

OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY



OR Communicator

A Message from the President

I hope this newsletter find you doing well and enjoying the winter season. I have enjoyed serving the state of Oregon as President for this past year. This March we will be having our Spring Workshop and Business meeting. Here is a great opportunity to get involved and make a difference with your profession. We will have six positions (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and three Board of Directors), that need people who are hard working and willing to help move the profession of Surgical Technology forward in our state. Please take the time to read the articles included in this newsletter to see what is currently happening in our state and where we are heading. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at libraCST@verizon.net or another member of your board. With elections coming up, I look forward to mentoring your new President and hope to continue serving our state in a different capacity on the Board of Directors. We here at OAST are striving to make great progress in our profession and we need your help. If you are interested in any of these positions, please fill out a Consent to Serve (COS) form and send it in no later than January 31st.

OAST is also proud to announce that we will be having elections for the Student Association as well. This will be the first election for our association, but we look forward to mentoring the future of our profession. Currently the students will be electing the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Should there be an overwhelming response, we may add a couple of Director positions. Students who are interested should fill out a COS form and send it in no later than February 28th.

I look forward to seeing you at St. Vincent's in Portland on March 7th. Please save the date and come enjoy the company of your peers for the day.

- Michelle Libra, CST

It's all about the Numbers - David Wiper CST/CFA

Sometimes it is all about numbers, no emotions, just numbers. What is in the checking account, how many hours we have to work call, how many hours in a day to get things done; just numbers. That is what the legislative group has been up to: gathering numbers. That is why some of you have been asked to make phone calls.

As most of you know (and might be tired of hearing), the state is out of money. We have been working for years to get the State of Oregon to recognize Surgical Technologists. We are now to the point that many legislators (and nurses) agree with us and have asked us to talk to DHS (the state's department of health services). Problem is that the State is saying "good idea, but you pay for it". That brings us back to numbers. If we all must pay the costs, the question comes down to "how many of us are there?" In the State of Oregon we do not know how many technologists (working or not working) there are. If that figure, that magic number, is small, it makes the cost prohibitive. If that number is large, we can deal with it and the cost gets divided out and we all gain. We could ask AST*, but we all know that their membership is a small part of the technologists out there. In the State of Washington they all pay to be registered, so there is a list. In Oregon there is no list. To make our own list we have been calling every possible place in the state that might employ Surgical Technologists. That has been a massive job. Not only are there lots of calls to make, but many places are not sure they want to share that information. But we have pressured, and the list is now done and is being checked. We owe a great deal of thanks to the individuals who made that list. It is now to the point that we can put the total number of working individuals together with the projected cost to see if we can go forward. As of this writing it looks like the fee could be around \$58 a year, per person. In the State of Washington, as time went on, the cost went down. We assume that will also happen here. Our next step will be to go back to DHS and tell them whether or not we want them to proceed.

Now that we know the cost estimate, that brings us back to numbers. Do the numbers look like this bill is something that all Surgical Technologists in the State of Oregon can live with? The board says, "Yes".

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OAST Student Association

You want change? Then get busy and make it happen...
Deborah Turner, CST/CFA Credentials Committee Chairperson

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Oregon Association of

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"Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both." This quote from Benjamin Franklin states that those who allow government and its officials to help them at the expense of a few rights, does not deserve to have the liberty that comes with those rights.

The same is true with your State Assembly. Don't be one of those people who say, "Really, we have a legislative bill in the State of Oregon? I have never heard of it. Why is someone making all of these decisions for me? No one asked me... Then of course there is the old one, I hear a lot. What does AST do for me?" Your organization is only as strong as its members. There are many members who sit back and let everyone else do all of the work and then reap the rewards and that is OK for some but wouldn't you really rather have a voice about your future? Yes, at AST we have a staff that is there to assist us but we the members are who make it all happen. The staff only does what they are instructed to do by the members. So if you want to see change, then attend the State Assembly workshops and the business sessions and stand up for what you believe in and help make changes for our profession.

The past several months, I have heard a lot about "change." I think there are a lot of people, members of our organization who do not want change and I think it is because they are afraid they will have to change themselves. But of course they want everyone else to change. We are accustomed to change in our daily work environment and most of us look at this change as a learning opportunity.

