



March/April 2025

Volume 45 Number 2

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

### Passion and Excellence: Growing, Learning, and Leading Together

Lori Silva, MSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN – ASPAN President 2024-2025

**A**s I sit down at my computer to write my final President's message, I reflect on what many ASPAN Past Presidents said to me last April 2024 in Orlando, Florida. They said, enjoy this year. It will go by so fast, and they were right. These past 10 months serving as ASPAN's 44th President have been an incredible honor and one of the most memorable and rewarding experiences of my professional nursing career.

This year, my theme is "Passion and Excellence: Growing, Learning, and Leading Together," and it has been exciting seeing the passion and excellence in perianesthesia nurses across the country. The ASPAN Board of Directors and I have traveled to many component seminars/meetings to connect and share with perianesthesia nurses nationwide. Component leaders at the Perianesthesia Development Institute (PDI) last November 2024 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, came together to share their passion and excellence, growing, learning, and strengthening their leadership skills to lead this organization and their components.

It was exciting to see so many perianesthesia nurses, both ASPAN members and non-members, attend ASPAN's recent series of three free educational events celebrating Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week (PANAW) in February. I attended all three Zoom webinars, and the highest number of nurses attending was over 520. Over two hundred non-members attended and had enormous potential for ASPAN to follow up and encourage nurses to join ASPAN. Growing the organization and meeting the needs of its members has been a focus this year and will continue under the amazing leadership of Vice President/President-Elect Ursula Mellinger.

The ASPAN Board of Directors voted to contract with Dunleavy and Associates, Inc. to do a thorough organizational assessment this past year connecting with



**Lori Silva**  
MSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN

ASPAN members, leaders, Past ASPAN Presidents, and national office staff. There have been many focus meetings, surveys, data, history, and one-on-one individual meetings to see where ASPAN has been and opportunities to improve and grow in the future. I appreciate everyone who took the time to share your thoughts and ideas with the consultants. Thank you to Ron Gifford, who traveled to Oklahoma City to connect with leaders at PDI. We will share recommendations in the next few weeks and at the 2025 Representative Assembly meeting in Dallas, Texas.

ASPAN's mission, vision, and strategies are accomplished by an amazing team of volunteers serving countless hours to advance the unique specialty perianesthesia practice. Thank you to the many leaders and members of ASPAN's committees, strategic work teams, organizational liaisons, editors, and specialty practice groups for your knowledge and expertise in perianesthesia nursing, making a difference in our everyday practice. Thank you to the ASPAN Board of Directors for an amazing year. These individuals have dedicated hundreds of hours researching, sharing ideas, looking at opportunities, developing programs, networking with members across the country, both in person and virtually at multiple Zoom meetings conducting the business of ASPAN.

Our ASPAN National Office staff and Kevin Dill, ASPAN CEO, are an exceptional group that works hard behind the scenes. These hardworking, dedicated individuals keep us all on task, meeting deadlines, completing projects, and provide excellent customer service to our members. A special thanks to Kevin for your many years of service to ASPAN and your leadership and mentorship to me and the Past Presidents and boards before me. It has been an honor to serve as your ASPAN 2024 – 2025 President, and I look forward to seeing you in Dallas!





**Amy Berardinelli**  
DNP, RN, NE-BC, CPAN,  
CAPA, FASPA

# Your Grief is the Reason You Know How to Help

**Amy Berardinelli DNP, RN, NE-BC, CPAN, CAPA, FASPA**  
ASPA Director for Clinical Inquiry

**O**n September 19th, 2023, I received the worst phone call of my life. My brother's cancer had spread. Treatment was no longer an option. I drove three hours with my husband to Canada to find my brother, sitting on a hospital cart in the emergency department waiting on a room. When I approached him, as bravely as possible, he said, "I'm f@cked." I replied, "Ya, you are." He proceeded to tell me exactly what he wanted. Paul wanted to be cremated. He did not want a funeral. He wanted a party. He wanted a really big party. He also asked me to make two promises to him. Number 1, to help my sister-in-law with their dog. Number 2, to finish school.

Three days later, my brother passed away. Earlier that day, over fifty friends from all over the US and Canada came to say goodbye. Paul was not responsive. His high school friends sat with him for hours telling stories, holding his hand, and reminding him how much he was loved. By evening, I could tell he was struggling and knew he would not die peacefully if his wife were present. Once she left, you could hear and see Paul's breathing relax. My sister and I turned the lights down, put on classic rock, talked to him, held him, and loved him. His friend from Florida was on his way. We kept telling him, "Jamey is on his way, Paul." As soon as he arrived to say his goodbyes, my brother passed with the three of us at his side, holding his hands, and telling him how much we loved him and that it was okay for him to rest now. There was a sense of peace and a feeling of lightness as if his suffering had evaporated through our hearts and souls.

