to tour the Louisville Slugger Museum and factory or take a river cruise with Louisville River Boats Cruises.

For those unable to attend in person, Saturday’s program will also be available as a virtual educational event option, minus the breakout session.

Thank you for all you do for ASPAN and the specialty of perianesthesia nursing practice.



▲ Photo courtesy of Steve Grider; Louisville Tourism



▲ Photo courtesy of Tara Donne; Louisville Tourism



◀ Photo courtesy of Louisville Tourism



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Deadlines for inclusion in *Breathline*:

IssueDeadline

JanuaryNovember 1

MarchJanuary 1

MayMarch 1

JulyMay 1

SeptemberJuly 1

NovemberSeptember 1

2026 Call for Nominations

Lori Silva, MSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN

ASPAN Immediate Past President and Nominating Committee Chair

The ASPAN 2026 Call for Nominations is now open! This is an exciting time to take that next step in leadership by running for an ASPAN Board of Directors position or a position on the Nominating Committee. President Ursula Mellinger's theme is "Moving to the Future and Accepting the Challenges" and ASPAN is looking for leaders like yourself who have the passion and commitment to serve our members and advance our specialty practice.

Serving on the ASPAN Board of Directors is an amazing experience. I personally have learned so much about the organization, grown in my leadership skills, and am proud of the contributions to furthering our perianesthesia specialty practice. Ignite your passion for perianesthesia nursing, share your innovative ideas to advance your practice, and collaborate with perianesthesia colleagues across the country. Taking the next step into leadership may be daunting, but you are ready.

For complete information on open 2026 ASPAN Board of Directors and Nominating Committee positions, please visit ASPAN's home page, www.aspan.org. Then click on the 'Call for Nominations' link under ASPAN Highlights.

Qualified and eligible candidates are needed for the 2026 – 2027 ASPAN Board of Directors positions:

- Vice President/President-Elect (three-year term)
- Secretary (two-year term)
- Director for Clinical Practice (two-year term)
- Director for Education (two-year term)
- Regional Director – Region 2 (two-year term)
- Regional Director – Region 4 (two-year term)

Also open are five positions on the **Nominating Committee** (one year term).

To run for a leadership position:

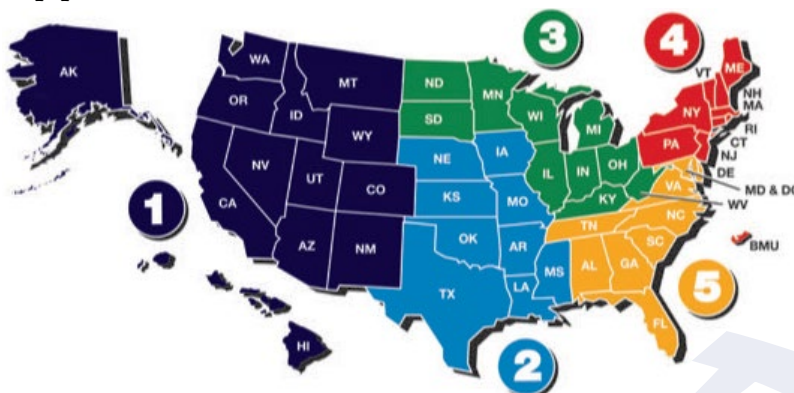
- Declare your candidacy as soon as possible via email to Lori Silva at lsilva@aspan.org and Jane Certo at jcerto@aspan.org
- An Intent to Place Name for Nomination Form, Candidate Profile Sheet, Curriculum Vitae (CV), Letter of Recommendation, the appropriate Conflict of Interest Policy/Form for your candidacy, and your photograph must be submitted via email only.
- All submissions must be date-stamped no later than **October 1, 2025** – no exceptions. Hard copies, faxed copies, or late submissions will not be accepted.

For more information visit the ASPAN website here or contact Lori Silva at lsilva@aspan.org.

The deadline to submit all required candidate paperwork is October 1, 2025.



Lori Silva
MSN, RN, CCRN,
CPAN



Plan Now to Showcase Your Accomplishments with Abstracts and Posters for the 2026 National Conference in San Francisco!

ASPAN's 45th Annual National Conference in San Francisco, CA, will feature abstracts/posters displayed in two categories: the **Clinical Inquiry (Research/EBP/QI)** category and the **Celebrate Successful Perianesthesia Practices (CSPP)** category. There are very specific guidelines and requirements for each category.

