



Breathline

Winter 2025

Volume 45 Number 5

INSIDE:

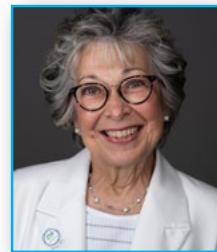
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Moving to the Future and Accepting the Challenges

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

During the recent Perianesthesia Development Institute (PDI), the Board met and approved our 2026 annual budget. In addition to finalizing the budget, there were many strategic discussions focused on the future of ASPAN. The Board is working hard to ensure that members will see even more benefits and added value to their membership, recognizing the dedication and hard work you put in every day to ensure your patients receive the best possible care. I am also pleased to report that ASPAN remains financially healthy, and we have committed to investing in exciting new initiatives that you will begin to hear about in the coming year.

At PDI, we also had the opportunity to hear directly from our volunteers and component leaders about their questions, concerns, and ideas related to our reorganization initiative. We heard you, and I want to assure you that the Board and staff are preparing a detailed announcement in January. This update will address your questions, provide clarity, and help guide ASPAN through a potential change that will ultimately make us stronger.

We appreciate your feedback and evaluations. We acknowledge the technical issues that occurred and are committed to implementing corrective measures and ongoing improvements moving forward. Some mentioned they had more questions at the end of PDI. Asking questions is beneficial; it stimulates thought and fosters curiosity. Thank you for submitting your evaluations.



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

Continuing the theme of my presidency, *Moving to the Future and Accepting the Challenges*, ASPAN is embracing another exciting change. This issue of *Breathline* will be the last in its current format, as we transition to an eNewsletter with expanded content hosted on our website. We believe this new format will make it easier for members to access ASPAN news, updated clinical information, and feature articles. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Susan Norris, our *Breathline* Editor, for her dedication and contributions over the years.

Be on the lookout for the first eNewsletter edition in January.

Finally, I want to thank all of our volunteers, members, and staff for their ongoing contributions to ASPAN. Wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season, and we look forward to connecting with you in 2026. 



Call for Resolutions for the 2026 Representative Assembly

Sunday, April 26, 2026 | San Francisco, California

The Representative Assembly (RA) is the voting body and voice of ASPAN. The RA reviews and acts upon resolutions regarding ASPAN bylaws, position statements, and other issues related to perianesthesia nursing.

Resolutions must be proposed by at least **five (5) Active Category members** acting as one group. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- A Component Board of Directors - OR -
- The ASPAN Board of Directors - OR -
- An ASPAN Standing Committee or Strategic Work Team

Submission Deadline:

- All resolution forms must be received by **January 26, 2026**

During the RA meeting in April, the lead author must be prepared to speak to the assembly on the resolution.

For a sample resolution form and instructions, contact ASPAN CEO Pete Pomilio at ppomilio@aspans.org.



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Denise Diaz (PA)

Louisville provided a lively backdrop for networking and exploration, from Kentucky Derby tours to Main Street dining, the Louisville Slugger Museum, and river cruises along the Ohio River.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to this energizing and forward-focused PDI. We look forward to continuing the journey together and sharing further updates in January. 



▲ From left, Board members Nikki Price, Stephanie Johnson, Marlene Nahavandi, and ASPAN President Ursula Mellinger putting their best foot forward



▲ ▼ PDI attendees participated in an animated mock Representative Assembly



From left, Katrina Bickerstaff, Regina Hoefner-Notz, and Kathi Saball – happy to be in Louisville! ▼





Gloria Luu
MSN, RN, CPAN,
CAPA

**National
Conference
Registration
Now Open!**

[CLICK HERE](#)



Get Ready for the 45th ASPAN National Conference in San Francisco!

Gloria Luu, MSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA – National Conference SWT Member – Hospitality

The countdown is on! ASPAN and the National Conference Strategic Work Team are thrilled to invite you to the 45th ASPAN National Conference, coming to one of the most iconic destinations in the world - San Francisco, California! Famous for its breathtaking views, vibrant culture, and unmatched hospitality, San Francisco offers the perfect backdrop for perianesthesia nurses to learn, connect, and celebrate our profession.

