

Wisconsin on Call

Meetings

Another deductible season has pasted us by. I hope you all made it though and had a happy holiday season. Now we all get to relax a bit before the surgery books start filling up again

A big thanks to our fall 2014 host Danielle Cook at Oshkosh for a great meeting and wonderful turnout. We had 109 members attend and 11 of those were students. We hope to keep the numbers up.

The next meeting will be held March 7, 2015 at Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Eau Claire, WI. The registration forms will come to you via your e-mail. The fall meeting will be held October 3, 2015 in Milwaukee. Tentatively we are planning spring 2016 in Summit, and fall 2016 in Weston. We are always looking for places to hold meetings so if you would like to host one of our state meetings please contact a board member.



2015 WIAST Board

BOD: Linda Beine, Vice President: Gertrude Armstrong, BOD: Keri Volinkaty, BOD: Danielle Cook, President Sheryl Blaschka, BOD: Jessica Brueggen, Secretary: Shanna Liebl, Treasurer: Susan McNeely, BOD Rachel Gresk



Elections

Its never to early to start thinking if you want to run for Wisconsin AST board. The positions up for election in fall 2015 are President, Vice President, Treasure, and three Board of Director positions. Anyone wishing to run for a position on the Board should fill out a Curriculum Vitea and Consent to Serve (found on the AST website) and submit them to Sheryl Blaschka or Susan McNeely within 30 days of the fall meeting. If you are on the fence please pull on of us aside at a meeting or email us with questions.



Jennifer DeVries and
Laura Mutz

Student Scholarship

Biannually a scholarship is given to two students who show their interest in AST. The scholarship is given in the name of our past president Luci Krueger. At the fall meeting the scholarships were given to Jennifer DeVries and Laura Mutz. Here are some words from our future techs.

"It was an honor to be a part of the fall AST meeting. I am also thankful for having been selected for one of the star for Luci scholarships that were given out to students. That money was put towards paying for my schooling for Surgical Technology. I am in my second year of the program. I am doing my clinicals right now, which is challenging and rewarding all in one. I will be graduating this upcoming May 2015. I hope to take the AST certification to become a CST. I hope to find a job after graduating and start my new career in the surgical field. I think it's so

fascinating how surgery can help so many people. Technology sure has come a long way over the years. I hope with my knowledge gained through my clinicals and schooling I can be successful and proficient in the OR."

Thank You,
Jennifer DeVries

"Recently I was one of the students awarded the "A Star for Luci" scholarship. I wanted to say thank you for both the scholarship and the opportunity to better my experience in the Surgical Technology Program. I will be using the money I received towards some of the tuition for next semester's classes. Thank you very much again!"

Sincerely,
Laura Mutz Moraine Park Surgical
Technologist Program

INSIGHT FROM A NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER

On behalf of The Association of Surgical Technology and myself, congratulations on a very successful state assembly annual meeting! The state meeting achievements are a source of pride and inspiration shown to the profession.

I was delighted to learn the boards' outstanding efforts have been recognized by your peers in the state of Wisconsin. All of your willingness to go above and beyond is well-known to all of your members within your state, and clearly the word is spreading!

Many, many thanks from
AST for the outstanding

leadership The Wisconsin State Assembly Board provided at the state annual meeting. The caliber of this work is exceptional, and will have a major impact in guiding the state assembly in years ahead. AST has your board and membership to thank for that, in large part.

Thank you WI board for inspiring the membership to have such a successful outcome, and thanks to all of you for your exceptional work." It is always a pleasure to see great leaders like yourselves receiving the recognition

and applause you deserve so well from the assembly. Kudos on this outstanding accomplishment."

Sam Waites
Nation Association of
Surgical Technologist Board
of Directors

**You save lives
every day,
keep up the
good work!**

OOPS

Here are a few stories from other surgical technologists around the state who have made a mistake. These are stories to laugh at now, but were mortifying at the time.