"Celebrate Successful Perianesthesia Practices" is your opportunity to present great ideas that you have found to be successful at the grass roots level and share them with ASPAN colleagues. Patient education, process improvements, improved patient care, leadership strategies, and staff education are just a few of the topics you may want to consider. Topics may be derived from any successful practice related to perianesthesia nursing.

Submission Deadline is October 15, 2025.

Visit [2026 Celebrate Successful Perianesthesia Practices Call for Abstracts](#) for more information.

Visit [2026 Clinical Inquiry Call For Abstracts](#) for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL ASPAN AWARD WINNERS!



▲ Kathi Saball
MSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA

Ina Pipkin ASPAN Past Presidents' Distinguished Service Award Kathi Saball, MSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA

The Ina Pipkin ASPAN Past Presidents' Distinguished Service Award is given to an ASPAN member in recognition of significant lifetime contributions that have positively impacted ASPAN's core purpose: to advance and promote the unique specialty of perianesthesia nursing.

The letter of recommendation notes that this person has always been a "behind-the-scenes" member; she has been on numerous committees and SWTs, and though she have not officially chaired a position, she have significantly impacted the leadership of each committee she served on. As the president of her components, she created an atmosphere of giving back to their membership, board of directors, and other perianesthesia nurses she met, and as a result, her components' membership flourished and grew.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, she embodies the values of integrity, collaboration, and empathy. She is

always willing to support and mentor colleagues, fostering a positive and productive work environment. She is committed to professionalism and growth in our specialty. She is truly inspiring and set an example for everyone in her component and committee work.

In summary, whether you know her as a "Host/Hostess" collecting tickets at the doors of our National Conference or as a member of a committee, her contributions have significantly enriched our organization, and we wholeheartedly endorse her nomination. I believe she is more than deserving of this prestigious recognition. I have had the privilege of sharing one-to-one time with them, and she epitomize excellence.

It was my honor to present the prestigious award of the 2025 Ina Pipkin ASPAN Past Presidents' Distinguished Service Award to Kathi Saball.

Submitted by Alphonzo Baker – ASPAN Past President 2024-2025



▲ Agnes Hsu
BSN, RN, CPAN

Excellence in Clinical Practice Award Agnes Hsu, BSN, RN, CPAN

Every year, ASPAN bestows the Excellence in Clinical Practice Award on a member who demonstrates achievement in and willingness to enhance patient care, promote professionalism, clinical practice, and support the specialty of perianesthesia nursing.

This year's recipient is a nurse clinician in a postanesthesia care unit and a certified perianesthesia nurse. This is an excerpt from the recipient's nomination letter.

Agnes Hsu has dedicated more than three decades of her career to the nursing profession, with particular expertise in

perianesthesia nursing. Her clinical skill is evidenced by her outstanding patient outcomes, commitment to evidence-based practices, and capacity to lead and support her colleagues while advancing the field.

In addition, Agnes has made significant strides in enhancing patient discharge educational programs. She proactively coordinated with physicians, physician assistants, and nurses to standardize educational packages for patient discharge across over 30 procedures, thereby improving holistic patient care. Through her leadership, Agnes has not only elevated the standards of patient care but also inspired her colleagues to pursue excellence in their practice.



▲ Patty Charles – TAPAN President

2025 Gold Leaf Component of the Year Texas Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (TAPAN)

The Gold Leaf Award was created to recognize an outstanding component for their leadership, innovation, member development, communications, education services and community relations. It is also a road map for component growth and development. The remarkable things TAPAN did in 2024 included high communication with component members by utilizing email, Facebook, as well as their website. They also did an outstanding job of recognizing member achievements, providing financial assistance to attend school, seminars, conferences and recertification fees. TAPAN did a great job recognizing member achievements and serving their community. Their leadership shows involvement from all over their large state.