When I look at our State Assembly as a whole, I see members putting up with the "norm." I see them "just dealing with it"; dealing with things they wish they could change. They believe they do not have the power to get it done. To those people I say, "TRY!" Try to make something happen, it is your right as a member of this State Assembly-it is your responsibility. Don't stand around and wait for someone else to do it for you because you think they are more powerful or because they know how. We are all in this together. Sit on a committee, and or run for one of the officer or board positions and be part of the change that is happening right here in Oregon.

OAST Treasury Report

OAST Checking account balance	\$734.60
OAST Business Money Market	\$2,785.49
Includes Student Association fund of \$150.00	
OAST Savings Account	\$5.00
Total for all accounts	\$3525.09

Education Committee Chair Report

Catherine Reid CST

On behalf to the education committee, I invite you and your colleagues to attend the upcoming Continuing Education workshop. The spring 2009 workshop is scheduled March 7, in Portland and the fall 2009 workshop will be in October, hope to see you there. Workshop details will follow in the Surgical Technologist. The spring 2009 workshop is quickly approaching. This workshop will include a business meeting and elections for open positions on the board. I invite all of you to attend the meeting and learn just how easy is to become involved and support your state chapter of AST. Without you, the working members of the association, OAST cannot exist. I applaud you, for stepping in and making the commitment. Encourage those in your workplace. Get excited and bring forth a spark within yourself and someone else, become one of our future elected or appointed members. For those of you new to the idea of active membership within the state assembly, please give the thought serious consideration. Who knows, maybe you will be our newest active member!

Vice President's message

I believe that a person's success is a direct result of the mentoring they have received. Through mentorship I feel confident Oregon can enjoy a fun and active state assembly. The benefits of mentoring can only be realized when those who have come before will teach those who follow behind. In March 2009 I will complete my term as your vice president. I feel blessed to have learned so much from my mentors. The opportunity to serve the surgical technologist of Oregon has been quite rewarding. OAST as an organization is involved in many worthwhile endeavors. I cannot ask others to give of themselves without giving of myself first. I have chosen to continue representation of the surgical technologists through active service on the board of directors. In March 2009, I will seek another elected position on the board. I hope to have served you well during my term as vice president and ask your support in the upcoming election.

- Catherine Reid, CST

Student Essays

How would you like to attend the Spring Workshop for free? E-Mail me an essay on what being a Certified Surgical Technologist means to you or tell me about this great surgery experience that you had as a student. One student from each school will be chosen to have their fee refunded. Essays are due no later than 5pm on February 14th, 2009.

-Michelle Libra, CST
libraCST@verizon.net

Spring Blooms with Change

*Join us on March 7th in Portland at
St. Vincent's Hospital and let Spring
Bloom with Change and network
with fellow Surgical Technologists
from all over the State!*

Introduction of education committee members

Our Education Committee
now includes 7 members.

Our members are from
Portland, The Dalles, Grand
Ronde, Eugene and
Springfield.

Tina Good ST student

Michael Hearn CST

Lori Haugen CST

Carol Hogenkamp CST
OAST Secretary

Bryant Neibur CST/CFA

Catherine Reid CST
OAST Vice President
Committee Chair

Michelle Libra CST
OAST President
Ex-officio member

OAST Student Association

**** T-Shirt Contest ****

Are you creative? Do you want your drawing seen? The OAST is having a T-Shirt design contest. Please have your idea to submit at the Spring Workshop in Portland on March 7th. The rules for the contest: Graphics must represent the profession of surgical technology and Oregon Association of Surgical Technologists. Have Fun!

Aeger Primo.

Hello All!

Just a short note to thank everyone that purchased a scrub hat! Jill and I had a great time meeting everyone involved in OAST, and we're proud to announce that over \$40 was raised for our new Student Association for Oregon!

It was a very informational and interesting day for us. Being able to see the surgeons we are training under in another form of education really took things to a new level. Thank you for all the encouragement, and hope to see you in the upcoming event in March!

