



PACU
June 2026

Vol. 37. Issue 1

OSA Precautions

- HOB Elevated
- Continuous Pulse Oximetry
- Supplemental O₂
- Use CPAP/BiPAP as Ordered
- Minimize Sedatives and Opioids
- Monitor Airway

HOB
ELEVATED
30-45°

Summer 2026

EYEOPENER

The Official Newsletter of the
Texas Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

ASPAN'S 45th Annual
Conference

OSA Diagnosis and
Complications

Learning to Lead Through
TAPAN

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TAPAN
Texas Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
50th ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

50
YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

From Tradition to Transformation:
50 Years of
Perianesthesia
Nursing

HAVE YOU
Registered Yet?

DON'T MISS THIS MILESTONE EVENT!

OCTOBER
2-3, 2026

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WELLNESS & PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY
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PEDIATRIC ORTHOPEDIC INJURIES
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE (EBP)
VENEZUELAN ANCESTRY GENETIC MUTATION
LEGAL DOCUMENTATION

The EYEOPENER



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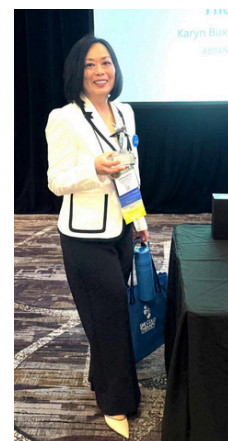


PRESIDENT'S *Message*

The 45th ASPAN Conference marks the beginning of change in the organization. After a year of brainstorming, discussions, consultations, town hall meetings, and seemingly endless emails, the ASPAN Reorganization plan was approved at the Representative Assembly (RA) by the delegates from each component. The current 40 components will transition into 10 Regions in the coming 10-14 months. The goal is to look towards the future of ASPAN, to strengthen its position, and to serve the members using current technology and communication strategies.

Implementing this will not be without challenges. Getting out of our comfort zone is always nerve-racking. However, I believe that TAPAN will stay committed and strong as we have ever been. Texas will be joined by Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. The future region will be named South Central Society of Perianesthesia Nurses in keeping with the national name. As the TAPAN Executive Board works to begin this process, we ask that each member keep abreast of the process and continue to serve the mission of TAPAN—advancing nursing practice through education, research, and standards.

“The first step in empowering people is teaching them how to empower themselves.”



L: Kim Register receives ASPAN Above and Beyond awards. R: Geraldine delos Santos receives ABPANC Shining Star award for TAPAN

TAPAN shone at the conference with several awards: Kristi Denton and Catherine Ocampo from the North and East Region were recipients of the **ASPAN Above and Beyond Award**. Their dedication to fulfilling the mission of TAPAN in their region has earned this distinction. Kim Register received the certificates and pins on their behalf as they were not able to attend the conference. Congratulations again!

This year's **ASPAN Recruiter of the Year** is Lynette Alcorn. She has received this award three years in a row! She was able to get 11 people to sign up as ASPAN members! Lynette, you must share your secret!

Lynette Alcorn was also inducted as the new **Region 2 Director** at the conference. Along with Felicia Selman's candidacy for Vice-President/President-Elect against Sarah Cartwright, TAPAN's leadership at the national level is elevated. Felicia's passionate statements and inspiring vision for ASPAN truly convinced the TAPAN members. Our vote was for her. However, the electronic voting at the RA favored Sarah Cartwright. Felicia, you had a great candidacy, you are an inspiration!



Lynette Alcorn



Felicia Selman



Representative Assembly

Congratulations to all newly certified CPAN and CAPA nurses! Certification validates your expertise. The American Board of PeriAnesthesia Nurse Certification (ABPANC) awarded TAPAN with the **ABPANC Shining Star Award**. TAPAN is the only component in Region 2 that has received this award. ABPANC also announced that **Pediatric Perianesthesia Certification** will soon be offered in Spring of 2027!



A milestone for TAPAN will be celebrated on October 2 & 3 at the Hyatt Regency in Conroe, TX. TAPAN turns 50! We will be honoring our past TAPAN presidents at the President's Banquet on Friday October 2. Region and individual awards will also be given to deserving members who have worked tirelessly to support our organization.

It has been an amazing experience serving every one of you. I believe in empowering people. Joe Tye, in his book *The Florence Prescription*, said, "The first step in empowering people is teaching them how to empower themselves."

Geraldine Delos Santos



Liz Martin, Susan Russell & Ursula Mellinger



Enjoying the Sunset Cruise with Dinner & Dance



TAPAN Presidents! Geraldine D., Patty C., Felicia S., Susan N. Linda A., Susan R., Pam W.



Katrina Bickerstaff, Toni Zito, & Pam Windle



Geraldine receives Component President Pin from ASPAN President & President-Elect.



Leaders of the future South Central Society of Perianesthesia Nurses!



Marianne Sikat and Agnes Hsu & her husband



Let's take a selfie!

FROM THE DESK OF THE REGION 2 DIRECTOR

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



The 45 th National Conference in San Francisco was a tremendous success. We could not have asked for a better experience, highlighted by power packed educational sessions and a memorable dinner cruise. We were able to connect with old friends, make new friends and enjoy the beautiful city of San Francisco!

I am honored to be your new ASPAN Regional 2 Director. I am excited and look forward to working with each of you. For the past year, you have heard about the proposed national reorganization initiative. During the Representative Assembly held at the ASPAN National Conference in San Francisco, delegates voted and approved this proposed reorganization initiative.

ASPAN's current 40 Components will transition into 10 Regions over the coming months. You will continue to receive communications from ASPAN, your component leaders and your Regional Director. So please, read your emails and let us know if you have questions.

Continue meeting, having conferences, and doing all the things TAPAN has done so well. Thank you for all you do for our patients, TAPAN and for our great ASPAN Organization!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynette Alcorn".

Lynette Alcorn BSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN, CAPA
Regional 2 Director
ASPAN Board of Directors



ASPAN President Ursulla Mellinger congratulates
Lynette Alcorn--the new Region 2 Director!



LETTER *From the* EDITOR

All our components also shared their accomplishments during the summer. It is heartening to know how our members create a big impact by bringing their expertise to the table and eventually changing lives. The different community service activities highlight the members' commitments to help and serve our brothers and sisters in need.

I am certainly thrilled about the future as TAPAN transitions to another chapter in the history of Perianesthesia Nursing. I am pretty much confident that the future is really bright because we have the most amazing members!

Eric F. Pazzinagan

I am excited for this edition of the Eyeopener! This edition highlights the experiences and reflections of our members as they attended the 2026 ASPAN National Conference in San Francisco, California. All of them had a great time visiting the city while learning all the developments and updates in PeriAnesthesia Nursing.