▲ **Felicia Selman**
MSN, RN, CAPA

Outstanding Achievement Award

Felicia Selman, MSN, RN, CAPA

This year's Award for Outstanding Achievement winner, Felicia Selman, has had a passion for our profession! She has been involved in her component as president and past president. Helping set up state conferences and during the COVID 19 pandemic (2020-2022), implemented the use of ASPAN Learn Journal articles to keep members engaged via the Journal club. Felicia is well respected in the PACU environment, and colleagues that nominated this individual stated, "This RN's expertise in perianesthesia and her passion for professional advancement in this field is exemplified by her quiet confidence, humble heart,

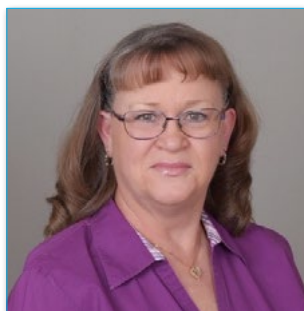
and persevering tenacity. In the face of obstacles, she embraces positivity and determination to take one step at a time. "

"Even after completing the term at the national level, this RN has continued to work hard behind the scenes encouraging and supporting members in their professional development to take on leadership roles/positions. I wish I could put into words all the works and activities this RN has done to contribute towards this great specialty and professional association."

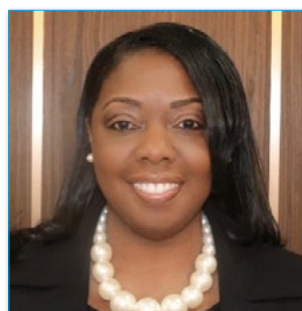
Felicia is also involved on the national level in many capacities. She was a speaker at national conference, serves on many ASPAN committees and was the ASPAN Director for Education 2022-2024.

2025 Recruiter of the Year

Teri Baughman, BSN, RN, CEN, CPAN, CAPA & Lynette Alcorn, BSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN, CAPA (tied)



▲ **Teri Baughman**
BSN, RN, CEN, CPAN, CAPA



▲ **Lynette Alcorn**
BSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN, CAPA

Congratulations to ASPAN's 2025 Above and Beyond Service Recognition Award Winners

The ASPAN Above & Beyond Service Recognition Awards are given to individuals in recognition of exemplary service to ASPAN and/or their component. Recipients of this honor/award demonstrate an attitude of excellence, teamwork, and go "Above and Beyond" the expectations of their job/duties.

There are only 10 selected each year out of the applications received and it is an honor to announce this year's recipients:

**Christine Bell, MASPAN
Geraldine delos Santos, TAPAN
Erin Glaser, CBSPAN
Jeanne Glemser, TSPAN
Britini Hoiem, TAPAN
Michelle Meadows, PANAC
Marlene Nahavandi, WISPAN
Alexis Price, TSPAN
Lillyann Rowe, PANAC
Valerie Tiu, OPANA**

Consider Nominating Someone for an ASPAN Award!

Excellence in Clinical Practice

Do you know someone who is a recognized expert in clinical nursing practice, or participates actively in nursing programs, committees or projects resulting in contributions to perianesthesia nursing? If so, consider nominating this colleague for ASPAN's prestigious *Excellence in Clinical Practice Award*. The deadline to do so is **November 30, 2025**. Go to www.aspan.org Members/Awards/Excellence-in-Clinical-Practice-Award for nomination forms and more information.

Award for Outstanding Achievement


Do you know someone whose dedication to excellence has furthered the art and science of perianesthesia nursing? If so, consider nominating this colleague for ASPAN's prestigious *Award for Outstanding Achievement*. The deadline to do so is **November 30, 2025**. Go to www.aspan.org Members/Awards/Award-for-Outstanding-Achievement for nomination forms and more information.

Above and Beyond Service Recognition

The ASPAN *Above and Beyond Service Recognition Awards* are given to individuals in recognition of exemplary service to ASPAN and/or their component. The deadline to do so is **January 10, 2026**. Go to www.aspan.org Members/Awards/Above and Beyond to learn more and access forms when available.

Start Working on Your Gold Leaf Application Now!

Gold Leaf Component of the Year Award

The deadline for the *Gold Leaf Component of the Year Award* submission is **February 1, 2026**! Components competing for the Gold Leaf Award must submit their applications to the ASPAN National Office by February 1, 2026. The award reflects the activity of your component from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. The Membership/Marketing Strategic Work Team is looking forward to reviewing the applications from components and announcing the winner at the National Conference in San Francisco, California. For information, guidelines, and the application, [click here](#). 

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 NATIONAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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Vermont/New Hampshire Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Wisconsin Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Membership & Marketing Strategic Work Team

Susan Knowles, MSN, RN, NPD-BC – Coordinator of Membership/Marketing Strategic Work Team

So excited to have been appointed as coordinator of the Membership/Marketing Strategic Work Team (SWT) by our president, Ursula Mellinger. I am following in huge shoes, Shay Glevy, who did a phenomenal job as coordinator. She is such an asset to ASPAN, so thank you, Shay. To serve you as ASPAN members, we have a group of dedicated individuals who have such ideas and talents to keep ASPAN moving forward in a positive direction.