You may be wondering what this has to do with clinical inquiry.

Working in large academic healthcare systems, being a professional caregiver, and keeping up to date on current nursing practices do not prepare us for grief. The experience of grief may redefine how we care for our patients and their families. However, grief is not only the loss of a loved one. Grief can be the loss of a relationship, a job, an identity, a routine, an experience, or what we thought our future might hold but did not. Grief has challenged all.

A few things to think about:

1. A patient is not a surgical procedure, "the hip, the appy, the shoulder." Our patients are individuals with personalities, hobbies, and talents. Our patients have names.
2. Family members are not our enemies. Family members are our friends. Family members help reduce our patients' anxieties and pain. Family members are comfort, like a handmade blanket from home.
3. Ask the families if they have eaten or had anything to drink. It has been a long, stressful waiting period. Offer them a drink, direct them to the cafeteria or vending machine, and let them know their loved one is in great hands.

As nurses, we have the privilege to comfort, heal, educate, and provide physical touch. We treat the patients' and their families' minds, bodies, and souls. We fill the role of the family. We do not stop until we find answers to our patients' questions. We take on the emotions of our patients and families when we advocate and explain the disease, injury, or expected outcomes to them.

When we leave work after a shift, the emotions, the heaviness, and often the grief do not evaporate. We often sit in our car and let the tears flow. We turn on the radio and hope the music will take us away. We call a loved one just to say Hi, or we drive home in silence and sit with our thoughts. We process. And then, we are back to our lives. We never forget, yet learn to cope through laughter, hugs, and giving back.

Your decision to share your grief with a patient or family is personal. It is not always appropriate, but we know when it can be. It is our choice. Whether we share our experiences or not, our grief is what has molded each of us into the caregivers we are today.

Thank you for dedicating your life to caring, healing, and embracing the lives of others. You may not know it, but you have made a traumatic experience tolerable. Your name may have been forgotten, but your genuine authenticity as a caregiver will always be remembered.



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# Trends in Clinical Practice

Lori Erni, BSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN – ASPAN Director for Clinical Practice

*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.*

**D**uring my last months as director for clinical practice, I have observed consistent trends. Nurses want to understand the best practices and deliver high-quality care to our perianesthesia patients and their families. The questions submitted are from all over the United States, a few from Canada, and a military base. Unlike other organizations, the people submitting questions are not charged anything and do not have to be members. This is an amazing service for perianesthesia care. Other professional nursing organizations do not offer this service to nonmembers.

The website's **Frequently Asked Questions** were updated last fall. They are also accessible to nonmembers. From within ASPAN's Clinical Practice Committee, I formed a team of four members. We updated the questions and answers, along with the current references. This team is also monitoring the Forums page. The Forums can only be accessed by members, but any member can submit a question and give feedback on it.

Over 350 questions were submitted on the website from May to December 2024. The trends of the questions reflect nurses' inquiries and commitment to delivering safe care. I will share a couple of examples.

**Q** • For both Phase I & Phase II, is it appropriate to staff one LPN & one support staff to take care of pts?

**A** • In looking at this question and worked many years as a nurse, I find it reflective of the current shortage of nurses in some areas of the country. Some hospitals seek creative staffing options: virtual nursing, LPNs, and nursing techs. Each state has its own board of nursing that gives guidelines to what duties RNs and LPNs can perform. Phase 1 care is provided by an RN who is competent in Phase 1 care and another RN with the qualifications that reflect the patient's acuity. This second RN should be IN THE SAME ROOM and be able to assist immediately. I can relate to these situations when I traveled. It can be uncomfortable and difficult to say "No", but the safety of the patient and staff is paramount. I have utilized the house supervisor (RN), the OR charge nurse, and the anesthesia provider to bridge the gap. This is particularly during call shifts or night shift hours.

**Q** • What is the time element as far as discharging the patient from Phase 2?

**A** • Discharge from any phase of care is not based on a timeframe; it occurs when the patient demonstrates the ability to go home safely. The criteria are developed by each facility's anesthesia department and hospital policy. But beyond that, the question really is, "Is this patient and caregiver able to go home safely?"

Our population of patients having same-day procedures is growing. They are not always healthy and may have pre-existing co-morbidities. They are also getting older. Caring for a patient in their 90s who is having a day surgery is not uncommon. I have discharged many patients who meet this criterion. I ask the patient who will be caring for them if they have stairs, if it is a long drive to their home, etc. If it is late at night, do they have their prescriptions, can their ride drive at night, etc.? Included is whether they can safely get into and out of the car and then into their home.

The other element of discharge readiness is the ability to understand instructions for their aftercare. The teach-back and demonstration methods are the best means to see if your patient meets these criteria. Many institutions complete a postoperative phone call. An orthopedic doctor I had worked with personally called his patients the next morning. It can also be enlightening to appreciate how much your patient and caregiver retained, even with the teach-back and demonstration methods.