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE REGIONS



HILL COUNTRY & SOUTH TX



Ann Monica Baban, MSN RN CAPA
TAPAN HCSTR President

There was an online ASPAN Town Hall meeting on March 10 with the TAPAN Board which presented and discussed ASPAN's Reorganization Plan to restructure 40 components nationwide into 10 which meant merging poorly performing states with the stronger ones in terms of leadership and membership. Consequently, Texas will join with Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana and will be called the South Central Society of Perianesthesia Nurses (SCSPAN). There will be more discussions during the Representative Assembly (RA) at the ASPAN National Conference in San Francisco, CA.

The TAPAN Hill Country and South Texas Region Board had an in-person and virtual meeting on March 21, 2026 at University Hospital in San Antonio, TX. An ASPAN Certification Review Course sometime in August is being planned by the education committee pending confirmation from the ASPAN head office. A Fall symposium is also in the works for October 17th. The three speakers have been invited and have personally confirmed to participate in the mentioned learning activity.



Two members of Hill Country and South Texas region were interested and were planning to attend the National Conference. Discussions about financially supporting the members were raised to cover some of their expenses. Derrick deSilva from Austin will have a podium presentation entitled **“It’s Not Just PACU Whole-Systems Approach to Preventing Postoperative Pressure Injuries”**. Carmen Lott, the HCSTR Historian from San Antonio also wanted to attend the National Conference. Hence, on March 28th, an Ad Hoc meeting was convened to specifically discuss and decide to sponsor these 2 members as representatives of our region. The final decision was guided by the Upper Gulf Region’s policy when sponsoring members attending conferences.



Carmen Lott and Derreck DaSilva, recipients of TAPAN HCSTR scholarship to attend the ASPAN Conference



On May 9, 2026, the board met virtually via Zoom with discussions about the ASPAN National Conference with a brief report from Carmen Lott about her experience. Report updates were also presented about the ASPAN certification review course and the Fall symposium as well as the decision to do a community outreach at the Ronald McDonald House by providing a meal. The invitation to attend and call for posters were also announced for TAPAN’s 50th State Conference in Conroe, Tx in October.



NORTH & EAST REGION



**By Kim Register, BSN, RN
TAPAN North & East Region President**

What a busy and exciting spring and summer season it has been for the N&E Region since our last report!

We kicked off March with a successful regional meeting held both in person and virtually, followed by a meaningful day of service with Helping Hands Open Hearts at the Salvation Army. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect while giving back to our community.

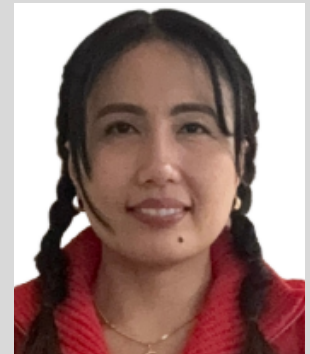
April brought the ASPAN National Conference, where many members from the N&E Region were proudly represented. The conference — along with the beautiful city of San Francisco — did not disappoint. We are especially proud to recognize several regional award recipients:

- ASPAN Above and Beyond Award:
Kristi Denton and Catherine Ocampo
 - Recruiter of the Year: Lynette Alcorn
 - New Region 2 Director: Lynette Alcorn
- Congratulations to each of these outstanding leaders for their dedication and service!

In May, we hosted a virtual monthly meeting focused on Summer Seminar planning, with 26 members in attendance. We are grateful for the continued enthusiasm and participation from our region.



Kristi Denton



Catherine Ocampo

ASPAN 2026 Above and Beyond Awardees



Lynette Alcorn, BSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN, CAPA
2025 ASPAN Recruiter of the Year and
New Region 2 Director



Top Left: Volunteering with Feed My Starving Children

Top Right: Flags for Fallen Vets at DFW

Bottom: Packed meals for children across the country & around the world

Our upcoming outreach and educational events continue to highlight the heart of service within N&E:

- May 24, 2026: Participating in Flags for Fallen Vets at DFW National Cemetery by placing flags on the headstones of fallen veterans in honor of Memorial Day.
- June: Volunteering with Feed My Starving Children to help pack meals for children across the country and around the world.
- July 25: Hosting our Summer Seminar along with outreach opportunities supporting Embrace Grace through baby item donations and collecting empty pill bottles for Matthew 25 Ministries.

Community Outreach



We would also like to congratulate Denise Pauletti on earning her CAPA certification!

Are you involved? Would you like to be? The N&E Region regularly posts meetings, volunteer opportunities, and events on Nursing Network and on our Facebook page by searching NE TAPAN. We always look forward to welcoming new faces and encouraging involvement within our local professional organization.

Thank you for all you do to support our region and our patients. We look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming events!





UPPER GULF COAST REGION



Candace Miller, MSN-Ed, RN, CPAN, CAPA, NPD-BC
TAPAN UGCR President

Greetings from TAPAN UGCR,

In our second quarter we have continued to strive in creating learning and educational opportunities for our members as well as support our State Board and the goals of the national organization ASPAN as a whole.

April 2026- We had one virtual learning opportunity regarding the growing specialty of hypnosedation! Three of our board members were able to go to the ASPAN National Conference: Eric Pazziuagan, Rebecca Caddell, and Britini Hoiien.



May 2026- Planning for our June In-service in the Woodlands Texas is underway as we would like to have a community service opportunity to accompany this education. We are also laying the foundation for our installation of our new UGCR Board officers in August by hosting a dinner for our region!

We still have 3 open board positions for the 2026-2028 term : Secretary, 3rd VP (vs Education Committee) and Newsletter Editor.

We have continued to maintain a steady membership at ~556 members, have monthly UGCR board meetings with the exception of April 2026, and be a financially stable region.





TAPAN *West Texas* & PANHANDLE



Trina Mora, DNP, RN, CPAN, NE-BC
TAPAN wesTx & Panhandle President

The West Texas Panhandle Region would like to recognize our Region Secretary Erica Herren for earning the Employee of the Year Florence Nightingale Award at Midland Memorial Hospital in May. She constantly goes above and beyond for everyone.



Region Secretary Erica Herren earned the Employee of the Year Florence Nightingale Award at Midland Memorial Hospital in May.

Throughout her career, Erica has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to compassion, excellence, and leadership. She established the Family Day in the OR program, dedicating her Saturdays to educating employees and their families about the robotic surgery program and providing hands-on learning experiences.

She is also one of the creators of the Medical Explorers program, which introduces young students to careers in the medical field. In addition, Erica leads the Periop 101

orientation program for new OR nurses, helping to mentor and prepare the next generation of perioperative professionals. Her dedication, innovation, and ability to make every initiative successful have had a lasting impact on both her colleagues and the community.

Although Erica is incredibly humble and never seeks recognition, she is truly deserving of this honor. Congratulations, Erica, on this well-earned achievement!