This year's conference takes place at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis, a premier hotel located in the heart of downtown. With modern luxury, sweeping city views, and outstanding service, the Marquis is the ideal setting for a week packed with education, networking, and inspiration. The Marquis captures the true essence of San Francisco. Comfortable guest rooms, state-of-the-art meeting spaces, and advanced audiovisual technology will make your conference experience seamless and engaging. Step outside the hotel and you'll be surrounded by world-class dining—from fresh seafood at Fisherman's Wharf to unique flavors from every corner of the globe. Inside and out, the setting is designed to inspire. Plan to come early and or stay late, attend pre-conference and/or post-conference offerings, earning additional contact hours while providing perfect opportunities for exploring even more of the City by the Bay.

Kick off Conference Week in Style – A Sunset Bay Dinner Cruise!

To launch the week in unforgettable fashion, your California component, PANAC, has chartered a three-hour sunset bay dinner cruise on Sunday evening, April 26, 2026. Picture this: gliding across sparkling waters as the sun sinks behind the Golden Gate Bridge, with panoramic views of the Bay Bridge, Alcatraz Island, and the San Francisco skyline. This magical evening will be the perfect way to connect with colleagues, enjoy the city's beauty while dining and dancing, and set the tone for the days ahead. Don't miss your chance, go to this link, <https://tix.cityexperiences.com/20b3e826-ae38-4983-914c-1dee6b0e15a7>, or scan the QR code on this page for more details and to register for the special group rate. Spots are limited, so act fast to experience this once-in-a-lifetime event!



Build Connections That Last a Lifetime

ASPA's National Conference is more than just education – it's about creating meaningful relationships. Whether you're renewing bonds with longtime ASPAN colleagues or meeting new friends, connections develop naturally through learning and networking. Enhance your experience by considering a hotel room share, or by volunteering as a host/hostess or moderator during the week. Details are outlined in the conference brochure. Our 2026 National Conference Strategic Work Team (NCSWT) members are here to support you every step of the way:

- **Hospitality** – Gloria Luu, MSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA
- **Host/Hostess** – Gina Barry-Dias, BSN, RN, CAPA
- **Room Share** – Abigail (Abby) Acosta, MSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA
- **Moderator** – Lynette Alcorn, BSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN, CAPA
- **National Conference Coordinator** – Karen Woods, BSN, RN, CAPA

Questions? Contact Courtney Papp (cpapp@aspn.org) at the national office.

Experience the Magic of San Francisco

When sessions wrap up, step into the magic of San Francisco. Stroll through Golden Gate Park, hop on the historic cable cars, or explore the shops and galleries of Union Square just steps from the hotel. Iconic attractions like the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, the Painted Ladies, Lombard Street, Fisherman's Wharf, Pier 39,

Ghirardelli Square, Coit Tower, Chinatown, and the Ferry Building Marketplace await.

Looking to venture beyond the city? Walk among the towering redwoods in Muir Woods, plan a day trip to Monterey or wine country, visit a mission, soar above it all on a hot air balloon ride, the famed historic Filoli home and gardens, and indulge in the endless culinary delights found throughout the Bay Area.

Whether your passion is art, history, culture, food, nature, or nightlife, California will not disappoint. Mark your calendar for **April 27–30, 2026**, and get ready to be dazzled by San Francisco. Create connections, elevate your practice, and be part of something extraordinary: ASPAN's 45th National Conference! 