The care of our patients can be complex and challenging. ASPAN continues to be the premier guide for high-quality care.

Thank you all for what you do in each dimension of the perianesthesia realm!

## REFERENCE:

1. American Society of Perianesthesia Nurses. *2025-2026 Perianesthesia Nursing Standards, Practice Recommendations and Interpretive Statements*. ASPAN; 2024.



Lori Erni, BSN, RN,  
CCRN, CPAN

# Something Big Is About to Happen in Dallas, Texas!

Lynette Alcorn, BSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN, CAPA – 2025 ASPAN National Conference Strategic Work Team Coordinator



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

**A**SPAN's 44th National Conference is almost here! Are you ready to experience the great southern hospitality of Texas? Please join us April 28- May 1, 2025, at the Dallas Sheraton Hotel in Downtown Dallas, where over 1200 perianesthesia nurses will gather and meet. This year's theme, "Passion and Excellence: Growing, Learning and Leading Together," was chosen by our ASPAN President, Lori Silva. I truly believe our passion and excellence in perianesthesia nursing was revived and remains our focus as we continue to grow, learn, and lead together.

The Texas Association of Perianesthesia Nurses (TAPAN) welcomes you to Dallas! You are sure to encounter modern amenities and historic charm. Dallas is known for its museums, parks, attractions, nightlife, and amazing cuisine; there's something for everyone. Check out [www.visitdallas.com](http://www.visitdallas.com) for more information and places to explore in our beautiful city!

## Educational Opportunities

The 2025 ASPAN National Conference Strategic Work Team has worked diligently to plan an exciting educational conference. There is an opportunity to earn over 80 contact hours with full conference in-person registration. Various topics related to safety/competency, leadership, clinical, research, legal/ethical, standards, and evidence-based practice, to name a few. There is essentially something for each attendee! You may decide to maximize your dollar by registering for The Perianesthesia Leadership Academy and/or Pre and Post conferences.

We encourage all attendees to visit the Exhibit Hall, where some of the leading industry vendor representatives will display the latest products and services available in the perianesthesia settings. Also, you will find Evidence-Based Practice/Research Posters in the Exhibit Hall. See what others are doing to enhance practice and care for our patients.

## Development Activities

The Silent Auction opens on Monday, April 28, at 6:00 pm. Components and individuals are invited to donate and purchase items for the Silent Auction. All proceeds go to support the ASPAN Development Program, which supports activities such as scholarships, awards, advocacy, and so much more.

Begin Wednesday morning, April 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m., by supporting ASPAN and earning 0.75 contact hours with Past President Kim Kraft. Honor your friends and colleagues with gifts to the Hail, Honor, Salute (HHS) Campaign. We will celebrate the newest Legacy for Life members and enjoy a traditional American breakfast.

## Conference Volunteer Opportunities

Now that you are registered for the National Conference, are you looking to volunteer? If you wish to serve as a host/hostess, please contact Hazzel Gomez at 469.826.9908 or via email [rneducator215@gmail.com](mailto:rneducator215@gmail.com). You may receive a small compensation for your work as a host/hostess.

If you are interested in being a session moderator, please email Courtney Papp at [cpapp@aspan.org](mailto:cpapp@aspan.org). As a session moderator, you will showcase your public speaking skills by introducing the speakers and keeping the sessions on track.

We welcome ALL first-timers! Join us at the First-Timers Orientation, where you will surely meet many others and develop lifelong connections.

Lastly, stop by the hospitality table and the ASPAN Shoppe to purchase the 2025 ASPAN National Conference pin from a TAPAN Member for only \$5.00. As you can see, Something BIG really is happening in Texas. So, grab your cowboy boots and hats, and meet us in Dallas, Texas! I can't wait to see you there! 



# REGION FOUR UPDATE

Stephanie Johnson MSN RN CPAN CAPA – Regional Director, Region Four

**G**reetings from the chilly Northeast! As we move into spring and approach the National Conference, I've been reflecting on the past few months. It was incredible to attend PDI in Oklahoma City as a Regional Director, and networking with members from across the country was amazing. I was thrilled to meet with the leaders of the Region Four components. Being able to put faces to names, get to know them, and share ideas was wonderful. Their engagement and passion for practice are inspiring, and as usual, I left PDI feeling energized and eager to do more!

## Membership

Unfortunately, in Region Four, we observed a decrease in membership across seven out of the eight components over the past year. We are actively investigating the reasons for this trend and exploring ways to engage more of our perianesthesia colleagues in our organization. One thing we know is that our members desire educational offerings, and I can confidently state that the components in this region strive to provide their members with as many opportunities as possible. Several of our components are hosting spring conferences, both virtual and in-person, which can be found on the Regional Events Calendar at [www.aspan.org](http://www.aspan.org).