Membership/Marketing SWT's responsibilities include coordinating reviews and presenting the Recruiter of the Year Award, Gold Leaf Component of the Year Award, and ASPAN's Award for Outstanding Achievement. We also provide component support to address recruitment, retention, and membership activities information. Our annual PeriAnesthesia Nurse Awareness Week (PANAW) campaign celebration is coordinated with the National Office and is something we all look forward to, from planning the theme to the celebration.

Gold Leaf Award applications have been sent via email to your component leaders. We would love to have you to brag about all your accomplishments and all the hard work you are doing. If you need any help or have questions, please let me know and I will assist you or direct you to the appropriate person. No matter how large or small your component, review the application and consider applying. During some discussions we have had, the Gold Leaf application is used as a template for components to set goals and become even more successful. Remember there are members to help with whatever you need us to grow your membership. Also, if you have ideas, please share them with our M&M SWT too.

Please feel free to contact me via email (elkisjoy@gmail.com). The M&M SWT and I are here to serve you our ASPAN members. 🌿

Membership/
Marketing



Susan Knowles
MSN, RN, NPD-BC

All webcasts free for members!



ASPAN



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From the Development SWT

Chris Skinner, MSN, RN, CAPA – Development SWT Coordinator



Chris Skinner
MSN, RN, CAPA

I hope you were able to attend ASPAN's 44th National Conference. If you were unable to attend, I wanted to let you know we had a few records with regard to Development philanthropy. The Exhibit Hall had 30 vendors, and I got to meet with all of them at various times and thank them for their sponsorship, while learning about their products and services. The ASPAN booth was very popular with attendees. Board of Directors, members, as well as representatives from ASPAN's Committees, SWTs and SPGS were on hand to greet attendees and answer their questions.



From left,
Doug Hanisch,
Nancy Strzyzewski,
Chris Skinner

There were 170 registered for the Development Breakfast on Wednesday morning, a record in at least 15 years! Past President Kim Kraft was the featured speaker for the breakfast. Her talk was inspiring and uplifting. Soothing Scents sponsored the Development Breakfast, and each attendee received a sample of their product. Over \$4,400 was contributed via *Hail!, Honor!, Salute!*

gifts and three new Legacy for Life members were inducted at the breakfast. Congratulations to OPANA, Terry Clifford, and Nancy Strzyzewski.

The Silent Auction had 75 different Items to bid on. There were several handbags, baskets, jewelry, a television, and items associated with Texas. Bidding opened Monday evening, and the pace picked up by Tuesday morning. The auction closed on Wednesday at 0845, and we raised a record \$5,571! All the monies raised for Development go back to the members in the form of scholarships, awards, and clinical inquiry. I would like to thank everyone who helped with Silent Auction, the ASPAN Booth, and Development Breakfast. We couldn't have done it without you!

I hope you will consider attending ASPAN's 45th National Conference in San Francisco, CA. I look forward to seeing you there! 🌿



▲ From left, Chris Skinner, Terry Clifford, Doug Hanisch

INTRODUCING

ASPAN's New Chief Executive Officer Pete Pomilio



Pete Pomilio
MBA, CAE

Pete joins ASPAN with more than 20 years of executive leadership in the nonprofit and nursing association space. His resume includes CEO/Executive Director roles at the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN), the Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates (SUNA), and the American Association of Heart Failure Nurses (AAHFN). He also previously served as Chief Operation Officer (COO) of the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance. Throughout his career, he's demonstrated a knack for helping associations grow membership, expand educational programming, and meet long-term goals through thoughtful strategic planning.

"I'm incredibly excited to begin this new chapter with ASPAN and bring my experience from other nursing associations into this role," said Pomilio. "I'm honored to follow the strong foundation built by Kevin Dill and the dedicated ASPAN staff and look forward to supporting the continued evolution of this vital association."