The ASPAN National Conference had many great speakers and learning opportunities. We are currently organizing an educational opportunity in Midland for this coming fall. More details to come!

The West Texas Panhandle Report financial report currently shows a balance of \$5941.19, as of March 31, 2026. We had income from membership dues during the first quarter which totaled \$369.90. No expenses were incurred during the first quarter of 2026.

BECOMING



A CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

**“Never let the fear of striking out keep you
from playing the game.”**

Babe Ruth

Could you be the next leader of ASPAN?

By Patty Charles, BSN,RN,CPAN,CAPA
2025-2026 ASPAN Nominating Committee
TAPAN Immediate Past President



The American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses held its 45th National Conference in San Francisco, California. It truly was truly inspiring. The event offered a dynamic blend of educational sessions, exhibits, networking opportunities, and professional connection. Like many attendees, I left the conference feeling renewed, motivated, and energized. If you have never had the chance to attend a national conference, I strongly encourage you to take the opportunity and go. You will not regret the experience.

Throughout the conference, I was frequently asked: ***How can I get involved in ASPAN, and what does it take to serve on the ASPAN Board of Directors?*** The path to national leadership begins with engagement at the local level and builds progressively over time.

Start Local and Build Your Foundation

Getting involved in your local component is the first step. Opportunities include assisting with educational meetings, coordinating speakers, securing CEUs, or volunteering for community service initiatives such as donation drives or local events. You may also serve on or lead committees such as Education, Publications, Social Media, Governmental Affairs, Clinical Inquiry, or Promotions. These experiences provide essential leadership skills and help establish a strong professional foundation.

Expand Your Involvement

As your involvement grows, consider exploring ASPAN's Strategic Work Teams (SWTs). One especially valuable opportunity is the Advancing Emerging Leaders SWT, which supports nurses seeking personal and professional growth.

Through this program, mentors and mentees collaborate to identify goals and create actionable pathways toward leadership development.

ASPAN also offers numerous other SWTs focused on areas such as certification promotion, clinical practice, governmental affairs, NextGen initiatives, and publications. Additionally, Specialty Practice Groups (SPGs) allow members to engage more deeply in specific clinical interests. A great first step is completing the Willingness-to-Serve form available on the ASPAN website.





Preparing for Leadership Roles

If you aspire to a more active leadership role, consider serving as a component officer or committee chair. Earning your CPAN or CAPA certification is highly recommended. Attending a Representative Assembly (RA) provides valuable insight into how the Board of Directors operates and makes decisions.

ASPAN also offers leadership development programs such as the Leadership Academy and the Perianesthesia Development Institute, both designed to strengthen leadership competencies and prepare members for future roles.

Requirements for National Office

To be eligible for national office, candidates must meet several criteria:

- Minimum of three years of continuous ASPAN active membership (five years for Vice President)

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) required; some roles require a Master's degree
- At least three years of perianesthesia nursing experience
- Current CPAN or CAPA certification
- Active employment in clinical practice, management, education, or research within perianesthesia nursing

The Candidacy Process

Candidates must notify the current Nominating Chair by October 1 of their intent to run for office, then submit a completed application packet that includes required documents including their profile, CV, letters of recommendation, signed acknowledgments, a professional photo, and a conflict-of-interest form. In January ASPAN will send out the Candidate Feedback Form for members to review.

Members will be asked to vote for their candidates. All votes casted will be sent to the Component President. At National Conference, individuals running for office will participate in the “Meet the Candidates” forum. This session allows members to ask questions and hear from the candidates. The following day at Representative Assembly, the candidates will make a short presentation sharing their qualifications, vision, and goals. Voting takes place during the RA, and elected leaders are announced at its conclusion.

Take the First Step

ASPAN is committed to developing strong, capable leaders to guide the future of perianesthesia nursing. Every journey begins with a single step—often a simple act of volunteering. Sometimes, it just takes a leap of faith to discover your potential.

As Babe Ruth once said, *“Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.”*

Could you be the next leader of ASPAN?

Learning to Lead Through TAPAN: A Graduate Nurse's Perspective

By Esmeralda Reyna, BSN, RN, CPN



As a nurse and graduate student, I have spent a considerable amount of time learning about leadership in theory, but this experience made it real. I had the opportunity to interview and shadow Geraldine Delos Santos, president of the Texas Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (TAPAN), and the president-elect, Lynette Alcorn. What I expected to be a simple learning exercise quickly became personal and inspiring.

Geraldine openly and humbly shared her journey, describing how her passion for education led her into leadership, beginning with smaller roles and growing into her current position. Hearing her story made leadership feel attainable, reminding me that leaders are not born but grow through service, commitment, and a willingness to step forward. Her dedication stood out most because, despite the demands of her role and the fact that board service is unpaid, she continues to invest her time and energy in advancing the profession.

That level of commitment made me reflect on my purpose in nursing and where I see myself in the future.

During my time with Geraldine and the Lynette, I also began to understand the complexity of leading a professional organization. There is much more than what we see, including strategic planning, financial responsibility, communication, and collaboration across regions. I learned how decisions are made, how leaders work together, and how important it is to stay grounded in the organization's mission. One of the most meaningful takeaways was the emphasis on mentorship and preparing the next generation of leaders. As nurses, we support each other, and this experience showed me that mentorship extends beyond clinical practice. It is about lifting others, opening doors, and helping each other grow into leadership roles. This experience also challenged me to think differently about my potential

Watching Geraldine lead with confidence, passion, and purpose helped me realize that growth comes from stepping outside my comfort zone. Leadership is not about having all the answers; it is about being willing to learn, serve, and advocate.

I left this experience feeling inspired and motivated, with a clearer vision of the nurse leader I aspire to be: someone who supports others, values education, and makes meaningful contributions to the profession. This was not just an assignment for my leadership class, but a reminder that nurses belong at the table and that I am capable of finding my seat there in the future. Finally, I want to thank the board for allowing me to attend their meeting and for including me; without their support, I could not have completed this semester.

THE MAGIC OF ASPAN!

By Geraldine delos Santos, MSN, RN, CPAN



As I was making my way to my next session, I was approached by Rebecca. *“Geraldine, I think I will be presenting at the next ASPAN conference in Louisiana!”* she said, *“I have been inspired by this speaker!”* she added with a wide smile. Rebecca’s response is one of many I have heard at the 45th ASPAN conference in San Francisco, California.

Perianesthesia nurses speaking to the heart of perianesthesia nurses, that’s what it’s all about. Networking with like-minded leaders, mentors, charge nurses, staff nurses, educators, and researchers makes this gathering an energizing environment.

