



O.R. COMMUNICATOR Winter 2009

Winter 2009

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY CATHERINE REID, CST

Dear Fellow Surgical Technologists:

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2010. Excitement is in the air again for OAST. The opportunities are ramping up for all our volunteers in the association. With the unexpected resignation of our Vice President Sarah Radabaugh the board will be appointing a replacement to fill in until the active members elect a replacement to complete the last year of her term. Last year, AST made adjustments to some of the Bylaws in each state's association. One of the changes required 5 directors to sit on the board. We currently have 4 directors on the board. This upcoming election we will be adding the 5th director with a vote for 3, along with the secretary & VP position. Please contact a board member or check out the websites for more info on joining the board, let's see some great head to head action on the open positions! There is enough room for everyone (who is certified) that wants to volunteer.

Catherine Reid, CST
OAST President

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GAPA

Our bill for mandatory certification of the surgical technologist was filed with the legislative council on Wednesday November 4th, 2009. It is the exact same bill with amendments from last session. The amendment removed the waiver that was in the bill that was originally filed last session. This waiver allowed healthcare facilities up to 6 months if needed if they were unable after diligent efforts were made to employ sufficient qualified surgical technologists. The Oregon Hospitals Association found this to be cumbersome, so it was removed completely and worded in a way that the medically unserved areas can still essentially still hire who they want after they have shown diligent effort and provided proof of such to the Oregon Health Authority. In January the bill was given a number, SB1010. The bill was heard in the Senate Health Care Committee on February 4th and was voted out of committee. Since the bill has fees attached, the bill was sent to the Ways and Means committee but we expect it to make it out of that committee soon for a vote on the Senate floor. This is what the bill will accomplish.



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GAPA continued:

- Establishes minimum qualifications for individuals employed as surgical technologists in a healthcare facility: (1) graduation from an accredited surgical technology program; and (2) maintaining a certified surgical technologist credential issued by a national credentialing organization. Although the Oregon Health Authority must select the program accreditation organization, CAAHEP, a nationally recognized accrediting body, is most likely.
- Allows anyone with at least two years working experience as a surgical technologist prior to the effective date to work as a surgical technologist, essentially for life through broad grandfather language.
- Exempts from certification requirements those persons who have completed an appropriate training program for surgical technologists in the US armed forces, or who are federal employees.
- Requires all surgical technologists to complete 15 hours of continuing education annually.
- Enumerates and defines surgical technology tasks and functions and identifies for the first time the role of a surgical technologist in providing surgical patient care.
- Maintains the supervisory authority of the healthcare facility to ensure that surgical technologists perform their role competently and according the facility's policies and procedures and applicable law.

Most importantly, this bill establishes the educational and certification qualifications of this most important member of the surgical team!

Surgery is a complicated and precise endeavor with a small margin for error. There is no need to fill the operating room with lesser-trained individuals, which is what is happening in the operating rooms and obstetrical departments in this State and indicative of a larger problem in Oregon hospitals: safe staffing. Certification as a Surgical Technologist provides evidence to employers, other health care professionals, and the public that the certified individual has met the national standard for the knowledge that underlies Surgical Technology practice. Mandatory certification would allow the State of Oregon to begin to provide the public a level of protection that they are not able to provide themselves, through the development of education and certification standards similar to the other professionals in the Operating Room and to impose the High Standards already agreed upon by our profession to protect the public.

Deborah Turner, CST, CFA
GAPA Chairperson

EDUCATION

Michael Hearn, the Education Committee Secretary, has been busy along with the other members of the committee finalizing the details of the workshop. The spring workshop is 7 credits due to the formality of the annual business meeting. Your voices for a shorter workshop have been heard and we will be conducting the meeting during the lunch break. Please remember to make quorum a minimum of 20 active members of AST must be present to run the meeting. Of the surveys sent in the last email newsletter, 8 responses were received, thank you for the input. Spread the word and register for the workshop as soon as possible.

