“Gold Leaf” — Spring of Opportunity

Spring time is just around the corner. For most of us, it will be a welcome change especially with the winter weather pattern we have had. Many, including myself, consider spring as their best season of the year. During this time, flowers bloom, grass turns green and trees are alive. Speaking of being alive, the New Year is bringing to life new ideas and exciting plans for TAPAN for this year. First and foremost is the completion of the application for the Gold Leaf Award. The Gold Leaf Award is a coveted and prestigious national award. It is granted to deserving components that excel in displaying commitment to the advancement of its membership through education, research, nursing practice, community service, and organizational involvement. TAPAN received this award in 2010. A component must wait three years before applying again once they have won the award. TAPAN is a very vibrant component. Hopefully, all the hard work of TAPAN and many of the regions will have great recompense. Nevertheless, no matter what the outcome at the national conference, each of you should celebrate for the many things TAPAN has accomplished.

Working towards the completion of this award gave me an enlightenment of the ASPAN organization’s expectations of its components. TAPAN and its regions have done a great job to fulfill many of ASPAN’s prospections as stated in the Gold Leaf criteria. This does not mean that we should limit ourselves to what we have been doing. We can do more by adding activities in which we are lagging according to the criteria. Putting together the Gold Leaf application was no easy feat, but the help of many made it more tolerable. On behalf of TAPAN, I want to thank the TAPAN members who assisted in submitting the supporting documents.

There are some highlights of the submission that are worth noting. TAPAN membership is 1053 strong for the year 2013. For educational activities, there were 4 regional conferences, 2 ASPAN sponsored seminars, and monthly educational activities during regional meetings. TAPAN’s involvement in the ASPAN organization is evident in the number of positions held by members. From 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 there were 94 positions held.
TAPAN Board of Directors

President
Sylva McClurkin RN, MSN, CAPA
Sugar Land, TX
dmcclurkin@comcast.net

1st Vice President/President Elect
Linda Allyn RN, BSN, CPAN, CAPA
Elgin, TX
lallyn@flash.net

2nd Vice President
Gayle Stegall RN, MSN, CPAN
Abilene, TX
gstegall@hendrickhealth.org

Treasurer
Debra Bennett, RN, BSN, CAPA
San Antonio, TX
ccldebb@msn.com

Secretary
Elena Abaquin RN, BSN, CPAN
Abilene, TX
eabaquin@gmail.com

Past President
Herminia Robles RN, BSN, CPAN
Houston, TX
hrobles@stlukeshealth.org

ASPN Region 2 Director’s Report

Armi Holcomb, RN, BSN, CPAN Region 2 Director

It seems to me, that winter has a grip on most of us, regardless of which part of the country we live. Here in Overland Park, we still have about 6 inches of snow on the ground and with the frigid temperatures hovering in the teens; it is not going to melt anytime soon. I love winter most days, mainly because the beauty of it is, that we are closer to spring. With spring comes ASPAN’s 33rd National Conference in beautiful Las Vegas. I hope you are making plans to attend this annual conference! It is a time to renew friendships, make new ones, and increase your perianesthesia knowledge base by attending the wonderful concurrent educational sessions being offered. One very important event that occurs on Sunday April 27th is that President Twilla Shrout will convene ASPAN’s Representative Assembly. The “RA” as it is called, is open to all ASPAN members who are curious or interested to know more about how ASPAN conducts its business. It is also where ASPAN will hold its annual election of Officers and Board members including Nominating Committee members. Your component leaders and delegates to the Representative Assembly need your input on who they will be voting for so it is imperative that all component members go online and send their feedback on the candidates (it’s the way you vote). This feedback will be tallied at the national office and sent back to your RA delegates to guide them in their official vote during the RA convention. It is extra important for the participation of the Region 2 component members to send their feedback because this year, we are electing the 2014-2016 Region 2 Director. We have 3 well qualified candidates for Regional Director so please take the time to read the bios on the ASPAN website and send in your feedback to the national office. It is important to remember that this elected position, once seated on the ASPAN Board, not only will vote for Region 2 issues, but also vote on issues that will affect the entire ASPAN membership.