The 45th conference is one for the books! The Perianesthesia Leadership Academy has given a forum for managers, directors, charge nurses and informal leaders to share insight on staffing, solve the *‘first case on time starts’* conundrum, and find ways to justify productivity. At the Representative Assembly (RA), Component presidents and vice-presidents deliberated and approved the ASPAN reorganization proposal. The host component, California, kicked off the conference with a chartered Bay City Sunset Dinner cruise where we had stunning views of the Golden Gate Bridge and the San Francisco skyline.

There were many first-time speakers and interesting topics in this year's event. Several of our TAPAN members had podium and poster presentations. Dr. Katherine Simpson had two presentations: one on standardized patients in clinical simulation scenarios and another on building a core curriculum for the advanced practice perianesthesia nurse. Britini Hoiem spoke about perianesthesia considerations for patients on cannabis and cannabinoids. Chloe Carter presented a restructured on-call system that improved satisfaction and well-being of nurses. Dr. Pamela Windle presented on succession planning in key leadership roles and presented alongside Myrna Mamaril on legal perspectives that we may face in our workplace. Derreck DaSilva examined the latest evidence on prevention of postoperative pressure injuries. Child Life Specialist Giovaana Trainor and I presented our collaborative approach to caring for patients with autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities. This is a testament to the varied expertise that Texas has to offer.



Giovaana Trainor, CCLS and G. Delos Santos

*"I did not know anyone except for Michelle who invited me to come to the conference. I wasn't sure if I would fit in", said Aija Springer from Oklahoma. Michelle is a TAPAN member who is on a travel assignment at Aija's institution. **"But on the first day, you all have embraced me, and I felt like I am not alone, I felt like I belonged!"*** The friendships you create, the bonds you share at this conference can last a lifetime.



L-R:Michelle Hughes, Aija Springer, Britini Hoiem, Rebecca Caddell



Bay City Sunset Cruisers!



Dr. Katherine Simpson

FROM VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS: MY ASPAN 2026 EXPERIENCE

By Katherine Simpson, DNP, MSN, APRN-BC, CNRN, CVRN-II, LNC

This year the 45th annual conference for the American Society of Perianesthesia Nurses (ASPN) was held in San Francisco, California. I arrived at the site of the conference, checked in and quickly went to my volunteer station. As a member of the Credentialing Team, I and four other members checked in the ASPAN members that were designated as Delegates in the ASPAN Representative Assembly. I was able to meet new members and talk with old friends. Afterwards, I attended Meet the Candidates. The next day, I attended the Representative Assembly (RA) where the state of ASPAN was presented, and votes were cast for next year's formal leaders.



At the RA Credentialing Table



Sonia Deleon, Katherine Simpson, Aleli Cabali, Liz Martin, and Frances Garza

I was fortunate to have two abstracts accepted for presentation, entitled The Standardized Patient: There's an (App) Class for That! and Building a Core Curriculum for the Advanced Practice Perianesthesia Nurse Practitioner. Throughout the rest of the conference, I attended Celebrating Successful Practices, research presentations, consulted with nurses who were interested in quality improvement, and talked with clinical research researchers concerning upcoming projects. It was a great time in San Francisco. Next year, the ASPAN conference will be held in New Orleans from April 30 to May 3, 2027. Make plans to attend and have fun while learning so much more for your practice!!!

FROM SETBACK TO SPOTLIGHT: A MEMORABLE FIRST ASPAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE

By Eric F. Pazziuagan, MSN, RN, CMSRN, NI-BC, CPAN



April 2026 was a very memorable month for me. April 15 was the day that I got involved in a car accident that totally wrecked my car. I was still recovering from that car accident and still decided to come to the ASPAN National Conference to join my peers from around the country. It was only ten days after the accident! Despite the constant pain and difficulty moving around, I can say that I have had the best moment in my perianesthesia career.

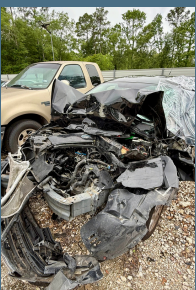
This is my first time attending the ASPAN conference. I was really excited to be in San Francisco because I will be representing the State of Texas and our beloved Upper Gulf Coast Region. I am also thrilled to present my QI Project poster at the national level, showcasing our success in implementing Epic in the PACU. I am truly grateful to Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center for sponsoring my trip.

Many of the topics at this conference involved technology and AI (artificial intelligence). I was really interested in these topics because they will be very helpful to me as I transition into the field of Informatics Nursing. My biggest takeaway for this is that AI has been in healthcare for a long time now.

It is also the future of healthcare. However, AI cannot replace the expertise, the care, and the judgment of the nurse at the patient's bedside.

The conference allowed me to socialize and network with other perianesthesia nurses in the country. I remembered sharing our best practices in my PACU with some nurses from California. They asked a lot of questions and were excited to share the information I gave them back to their respective hospitals. It was fun meeting up with all of the finest perianesthesia nurses across the US!

Despite recovering from a serious car accident just ten days before the conference, ASPAN 2026 became one of the most memorable experiences of my nursing career. Representing Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast Region, presenting our PACU Epic project, and connecting with perianesthesia nurses from across the country were incredible opportunities. I left inspired by the innovations in healthcare, the power of professional collaboration, and the enduring impact of compassionate nursing care.



COLD CONFERENCE ROOMS, WARM CONNECTIONS: ASPAN 2026 REFLECTIONS

By Derreck DaSilva, MPAff, BSN, RN, CPAN

ASpan's 45th National Conference took place in the always-picturesque city of San Francisco. The cool, windy pier city lived up to its reputation with crisp evenings and bright, sunny days. I arrived a couple of days early to pick up my moderator packet. Even though this was only my second ASpan conference, I not only decided to volunteer as a moderator but was also invited to speak, so getting there early helped me settle in.

The conference hotel placed all sessions in the basement, and in true conference fashion, the rooms were freezing. There was limited cell service down there, and this year ASpan also chose not to purchase event-wide Wi-Fi. Surprisingly, though, this turned out to be a blessing. Without the constant buzz of notifications, it was easier to stay focused on the speakers and content.

I found the session about PACU considerations for OSA patients especially enlightening, particularly the discussion around the hidden systemic pathophysiology and follow-up care advocacy. It was one of those sessions that immediately made me think about how I can adjust my own practice.

Compared to last year, there were fewer sessions each day, which made the schedule much more manageable. A full day of back-to-back sessions can be overwhelming, so having fewer and shorter sessions made the days feel more balanced. One thing I felt was missing was a dedicated networking space. While it's always nice to mingle between sessions, having a few standing tables or topic-themed stations could encourage more intentional networking conversations and help attendees connect easier.

A major topic hanging over the conference was the upcoming ASpan reorganization. While the standards themselves aren't changing much this year, the Region 2 meet-up on Monday night was dominated by questions about how the new structure will work and function. With Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas grouped together, choosing Texarkana as the first regional conference location after the re-org seemed like an obvious and convenient choice.

Overall, it was a great conference experience, and I'm already looking forward to next year in New Orleans!

REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2026 ASPAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE: MOVING TO THE FUTURE.

By Kalaivani Kanakasabai, MSN, RN, CAPA



The 2026 ASPAN National Conference, held in the vibrant city of San Francisco, proved to be an invigorating milestone for Perianesthesia Nursing. Against the backdrop of the Golden Gate, thousands of professionals gathered to navigate 'Moving to Future' in Clinical practice and new challenges.

As an attendee, the conference offered a deep dive into the evolving landscape of our Perianesthesia Nursing. The educational sessions bridge the gap between cutting-edge research and bedside application. The following sessions, in particular, stood out for their immediate impact on contemporary clinical practice:

Smart tools, Smarter Teams: Preparing Perianesthesia Nurses for AI-Augmented Practice: AI is not a replacement for the nursing role, but it's evolving- from task to oversight, increased responsibility in decision making, integration of data into practice. We translate AI outputs into actions. Key takeaways: AI readiness is a team competency; nurses drive safe integration and engagement, which shape the future.



From Fasting to Recovery; Prioritizing Diabetes care in Perianesthesia

Nursing: Perianesthesia testing considerations-Optimization. Glycemic control, medication review, collaborative care planning, and an individualized plan, which includes communication and documentation of the presence of insulin pumps, and checking blood glucose to identify the 'Masked' symptoms in phase I and II.

How safe is your Practice? This powerful segment forced a hard look at the safe staffing practices and system vulnerabilities. We analyzed common root causes of dosing and administration errors in high-acuity areas, emphasizing that safety requires continuous vigilance in 13 Safe Medication Administration.

Finding Answers to Perianesthesia

Clinical Questions: This crucial deep dive unpacked the latest updates to ASPAN standards. It provided clear guidance on navigating the updated Position statements, offering actionable blueprints to resolve daily clinical dilemmas at bedside. Emphasized the vast educational resources available through the Journal of Perianesthesia Nursing, ASPAN Education, and webinars.

Perianesthesia Nursing Standards, Practice Recommendations, and Interpretive Statements: What's New?:

This session provided a comprehensive look at Principles of ethical practice, safe practice, Perianesthesia practice recommendations, digital professionalism, recycling, and AI.

Beyond my role as a learner, serving as a moderator and hostess highlighted my shared passion for safe clinical practice and the importance of fostering psychological safety in high-acuity clinical settings.

Returning from the ASPAN National Conference, I feel a renewed sense of pride in the Perianesthesia nursing Profession. The insights gained serve as a roadmap for the years ahead. We left San Francisco not just with contact hours, but with the inspiration to lead from wherever we stand- ensuring that the gold standard of Perianesthesia care continues to shine.



WHAT THIS YEAR'S ASPAN CONFERENCE REMINDED ME ABOUT NURSING

By Britini Hoien, MSN, RN, CAPA, CPAN, WCC

Attending this year's ASPAN National Conference was both invigorating and grounding. While there was plenty of conversation about innovation, technology, and the future of healthcare, what resonated with me most was a simple reminder: despite how quickly our specialty is evolving, the core of nursing remains unchanged. Many sessions explored what that evolution looks like in practice. Artificial intelligence, predictive monitoring, immersive technology, and expanding procedural care outside the OR are becoming more common in everyday practice. The thread running through almost every one of those conversations was the same: technology can support what we do, but it cannot do what we do. One session said it in a way that really clicked for me: AI can find patterns, but nurses provide the context. We are still the ones catching the subtle shift in a patient that no monitor picked up, the ones reading a room, understanding a family, knowing when something just feels off. That does not get automated.



Some of my favorite sessions weren't clinical at all. Leadership, burnout, imposter syndrome, and what it takes to build a team where people feel safe enough to speak up. One speaker made a point that I keep coming back to: ***people raise concerns when they expect curiosity, not criticism.*** Simple, but worth sitting with.

The keynote challenged all of us to find an anchor, something that grounds us and gives us a reason to keep showing up. I decided right then that this conference is mine. It's where I reconnect with my specialty, remember why I do this work, and leave with a full tank instead of an empty one.

This year was also personally meaningful because I had the chance to present. The engagement in that room was genuinely exciting, and it reminded me why sharing what we know matters. We all have something worth contributing.

Honestly, the people are what give this conference its special meaning. There is something incredibly refreshing about being surrounded by nurses who truly understand this work and are just as passionate about improving patient care. I always leave feeling rejuvenated, inspired, and already looking forward to next year.

Healthcare is going to keep changing fast. But good nursing is still good nursing. Critical thinking, compassion, and showing up for your patient and your team. That hasn't changed, and I don't think it will. See you in New Orleans.



ASPAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

Why it matters



By Alma Pope, BSN, RN, CPAN

Attending the ASPAN National Conference is something I look forward to every year and not just for the education. I go because I enjoy learning, meeting new people, and hearing about the experiences of nurses from across the country. There's something energizing about being surrounded by others who are passionate about perianesthesia nursing.

In my day-to-day role, I'm currently the only ASPAN member in our hospital system. Over time, I've introduced concepts like PANAW to our team, and it's been rewarding to see that grow- even spotting coworkers wearing the Perianesthesia Team shirts! But attending the national conference takes that sense of connection to another level. Being surrounded by over a thousand like-minded nurses reminds me that we are part of something much bigger.

Bringing Knowledge Back to Our Team

When I choose conference sessions, I do so with our team in mind. I ask myself:

- How can this improve our workflow?
- What are our current pain points?
- What can I bring back to educate and inspire our staff?
-

This past year has been a period of significant growth for our team. We successfully passed accreditation, expanded our patient acuity and case load, onboarded new staff, and worked through medication errors and root cause analyses (RCAs).

"M&M" is not just candy. Morbidity & Mortality conferences build on RCA findings, incorporate nursing insights, and empower us to actively improve patient safety and outcomes. Interdisciplinary collaboration is at the heart of this work.

Highlights from This Year's Conference

This year's sessions focused on both clinical excellence and systems improvement, covering topics directly relevant to our daily practice:

- Finding Answers to Perianesthesia Questions
- Bridging Knowledge Gaps for New PACU Nurses
- Redesigning Emergency Preparedness: Mock Drill Approach
- Nursing Essentials for Geriatric Patients
- Regional Blocks

- Preoperative Triage
- Polypharmacy
- Continuum of Care for Patients with Autism and Sensory Processing Disorders

Each session offered practical insights that can be translated directly into our daily practice.

Working Smarter: Education & Innovation

One of the most impactful sessions I attended was a 4 CE seminar on Gamification and Learning Reinforcement. It introduced strategies like microlearning and the use of AI tools to create concise, high-impact educational content. This approach is a game-changer. While competency-based orientation and core curriculum remain the foundation of our education programs, these new tools allow us to deliver information more efficiently and effectively.

