

## Leadership Message

### New AANN President Encourages Active Membership

As I begin my term as president of AANN, I find myself reflecting on my first AANN Annual Educational Meeting and the reasons why I have continued my involvement. I remember coming home from that meeting in Houston, TX, amazed by the passion I felt from the nurses attending. Their enthusiasm and commitment to our profession was very impressive. I decided right then that I would not be a passive member of the organization but rather I would become an active participant. That involvement started with joining a special focus group (SFG), continued by becoming a member of the board of directors, and now extends to the role of president. I found that the more involved I got, the more satisfying it was to be an AANN member. Networking with other neuroscience nurses, learning from their expertise, and becoming colleagues and friends have been highlights of my AANN membership.

There are many ways to become involved and serve the organization without running for office. I would encourage all of you to join an SFG, interact with other members on a LISTSERV, join or start a local chapter, submit an abstract for the annual educational meeting, or volunteer for a committee or task force. You will be hearing about volunteer opportunities throughout the year as we move forward with our strategic plan. Be sure to check the AANN Web site regularly for information on volunteer opportunities and how to participate.

It has been 12 years since I attended my first meeting, and I continue to feel that same passion for the profession in our membership at each successive meeting. Get involved! Be an active member of AANN! The rewards are many, both personally and professionally.

It's going to be a great year for AANN, and I look forward to serving as your president.



Cathy Cartwright, MSN RN PCNS  
AANN President