It has been an honor to serve as your Region 2 Director these past 4 years. I have met more people around our Midwest Region and thus learned about best practices in our region. It has been a pleasure to present ASPAN to new and seasoned perianesthesia nurses as I traveled as far north in Nebraska and all the way south in Mississippi.

I will continue my excellent journey in ASPAN as I make a run for Vice President/President –elect. I want to make sure that Region 2 is in good hands so use your feedback well.

Please keep in touch. I am always at your service for anything related to ASPAN. On a personal note, I will cherish the friendships I have made these past 4 years as your Region 2 Director.

Sincerely,

Armi

Armi Holcomb RN, BSN, CPAN
H-913-897-3040  W-913-696-8108
aholcomb@aspan.org

ASPA
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
President’ Message:

(Continued from page 1)

by TAPAN members. Examples of positions are memberships to the different committees such as clinical practice, education approver, membership and marketing, and finance. In addition, our very own Linda Allyn and Cindy Hill are ASPAN ambassadors for 2013-2014, Susan Russell is the Director of Clinical Practice Committee, and Pam Windle is an Education Provider.

Texas perianesthesia nurses value certification. There are a total of 749 CPAN, CAPA and dual certified perianesthesia nurses in Texas. However, only a total of 474 out of the 749 are TAPAN members. Please encourage the CPAN or CAPA certified nurses who are not members to get involved and become a part of this wonderful organization.

Other highlights of the submission are the voluntary work that our TAPAN nurses have provided. I applaud each and every one for your commitment towards the health of the community. Giving back to the community is impressive and is always considered a noble deed. There were a total of 20 voluntary activities that TAPAN and its regions gave back in the form of community programs, education projects, or charitable donations. Another criterion for Gold Leaf is research, EBP or successful practices. One research study from a TAPAN member was presented orally and by poster at the 2013 national conference as well as 3 posters for Celebrating Successful Practice (CSP). Another research article from a TAPAN member was published in JOPAN in 2013 and 6 educational articles were published in the Eyeopener or a region’s newsletter.

PeriAnesthesia Nurse Awareness Week (PANAW) was Feb 3-9. The theme was “PeriAnesthesia Nurses Caring Every Step of the Way”. This is always a great time of the year to raise public awareness regarding the importance of our specialty. Hopefully you had a chance to celebrate it in your institutions. Governor Rick Perry issued a proclamation designating this week as Perianesthesia Week. The copy of the proclamation letter was emailed to you. In addition, TAPAN had a scholarship drawing for a free ASPAN/TAPAN membership for each region. The winners were notified and their names are also published in this issue.

For those of you who responded, it was nice to see the reasons why you choose this very important specialty and are proud of it. The following are some of the sample responses. Ellen Abaquin from the WestTPan region
stated that the daily experience as a perianesthesia nurse is unique and brings in new opportunities for learning and growth. According to Sandra Barnes from the HCST region, “it offers me the opportunity to utilize and unite my previous nursing experiences and knowledge base into the care of my patients”. Sue Henning from the N&E Texas region noted that “I have an opportunity for God to use me each day to make the lives of my patients and families better, if only for one day”. Florence Denise Roberts (UGC Region) expressed that the reason for loving this specialty is because of the learning opportunities it offers and the ability to provide individualized care.

Certified Nurses Day is March 19. This is a great time to celebrate your accomplishments and your contributions towards the advancement of Perianesthesia Nursing. A free ABPANC Certified Nurses Day Poster is available for download and printing at http://www.cpancapa.org/news/events.php. You may post this in your units. As part of the celebration, TAPAN will have a scholarship drawing for 5 new certifications or recertifications. To participate in the scholarship drawing you must be a TAPAN member and you must e-mail me your name at smcclurkin@stlukeshealth.org. New certification must be taken within one year of winning the award.