## Certification Study Group

With the support of the ASPAN Board of Directors and the assistance of my fellow Regional Directors, I am excited to announce that Region Four has launched a virtual certification study group! As you may have read in previous issues of *Breathline*, our colleagues in other regions have seen positive outcomes and high pass rates among their members, demonstrating the value of the study group. After coordinating dates and securing volunteer facilitators, we held an informational meeting with interested participants to discuss study plans and requirements. I left the meeting feeling optimistic and thrilled that our perianesthesia nurses in Region Four have this opportunity to enhance their exam preparations. I want to give a shoutout to the nurses who volunteered their time to facilitate the weekly group meetings. I appreciate each of you immensely. At this point, we are well into our first study group cohort, and our participants are preparing to take the test. We wish them luck and look forward to hearing about their successes! Perhaps we will be able to celebrate our newly certified members at the National Conference!

I hope to see you all in Dallas! Be well and thank you for all you do as a perianesthesia nurse! 



Stephanie Johnson  
MSN RN CPAN CAPA



One of the findings from the recent *Breathline* survey indicated members want more free continuing education.

**“You spoke,  
and we listened”**

ASPAN

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# Earn Points Now for Your Scholarship Application!

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



**Chris Skinner**  
MSN, RN, CAPA

## Have you ever thought about applying for an ASPAN scholarship?

The time to start planning is now! ASPAN has made applying for our scholarships easier and more stress-free. The ASPAN website now includes a checklist for measuring progress. All scholarship information is now online, and application packets are due no later than **July 1, 2025**.

The scholarship application operates on a point system with a minimum point requirement. Other prerequisites include, but are not limited to, traditional letters of recommendation, a statement of financial need, a personal statement, participation in ASPAN and its component activities/events, and maintaining your Active category membership for two (2) full continuous years prior to the application deadline of **July 1, 2025**.

The points needed are easy and fun to achieve. Here are some ways you can do so:

- Attend a component local, district, or state level education session (virtual attendance counts, too)
- Volunteer for a component project
- Sit on a component board of directors
- Write an article for your component newsletter
- Participate in a research activity that contributes to the scientific base of perianesthesia nursing
- Present a Celebrate Successful Perianesthesia Practices Poster
- Become certified (CPAN/CAPA)
- Provide a lecture on perianesthesia nursing
- Attend an ASPAN National Conference
- Raise public awareness of perianesthesia nursing through activities locally, regionally, or nationally

... and there are many other activities that will earn points, too!

The points add up quickly. All activities are based on your last three (3) years of involvement.

### Scholarship/Award Program: (to be awarded in 2026)

- \$1,500 tuition scholarships for Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Nursing or Doctorate in Nursing (for degree classes in 2026)
- ASPAN National Conference awards
- \$1,000 in-person attendance awards for ASPAN's 2026 National Conference held in San Francisco, CA
- Electronic educational sessions from ASPAN's 2026 National Conference (available online after the conference)
- \$314 awards for CPAN or CAPA certification exams in 2026
- \$1,000 Humanitarian Mission awards (approved expenses for mission trips occurring in 2026)
- \$2,000 AONL Advocacy Day Program, maximum of two awards (approved expenses for the 2026 AONL event)

Please see the instructions and required items lists on the [Scholarship/Award Program webpage](#).

**ASPA's Scholarship/Award Program postmark deadline is July 1, 2025.\***

\*Application/information for ASPAN's ICPAN Registration Fee scholarship is now available on ASPAN's website with a separate postmark deadline of May 1, 2025.



## Development Activities at the National Conference in Dallas

Greetings, colleagues! As you explore the vibrant city of Dallas and attend sessions, be sure to include Development activities in your agenda. The grand opening of the Exhibit Hall on April 28 presents a great opportunity to connect with peers and meet vendors to discover their products. Bring back information about the latest advancements in your perianesthesia field. Don't forget to visit the ASPAN Booth. Additionally, there will be a Silent Auction in the Exhibit Hall, providing a fun time for enthusiastic bidding on items you desire. You can also donate an item for auction. Bidding will take place while the Exhibit Hall is open and will close on Wednesday morning just before the Hall closes. If you have the highest bid, you can pay for your item at the ASPAN Registration area and take it home on the afternoon of April 30.

The Development Breakfast is another event you should consider attending during your conference registration. The food is excellent, connecting with perianesthesia colleagues is beneficial, and earning continuing education credits while listening to Kim Kraft, an ASPAN Past President and engaging speaker, is fantastic! There are also opportunities to recognize a family member, friend, or colleague through our *Hail, Honor, Salute!* program, which includes donations for Development. Legacy for Life provides another chance to contribute toward Development. Our mission in Development is to promote the unique specialty of perianesthesia nursing by raising funds for scholarships, clinical inquiry, and clinical practice to enhance the care we provide to our patients and the education we receive. I hope to see you in Dallas! Stop by the ASPAN Booth to say, "Hello!"

