**Nebraska State Assembly of AST Spring 2015 Newsletter**

**SUCCESSFUL WINTER WORKSHOP**

Thanks to everyone that was able to attend the Winter Workshop and Annual Meeting with Elections that was held Saturday February 28th at CHI-St. Elizabeth’s in Lincoln. We had excellent attendance with 81 members present and the speakers proved to be very informative as well as entertaining. Elections were held for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and 2 Board of Directors as well as 6 delegates and 6 alternates. We would like to offer a big CONGRATULATIONS to our members who were elected and will be serving you in your leadership of the Nebraska State Assembly for 2015; President-Casey Glassburner, Vice President- Laura Stallings, Treasurer- Amy Zuhlke, Board of Directors – Megan Keenan Carter and Mandy Nolan and Delegates- Rick Horne, Cynthia Kreps, Mandy Nolan, Sharon Rehn, and Laura Stallings. Thank you all for your willingness to serve and your dedication to the state assembly and the profession of surgical technology.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The date and location have been set for the NESA summer workshop for Saturday August 8th at the Lincoln Surgical Hospital in Lincoln. We plan to offer 6 CEUs to those in attendance and hope to see all of you there!

**AST NATIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD MAY 14-16TH IN SAN ANTONIO, TX**

The 46th annual Association of Surgical Technologists National Conference will be held May 14-16th this year in San Antonio, TX at the Marriot Rivercenter. The NESA will be represented at the business meetings by delegates Rick Horne, Cynthia Kreps, Mandy Nolan, Sharon Rehn, and Laura Stallings that were elected at the annual meeting in February. National elections will be held for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and 3 Board of Directors. Featured presentations include information on the Boston marathon bombing, external fixation of wrist fractures, orthopaedic surgical volunteerism in the third world, updates on drug shortages and the role of 3D printing in surgical congenital anomalies. If you plan to be in attendance at conference, please get in touch with our delegates. If you are thinking about attending conference but not sure we do suggest that if you have never been you give it a try. Attending conference is an excellent way to obtain CEUs as attendees receive up to 17 CEUs as well as a great way to network with fellow CSTs!

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The NESA continues to support the efforts of AST and Sidney Regional Medical Center as well as the Nebraska Hospital Association in their pursuit of regulation of the professions of surgical assisting and surgical technology in the state of Nebraska through the 407 Credentialing Review Process. The official application to be considered during this process was submitted on February 23rd and the first meeting of the Technical Review Committee that was appointed by the state to review this application was held on Friday March 6th. Dates for future meetings of this committee were set at this meeting for Wed. April 8th 1-4pm, Wed. May 6th 1-4pm, Wed. May 27th 1-4pm, and Thur. June 18th 1-4pm. All of these meetings are open public meetings and we would love to have as many members of the NESA attend as are able to show support of this process as well as be available to answer any technical questions that committee members might have related to the profession. Information related to the 407 process can be found at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/CredReviewSurgicalFirstAssistants.aspx> . We would also like to have every member of the Nebraska State Assembly write an email voicing their support of regulation of the professions of surgical technology and surgical assisting. Emails should be sent to Ron Briel at ron.briel@nebraska.gov .

LB548 was introduced by Senator Kathy Campbell as a placeholder bill to be utilized following the completion of the 407 process. The initial hearing for this bill in the Health and Human Services Committee was held Wed. March 18th. As anticipated the outcome of this hearing proved to have LB548 being held over to the 2016 legislative session following completion of the 407 Credentialing Review.

**2015 TECH OF THE YEAR**

Each year the NESA recognizes one outstanding CST from around the state as the Tech of the Year. The 2015 Tech of the Year will be announced at the NESA Summer Workshop in Lincoln on August 8th. Don’t miss out on nominating an awesome CST that you know! Nomination forms must be submitted to the NESA President by June 1st, 2015. Nomination forms can be found on the NESA website at <http://ne.ast.org/> or on the Nebraska State Assembly Facebook page. You can also contact President Casey Glassburner at cglassburner@southeast.edu to request to have a nomination form sent to you.