Learning opportunities for growth and development abound within the Texas component. Last February 15, the Upper Gulf Coast Region (UGCR) hosted a successful half-day seminar with 120 plus perianesthesia nurses in attendance. Kudos goes to Gloria Spencer, Tess Limsiaco, and to everyone who contributed to the success of this educational event. A CPAN/CAPA review provided by ASPAN was hosted by the Hill Country and Southwest Texas Region (HCSTR) on February 22. Updated information for future CEU offerings is available online at TAPAN.org. (Eyeopener page or the calendar of events). Don’t forget that you may apply for a scholarship for any educational offering. The application form is available online along with the necessary qualifying points. The more involved you are in your region or TAPAN, the more points you accumulate. Please be involved. TAPAN needs your knowledge, skills and abilities.

ASPAN’s national conference is fast approaching. The dates are April 27-May 1, 2014 in Las Vegas, Nevada. For those of you who are attending, Component night is Sunday. Please come and join us at our assigned table. The theme for this year’s ASPAN Component night is “Vintage Vegas”.

Lastly, I want to announce some changes in the TAPAN Ad Hoc Committees. Because Linda Allyn is the current President–Elect, the position for Membership and Marketing Committee chair was vacated. Cielito Ascio from HCSTR will be the new chair for this committee. Meggie Kwan has resigned as the TAPAN Eyeopener Editor. Her contributions to this organization are truly appreciated and will surely be missed. On behalf of TAPAN, thank you very much Meg for everything. Wish you GOD’s blessings in all that you do. Susan Norris will be taking over as the new Eyeopener Editor. The GAC chair position which was held by Susan will be vacant. Therefore, I am calling TAPAN members to step up. If you have a passion to represent TAPAN as a Governmental Affairs Chair, please send your Willingness-to-Participate form for consideration.

I wish you all the best that spring has to offer. Take time to enjoy the array of colors of new flowers and blooms. In Texas that will be the bluebonnets, paintbrushes, and prairie primrose. As this is also a good time for plans and projects, please consider involvement in TAPAN as part of your plan.

God Bless you all!!!

Sylva
Celebrate Certified Nurses Day!

Certified Nurses Day is March 19. This is a great time to celebrate your accomplishments and your contributions towards the advancement of Perianesthesia Nursing.

A free ABPANC Certified Nurses Day Poster is available for download and printing at http://www.cpancapa.org/news/events.php. You may post this in your units. As part of the celebration, TAPAN will have a scholarship drawing for 5 new certifications or recertifications.

To participate in the scholarship drawing you must be a TAPAN member and you must e-mail me your name at smcclurkin@stlukeshealth.org.

New certification must be taken within one year of winning the award.

PANAW Scholarship Winners

Upper Gulf Coast Region
Jennifer Vergara RN, BSN, CAPA

Hill Country South Texas Region
Elinore Perez RN, BSN

Far West Texas Region
Carolyn Prentice RN, CPAN, CAPA

North and East Texas Region
Lori Sanders RN, BSN, CPAN

West Texas Panhandle Region
Mary Vinson

PANAW Celebrations in Austin

Submitted by Susan Russell RN, JD, CPAN, CAPA

The Perianesthesia Staff at St. David’s Medical Center in Austin celebrated PANAW with a series of games, prize drawings, a test of perianesthesia knowledge and, of course, food. All CPAN and CAPA certified nurses in our department were included in a drawing for a gift. Games included Word Search and Words in Words. Words in Words featured the slogan for PANAW, asking staff to form words from the letters in “Compassionate, Caring, Competent.” Although the celebration was ‘unofficial,’ staff enjoyed the weeklong focus on our specialty. Like many facilities, SDMC celebrates all nurses during Nurse Week in May. Having a unit celebration during our national specialty week boosts morale and gives us the opportunity to educate our co-workers, physicians and patients about our practice.