- Marilyn Wilber, SCC ST student

DEADLINES:

Consent to Serves:

Certified Members January 31st

Students February 28th

Student Essays:

February 14th

Workshop Refund:

February 21st

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Credentials Committee Report

Deborah Turner, CST/CFA Chairperson

During our next workshop, we will hold a business meeting with election of new officers. This year we will elect our President, Vice President, Treasurer and three (3) Board of Directors. I want to clarify a few items for you, so you will be prepared to make your decision, as to if you would like to run for one of the open Officer or Board of Directors positions on our Association board, if you do want to run for office, please fill out a consent to serve and mail to the State Association PO Box by January 27th, 2009. The consent to serve can be found on our website www.oregon.ast.org under documents or on the AST website www.ast.org

The Board of Directors are charged with the overall responsibility of conducting the affairs of the State Association according to the Bylaws and Policy and Procedures and in the best interest of the membership. The elected officials of the State Association will serve for a term of two (2) years or until a successor has been elected. No Officer may serve more than two full terms in the same office. Any amount of time served that equals more than half a term shall be considered a full term.

Per our State Assembly Bylaws

Article V: Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominations

- A. No less than 30 days prior to the elections, each potential candidate will be required to present to the Credentials Committee a written curriculum Vitae and a consent to serve. All nominees who meet the qualifications for office shall be eligible for election.
- B. No less than 30 days prior to the elections, the Credentials Committee shall present a list of candidates for each office to be filled at the elections via a State Assembly mailing/publication/website distributed to the entire State Assembly membership. (Our notification will be by website at <http://www.oregon.ast.org>)
- C. Nominations may also be made from the floor provided written consent of the nominees has been obtained in advance and their credentials have been verified by the Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee will meet the morning of or immediately before the start of the State Assembly business meeting to accept curriculum vitae and consent to serve and determine the eligibility of candidates who will be nominated from the floor.
- D. A member holding the elective position may not be nominated for another position for which the term would begin before expiration of the term of the current position unless the member resigns from his/her current elective position.

Article VI: Officers

Section 2. Eligibility of Officers

- A. A Candidate shall have been an active member for one (1) year immediately preceding nomination and if elected, shall maintain that active status. Other than submitting the required curriculum vita and consent to serve, one year of active membership in the State Assembly is the only eligibility criteria that will be considered by the Credentials Committee.
- B. A Candidate for the office of President shall have served at least one full term as a Board of Director or Officer during the previous six years on the Board of Directors. Other than submitting the required curriculum vita and consent to serve, one year of active membership in the State Assembly and confirmation of a previous term on the Board of Directors are the only eligibility criteria that will be considered by the Credentials Committee.

Additionally, we have committee positions open on the Education, Government and Public Affairs, Bylaws-Policy and Procedure and Rules, Fundraising and Website-Newsletter Committees. If interested in sitting on one of these committees, please fill out the consent to serve and return to our PO Box. The consent to serve can be found on our website www.oregon.ast.org under documents or on the AST website www.ast.org

Committee members serve for a term of three (3) years, with a maximum of two (2) terms on the same committee. Any amount of time served that equals more than half a term shall be considered a full committee term.

For questions or for a list of specific committee and or Officer duties, please email me at OregonAST@comcast.net and I will forward the list to you.

Additionally, we will elect six (6) Delegates and six (6) Alternates, they will represent our State Assembly at the annual National Conference. Delegates and Alternates shall be active members. The Oregon Association of Surgical Technologists will pay the conference registration fees for the two delegates with the most votes.

Per the OAST Rules book-Duties of Delegates:

Duties:

1. Attend all business sessions of the House of Delegates.
2. Attend all candidates' functions (Candidates Forum).
3. Delegates should only exercise the privilege of voting on the following:
 - A. Candidates for office during the election.
 - B. Business items presented for House of Delegates action.
 - C. Vote according to OAST instruction.
 - D. Delegates will report to the OAST Board of Directors regarding the activities of conference within 30 days after conference.
 - E. Written Report to OAST membership to be included in the OAST newsletter and mailed or emailed with the workshop brochure.
2. Delegate Expenses
OAST shall pay conference registration for two (2) delegates yearly.

If the member has attended the National Conference as a Delegate and their registration was paid for by OAST within the past three (3) years, you will not add your name to the list of delegates for election for the paid registration.

Exception to the rule: If no one else wants to attend Conference as a Delegate, then you may submit your name for paid registration consideration.

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