Catherine Reid, CST
OAST President



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TREASURY

As of January 11, 2010 this is the balance in the OAST bank accounts

Savings Account	\$5.00
Money Market	\$4,475.67
Checking Account	\$777.33
Student Association Savings Balance	\$711.17
Total for all Accounts	\$5,969.17

Deborah Turner, CST, CFA
OAST Treasurer

FUNDRAISING

Come ready to buy, buy, and buy! Support your association. We've got t-shirts, mugs & a 50/50 drawing to partake in. We send our thanks to Jubilee Williamson who served as our Fundraising Chairperson for a few months last year.

Fundraising Committee
Totals after workshop 10/17/09

Raffles	\$70.00
50/50 Half of the money collected	
Fundraisers Tee-Shirts	\$300.00
20 shirts at \$15.00 each	
Each shirt cost	\$7.55 profit of \$7.45 each shirt
Shirt expense	$7.55 \times 20 = \$151.00$
Door and Raffle Prizes expense	\$91.28
Total amount taken in	\$370.00
Expenses	\$242.28
Total profit	\$127.72

Catherine Reid, CST & Deborah Turner, CST, CFA
OAST President OAST Treasurer



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CREDENTIALS

The credentials committee would like to announce that with the upcoming workshop on April 24th, we will also be holding elections for the positions of Vice President, Secretary and three Board of Directors during the business meeting. This will be an opportunity for you to get involved with your State Assembly. If you have ideas that can help build and make the Oregon Association of Surgical Technologists a stronger assembly, then we welcome you to run for any of these positions that will be open. This is your opportunity to get involved in the legislative process for getting the Surgical Technologists bill passed, mentor the Student Association, provide continuing education opportunities for our state members, and build relationships amongst the state of Oregon's Surgical Technologists.

To be eligible to run for any of these positions you must be a Certified Surgical Technologist and an active member of the Association of Surgical Technologists. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please complete a Consent to Serve Form and a Curriculum Vitae. Both of these forms can be downloaded from OAST's website <http://oregon.ast.org>. Once on the website, you can go to documents and download them from there. Please have the forms completed and mailed to:

Oregon Association of Surgical Technologists
Attn: Catherine Reid
PO Box 40024
Eugene, OR 97404

Please have these to Catherine Reid, CST, OAST President no later than April 1st, 2010.

Carol Hogenkamp, CST
Credentials Committee Chairperson

Mark the Date

OAST
SPRING WORKSHOP
Saturday April 24th 2010,
Sacred Heart Medical Center
University District Auditorium
Eugene, Oregon

Please see the brochure for agenda, fees and other useful information



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SURVEY RESULTS

A survey was sent out to the members of OAST in the Fall 2009 newsletter

Survey questions

1. Was the food offered during the workshop on October 17th at Chinook Winds Resort satisfactory?
2. Would you be willing to pay an extra \$10 with your registration to have a sit down meal?
3. Would you be willing to bring your own lunch, if OAST were to take \$10 off of the registration fee?
4. If OAST were to give you an hour during lunch, would you be willing to go pick up and pay for your own lunch and be back in an hour to continue workshop?

Only 8 members replied. These replies are below.

1. The food at the restaurant above the meeting was pretty good so I would be willing to pay \$10 for a buffet or sit down. As long as there was a place to eat onsite or nearby, I would prefer to save \$10 and use towards an hour long lunch instead of the box ones.
2. The box lunches were great.
3. Food at the workshop was satisfactory. I would be willing to pay extra for a sit down meal or even bring my own lunch and or go get lunch and come back.
4. The box lunch was great
5. Box lunches were satisfactory, I have no problem paying \$10 extra for a hot meal or bring my own lunch.
6. I had no problem with the box lunch
7. Yes very good and plenty. I would rather not pay the extra \$10, no it is not handy to bring my own lunch. I could go get my own but I would worry about parking and getting back in time.
8. I feel whatever is easier for the people planning it is just fine, but this is my opinion. For what we paid for the boxed lunches I do not think they were satisfactory. No I would not be willing to pay extra for a sit down meal. Yes I would be willing to bring my own lunch for 10.00 off registration fee. Yes I would be willing to go off site and buy my own lunch.

This information will be given to the Education Committee and they will take everyone's answers into consideration when they are planning our workshops.



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Open

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“Promoting a Higher Standard of Quality Patient Care”