The Waterloo Chapter of HCSTR sends a special ‘thank you’ to the North and East Texas Region of TAPAN for their gracious invitation to Chris Pasero’s lecture Saturday Feb. 9 at UT Southwestern. Tracy Allen, Linda Allyn and Susan Russell took advantage of the opportunity and were treated to a presentation by one of the leading experts on Pain Management. Chris Pasero is a true friend of perianesthesia nurses. Our sincere appreciation to Pru Nietupski, the North and East Region and UT Southwestern for including us in this educational PANAW event.
PANAW Celebrations!

Memorial Hermann—TMC

St. Luke’s—Houston

St. Luke’s—Houston

Memorial Hermann—TMC

Welcome everyone! Join us in celebration of PERIANESTHESIA AWARENESS WEEK

Thank You to all Sponsors
Most people don’t want to be assigned to work on organizational P&P. It’s considered a distasteful task—frequently described as deadly dull and boring. That’s really a misperception because it’s at the heart of TAPAN’s governance. Policy and procedure must track Association Bylaws, so it is important to review any proposed policy and procedure changes against the applicable section of the Bylaws. Conflicts should be resolved in favor of the Bylaws. Bylaws give the Association a framework. Policies and Procedures interpret the Bylaws and define how the Board carries out the mission of the organization. Board members should read the Bylaws before attending a P&P session and should have a copy readily available for reference. The Bylaws are posted on the TAPAN website for easy accessibility.

Prior to the formal February TAPAN Board meeting in Houston, the TAPAN Board members met as the P&P Committee to review 25 policies and act on recommendations made by the P&P Coordinator. The recommended revisions of P&P were emailed to the Board members before the meeting to give everyone an opportunity to review them in advance. This reduces the length of the meeting and preserves time for discussion as necessary. Soon, these latest revisions will be posted on the TAPAN website. The effective date of each policy is included in the title section. The effective date reflects the date the Board approved the revisions. Therefore, the latest set of revisions has an effective date of February 2014. The latest review of the Bylaws was in October 2012. No changes to the Bylaws will be needed this year. The next scheduled Bylaws review will be in the Fall of 2015.

This year, it has been my privilege to serve on ASPAN’s Bylaws/Policy & Procedure SWT chaired by ASPAN Secretary, Joni Brady. The ASPAN P&P meetings are held via conference call and much of the work is accomplished via email before the calls.

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**TAPAN State Conference 2014—Save the Date!**

**September 12-14, 2014.** Texas Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (TAPAN) 37th Annual Conference, Austin Marriott North, Round Rock, TX. Brochure and online registration will be available at www.tapan.org after July 1st. For information, please contact Linda Allyn at lal-lyn@flash.net or Tracy Allen at tmallow@seton.org.
**Spotlight Across Texas: Region News**

**Upper Gulf Coast**
Kim McIntosh, DNP, RN, CAPA

Nurses from St. Luke’s in Houston celebrated PANAW week (see PANAW photos).

February 15th UGCR hosted their annual Spring Seminar entitled: *Healthcare Reform: Dealing with Challenges in the Perioperative Setting* with 118 attendees and 5 vendors. Attendees were awarded 4.5 CEUs.

UGCR members continue to support Habitat for Humanity build in Conroe, Texas by providing labor on March 1st.

Our next meeting is March 11th at Kelsey-Seybold Main Campus on Holcombe Boulevard; members will have the opportunity to be entered into a scholarship drawing for an ASPAN membership.

**North & East Texas**
No Report

**Hill Country & South Texas**
Sharon Barnes, RN

This winter, the nation has been plummeted with severe weather. Even the Texas winter seems to be colder than years past. However, the cold weather and storms have not chilled the dedication of HCSTR nurses. Flurries of winter activities have taken place. Here’s a look at some of HCSTR’s activities during this season.