Pete is known for a hands-on leadership style that emphasizes collaboration, innovation, and results. Over the past two decades, he's worked with a number of volunteer-led associations to exceed strategic goals in areas like membership, sponsorship, conferences, education, and revenue generation. He brings extensive experience managing nonprofit volunteers and staff, developing and executing strategic plans, creating and overseeing budgets, and implementing successful fundraising and sponsorship initiatives. His leadership through major projects and product launches, along with a strong marketing background that includes rebranding, thought leadership campaigns, and multi-channel outreach, positions him well to lead ASPAN into the future. 🌿

Non-Operating Room Anesthesia in Pediatrics: Growth, Impact, and Future Directions

Amy Berardinelli, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, NE-BC, CPAN, CAPA, FASPAN – ASPAN Director for Clinical Inquiry

Non-operating room anesthesia (NORA) refers to anesthetic services delivered in procedural locations outside the traditional operating room (OR)—for example, radiology suites, endoscopy, cardiac cath labs, and dental clinics. In pediatric hospitals, NORA has rapidly expanded in recent years, reflecting broader shifts toward minimally invasive diagnostics and therapeutics that require sedation or anesthesia but can be performed in remote locations.^{1,2}

A recent retrospective review of the National Anesthesia Clinical Outcomes Registry (NACOR) (2015–2019) reported that nearly 22.7% of all pediatric anesthetic encounters in US hospitals occurred in NORA locations. These sites most commonly include gastrointestinal and radiology suites, and are often used by children with higher ASA physical status, highlighting the complexity of the cases managed outside the OR.¹

Why Is Pediatric NORA Increasing?

1. Surge in Minimally Invasive Procedures
Advances in imaging (MRI, CT, interventional radiology) and minimally invasive treatments have exponentially increased pediatric procedure volume in settings outside the main OR. These environments prioritize patient throughput and efficiency, often allowing scheduling flexibility and reduced hospital resource consumption.^{1,3} A 2023 review noted a sharp increase in pediatric NORA case volume over the past decade, with diagnostic procedures increasingly performed in remote locations.²

2. Enhanced Patient Experience and Comfort
For many pediatric patients, NORA locations such as MRI or endoscopy suites can be less intimidating than the full surgical suite. These environments often minimize separation from caregivers and allow for a more child-centered approach, reducing anxiety and improving cooperation. Tailored sedation protocols—such as propofol infusion for pediatric dental procedures—have proven both effective and safe. One study showed a 96.7% success rate and minimal side effects using IV propofol in uncooperative children undergoing dental work outside the OR.⁴

3. Operational Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness
Performing suitable procedures in remote suites relieves pressure on OR schedules and reduces costs related to surgical staffing and turnover. Pediatric hospitals can balance high-acuity OR needs with moderate-complexity NORA procedures. Observational analyses suggest pediatric NORA may become equivalent to or exceed OR-based volumes in tertiary centers.⁵

Challenges and Safety Considerations

Despite the benefits, NORA environments carry distinct risks. Remote locations frequently lack ergonomic design for anesthesia providers, may have inadequate emergency access, and are staffed by personnel less familiar with anesthesia protocols.⁶ These risks elevate the need for

vigilant monitoring, emergency preparedness, and robust communication strategies such as closed-loop teamwork and tailored time-outs.^{6,7}

A narrative review highlighted the need for pediatric NORA sites to meet the same standards as ORs—regarding monitoring, airway management, and safety systems—even though the environment differs. This is particularly critical given the higher ASA status and young age of NORA patients.⁶ Additionally, studies have emphasized specialized training (residents, fellows) in pediatric NORA to cultivate resilience and cognitive flexibility in anesthesiologists.²

Best Practices for Pediatric NORA Implementation

- **Rigorous Pre-Procedural Evaluation**
Assessment should consider factors like airway anatomy, comorbidities, and sedation needs. Ensuring appropriate NPO status, equipment availability, and personnel readiness is essential.⁸
- **Infrastructure and Resource Investment**
Adequate NORA suites must include standard monitoring equipment, pediatric-specific airway tools, and reliable access to emergency response systems. Facilities should mirror OR safety culture while accounting for unique space demands.^{5,9}
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Training**
Establishing systems for cross-department coordination (anesthesia, nursing, radiology, dentistry) promotes shared safety responsibilities. Regular simulations, NORA-specific checklists, and procedural briefings strengthen team performance.^{2,6}

Looking Ahead

As technology and pediatric subspecialties continue to grow, pediatric NORA sites will play an increasingly central role. To maximize benefits, hospitals must commit to infrastructure upgrades, robust staff training, and systematic integration with hospital safety systems.