Willingness to Serve: Accepting the Challenges and Making the Future

Ronda Dyer, MSN, BSPA, RN, CPAN, CAPA, FASPA – ASPAN Vice President/President-Elect

ASPAN is an organization for perianesthesia nurses shaped by perianesthesia nurses. To ensure our professional organization meets our needs and to shape the future, we need to be involved. ASPAN President Ursula Mellinger selected the theme, *Moving to the Future and Accepting the Challenges*. There is a lot of wisdom to unpack in this one line. Professional organizations become what the membership desires through the input and effort of volunteers. My challenge to each member is: accept the challenge and help shape the future of ASPAN.

How do you do this? First, identify your passion. Second, select an ASPAN committee or strategic work team (SWT) whose stated purpose speaks to your passion and volunteer to be involved. Whether you are most interested in education, clinical inquiry, or clinical practice, there is a committee for you. If you want to help grow ASPAN, promote specialty certification, are interested in publication, or policy, there is a seat at the table. In fact, there are 19 different teams covering a vast array of interests. The complete list of **2026-2027 Committees and SWTs**, along with descriptions, can be found [here](#).



Ronda Dyer
MSN, BSPA, RN, CPAN,
CAPA, FASPA



Each year, in the fall, members are given the opportunity to submit their *Willingness to Serve* form indicating preferred areas of interest. To have your voice heard and submit your *Willingness to Serve* form, simply [click here](#) and let me know where you would like to be involved. I hope you will step up and volunteer just a few hours a year to help shape the future of ASPAN to ensure that our organization continues to meet the needs of all generations of perianesthesia nurses and all subspecialties throughout the country. 

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Clinical Practice: Recurring Questions and Themes

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



Lori Erni, BSN, RN,
CCRN, CPAN

There are many recurring questions that are submitted to ASPAN's clinical practice submission site. The questions that are submitted are gathered, categorized, and formulated. Myself and all the other directors have been keeping track of all the questions submitted during our term in office.

These questions have many recurring themes, one of them being staffing and who can be the second nurse in the room during Phase 1 care. Two different inquiries asked who that second nurse can be, specifically, if that person could be the CRNA or a medical/surgical nurse.

The response to both individuals is "yes." In the *2025-2026 Perianesthesia Nursing Standards, Practice Recommendations and Interpretive Statements*: "The second registered nurse should be able to hear a call for assistance and be immediately available to assist."¹ It is not the expectation that the second RN would assume care of a Phase 1 PACU patient. The CRNA or the medical/surgical nurse would be able to assist. During normal business hours, this scenario is not usual. However, during call shifts or nighttime, this is an issue that can arise.

As nighttime staffing may be minimal with two nurses scheduled, an ill call can lead to staffing dilemmas. There have been inquiries submitted previously regarding the second nurse. One scenario was when the second PACU nurse was in an accident and our questioner asked who would be

the second nurse. I have been on call when my call partner got stuck in the snow. The OR nurse became my second RN. I have also utilized the house supervisor, the anesthesiologist, the pre-op nurse early in the morning, etc.

The crux of the matter is providing safe care to our patients in this most vulnerable time along with maintaining a safe work environment.

REFERENCE

1. American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses. *2025-2026 Perianesthesia Nursing Standards, Practice Recommendations and Interpretive Statements*. ASPAN; 2024:58. 



2026 ASPAN Candidate Profiles are now online... ... and your component needs to hear from you!

It is time to provide your feedback for ASPAN's 2026 slate of candidates! Review the credentials and experience of each candidate online, make your selections and submit your form. It will be forwarded to your component leadership. This provides your component's 2026 Representative Assembly members with your input when they vote in April 2026 for open positions on the next ASPAN Board of Directors and Nominating Committee.

Personal identifiers are removed from your feedback form before your submission is sent to your component. To review and submit a feedback form for the 2026 candidates for the ASPAN Board Directors and Nominating Committee members, [click here](#). You must be logged in to the ASPAN website to submit this form.

Or visit ASPAN's home page: www.aspan.org

- Sign In using your ASPAN username and password
- Under "Highlights" on the home page, click the 2026 Candidate Profiles-Feedback Form link and carefully read the instructions

Only ONE submission per current ASPAN Active or Retired Category member is accepted. Your participation in determining ASPAN leadership is an important member responsibility to ensure the Society's continued successful future. Submission feedback deadline: February 28, 2026. Don't delay!