**Educational Opportunities:** Several ASPAN seminars came to our region. HCSTR hosted an ASPAN seminar in Harlingen on 2/18/14. Valuable information was gained as Wanda Rodriguez, MA, RN, CCRN, CPAN, presented “Foundations in Perianesthesia Practice” to the group. At the time of the writing of this article, an ASPAN Certification Review, to be presented by Linda Ziolkowski, MSN, RN, CPAN, is scheduled for 2/22/14 in San Antonio. Mark your calendars for HCSTR’s Spring Seminar on 5/17/14.

**Community Involvement:** During the Christmas season, our nurses donated toys and delivered them to children in the “Forgotten Child” program, which is sponsored by Child Protective Services. On 2/1/14, HCSTR nurses volunteered and manned the first aide booth at the Asian Festival, held at the Texas Institute of Cultures. If you are interested in volunteering for one of our community activities, visit our website and view upcoming events.

(Continued on page 9)
Spotlight Across Texas: Region News

(Continued from page 8)

Celebrations: If you were unable to attend our Christmas celebration, please plan to attend next time. On 12/7/13, we met at a local Thai restaurant to fellowship and enjoy great food.

PANAW: On 2/8/14, HCSTR celebrated PANAW in a new manner this year. 36 nurses attended a Saturday morning gathering that provided free CEUs, networking, shopping, door prizes, lots of information, and fun. Topics included “Innovative Options for Managing Post-Surgical Pain” and “Firm Foundation; Wellness Basics”. Congratulations to Sicily Benny for winning the free membership! We extend our appreciation to each of our colleagues for what you do each day in the care of Perianesthesia patients.

Upcoming Events: 5/17/14 - HCSTR Annual Spring Seminar will be held in San Antonio. Visit the TAPAN HCSTR website to see the calendar of future events. Volunteer opportunities are also listed on this site.  http://tapanhcstr.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=0&tabid=1

West Texas & Panhandle

Edna Pabruada, BSN, RN, CPAN

Our seminar originally scheduled during PeriAnesthesia Nurse Week was postponed. The new date will be announced at a later time.

At present, we are currently in need of an editor for our newsletter, What’s TAPANing. For more information, email Gayle Stegall at gayle.stegall@ttuhsc.edu.

To all region members who are planning to attend the ASPAN National Conference in April, please contact either Elena Abaquin at eabaquin@gmail.com or Edna Pabruada at mariaepabr@sbcglobal.net so we can all get together in Las Vegas.

Far West Texas

No Report

ASPAN Component Night—April 27, 2014

The theme for the party is Vintage Las Vegas. Come dressed in your best vintage casino worker duds! Join us as we deal up a great time. Be sure to stop by the TAPAN table for a chance to enter our raffle.

Don’t forget to watch the National Particulars for the date and location for the TAPAN photo. We want everyone included in the picture!!!
Give of Your Time and Commitment to Serve TAPAN

Submit your Willingness to Participate form TODAY!!!

Election time is approaching!!! TAPAN is seeking for qualified candidates to apply for an open position in the Executive Board: TAPAN Treasurer 2014-2016. Each of you has the potential to be our future TAPAN leaders. This is a great way to start and could be the best decision you would make for your professional growth and advancement.

Qualifications:
TAPAN member seeking election to the TAPAN Executive Board shall:

1. Have active ASPAN/TAPAN membership.

2. Have been an active TAPAN member at the region or state level for two (2) years and have served as a State Component Committee Chair or as a Region/District Officer.

3. Submit a completed Willingness to Participate Form (addendum #1) to the Election Chairperson

If anyone is interested in running for the office of Treasurer and wish to learn more about the position, duties and responsibilities; please contact our Immediate Past president: Hermie Robles at hrobles@stlukeshealth.org.
January TAPAN Board Meeting: Summary of Minutes

Ellen Abaquin RN, BSN, CPAN—TAPAN Secretary

❖ The TAPAN board meeting was conducted via Skype call on January 7, 2013.

