



Nebraska State Assembly of AST Summer 2016 Newsletter



2016 AST NATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD JUNE 2-4TH IN SAN DIEGO, CA

The 47th annual Association of Surgical Technologists National Conference will was held June 2-4th, 2016 in San Diego, CA. The NESAs was represented at the business meetings by delegates Casey Glassburner, Cynthia Kreps, Sharon Rehn, Dwain Rosse, Sarah Shakelford and Laura Stallings whom participated in national elections will for the offices of Secretary and 5 Board of Directors. AST elected the following individuals to these national offices; Secretary- Heather Burgraff and Board of Directors- Dustin Cain, Sandra Farley, Jessica Elliot, and Rachel Ray.



SAVE THE DATE!



The summer workshop of the Nebraska State Assembly will be held Saturday August 13th at

CHI-Lakeside Hospital in Omaha from 8-4pm. Several speakers have already been lined up with presentations focusing on Ophthalmology, Local Anesthetic Toxicity, Anterior Total Hip Arthroplasty, and Mission work in Rwanda. 6 continuing education credits will be offered to attendees pending approval from AST and breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration forms will be posted in the very near future on the NESAs website at <http://ne.ast.org/>, on the Nebraska State Assembly Facebook page, and will be sent out via Constant Contact mass email. The option to register online and pay via PayPal will also be available. We hope to see all of you in attendance!

2016 TECH OF THE YEAR

Each year the NESAs recognizes one outstanding CST from around the state as the Tech of the Year. The 2016 Tech of the Year will be announced at the NESAs Summer Workshop in Omaha on August 13th. The Tech of the Year award was initiated in 2006 to recognize an exceptional CST for their contributions to the profession of surgical technology and the difference they make in their patient's lives on a daily basis. Past recipients of the Tech of the Year award include: 2006-Brenda Deaver, 2007-Sharon Vinsonhaler, 2008-Cathy Hemmer, 2009-Kathy May, 2010-Marlene Wagner, 2011-Karen Ellicott, 2012-Amy Zuhlke, 2013-Sharon Rehn, 2014-Donna Ryan and 2015-Karyn Shotkoski. Congrats to all CSTs who have previously received this prestigious award and we look forward to recognizing another outstanding CST in August!

NEBRASKA STATE ASSEMBLY RECEIVES 2015 STATE ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP AWARD AT AST NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO

The Nebraska State Assembly was the only state assembly honored during the 2016 AST National Conference with the State Assembly Leadership Award for 2015. This award is given out yearly to up to five states and recognizes outstanding efforts by state assemblies for their involvement in legislation and service to their membership. This is the second time the Nebraska State Assembly has been given this award. The first time was in 2007. Thank you for your continued dedication to the Nebraska State Assembly and for assisting in fostering the growth that continues to make Nebraska a model state assembly!



SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS RECEIVE FIRST PLACE IN T-SHIRT CONTEST AT AST NATIONAL CONFERENCE



16 students from the surgical technology program at Southeast Community College in Lincoln attended AST National Conference in San Diego and participated in student day with presentations specific to their future in the profession. They also were awarded first place in the t-shirt contest. Congrats!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

LB721 to establish a license for surgical assistants in Nebraska passed final reading in the legislature on April 13th with a vote of 48-0-1. The bill was signed into law by Governor Pete Ricketts on April 19th and will become effective 90 days following passage. Following the effective date of the law, surgical assistants seeking to become licensed must demonstrate graduation from an accredited surgical assisting program, passage of the national surgical assistant certifying exam and current certification as a surgical assistant by a nationally recognized certifying body. A grandfather clause was included in the bill that expires on January 1st, 2017. Those surgical assistants wishing to become licensed under the grandfather clause must submit documentation of one of the following: (a) evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she has been functioning as a surgical first assistant as his or her primary function in a licensed health care facility within the last five years prior to September 1, 2016; (b) evidence of holding a current certification as a surgical first assistant issued by an approved certifying body; or (c) evidence of holding a credential as a surgical first assistant issued by another state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia which has standards substantially equivalent to those of this state.

LB1061 that was introduced by Senator Kolterman to establish a registry for surgical technologists in

Nebraska did not advance out of committee this session. The final amendment of the bill was supported by the Nebraska Medical Association, the Nebraska Hospital Association, and the Department of Health and Human Services. The amendment included language to update the ruling from the 1898 case, Howard Paul vs. the State of Nebraska that will allow delegation to surgical technologists by surgeons and prevent the potential for a cease and desist order to be issued similar to the one that was issued for surgical assistants in the state. The bill continues to be unsupported by the Nebraska Nursing Association and AORN due to oversight by the Board of Medicine in Surgery instead of the Board of Nursing. The Ambulatory Surgery Center Association continues to oppose as well related to the competency assessment that has been included in place of the educational requirement. A new bill will be introduced by Senator Kolterman at the beginning of the 2017 legislative session to include the language that is supported by the NMA, NHA and DHHS. Thank you for your continued support of the legislative efforts of the Nebraska State Assembly!

2017 AST NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Dates for the 2017 AST National Conference in New Orleans, LA have been set for June 6-10th with preconference events starting on June 9th. We are always looking for state assembly members to serve as delegates/alternates at AST National Conference and will be electing these positions at the winter

2017 workshop. Mark your calendars now if you are interested in attending and representing your state assembly. The location for the 2018 AST Surgical Technology Conference has been tentatively set for Las Vegas but no dates have been released at this time.