If you have a story you'd like to share please email it to me at jess3012@hotmail.com

I'll never forget the first time I scrubbed for an emergency AAA. I was working a late shift. The patient came in, everything was a rush. The incision was made, the abdomen was full of blood. Boy was I scared! The surgeon asked for a clamp; I handed him the wrong clamp and he immediately threw the clamp across the room, it even hit the wall! All I remember thinking was "wow, I remember being warned that this could happen when I was a student."

The surgery team had just finished a total knee and the drapes were coming off the patient. I noticed the bovie pencil was still plugged in the generator so I decided to give it a little tug. The plug went air borne and hit the Surgeon in the head and was hanging from his ear. I tried to say I was sorry but started laughing; the look on his face was priceless. I tell all new Surgical tech students I work with this story to help them relax.

(A Surg Tech in a THA procedure)

When my nurse opened the femoral stem implant to me, I used a tonsil hemostat, as I always do, to pull it out from its outer plastic case. As I pulled it out, it somehow slipped or I did not have a good grip using the tonsil and the implant fell to the ground, however still in its sterile case. The surgeon was still ok using it by carefully letting the nurse open the implant to the surgeon and he gripped it with his hand. I was quite upset with myself and I hope that does not happen to me again and, of course, all the Surgical Technologists.

-Stephen Huebner, CST (St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, WI)

As I was left alone, after counting, to finish setting up my mayo stand, I began to hum, then sing, "Back to Black" ala Amy Winehouse. After several starts and stops I heard the squeak of an OR stool. Without turning around I asked "Have you been here the whole time?" to which the Anesthesia machine rep responded "Yes, when is your CD being released?" I avoided meeting his eye for the duration of the case.

V.Marr CST

Looking for a good read?

The Cobra Event
By: Richard Preston

Our Wisconsin membership numbers are up from 911 in December 2014 to 938 in January 2015!

Words from the President

Hi Wisconsin State Assembly Members!

Brrr! I hope everyone is staying warm during these cold winter months! It will make the National Conference in San Antonio, TX all the more welcome! The National Conference will be held May 14-16, 2015. Anyone interested in being a delegate or alternate delegate, please let one of the board members know.

At our meeting last October elections were held for the position of Secretary and 2 Board of Director positions. The position of Secretary is now held by Shanna Liebl and our new Board of Directors are Rachel Gresk and Keri Volinkaty. Welcome to the Board! I would like to thank Cori Stepan (former secretary) and Janelle Mitchell (former Board of Director) for all of the efforts they graciously gave to our Wisconsin State Assembly. Their hard work and dedication is very much appreciated and recognized.

Our Facebook page now has 158 members registered to our group. Remember to tell your friends and co-

workers to join us on Facebook. Anyone can join who wants to be better connected to other surgical techs around the state and country. It is not necessary to be a member of AST (but we sure do recommend it!). Also, in these hard economic times, remember to post any job openings that happen to be at your facilities. It is a great way to get the word out and help your fellow techs and new grads looking for employment.

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Stay Warm!

Sheryl Blaschka, President

Wisconsin State Assembly

We're on the Web!

*WIAST group on
Facebook*

*Also find us at
wiasofast.org*

Thank You

I would first like to thank everyone who attended the Fall meeting in Oshkosh. I hope that everyone walked away with knowledge they can apply and were able to network with others. I would also like to thank everyone who assisted me with this meeting; it was the first one I hosted and could not have done it on my own. There are quite a few details that go into planning and, for those who are or are considering hosting in the future, please be aware that I created a document that will help guide you through the process. Also, never hesitate to contact your Wisconsin Board Members, we are here to help!

I would also like to thank my fellow members for re-electing me on the BOD. I have enjoyed the time I have spent on the board and look forward to new opportunities. I will be now working on the WI AST website so please contact me with anything you would like to see added or have any questions regarding the new layout of the site and I will be happy to help. You can contact me at drcook02@gmail.com.

Happy New Year to all and I look forward to seeing you in Eau Claire in March!

Danielle Cook, CST