Topics discussed:

❖ Treasurer’s Report: Current account balance of $65,308.49
❖ TAPAN on the Road: Target date is June 14 in Harlingen
❖ 2014 Leadership Conference: It will be held in San Antonio on August 9, 2014
❖ 2014 State Conference: Planning in progress. It will be in Austin on September 12-14
❖ Web report/update: TAPAN Leadership Transition Checklist and the 2013-2015 Strategic Plan had been uploaded.
❖ PANAW 2014: TAPAN is awarding 5 free ASPAN/TAPAN membership (one from each region) during PANAW. A proclamation letter from the governor was requested by TAPAN President, Sylva McClurkin.
❖ National Conference-Las Vegas: Sylva McClurkin and Deb Bennett will represent TAPAN in the Representative Assembly. Alternates are Ellen Abaquin and Gayle Steggall.

• Component night theme: Vintage Las Vegas
• TAPAN will donate to ASPAN silent auction

❖ Gold Leaf Award: Application form is complete.
❖ Financial Audit: The board voted to hire Jim McLaughlin, CPA to conduct professional audit of TAPAN’s financial records.

❖ Membership and Marketing Committee Chair: Cielito Ascio submitted willingness to participate form
❖ Next business meeting: Feb 15-16 in Houston

Treasurer’s Report

Debra L. Bennett, RN, BSN, CAPA, TAPAN Treasurer

Balance as of February 15, 2014:
$69,849.56

Income:

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Debra L. Bennett, RN, BSN, CAPA, TAPAN Treasurer

Speakers Needed for ASPAN 2015

Tracy Allen RN, BSN, CPAN—2015 National Conference Committee Member

We are seeking Texas based speakers to present at the ASPAN National Conference in San Antonio in 2015. If anyone knows of a good speaker they would like to nominate, please have them complete the Call for Proposals form found at [http://www.tapan.org/forms.html](http://www.tapan.org/forms.html). They can either return the completed form to the National Conference Strategic Work Team (address listed on bottom of form) or return it to me at tmallen@seton.org and I will send it on. ❖
Certification Corner

Certification Date & Deadlines
♦ Registration Window—Closes March 10—must be registered by 11:59pm ET
♦ Examination Administration Window—April 7—May 31 (Not all Prometric facilities are open on Saturday May 31).

Examination Fees:
♦ ASPAN Member—$285
♦ Non-ASPAN Member—$385

Photographs Needed for our CPAN/CAPA Luncheon in Las Vegas! Our music video at the CPAN/CAPA luncheon is always a big hit, in large part because of all the great photos we get from across the country showing our certified nurses at work in their units. This year we want more photos than ever – please participate with a group photo of your team. Email your photos in jpeg format to jeff@abpanc.com no later than March 15, 2014.

A Photo Release form must be signed and returned with your photos.
Get the Photo Release form at www.cpancapa.org > Resources tab > Forms.

From the Editor

The Eyeopener is the official publication of the Texas Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (TAPAN).

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Eyeopener submissions:
Members are encouraged to write to the editor with comments, suggestions, and/or articles of interest to PeriAnesthesia Nursing. Submissions must be typed and double spaced. It is the responsibility of the author of items submitted for publication in The Eyeopener to verify the accuracy of information and provide appropriate references. The editor and the TAPAN Board reserve the right to edit or reject submitted material.

Submission Deadlines:
February 15: Spring Edition
May 15: Summer Edition
August 15: Fall Edition
November 15: Winter Edition

Send comments, suggestions and/or submissions to:
Susan Norris RN BScN CAPA
11206 Fall Breeze Drive
Houston, TX 77064
Susan_RNCAPA@comcast.net
ASPAN 33rd National Conference
April 27 - May 1, 2014

Las Vegas, NV