The goal is simple: work smarter, not harder—while still providing high-quality education that supports both staff development and patient safety.

Final Thoughts

The ASPAN National Conference is more than just continuing education—it's an opportunity to reconnect with the purpose behind what we do, gain fresh perspectives, and bring meaningful improvements back to our team.

I'm excited to continue sharing what I've learned and to keep building a stronger, more informed, and more connected perianesthesia team. If you haven't attended a national conference yet, I encourage you to consider it—you won't regret it.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 45TH ASPAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



Aleli Cabali MSN, RN, CPAN, PMGT-BC

This year's 45th ASPAN Conference in San Francisco, California, proved to be professionally satisfying and personally enjoyable. The conference topics and sessions were clinically relevant to the perianesthesia nursing practice. The diverse sessions offered evidence-based practices, trends, and practical tools that apply to the ever-changing and challenging perianesthesia care. Through these sessions, I gained perianesthesia knowledge that would help influence my clinical practice, leadership disposition, and unit-based quality outcomes.

The sessions on The Use of Ketamine Through the Years and CIEDs in the Perianesthesia Setting enhanced my understanding of evolving pharmacologic therapies and device management in reinforcing safe, patient-centered PACU care. These sessions emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in managing increasingly complex patient needs. The session on Block Party: Regional Anesthesia's Role in Pain-Free Recovery provided information on the importance of multi-modal anesthesia, especially regional anesthesia, in the post-operative pain control management and optimized PACU workflows to enhance patient comfort and outcomes.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) was a hot topic in the conference, in sessions such as Augmented Intelligence: Think Outside the Box in PACU Staffing, The Crani Debate, and ChatGPT or Not ChatGPT. These sessions provided a different framework to support clinical and operational tools rather than replace nursing judgment. The AI-driven staffing models, data analysis, and clinical inquiry tools can be used to improve efficiency, enhance decision-making, and support safe staffing ratios. These topics piqued my curiosity about what's coming in the future.

The sessions on The Duty and Privilege of Perianesthesia Nurses to Advocate for Marginalized Populations and A Practical Guide for Frontline Nurses to Influence Health Policy reinforced the ethical responsibility nurses have to address health disparities and influence systems beyond the bedside. These sessions provided inspiration and motivation to advocate for equity in health systems and to become a change agent and a stronger voice in perianesthesia nursing practice.

In conclusion, my attendance in the 2026 ASPAN National Conference reinforced my commitment to perianesthesia nursing excellence, patient safety, and quality outcomes, and will profoundly influence my approach to staff development and operational leadership. Most importantly, I was able to enjoy the city of San Francisco, gained new friends, and rekindled my motivation to advocate for my passion for perianesthesia nursing.



THE NOT SO SILENT KILLER: OSA

Diagnosis and Implications

By Derreck DaSilva, MPAff, BSN, RN, CPAN



Snoring is often dismissed as an annoyance or a harmless quirk of sleep, but in reality, it is technically the sound of a partially obstructed airway—and a warning sign that should not be ignored. At ASPAN's 45th National Conference, presenters Sonja Severson and Dr. Mary Frances Mullins delivered a compelling session on obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), highlighting its far-reaching implications for patient safety, perioperative care, and long-term health outcomes. Their message was clear: OSA is common, underdiagnosed, and far more dangerous than many clinicians realize.

Understanding and Identifying OSA

OSA is the most common breathing disorder, yet an estimated 84 million adults in the United States remain undiagnosed. Even when patients are identified, many never receive follow-up care or discontinue treatment prematurely. Daytime fatigue, morning headaches, and loud snoring are classic symptoms, but OSA also hides behind more subtle clinical clues.

One of the most practical tools for frontline screening is the STOP-Bang questionnaire, which evaluates Snoring, Tiredness, Observed apneas, high blood Pressure, BMI, Age, Neck circumference, and Gender. Higher scores correlate with increased perioperative risk and greater likelihood of moderate to severe OSA. For perianesthesia nurses, STOP-Bang offers a quick, evidence-based way to identify high-risk patients who may otherwise go unnoticed.

Systemic Consequences: More Than Just Sleep

Severson and Mullins emphasized that OSA is not simply a nighttime breathing issue it is a systemic disease with widespread physiologic consequences.

Repeated cycles of hypoxia and hypercapnia trigger endothelial injury, inflammation, and sympathetic activation. These changes contribute to:

- Atrial fibrillation and other arrhythmias
- Increased intracranial pressure
- Hypertension and cardiovascular strain
- Erectile dysfunction and urinary urgency, driven by hormonal disruption
- Cognitive decline, including worsening of Alzheimer's symptoms in some patients

One audience member shared a powerful story: a family member with Alzheimer's experienced dramatic cognitive improvement after being diagnosed with OSA and receiving CPAP treatment. While anecdotal, it reflects a growing body of research linking OSA treatment to improved cognitive function.

OSA also affects healing and recovery. The presenters described a patient who suffered a motor vehicle accident resulting in toe amputations. Months later, he returned with a delayed-healing wound. A quick STOP-Bang revealed untreated OSA and the patient admitted that he refused to wear his CPAP for several years.

Not only may OSA have contributed to the delayed healing, but it may have played a role in the accident itself, given the suspected association between untreated OSA, daytime drowsiness, and increased risk for motor vehicle collisions.

Perioperative Implications

For perianesthesia professionals, OSA presents unique challenges. Patients with untreated or severe OSA are at higher risk for airway obstruction, hypoventilation, and postoperative complications. Collaboration with anesthesia colleagues is essential. Strategies may include:

- Considering **ketamine** or **dexmedetomidine** for sedation in high-risk patients
- Planning for extended postoperative monitoring
- Avoiding excessive opioids when possible
- Ensuring patients understand the importance of bringing and using their CPAP

Empowering Patients with Options

A common barrier to treatment is the belief that “CPAP doesn’t work for me.” Severson and Mullins encouraged clinicians to remind patients that CPAP is not one-size-fits-all. Mask styles, pressure settings, and comfort features have evolved

dramatically in recent years. If a patient struggled with CPAP five years ago, they may find today’s options far more tolerable.

For those who still cannot tolerate CPAP, alternatives include:

- Oral appliances
- Tongue-retaining or face-positioning devices
- The Inspire® hypoglossal nerve stimulator, which shows promise in select mild to moderate cases

Providing patients with a follow-up letter they can give to their provider, encouraging them to pursue sleep evaluation, and reinforcing that multiple treatment pathways exist can make a meaningful difference.

Conclusion

OSA is far more than snoring, it is a chronic, progressive, and potentially life-threatening condition that affects nearly every organ system. Perianesthesia nurses are uniquely positioned to identify at-risk patients, initiate screening, and advocate for follow-up care. As Severson and Mullins reminded us, early recognition and intervention can prevent complications, improve quality of life, and, in some cases, even save a life.

