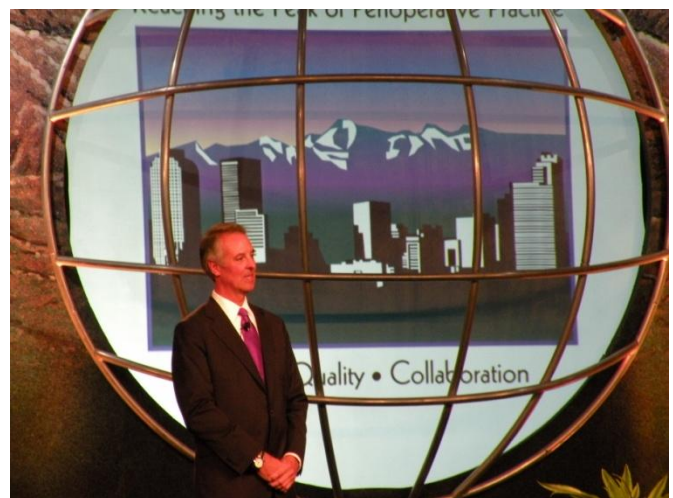


What a fun year at Congress!! With lots of walking!!

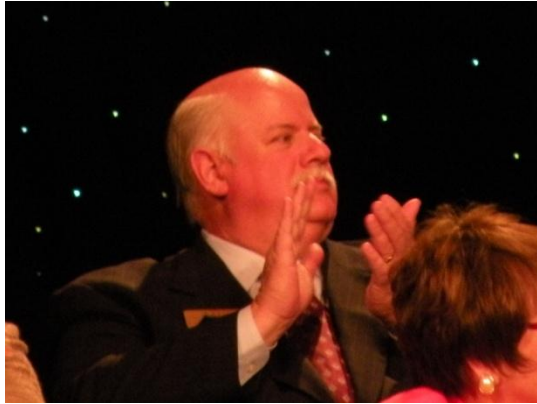
Opening session on Sunday, I started off with being in a line with other chapter presidents and sitting close enough to the stage to have a great view! You can see from the photo that the Congress bag was black and purple, Patrick Voight's favorite color. That second shot was taken of one of the many screens projecting the action so all could see. We walked down the aisle waving flags of our respective states and it was so loud it seemed like the auditorium was full (but it wasn't). More on that later.



And you can see Patrick standing in front of the theme for this year's Congress, Bridging the Peak of Perioperative Practice – Safety...Quality...Collaboration.



Of course Peter Graves was on the stage with the rest of the Board!



Opening session was full of announcements of honors, presentations of plaques and the reminiscing of a year filled with travel and connections. As you may recall from on the Journals, Patrick was able to fly to Africa to visit on Mercy Ships. The same ship that our September, 2009 speaker, Ashley Sellars was on!

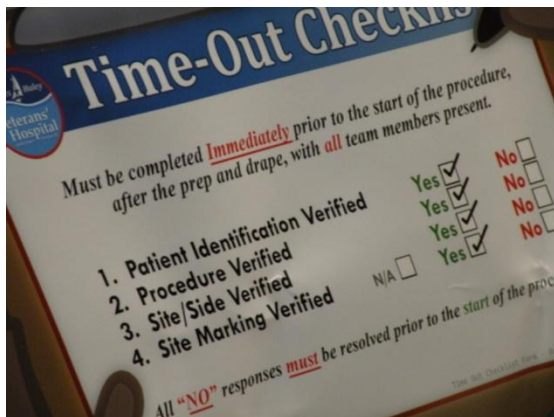


Of course, I had to have my picture taken with the blue bear that peers into the convention center and who has several things in the area named after him. When I visited Denver last summer for the Leadership Conference, I did not know the story behind the bear. Sunday night at dinner, Susie asked our waiter about it. Our waiter was new in town and didn't know. But he mentioned it to the owner, who brought his Denver facts magazine to the table and shared the story. Denver was trying to cultivate the arts in town. The same artist who designed and built the horse that is at the airport entrance also designed the bear. Sadly, during the construction of the metal horse, a piece of the sculpture fell and

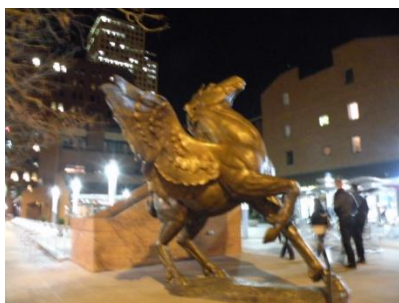
killed one of the workers. The artist re-designed the bear so that he is constructed out of a lightweight but sturdy polystyrene, so prevent another tragedy. The six of us who enjoyed dinner together that evening would recommend Baur's to you, if you are in the area! The food was really good, the company great and the owner treated us to Bananas Foster after visiting with us for twenty minutes! Fun evening!



The posters and educational sessions were good and I had to use every moment to see them all!



This year one of the changes was holding only one Forum. Of course, it had to be extended! Lots of discussion about the dues increase proposal. And that was one of several changes. Another was a change in the hours on the exhibit floor – they opened Monday evening and had a reception at the same time. It was a great change! And then they closed the exhibit floor after Wednesday's hours.

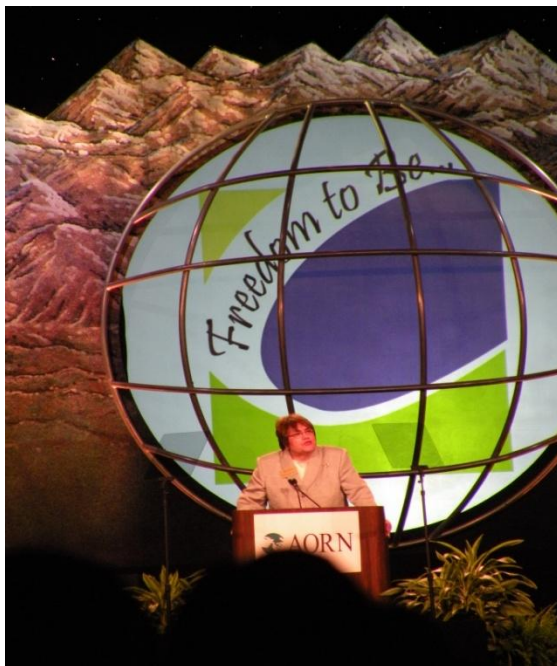


One evening when a rep treated for dinner, Margaret and I walked back to our hotel, hoping that would help with some of the calorie intake. We passed this great Pegasus (more on this later too)!

We heard some great speakers and a lot about potential changes in health care. And of course a lot about Time Out and Fire Safety – both still issues in the O.R.



And for CNORs– make sure you read the letter they have sent you. Effective this year, there is a change in when you can earn CEs toward certification. If you renew in 2011, you must have completed all CEs by December 31, 2010. Email me if you need some free CEs; I have a list! Also the Congress News is available online if you want to review any of the business of the Association.



Before we knew it, the week was over and 2010-2011 President Charlotte Guglielmi was revealing the 2011 Congress theme, Freedom to Be...., appropriately held in Philadelphia March 19 to 24, 2011! Put it on your calendar now!

(I stayed a few extra days and enclose several pictures so you see what Friday in Denver was like. And I went shopping in this!) Do you recognise the Pegasus?



I was as cold as this guy in the picture above!

And finally – thanks for the opportunity of serving as a delegate and as the Dallas President for this year!

Karen