Ongoing studies of pediatric NORA outcomes—such as procedure success rates, adverse event tracking, and patient satisfaction—will inform future guidelines. As one narrative review pointed out, rigorous, standardized protocols are integral to delivering anesthesia safely in these evolving spaces.⁶

REFERENCES

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2. Sobey J, Tsai MH, Evans RE. Nonoperating room anesthesia for children: cases have increased; providers must adapt. *Curr Opin Anaesthesiol*. 2021;34(4):449-454.
3. Dutton RP, Bryskin RB, Starks MR, et al. Pediatric anesthesia in the community: growth of NORA. *Advances in Anesthesia*. 2023;-. doi:10.1016/j.aan.2023.06.002.



Amy Berardinelli
DNP, APRN, FNP-C,
NE-BC, CPAN, CAPA,
FASPAN

The Clinical Practice Committee receives many questions from members and non-members each month. To submit a question, please go to the ASPAN home page and look under the Clinical Practice tab.



Lori Erni
BSN, RN, CCRN,
CPAN

It is that time again for the reviews and standards updates. You may wonder what does the Clinical Practice Committee have to do with all of this? What happens to all the questions that are submitted by members and non-members?

This past week, I have gone through all my monthly spreadsheets, for June 2024 to present. On those spreadsheets every single question that has been submitted to ASPAN is listed, phase of care, and type of question is compiled. This information is then reviewed and summarized. It is then sent to the Standards Committee chair. There was a total of 522 questions submitted from members and non-members.

Interestingly, many of these questions overlapped across multiple categories—such as regulatory and staffing, documentation and medication, or transfer of care and standards. While the inquiries may be phrased differently, they often address the same core topics, reflecting the complex and interconnected concerns facing our practice. This highlights the importance of ongoing dialogue and thorough review, ensuring that the nuances of each question are addressed within the broader context of ASPAN's evolving standards.

Below are examples of questions submitted to ASPAN.

Q: Is there a recommendation for callback times in the PACU? Is this facility-determined or is there an ASPAN recommendation?

A: This is facility-driven. What is stated in the standards is that 2 registered nurses need to be present, one of whom is competent in Phase 1 care. This also brings up the other aspect of staffing: does the second nurse need to be an RN? There have been times when the second nurse is unable to arrive on time (accident or weather related). The second person in the room can be the OR nurse, the anesthesia provider, or even the house supervisor. The second person needs to be in the room and immediately available to assist.

The ASPAN Standards does have a position statement regarding fatigue and on call hours. This is addressed in

Standard Four: Staffing and Personnel Management. There should be consideration for scheduling and including the call hours. There should be plans in place to relieve staff that have worked too many hours. I was once on call until 0300, went home, slept briefly, then went back to work for 10 hours. This did not feel safe. I was having others double check my work. I do not work there anymore.

Q: For outpatient surgeries, is a code status addressed for these patients? Currently, we are only following & discussing code status for inpatients that have anything other than full code. Are there any recommendations for this?

A: The ASPAN Standards addresses this issue or dilemma in Practice Recommendation 14: The PeriAnesthesia Patient with a Do-Not-Attempt Resuscitation Advanced Directive. I have cared for patients that have had this directive having outpatient procedures. It could be a fistulogram, EGD, port placement, biopsy, etc. Being an outpatient procedure does not change the standard. The ASPAN Standards addresses the issue that the perioperative staff cannot assume that the patient is a full code during the perioperative period. The code status should be discussed with the patient and family. The wishes of the patient and family are to be honored and clarified during each phase of care and with each handoff. The ASPAN Standards does have recommendations that this matter is discussed and documented.

It has been an interesting venture as the Director for Clinical Practice. We see repeated questions that just have different wording. If you think that your situation is different, unsafe or you just have a concern, please submit your question to ASPAN. You can also visit the Forums and submit a question or respond to a thread.

Thank you for your commitment to providing care to our patients in such a vulnerable time.

2025-2026 *Perianesthesia Nursing Standards, Practice Recommendations and Interpretive Statements* (ASPAN, 2024). 🌿

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6. Kaye AD, et al. Safety of nonoperating room anesthesia: a narrative review. *Curr Opin Anaesthesiol*. 2025;38(4):425-434. doi:10.1097/ACO.0000000000001542.

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8. Villegas A. Non-operating room anesthesia for pediatric patients. Present at NJANA Fall 2024 Meeting; September 28, 2024; Princeton, NJ.
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National Conference 2026 – San Francisco, CA

Karen Woods, BSN, RN, CAPA – 2026 ASPAN National Conference Coordinator

National
Conference

Get ready to mark your calendars and pack your bags, because the ASPAN 45th Annual National Conference is coming to the incredible *City by the Bay* - San Francisco, CA, from April 27 to 30, 2026! Hosted at the stunning San Francisco Marriott Marquis, right in the heart of downtown, this event is a chance to mix groundbreaking professional insights with the magic of one of the world's most iconic and vibrant cities. San Francisco is calling, and you're going to want to answer!

