

SAGUARO SPOTLIGHT

Quarter 1, 2026



GUIDING ARIZONA'S NURSES TOWARD EXCELLENCE
IN PERIANESTHESIA CARE

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Happy 2026! Arizona Nurses

In February, we celebrated Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week (PANAW) and honor the excellence of AzPANA members. Arizona is home to some of the most dedicated, skilled, and compassionate perianesthesia nurses in the nation, and AzPANA is proud to celebrate each one of you. Across our state, from large academic medical centers to smaller community hospitals and outpatient surgical centers, perianesthesia nurses uphold the highest standards of patient safety, advocacy, and evidence-based practice.

As AzPANA members, you represent excellence in every phase of perianesthesia care. Thank you for your skill, your compassion, and for representing Arizona and AzPANA with integrity, professionalism, and heart. Your work changes lives, one patient, one family, one safe recovery at a time.

2026 AZPANA CONFERENCE

*“Pursuing Excellence in
Perianesthesia Care”*

Date: June 6th, 2026

Time: 08:00 – 14:30

**Bob Bové Neuroscience
Institute at HonorHealth**

7242 E Osborn Rd, Scottsdale, AZ



Our Presentations:

- **“Geriatric Delirium in the Surgical Patient”**
- **“Human Trafficking & the PeriAnesthesia Nurse”**
- **“Vigilant PeriAnesthesia Nursing Care & Human Error in the PACU”**
- **“This is How We Do It” – Sustainable PeriAnesthesia Nursing Practices”**
- **“Patient Safety and Capnography Monitoring: What Do PACU Nurses Think?”**

Our Speakers:



Chanda Hassemer
MS, BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA, CPN



Bethany Biardi
MSN, RN, CPN, CPAN



JoAnn Anderson
MSN, RN, CCRN-K



Leslye Alexander
MSN, RN, CNL, CAPA/CPAN

This activity has been submitted to the American Society of Perianesthesia Nurses for approval to award contact hours. The American Society of Perianesthesia Nurses is accredited as an approver of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

For more information:

info@azpana.org
www.azpana.org

Message from AzPANA President



Jessica Gentes, MSN,
RN, CHSE, CPN
AzPANA President

Hello!

As we enter a season filled with celebrations—graduations, promotions, weddings, and more—I hope you will also consider joining us in celebrating AzPANA at the upcoming ASPAN National Conference in San Francisco, CA. Several board members and colleagues from across the state will be presenting posters and delivering podium presentations. It would be wonderful to see strong support for our fellow perianesthesia colleagues as they continue advancing the specialty and bringing perianesthesia nursing to the forefront of our work.

As you plan your summer adventures and well-deserved time away, please also consider continuing your professional development with AzPANA. We invite you to join us for our upcoming Summer Conference on Saturday, June 6, at the Bob Bové Neuroscience Institute at HonorHealth Osborn in Scottsdale.

Spend part of your day with us learning about:

- Geriatric Delirium
- Human Trafficking
- Vigilant Perianesthesia Care
- Sustainability in Perianesthesia
- Patient Safety and Capnography

You can register soon at www.azpana.org.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to any member of the AzPANA Board or visit our website. Wishing you a fun, safe, and enriching spring!

Jessica Gentes, MSN, RN, CHSE, CPN
AzPANA President 2022-2026 gentes42@hotmail.com

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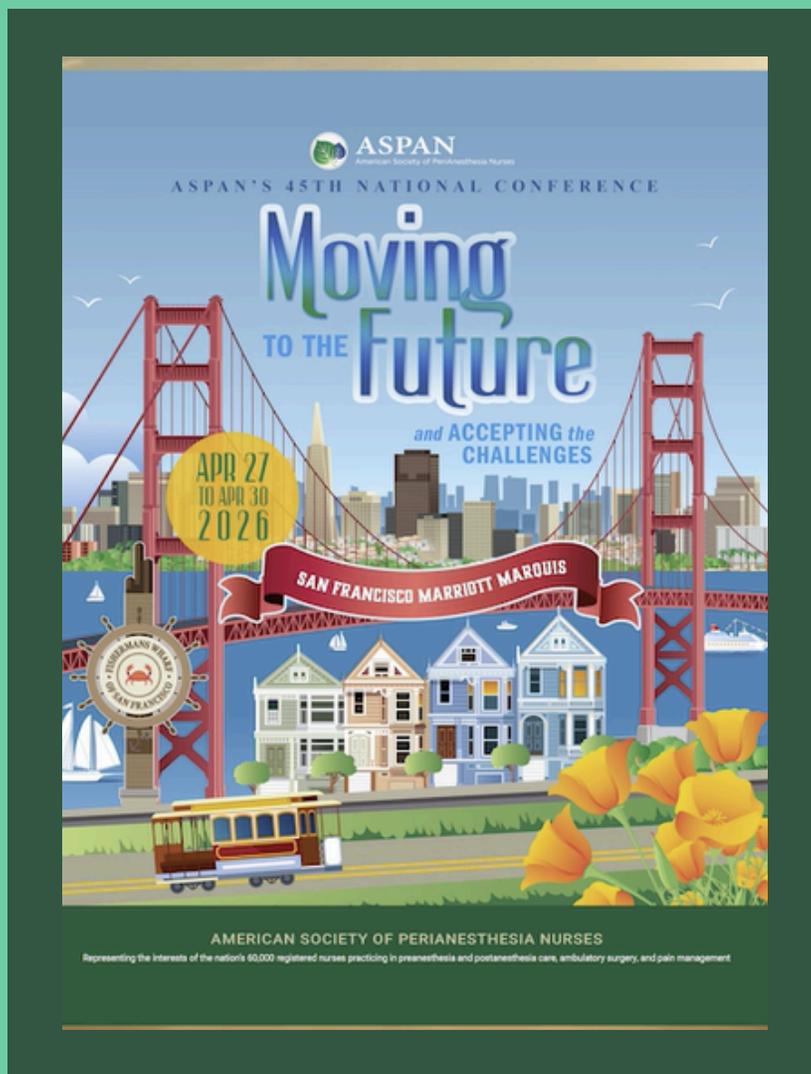
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2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 27-30, 2026 - SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Register today for the 45th ASPAN National Conference in San Francisco.