IT'S NOT JUST SNORING. IT'S A WARNING.
IDENTIFY IT. TREAT IT. CHANGE LIVES.

Perianesthesia Nurses make the difference. YOU ARE THE FIRST LINE OF PROTECTION.

84 MILLION ADULTS IN THE U.S. HAVE OSA AND **DON'T** EVEN KNOW IT.

SCREEN SMART USE STOP-Bang!

S Snoring **T** Tiredness **O** Observed apneas **P** high blood Pressure **B** BMI **A** Age **N** Neck circumference **G** Gender

HIGHER SCORES = HIGHER RISK

OSA AFFECTS EVERYTHING.

Cognitive decline & memory issues
Atrial fibrillation & arrhythmias
Hypertension & cardiovascular strain
Increased intracranial pressure
Erectile dysfunction & hormonal disruption
Urinary urgency & nocturia
Inflammation & systemic stress
...AND CAN DELAY HEALING!

PERIOPERATIVE IMPLICATIONS

- ✓ Higher risk for airway obstruction, hypoventilation & complications
- ✓ Consider ketamine or dexmedetomidine for sedation
- ✓ Plan for extended postoperative monitoring
- ✓ Avoid excessive opioids when possible
- ✓ Ensure patients bring & use their CPAP

ASK. SCREEN. ADVOCATE.
Make it routine. Make it count.

TREATMENT OPTIONS exist!

CPAP
Today's masks & technology are better than ever!

ORAL APPLIANCES
Custom fit for comfort & effectiveness

POSITIONING DEVICES
Keep the airway open while you sleep

INSPIRE® NERVE STIMULATOR
A promising option for select patients

STRONG COFFEE. STRONG NURSE. STRONG PATIENT.

EARLY RECOGNITION. BETTER OUTCOMES. BRIGHTER FUTURES.
You have the power to change lives—one screening at a time.

BE THE DIFFERENCE!

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS NURSES DAY AT THE CAPITOL 2027



Felicia Selman, MSN, RN, CAPA
Governmental Affairs Committee Chair

If you never had the opportunity to attend, TNA's Nurse Day at the Capitol, it is not too far away or too early to save the date for the 2027 event.

The gathering is an advocacy day where nurses and nursing students from all professional specialties meet lawmakers, learn about health policies, advocate for issues that is important to the nurse professionals.

Nurses of all backgrounds come together to advocate for policy that improves our profession. The annual event allows nurses to hear more about nursing issues, identify opportunities to influence healthcare policy, and develop a personal advocacy message. Typically, the events take place over a two-day period in Austin, when legislators are in session. It includes a policy briefing, advocacy training, and schedule visit with legislators or their staff. The goal is to help nurses share real-world stories about how laws affect care, staffing, patients, and working conditions.

The need for nurses to advocate and speak-up for our profession and the patients we serve have never been greater.

Just as active listening, critical thinking, and clear communication, to name a few are nurses' day to day skills; advocacy is a highly learnable skill. Anyone can learn these skills.

ASPAN Governmental Affairs Strategic Work Team (GA-SWT) have resources to help you learn more about advocacy and educate members regarding the legislative process. Do you know that...nurses in numbers can get things done? For years Gallup has named nurses as the most trusted profession in the US. However, nurses are not active enough in advocacy. Of 66,000 physicians in Texas, 90% belong to an association. Out of 340,000+ nurses, only 7% do. More nurses need to join their specialty organization (ASPAN) and the GA-SWT and learn the skills of advocacy to influence changes for us and the patients we serve well-being.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSES

50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations!

TO OUR CPAN & CAPA PASSERS!

Your hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence inspire us all.
We are so proud of you!

CPAN
Certified Post Anesthesia Nurse
EXCELLENCE. KNOWLEDGE. PATIENT ADVOCACY.

- Che Butler-Ayestas
- Canuto Diaz
- Michelle Bola
- Renee Felisa
- Carolina Montes
- Liping Huo
- Phung Tran
- Marcia Dimatulac
- Christa Rogers
- Rosalina Luna

CAPA
Certified Ambulatory Perianesthesia Nurse
EXCELLENCE. KNOWLEDGE. PATIENT ADVOCACY.

- Tanjeleya Barone
- Megan McCue Neri
- Mercy Phillips

Celebrating Your Achievement. Elevating Perianesthesia Care Together.

Stronger Together. Better Outcomes.

HONORING YOUR ACHIEVEMENT. ELEVATING PERIANESTHESIA CARE TOGETHER.

TAPAN MEMBERS

as of June 2026



	TOTAL JOINED	EXPIRED	RENEWED
AR	40	0	2
HCSTR	177	3	7
N&E	270	9	21
STATE	13	1	0
UGC	540	9	29
WTPAN	79	2	4
TAPAN			
TOTAL	1119	24	42

United in Excellence. Leading in Perianesthesia.

COLLABORATE ★ EDUCATE ★ ADVOCATE ★ ELEVATE

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BELONG. GROW. LEAD.

Join ASPAN!

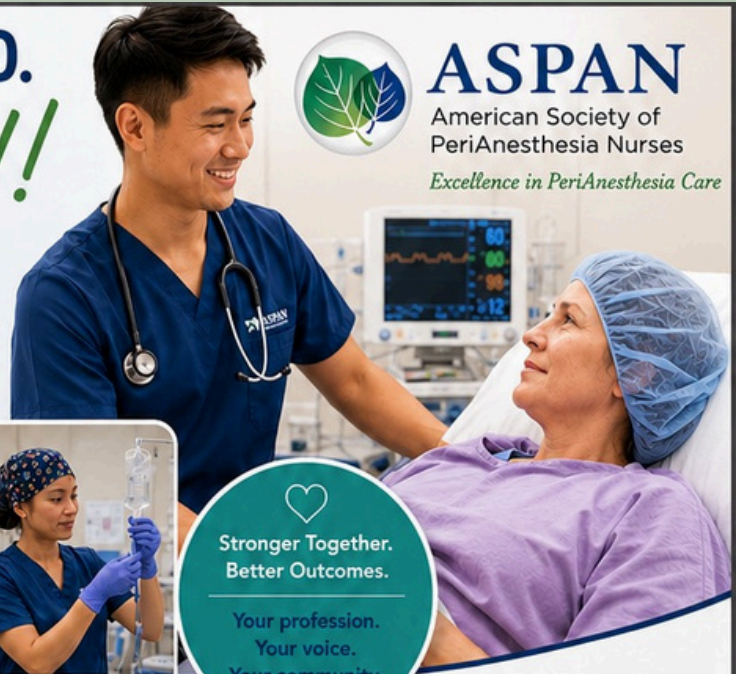
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PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Empowering PeriAnesthesia nurses.
Advancing patient care.