Picture yourself riding atop a double-decker bus or a bucket-list walk across the majestic Golden Gate Bridge is a perfect symbol of innovation and beauty that matches the spirit of ASPAN's cutting-edge sessions. The views are breathtaking, the ocean breeze invigorating, an unforgettable, must-see experience! Just steps from the Marriott Marquis, you'll find yourself immersed in the vibrant pulse of Union Square, brimming with art, high-end shops, cozy cafés, and lively street performances create an unforgettable urban experience.

Oh, and a quick tip: locals lovingly call their famous fog "Karl," so pack a jacket, you might just meet him!

This conference promises a perfect blend of professional growth and personal adventure. Check out www.sftravel.com for more information on discovering the City by the Bay. San Francisco's charm is contagious, and we can't wait to share it with you. So, get ready—ASPAN 2026 in San Francisco is going to be unforgettable. See you there! 🌿



Karen Woods
BSN, RN, CAPA



Don't forget to hop aboard one of San Francisco's legendary cable cars. These charming rides offer a unique way to glide through the city's famous rolling hills, an experience you won't find anywhere else! Take a walk around Fisherman's Wharf and savor fresh Dungeness crab, a bowl of the San Francisco original fish soup, Cioppino, or the city's world-famous clam chowder. Be sure to wander over to Pier 39 for sea lion spotting, boutique shopping, and be sure to make a sweet stop at Ghirardelli Square for that rich, decadent chocolate fix.

And for a cultural adventure, explore San Francisco's vibrant Chinatown, the birthplace of the fortune cookie! Dive into authentic markets, taste authentic dishes, and soak up fascinating history. If time allows, catch a ferry to Alcatraz, drive down the twisty Lombard Street, or enjoy a baseball game or Broadway-style show for a classic Bay Area experience.



Photos credit: San Francisco Travel Association

Saguaro Spotlight

Arizona Perianesthesia Nurses Association

Editor: Stephanie Blackman, MSN-L,
RN, CPAN

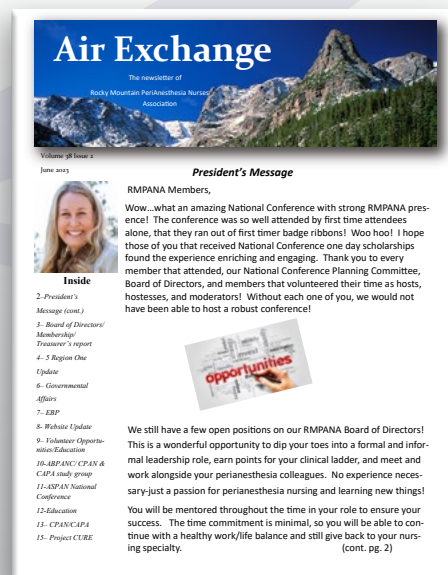


1-8 PAGES

Air Exchange

Rocky Mountain PeriAnesthesia
Nurses Association

Editor: Marcia Keiser, BSN, RN, CPAN



9-14 PAGES

Newsletter Contest Winners

15+ PAGES

PEOPLE'S CHOICE



Eyeopener

Texas Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Editor: Hazzel Gomez, MSN, RN, CPAN,
CAPA, NPD-BC



Eyeopener

Texas Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Editor: Hazzel Gomez, MSN, RN, CPAN,
CAPA, NPD-BC

Paying it Forward: My Certification Story

Michelle Meadows, MSNed, RN, CPAN, CAPA, NPd-BC

After several years of practicing as a perianesthesia nurse, I began my certification journey in 2016. Why? Simply put I wanted to deepen my knowledge and become the best nurse I could be. It all started with the encouragement of an amazing colleague who supported and guided me throughout the process.

As I began studying, I quickly realized how much I didn't know. The breadth and depth of information surprised me—but I embraced it. With each study session, my understanding of perianesthesia care grew. I could feel myself becoming more confident, more competent, and ultimately, a better nurse. That experience sparked something in me: a passion to help others pursue certification, just as I had been helped. That's where my "pay it forward" journey began.