## 2025 ICPAN Registration Fee Award from ASPAN

Instructions and required forms for ASPAN's registration fee award to the International Conference for PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ICPAN) being held September 10-12, 2025, in Dublin, Ireland, are available on the ASPAN website. Please read the instructions carefully for eligibility requirements.

Visit [Members > Scholarship/Award Program > 2025 ICPAN Award](#).

The special postmark deadline for ICPAN award applications is May 1, 2025.\*

\*Applications and information for ASPAN's annual Scholarship/Award Program (offering BSN, MSN, and Doctorate degrees), ASPAN National Conference (in-person attendance or electronic educational sessions), Certification Exam, AONL Advocacy Day, and Humanitarian Mission awards are available on the ASPAN website in February. The postmark deadline for applications is July 1, 2025. This program is separate from ICPAN.



## Nursing Advocacy: Making a Difference Beyond the Individual Patient

Angie Fenton, MS, RN, CNE – ASPAN Governmental Affairs SWT Coordinator

One reason I became a nurse was to make a difference. Reflecting on my 20 years in nursing, I believe the most significant impact I've made has been advocating for patients. This includes promoting various pain management plans and trusting my instincts when something feels off. I'm sure you've had those moments, too. Advocacy is one of our core values in nursing, which is why I've chosen to engage in advocacy at the highest level: governmental policy. I understand the term 'governmental affairs' can sound daunting—and you may not be fond of politics—but I've discovered the advocacy work to be easier, more exciting, and more rewarding than I anticipated.

I started with the goal of enhancing state policy. I contacted a colleague and discovered a mentor. They suggested that I join my state's nurses association (part of the American Nurses Association), use their website to keep informed about current issues, learn about the legislative process, and begin reaching out to my representatives about pertinent matters.

I serve as the governmental affairs representative for the Utah Society of Perianesthesia Nurses. Last year, we made a significant impact during the legislative session. We issued an urgent call to action, encouraging our members to contact their legislators to advocate for changes to a bill that would allow foreign-educated physicians to obtain a nursing license. The bill passed with amendments, permitting the Division of Professional Licensing to establish educational equivalencies and consult with experts across various boards.

If you are interested in advocating at the governmental level, I encourage you to reach out to your local ASPAN component, visit ASPAN's governmental affairs webpage to learn about the legislative process, and access other resources, including how to contact your elected officials. Together, we can improve patient care in our communities by engaging in advocacy work related to governmental affairs.



Angie Fenton  
MS, RN, CNE



**Melissa Schmidt**  
MSN, RN, CNL, CPAN,  
CAPA, EBP-C

## Promoting Certification – Regional Study Groups

Melissa Schmidt MSN, RN, CNL, CPAN, CAPA, EBP-C – ASPAN Certification Promotion SWT Coordinator

**S**trategic work teams (SWT) are established when the ASPAN Board recognizes a need. The Certification Promotion SWT originated from enthusiasm, passion, and a commitment to help other nurses succeed. Many know Ronda Dyer as our Region 1 Director. Before joining the ASPAN Board, she demonstrated her true colors as a champion for nurses. In 2012, Ronda became dual certified on the same day after completing a call shift. Bleary-eyed yet proud, she set out to assist others almost immediately. In 2013, Ronda invited nurses from the Central California Valley to her kitchen table to prepare for the CPAN and CAPA exams. She adopted a plan and guided many nurses toward successful certification. In the fall of 2021, while coaching a nurse at her kitchen table, a nurse from outside the area requested to join via FaceTime. This experience proved successful, and in true Ronda fashion, she enlisted the help of PANAC to provide a similar learning opportunity through Zoom starting in the fall of 2022. The first virtual group included 9 nurses and resulted in 10 certifications. In the summer of 2023, the first regional study group was launched with the support of Region 1 ASPAN members. There were challenges and learning curves. Ronda, the unwavering and cheerful leader, encouraged both certification participants and regional leaders throughout this new study group format. Inspired by her efforts, Ursula Mellinger and Marlene Nahavandi started a study group in Region 3. In the spring of 2024, Lori Silva, Vice President/President-Elect, created the Certification Promotion SWT. Motivated by the grassroots feel of the collaboration among nurses, I answered the call to lead the SWT.