National conference is a dynamic gathering where perianesthesia professionals come together to learn, share, and grow. Explore best practices in clinical care, pediatric advancements, the latest research, patient education strategies, policy influence, and key updates on medications and safety, all focused on improving patient outcomes.

There will be a Region One meet-and-greet on Monday evening. This is an excellent opportunity to meet other nurses in our region and network over drinks and appetizers.



Governmental Affairs

AzPANA welcomes Kimberly Wallace to the Board of Directors as Chair of Governmental Affairs.

Hi, I'm Kimberly Wallace. I've been a registered nurse for nine years, with six years specializing in perianesthesia nursing and additional experience in the ICU and as a SANE nurse. I am currently CAPA certified. I earned my BSN from the University of Arizona and later returned to complete a Master's in Legal Studies with an emphasis in Health Law and Policy.

During that time, I also obtained a Graduate Certificate as a Legal Paraprofessional (LP) and successfully passed the Arizona LP exam, becoming licensed in administrative law.

As a Legal Paraprofessional—similar to a nurse practitioner's role within nursing—I am trained to practice law within a defined scope. This unique bridge between healthcare and the legal system is what fuels my interest in the Governmental Affairs position. Healthcare and law often speak very different languages, yet the care we provide is deeply shaped by how legislation and regulations are written.

My goal is to keep AzPANA members informed about legislation that impacts our practice so we can be educated voters and active participants in the legislative process. I recently authored a brief on HB 2408, introduced by Representative Willoughby in January 2026, which will have implications for the Arizona Board of Nursing.

I'm passionate about ensuring our profession has a strong, informed voice in shaping the policies that guide our practice.

AzPANA sincerely thanks all of our valued sponsors. We are especially grateful to those who registered for the January education session that could not take place.

Their ongoing support strengthens our ability to serve our members.



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Advanced Education for AzPANA Members

Looking for an advanced nursing or healthcare management degree to support your PeriAnesthesia nursing career? Post University’s American Sentinel College of Nursing & Health Sciences provides healthcare professionals with affordable, convenient, online education pathways.

Healthcare degrees include RN to BSN, MSN with 8 specializations, DNP with 4 specializations, and MBA-Healthcare. Plus, Post University offers 50+ degree and certificate programs in Business, Public Service, Education, Arts and Sciences, and more.

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Discover more about Post University by contacting representative Tamara Gooden at tamara.gooden@post.edu

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FROM ARIZONA TO THE ROCKIES: STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COLLABORATION



Left to right: Janet Lopez, BSN, RN, CCRN, CAPA, RMPANA President; Bethany Biardi, MSN, RN, CPN, CPAN AzPANA President Elect; Krista Hall BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA, Vice President/President Elect

This past weekend, I had a rewarding experience spending time and exchanging ideas with the RMPANA Board of Directors, one of our Region One sister components. I attended their 2026 Lois Schick Memorial Winter Workshop, which was an inspiring opportunity to network, share ideas, and connect with leaders devoted to perianesthesia nursing. Interacting with the board, attending sessions, and discussing current challenges and new innovations highlighted the importance of community and professional collaboration.

I am truly thankful for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated colleagues, gain new insights, and contribute to initiatives that promote high-quality patient care and strengthen the future of our specialty.





ABPANC

American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification, Inc.

CPAN/CAPA Examination Schedules & Fees

Exam Registration Window - January 1 - April 30

Examination Window - March 15 - May 15

Achieving CPAN® or CAPA® certification reflects a commitment to excellence that goes far beyond passing an exam. It signifies that your knowledge meets rigorous national standards and demonstrates your dedication to patient safety, clinical expertise, and continuous professional growth. This certification highlights your leadership in a field filled with highly skilled professionals.