What Does it Mean to Pay it Forward?

In nursing, paying it forward can take many forms. For some, it means precepting new nurses or mentoring peers. For others, it means encouraging colleagues to pursue professional development—like certification.

Helping others through the certification process has become one of the most meaningful ways I give back. Whether serving as a certification coach, offering

encouragement, or leading study groups, each act of support helps strengthen our nursing community.

Supporting Certification Through ASPAN

To promote perianesthesia certification, the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPAN) formed the Certification Promotion Strategic Work Team. This team is made up of certified nurses who are passionate about helping others succeed. One of our key initiatives this year is facilitating virtual study groups across the country.

These study groups are led by dedicated volunteers who guide participants through CPAN® and CAPA® exam content, offering structure, motivation, and peer support along the way. It's a collaborative effort that reflects the spirit of paying it forward.

If you're certified and looking for a way to give back—or if you're just beginning your own certification journey—consider joining us. Whether you help lead a study group, offer encouragement, or simply share your experience, your support can make a difference.

Let's continue to lift each other up—and pay it forward. 🌱



Michelle Meadows
MSNed, RN, CPAN,
CAPA, NPd-BC

REGION TWO UPDATE

Linda Allyn, BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA
ASPAN Regional Director, Region Two

Region 2 has been busy planning. OSPAN Fall Conference will be held September 20, 2025, in Oklahoma City, OK. It will be a hybrid event.

TAPAN held its Leadership Training on August 8, 2025 followed by an Outreach project on August 9, 2025. They are collecting donations of school supplies for Casa de Esperanza. They will be having their Annual TAPAN Conference September 26-27, 2025 in Conroe, TX.

MOKAN PANA has been busy updating Bylaws and their Strategic Plan. They also have a full slate of officers for 2025-2026. They are also planning a fall conference on October 11, 2025. Congratulations to them for all their hard work.

ISPAN had a half day seminar on August 2, 2025.

LAPAN will be having their 2026 State Conference in Metairie, LA on January 31, 2026.

NAPAN has information on several different offerings for contact hours posted on their website.



Linda Allyn
BSN, RN, CPAN,
CAPA

If you are a member of PACNA, you can contact me, Linda Allyn, at lallyn@aspan.org.

MSPAN has several board positions open. If you are interested, contact Gabrielle Watkins. 🌱



LIVE WEBCASTS – FULL-DAY

PERIANESTHESIA CERTIFICATION REVIEW
UPDATED!

September 27, 2025 SATURDAY
November 9, 2025 SUNDAY

PERIANESTHESIA CERTIFICATION REVIEW (3 Parts)
UPDATED!

October 15, 2025 WEDNESDAY
October 22, 2025 WEDNESDAY
October 29, 2025 WEDNESDAY

SAFETY BEGINS WITH US

September 20, 2025 SATURDAY

SURROUNDING YOUR PRACTICE WITH EXCELLENCE:
LEGAL ISSUES, STANDARDS, AND ADVOCACY

October 18, 2025 SATURDAY

LIVE WEBCASTS – HALF-DAY

INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS IN PEDIATRIC
PERIANESTHESIA CARE

November 16, 2025 SUNDAY

LEADERSHIP STRATEGIES TO SUSTAIN A CULTURE
OF SAFETY

October 26, 2025 SUNDAY

PERIANESTHESIA ESSENTIALS IV

October 19, 2025 SUNDAY

PERIANESTHESIA ESSENTIALS V

September 28, 2025 SUNDAY

PERIANESTHESIA FOUNDATION

October 5, 2025 SUNDAY

LIVE WEBCASTS – TWO HOUR

CRITICAL CARE COMPETENCIES: NEUROLOGICAL

September 10, 2025 WEDNESDAY

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

September 17, 2025 WEDNESDAY

ERAS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR ENHANCED
RECOVERY AFTER SURGERY

November 5, 2025 WEDNESDAY

LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN PERIANESTHESIA
NURSING

November 12, 2025 WEDNESDAY

MALIGNANT HYPERTHERMIA AND POSTOPERATIVE
NAUSEA AND VOMITING

November 19, 2025 WEDNESDAY

PREANESTHESIA ASSESSMENT AND PACU ASSESSMENT
AND DISCHARGE CRITERIA

October 23, 2025 THURSDAY

PREVENTION OF OPIOID-INDUCED RESPIRATORY
DEPRESSION IN THE ADULT PATIENT

November 6, 2025 THURSDAY