In May 2024, co-chair Michelle Meadows, ASPAN Region 1 Director Ronda Dyer, and I developed our

charter to support certification. We identified our goals as supporting nurses seeking certification, mentoring those who wish to facilitate study groups, offering study groups across all regions, pinpointing existing resources, advocating to ensure ASPAN resources reflect current exams, and identifying gaps in certification for subspecialties. Establishing this group has united perianesthesia leaders from across the U.S. to collaborate and further this goal. For the spring 2025 testing period, 4 of ASPAN's 5 regions will be offering study groups, aiming for all regions to provide them by fall 2025. The main requirement for these study groups is membership in ASPAN, which is a member benefit. Members leading these study groups consist of a mix of national ASPAN leaders, component leaders, and those who are eager to support their peers seeking certification. This SWT motivates me because we choose to guide and support nurses facing this challenge. As the communication coordinator for Region 1, I receive emails from nurses celebrating their successes once testing begins. On average, our success rate is around 85%, compared to the national success rate of 65%. We use the recommended study material from ABPANC, and the key elements are truly time, grit, and camaraderie. If you are certified and wish to join the SWT or help lead your regional study group, please contact [studygroup1@gmail.com](mailto:studygroup1@gmail.com). If you are a nurse looking to become certified, we will assist you in connecting with your regional leaders.

Nursing is a team sport, and pursuing a professional goal can often feel isolating. Our SWT is dedicated to fostering an environment of support and success. We look forward to welcoming you into our community and helping you achieve your certification goals. 



# Update for ASPAN Membership

**D**ear Members,

In recent years, the ASPAN Board of Directors and the Component Revitalization SWT have reviewed ASPAN's structure and capacity to ensure it was effectively serving the needs of its members. Last year, ASPAN engaged the consulting firm of Dunleavy & Associates to work with a Board-appointed Assessment Planning Team to further study these issues and prepare recommendations for the membership's consideration. Here is an update on the work of that group.

**Assessment Planning Team.** The planning team members include Lori Silva, ASPAN Board President; Ursula Mellinger, ASPAN Vice President/President-Elect; Sarah Cartwright, ASPAN Secretary; Teri Baughman, ASPAN Treasurer; Ronda Dyer, Region One Regional Director; Katrina Bickerstaff, ASPAN Past President; Jennifer Kilgore, ASPAN Past President; and ex officio member, Kevin Dill, ASPAN CEO.

**Planning Principles.** Throughout this process, the Planning Team has worked with these principles in mind:

1. ASPAN will continue to be the premier voice for periesthesia nursing excellence and will continue to support the personal and professional development of the nurses in this unique practice specialty; and
2. ASPAN's organizational structure should ensure a meaningful and sustainable membership experience for all members without imposing an undue administrative burden on a limited number of members at the component level.

**Discovery and Analysis Phase.** Over the past several months, our consultants from Dunleavy conducted targeted focus group discussions and individual interviews with a diverse group of ASPAN members on numerous topics and conducted other benchmarking research. They reviewed ASPAN's policies and procedures, strategic plan, and other materials, including the 2022 membership survey on component revitalization. The team also researched and identified best practices from other national organizations regarding membership engagement, support, and services.

**Preliminary Findings and Recommendations.** In December 2024, our consultants presented a set of detailed findings and preliminary recommendations to the Assessment Planning Team. The recommendations were revised in early 2025 and were shared with the ASPAN Board of Directors in February 2025 and with component leaders in March 2025.

**Presentation at Representative Assembly.** Based on the positive feedback at the meetings with the Board and component leaders, the proposals and recommendations will be reviewed and discussed with the Representative Assembly on April 27, 2025, at the National Conference. Because there are still numerous details to finalize about the proposals, the Representative Assembly will not be asked to take any formal action on the proposals this year.

No decisions or final recommendations will be made until the conclusion of the next step of the process.

As these proposals are considered and refined, the intent of the process is to achieve the following goals:

1. ASPAN's organizational structure (nationally and locally) will be enhanced to reduce administrative burdens (especially for smaller components), improve long-term sustainability, and allow more focus on continuing education, professional growth and development, and member relationships.
2. ASPAN's national office will provide additional administrative and management support for local components to reduce the components' administrative workloads and enhance the availability of local resources for program activities.
3. Professional Development and Education Offerings will be offered to members for free or at lower costs, and access to those programs will be streamlined, modernized, and made more accessible to members.

## Next Steps, 2025 and Beyond: "A Work in Progress."

Following the presentation at the 2025 Representative Assembly, a new Strategic Work Team will be appointed to address the details and remaining questions about the proposals. This SWT will work on the proposals throughout 2025 and will present a set of final recommendations to the ASPAN Board for review and approval in December 2025.

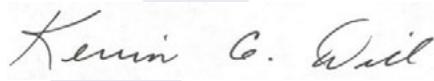
Under this timeline, the Board will present formal proposals to the 2026 Representative Assembly for review and consideration during its meeting at the 2026 ASPAN National Conference. If the Representative Assembly adopts the recommendations, then work would continue throughout 2026 to have the recommendations fully in place and implemented by January 1, 2027.

