



O.R. COMMUNICATOR Summer 2009

Summer 2009

In This Issue:

President's Corner
Committee Reports
Tee Shirt Sale
Fall OAST Workshop
Student Association President's Message
OAST Board Member Contacts

PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY CATHERINE REID, CST

Greetings to you on this Saturday
August 1st

August, ah... What a wonderful summer I have been enjoying. The heat has really hit hard this year and I hope you and your family have not suffered ill consequences from it.

Since our last newsletter I have been involved in a few projects. Wrapping up this year's legislative session without getting our bill out of the Senate and to the House was to say the least disappointing. Planning work is underway for what I'm hoping will be a great workshop. Set your calendars to join us at Chinook Winds Casino on October 17, 2009 for 8 credits presented by Ansell & Synthes. The Casino is located in Lincoln City. Make plans to reserve one of the specially discounted rooms or suites at the casino, details in the brochure.

In June the board decided to create a Strategic Plan to foster and encourage the growth of our organization. Five of the board members make up the committee. Sarah Radabaugh, Carol Hogenkamp, Deb Turner, Damen Sanchez and myself as

an ex-officio member. My project has been to contact the past members of AST by phone, who have not renewed their membership since the last quarter. I thank the past member for their participation, ask what OAST can do better for them and send well wishes if they are not able to continue their membership.

I look forward to addressing the membership and visitors at the beach so spread the word and lets "pack the house" with a great turnout. To date, our largest crowd has been 96.

Remember, that our success or failure within our organization is a direct result of our readiness to work together or choosing to let "the other guy" do it.

Respectfully

Catherine Reid CST - President

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GAPA Committee Report Deborah Turner, CST, CFA GAPA Chairperson

This is a brief overview of the GAPA Committee's efforts while advocating for SB 379. The Senate hearing was on 2/17, everything was looking pretty positive after the hearing, just a few wording changes that needed to be made. The DHS needed further clarification as to how the fees would be collected and the Oregon Hospitals Association needed clarification on the waiver and how it would be handled.

The DHS took an extremely long time to get their wording together. Senator Morrisette's office had to prod them along to get the wording finished. We the OAST worked on the wording and removed the waiver from the bill



O.R. COMMUNICATOR Summer 2009

completely to satisfy the Hospitals and completed a few more tweaks here and there. We were suppose to have our 2nd Senate hearing to go over the amendments on April 21st but on April 17th, we heard that our hearing was not scheduled and that our bill was not going to have another hearing scheduled. The reason for this was the chair of the committee; Senator Monnes Anderson would not let the bill move further in committee because the Hospitals now opposed the bill. This is what the lobbyist for the Hospitals said, "I want to let you know where we are on SB 379. I am receiving indications of opposition from our hospitals. We have a shortage of surgical techs and adding this registration requirement will make it hard for even urban (not covered by waiver) to find techs. There is national certification available and hospitals make sure anyone who works for them is well trained; they see the registry as expensive and an unnecessary burden." Due to this our bill is dead. We looked for other Hospital bills to attach to but it was too late.

I personally found the statement made by the Hospitals lobbyist, "hospitals make sure anyone who works for them is well trained" not true at all. Some of the people employed by the Hospitals are well trained and we all know that some are not. This goes for not only the Surgical Technologist but also for our team members. We also know that just because someone is certified, it does not mean they are going to be better at their job. But we do know that if someone is certified, as a surgical technologist, this 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 technologist practice.

This is also true for our team member, after all the Hospitals would not hire someone off the street and call him or her an RN, of course not. This is what we are asking for, entry-level education with mandatory certification. We know that there are many hospitals in this State who continue to train their own on the job. No two hospitals have the same protocols and or training methods for this practice. Maybe if the Hospitals were all required to be accredited through CAAHEP before training these individuals and they all used proper training techniques, then the question would not even be raised but we all know this is not how it is done. We the OAST feel that we need to continue to educate the legislators and the public as to what the Surgical Technologists does in the Operating Room and how very technical the position is and the importance of Certification.

We will continue to pursue legislation during special session, which starts in February 2010 and what I would like to see is something that I have brought to the table many times. This would entail mandating the Hospitals to require Certification, without going through a State office, such as the DHS. If we can somehow make this happen, there would be no cost to the Surgical Technologist and very little effort for the Hospitals to keep track of. We have been told that we cannot do this because our Certification exam is administered in Colorado and that Oregon cannot accept a Certification from another State, even though it is a National exam. Due to this we must go under a State office or board. We looked into the possibility of forming our own board but it was cost prohibitive. If we are unable to pass legislation during special session, then, we will pursue legislation in Oregon



O.R. COMMUNICATOR Summer 2009

for the Surgical Technologists when session starts in 2011.