2025-2026 ASPAN Nominating Committee

Lori Silva, MSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN – Chair
Patricia Charles, BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA
Denise Diaz, MSN, BA, RN, CPAN, CAPA
Laura Malone, BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA
Elizabeth (Annie) Steffen, BSN, RN, CAPA
Emily Wagner, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, CPAN CPN 

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DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Honor a Colleague, Inspire a Generation

The Development Strategic Work Team is excited to announce a new giving campaign, "Honor a Colleague, Inspire a Generation," that allows you to do precisely that: you can make a gift to ASPAN in honor of a colleague or loved one, and those funds will go toward scholarships that inspire and impact the next generation of perianesthesia nursing leaders. Scholarships include funds for certification fees, National Conference, to further your professional education, and even humanitarian missions. Everyone who contributes to the campaign will be recognized on the ASPAN website, and all contributions are also counted toward Legacy for Life status. You can learn more about the campaign and how to contribute by [clicking here](#). Thank you to everyone who has supported ASPAN over the years and for your continued generosity in 2026! 

THANK YOU

ASPA would like to thank everyone who made a *Hail, Honor, Salute! (HHS)* gift from September 2024 through November 2025. HHS is a great way to support perianesthesia practice while honoring friends and colleagues for their outstanding qualities and accomplishments. Thanks to each one of you and for your continued support with the kick-off of our new campaign, "Honor a Colleague, Inspire a Generation."

Alphonzo Baker, Sr.	Laura Malone	Sue Bott
Amaryllis Ponce	Lori Silva	Susan Shelanders
Antoinette Zito	Lori Erni	Sylvia Baker
Barbara Castritis	Lynnae Elliotte	Tara Wright
Chris Buck	Meg Beturne	Terry Clifford
Darin Prescott	Peggy McNeill	Twilla Shrout
Debby Niehaus	Maria Anicoche	Zane Zuchowski
Deborah Bickford	Myrna Mamaril	FLASPA
Denise Ziak	Nancy Saufl	ILSPAN
Dina Krenzischek	Nancy O'Malley	MAPAN
Dolly Ireland	Nancy Strzyzewski	NYSPANA
Chris Skinner	Patricia Charles	PANAC
Geraldine delos Santos	Ronda Dyer	TSPAN
Janet Lopez	Sarah Cartwright	VT/HN APAN
John Pittman	Seema Hussain	
Kimberly Kraft-Doran	Stephanie Johnson	



LEGACY FOR LIFE

A SPAN's Legacy for Life program supports the future of perianesthesia nursing through significant, enduring contributions that are applied to perianesthesia education, research, practice, and standards. Individuals who reach the momentous level of \$5,000 of support, and components that reach \$10,000 of support, are officially named and introduced as members of the program. 

Legacy for Life Members

2013 – Charter Members

Karen Flanagan

Kim Kraft

Twilla M. Shrout

Myrna Mamaril

2017

Charlotte R West

Grace Walke

MOKAN PANA

Valerie Watkins

PAPAN

TAPAN

Maureen Iacono

Linda Wilson

Angelique Weathersby

2018

PANAC

CBSPAN

Nancy Saufl

Sandra Gardner

2019

ILSPAN

RMPANA

Dolly Ireland

Katrina Bickerstaff

Lois Schick

2020

NYSPANA

Jane Ehrhardt

2021

MAPAN

Dina Krenzischek

Susan Shelander

INSPAN

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Debby Niehaus

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Linda Beagley

FLASPA

Margaret Beturne

Margaret M. McNeill

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Barb Godden

Mary Catherine Moynahan

Esther Watson

OPANA

Terry Clifford

Nancy Strzyzewski

For additional information on Legacy for Life,
including how to contribute, simply [click here](#).



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