As you can tell by this timeline, we are still in the early stages of this process. While considerable thought and attention have been put into the proposals to date, there is still significant work to be done to address the many details and questions that have been identified in this process.

As proposals are reviewed and revised in the coming months, specific details may change based on member input and feedback. We will strive to keep members informed and engaged throughout the process, but in the meantime, you should feel free to reach out to me at [kdill@aspan.org](mailto:kdill@aspan.org) or President Lori Silva at [lsilva@aspan.org](mailto:lsilva@aspan.org) with questions or feedback.

Thank you for your continued support of ASPAN and for your interest in the assessment process.

Sincerely,



Kevin G. Dill, MBA, BS

ASPA Chief Executive Officer 



# PERIANESTHESIA NURSE AWARENESS WEEK CELEBRATIONS



▲ ▼ VTNHAPAN - Elliot Hospital in Manchester, NH



PANAW was celebrated across the nation with lots of fun and enthusiasm. There were lots of posters, balloons, governor proclamations, and, of course, lots and lots of FOOD!

Celebration activities included:

- Many component seminars and conferences
- French Toast breakfast
- Lunch bags filled with goodies
- Taco Day
- Sliders provided by the clinicians.
- Pretzel day
- Calzone Day
- Ice Cream treats
- Kolaches
- Spin the Wheel for an ASPAN membership
- Special t-shirts



PeriAnesthesia Nurse Awareness Week  
February 3 - 9, 2025

## PANAW Photo Contributors

Lynette Alcorn  
Rose Ayres  
Debbie Bickford  
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Denise Krall  
Cindy McKenzie  
Sonu Varghese  
Sandra Watts  
Sierra Wood