OAST Treasury Report

Submitted by Deborah Turner,
CST,CFA Treasurer

Account

Business Savings Account

\$5.00

Business Checking Account

\$868.00

Business Money Market

\$3,146.56

OAST-Student Association

\$535.42

Total in all accounts

\$4,554.98

“Winds of Change”

The Oregon Association of Surgical Technologists will be hosting their Fall Workshop in Lincoln City at Chinook Winds Casino Resort. The one day workshop is slated for Saturday October 17th and will run from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Lunch will be provided by OAST. With a near record breaking turnout for the Spring Workshop in Portland this year, the goal to set a new standard is bigger than ever. Our state support is more than ever before and the pride carried for the Surgical Technologist profession is ever growing.

Join us and see what difference you can make today!

OAST T SHIRT SALE

The Oregon Association of Surgical Technologists have recently released a new t shirt design that is sure to be a favorite! Be recognized, let the profession be recognized!

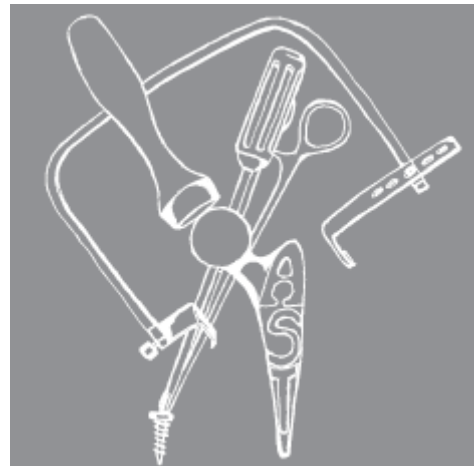
Get yours today!!

Price : \$15.00 plus shipping

Many colors to choose from...

Look for them at this Fall's Workshop and online at:

<http://oregon.ast.org>



Above: OAST T-Shirt Design



O.R. COMMUNICATOR Summer 2009

Oregon Student Association President Message Angelique Cervantes, SST

As you know, the OAST spring conference was held several months ago. Many of my classmates and I were in attendance that day, excited to take part together in our first OAST conference. Little did we know, as we walked into that meeting room, we walked into a great opportunity. For the first time, OAST had decided to form a Student Association. The officers and board members would be able to give a voice to the needs and wants of the surgical technology students in Oregon. Additionally, working in collaboration with the officers of OAST, the Student Association is also to be a mentoring program offering the best experience to those involved helping to take part in promoting our profession.

My name is Angelique Cervantes. I am currently a second year surgical technology student at Mount Hood Community College as well as the treasurer and president elect of the surgical technology club there. Now, thanks to the good spirited prodding of my fellow classmates, I am proud to be the first president of the Oregon Association of Surgical Technologists Student Association. Our initial board meeting took place at Mount Hood Community College the first week of April. On the agenda were the development of a mission statement, the AST conference, t-shirt designs, fund raising and future agenda items. Another board meeting is being scheduled and a future date for a meeting that will be open to all students will be discussed and scheduled as well.

Any ideas are welcome for discussion and can be sent via email or phone.

I promise to take my oath seriously and to listen to any concerns and ideas anyone has to offer, no matter what the topic. This endeavor is a blank slate, with plenty of space to build whatever we choose. This is a learning process for all of us; I encourage you all to participate by sending those ideas and opinions as to the direction you would like to see us move in.

I would like to thank those who are serving with me: Teresa Pease, Vice president; Natalya Mukha, Secretary; Lisa Heintz, Treasurer; Board Members Jennifer Phillips, Opal Franich, Heidi Dobo, and Eugenia Sabatini. Also, a thank you, to those who will help guide and teach us as we learn the skills that we need to become successful surgical technologists and board members.

Angelique Cervantes
M_pmom@yahoo.com
(503) 559-0513



O.R. COMMUNICATOR
Summer 2009

OAST BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Catherine Reid, CST
cst4oast@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Sarah D. Radabaugh, CST
sarahdawn79@hotmail.com

TREASURER

Deborah Turner, CST, CFA
deborah@comcast.net

SECRETARY

Carol Hogenkamp, CST
carolhogenkamp@hotmail.com

BOARD DIRECTOR

Brian K. Nobles, CST
brian@nobles.net

BOARD DIRECTOR

Damen L. Sanchez, CST, CFA
damsan2009@yahoo.com

BOARD DIRECTOR

James W. Steele, CST
james.w.steele@hotmail.com

BOARD DIRECTOR

David J. Wiper, CST, CFA
dwiper@earthlink.net

OAST
PO BOX 40024
EUGENE, OR. 97404

www.oregon.ast.org

“PROMOTING A HIGHER
STANDARD OF QUALITY
PATIENT CARE”