ASpan

American Society of
PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Excellence in PeriAnesthesia Care



Stronger Together.
Better Outcomes.

Your profession.
Your voice.
Your community.

MEMBERSHIP FEES INCREASE AUGUST 1, 2026

KEY PRICE UPDATES:

	CURRENT RATE	NEW RATE (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2026)
 Active Membership	\$88	→ \$110
 Affiliate	\$143	→ \$155
 International	\$115	→ \$125
 Retired	\$66	→ \$70
 Student	\$66	→ \$70

Take the next step in
your nursing journey.
JOIN ASPAN TODAY!



SCAN TO JOIN!



NOTE:

Texas Component
Membership
remains at \$40

The increase will support several important initiatives
to grow and invest in the future of perianesthesia nursing.



Members with renewal dates within the next six months
may **renew prior to August 1** to retain the current dues rate.

AS A MEMBER, YOU'LL ENJOY:



Clinical Excellence

Access evidence-based
resources, guidelines,
and best practices.



Professional Community

Connect with
PeriAnesthesia nurses
who inspire, support,
and understand.



Education & Growth

Grow your knowledge
with webinars, courses,
and the ASPAN Annual
Conference.



Advocacy

Be a part of a strong
voice advancing
PeriAnesthesia
nursing.



Recognition

Celebrate your
achievements and
advance your career.



Together, we elevate PeriAnesthesia nursing
and make a lasting difference in every patient's care.



www.aspan.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER.
ELEVATE PATIENT CARE.

PERIANESTHESIA CERTIFICATION REVIEW

Prepare. Review. Succeed.

Join us for a comprehensive review designed to help you gain confidence, strengthen your knowledge, and achieve your certification goals!



PERIANESTHESIA CERTIFICATION REVIEW

-  Saturday, August 29, 2026
-  8:00am CT - 5:00pm CT
-  San Antonio, TX
-  7.25 contact hours available

REGISTER TODAY!



SCAN TO REGISTER



PERIANESTHESIA CERTIFICATION REVIEW

-  Saturday, September 12, 2026
-  8:00am CT - 5:00pm CT
-  Midland, TX
-  7.25 contact hours available

REGISTER TODAY!



SCAN TO REGISTER



EXPERT FACULTY
Learn from experienced
perianesthesia professionals.



COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW
Focused content aligned with
certification exam blueprints.



NETWORK & CONNECT
Engage with peers and
expand your professional network.

INVEST IN YOURSELF. IMPACT YOUR PATIENTS. ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS.

UPCOMING EVENTS



TAPAN 50

Texas Association of
PeriAnesthesia Nurses

50th ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

*From Tradition to Transformation:
50 Years of Perianesthesia Nursing*

OCTOBER 2-3, 2026



PROGRAM TOPICS

-  Wellness & Psychological Safety
-  Artificial Intelligence
-  Pediatric Orthopedic Injuries
-  Human Trafficking
-  Evidence-Based Practice (EBP)
-  Venezuelan Ancestry
Genetic Mutation
-  Legal Documentation

REGISTER NOW!



*Don't miss this milestone event
as we celebrate 50 years of
perianesthesia nursing excellence!*



HYATT REGENCY CONROE
1001 Grand Central Parkway
Conroe, TX 77304

*Honoring Our Past.
Inspiring Our Future.
Transforming Perianesthesia Nursing.*





From the **Eyeopener** Newsletter Editor

Thank you for being part of the TAPAN community.
Your dedication to periAnesthesia nursing
inspires excellence and elevates patient care
every day.



ABOUT THE EYEOPENER

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SUBMISSIONS

We welcome article submissions from members
on topics relevant to periAnesthesia nursing
practice, education, leadership, and innovation.

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of their
content and must provide appropriate citations
and references.

The Editor and the TAPAN Board reserve
the right to edit all submissions for clarity,
style, and length, or to decline publication
based on content or relevance.



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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

February 15:	SPRING EDITION
May 15:	SUMMER EDITION
August 15:	FALL EDITION
November 15:	WINTER EDITION



PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

Spring Edition -	March 15
Summer Edition -	June 15
Fall Edition -	September 15
Winter Edition -	December 15



SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR AT:

tapanstate1976@gmail.com

*Stronger Together.
Better Care.*

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS,
CONTRIBUTORS, AND SUPPORTERS!





TAPAN

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSES

Past. Present. Future.

Advocating for PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Since 1976

1976

The Texas Association of
Post Anesthesia Nurses was formed.

April 2,
1984

The Organization became
incorporated as a non-profit corporation.

Founding Board of Directors:

ELAINE K. MUELLER - Dallas
MARY DONAHUGH - Fort Worth
JOYCE NELSON - Galveston
IDA HODGE - Fort Worth
GAYLE TRENT - Dallas
PEGGY EBENSBERGER - Round Rock

March 24,
1996

TAPAN Board met and adopted a resolution
to change the name of the organization from
the Texas Association of Post Anesthesia Nurses
to Texas Association of *PeriAnesthesia Nurses*.

2009

TAPAN Board undertook the task of redrawing
the district lines in order to better meet the needs
of the membership. The resulting 5 regions were:

- ★ North & East Texas
- ★ Upper Gulf Coast
- ★ Hill Country and South Texas
- ★ West Texas Panhandle
- ★ Far West Texas

2019

TAPAN Board made the decision to officially
deactivate the Far West Texas Region and
the members were welcomed into the
West Texas Panhandle Region.

2026

The ASPAN Board made a decision
to officially deactivate the PeriAnesthesia
Care Nurses of Arkansas and the members
were welcomed into TAPAN.

Honoring Our History. Inspiring Our Future.



TAPAN Executive Board 2025-2027



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President
Interim Newsletter Editor



Lynette Alcorn
VP/President-Elect



Kim Register
2nd Vice President



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Education &
Governmental
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Frances Garza
Membership &
Marketing



Katherine Simpson
Clinical Inquiry



Eric Pazziuagan
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Newsletter



Rebecca Cadell
State Conference
Coordinator

TAPAN's *Mission*

The Texas Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses, as a component of the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses, advances nursing practice through education, research, and standards.

The Texas Association of Post-Anesthesia Nurses was formed in **1976**. The organization became incorporated on **April 2, 1984**, as a non-profit corporation.



MORE PICTURES FROM THE ASPAN CONFERENCE



TAPAN Members at ASPAN Conference



Merlinda Mena, Poster Presenter



Ronald Malit and Houston Methodist Sugarland Hospital team, Poster Presenters



Debbie Newhouse and Elizabeth Martin
ASPAN Members who have attended ALL 45
National Conferences!



Elizabeth Martin, Susan Russell with
ASPAN President Ursula Mellinger



TAPAN Scholarship Awardee Aleli Cabali
with Geraldine Delos Santos