

Leadership Development Institute (LDI)

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Since I am a new participant on the OPANA board, I was excited that ASPAN was offering LDI virtually. I was not sure what to expect from an all-day virtual webinar. LDI was an informative and engaging event. With fourteen presenters and nine different informative sessions, it was amazing how smoothly the transitions between speakers occurred. The success of LDI was a testament to the dedication of ASPAN leadership and reflected the Core Purpose to empower and advance the unique specialty of peri anesthesia nursing.

With the stress and uncertainty that the COVID 19 pandemic has created this year, I found the session “Instilling A Culture of Well Being” to be extremely helpful. One of the tips that was presented was to find your “stability rock”. A stability rock is something that you can rely on when things are spiraling out of control. A stability rock can be a process or a practice. Right now, it is important to focus on those things that you can control. There are so many things in this moment of time that are beyond our control, but it is important to identify those things that we can control. Some of the things that we can control are our personal practice of CDC guidelines and the decisions we make regarding our personal practices to help de-crease the rate of spread of COVID 19. Also, it is important to focus on the positive and practice gratitude.

Succession planning and empowering the next leaders are vital components of maintaining the vitality and relevance of ASPAN, OPANA, and the OPANA districts. How someone is asked to become involved in the organization can make or break the success of the individual becoming involved. A personal touch is recommended when recruiting individuals. One of these personal touches is identifying their strengths and sharing these observations with the individual. Diversity is another important characteristic that will in-crease the strength of an organization.

Another engaging session of LDI was “Building and Leading Innovative Teams”. Because of the turbulent nature of health care, it is important to work in teams. Teams that are innovative achieve the best out-comes. A culture of innovation encourages and supports creative thinking. Innovative cultures prioritize and reward collaboration; keeps their eyes on the “big picture”; embraces risk and failure; encourages and invests in learning. A key component of innovation is a belief that you can make something better.

These are just a few of the concepts from LDI. There was an abundance of valuable and useful information presented. I barely scratched the surface of the ideas offered by the presenters. Whether you are involved in ASPAN, OPANA, the OPANA districts, or a leader in your work environment, I highly recommend that you attend LDI when you have the opportunity.