◀ TAPAN: JPS Surgery Center, Arlington, TX



▲ TAPAN - Prep/Recovery, Parkland Health, Dallas

◀ TAPAN - Houston Methodist West PACU



▼ MASPN: SNHMC-Southern New Hampshire Medical Center ▼



▼ CBSPAN: Adventist Healthcare White Oak Medical Center, Silver Spring Maryland



▼ PAPAN's PANAW Conference



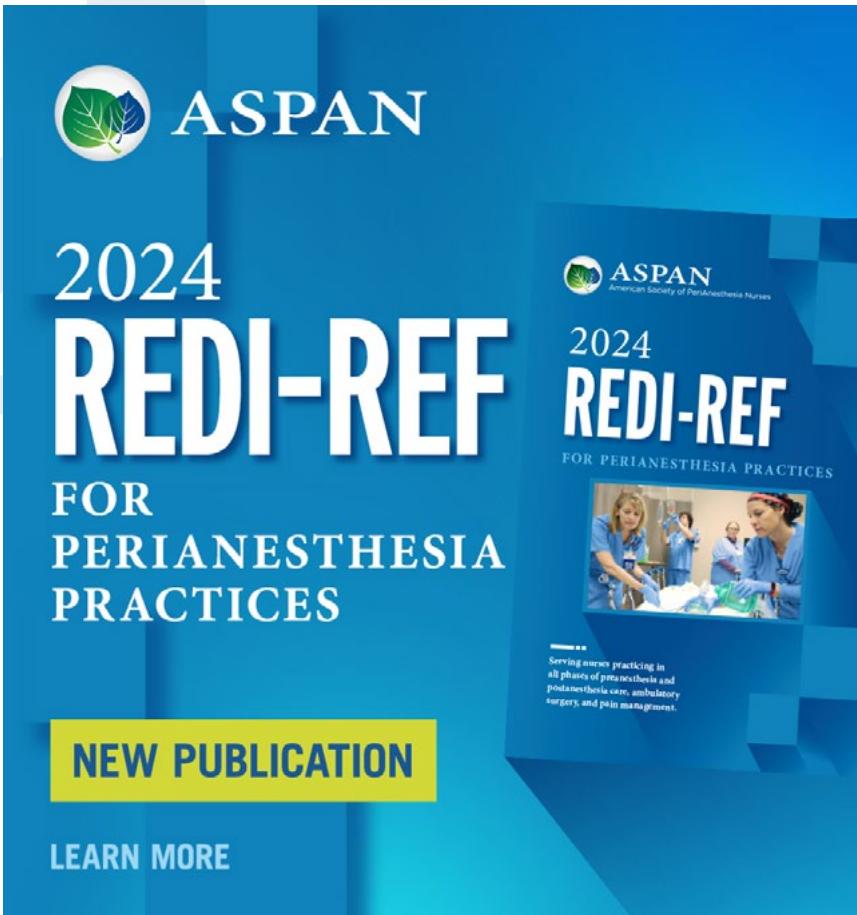
▲ PAPAN's PANAW Conference



▲ ILSPAN: St Louis Children's Hospital PACU & Same Day Surgery



▲ PAPAN - UPMC St. Margaret, Pittsburgh PA



ASPN

2024  
**REDI-REF**  
FOR  
PERIANESTHESIA  
PRACTICES

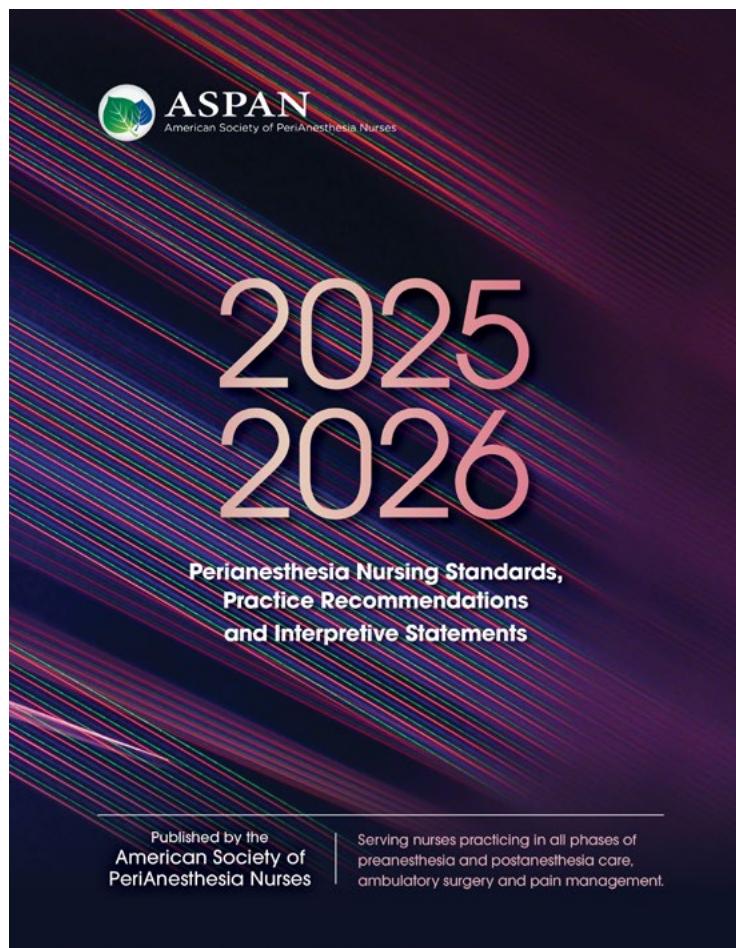
**NEW PUBLICATION**

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ASPN American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

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**REDI-REF**  
FOR PERIANESTHESIA PRACTICES

Serving nurses practicing in all phases of preanesthesia and postanesthesia care, ambulatory surgery, and pain management.



ASPN  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

**2025  
2026**

**Perianesthesia Nursing Standards,  
Practice Recommendations  
and Interpretive Statements**

Published by the  
American Society of  
PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Serving nurses practicing in all phases of preanesthesia and postanesthesia care, ambulatory surgery and pain management.



## Component Save-the-Date

NPANA Conference: Sept 27-28, 2025

The Grove Hotel

245 S Capitol Blvd, Boise, ID 83702

For more information, visit: [npana.nursingnetwork.com](http://npana.nursingnetwork.com)

For information on other upcoming events, please visit the ASPAN Website and check out the [Regional Events Calendar](#).

## WEBCASTS & SEMINARS

2025  
WINTER/SPRING

### LIVE WEBCASTS – FULL-DAY

REFRESHING YOUR PERIANESTHESIA PRACTICE  
May 31, 2025 *SATURDAY*

SAFETY BEGINS WITH US  
June 7, 2025 *SATURDAY*

SURROUNDING YOUR PRACTICE  
WITH EXCELLENCE:  
LEGAL ISSUES, STANDARDS, AND ADVOCACY  
June 14, 2025 *SATURDAY*

### LIVE WEBCASTS – HALF-DAY

INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS IN PEDIATRIC  
PERIANESTHESIA CARE  
June 29, 2025 *SUNDAY*

PERIANESTHESIA ESSENTIALS V  
June 8, 2025 *SUNDAY*

### LIVE WEBCASTS – TWO-HOUR

ERAS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR ENHANCED  
RECOVERY AFTERSURGERY  
May 28, 2025 *WEDNESDAY*

GASTROINTESTINAL AND ENDOCRINE  
PATHOPHYSIOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT  
June 4, 2025 *WEDNESDAY*

HOW TO BECOME A TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADER  
June 11, 2025 *WEDNESDAY*

INFECTION CONTROL CHALLENGES: IMPLICATIONS FOR  
THE PERIANESTHESIA NURSE  
June 18, 2025 *WEDNESDAY*

LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN PERIANESTHESIA NURSING  
June 25, 2025 *WEDNESDAY*