

O.R. COMMUNICATOR

SPRING 2010



President's Message

Welcome to spring, my second favorite season. During this time, I thoroughly enjoy looking forward to what summer offers in the family fun department. As OAST president, I also enjoy looking forward to our state business. Not forgetting to reflect, I will spend time on our progress and how I can continue to improve as your president.

As I spend the middle part of May preparing for National Conference I am once again moved by the honor of representing all of the surgical technologists within the great state of Oregon. While at conference, Cathy Sparkman AST's GAPA Director, has asked me to spend some time with her discussing how to move forward with our legislative efforts. I hope to have been able to visit with techs from our state and meet some new friends.

Thank you to those who were able to attend the recent workshop in Eugene, I encourage you to offer us feedback on your experience. Please use the website <http://oregon.ast.org> to contact one of the board members.

Aeger Primo...

Respectfully

Catherine Reid CST - President

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Treasury Report

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OAST Savings	\$5.00
OAST Money Market	\$6,000
OAST Business Checking	\$734.13
OAST-SA Savings	\$978.26
PayPal Account	\$0
Total in all accounts	\$7,717.39

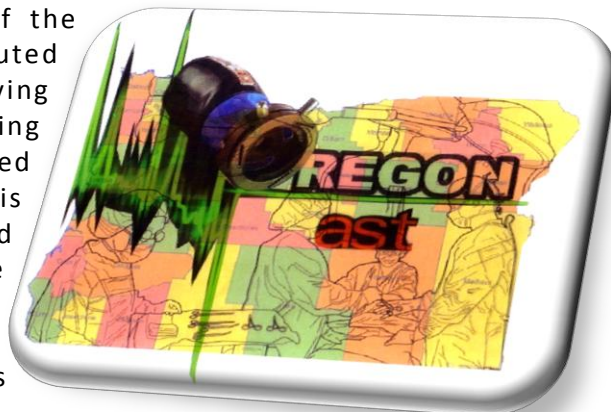
COMMITTEE REPORTS

GAPA

Deborah Turner CST, CFA

The OAST GAPA committee introduced our mandatory certification of the surgical technologist bill during special session this year. The bill was heard in the Senate Healthcare committee on February 4th and was voted out of committee. The bill then went to the Ways and Means committee, because there are fees attached to the bill, even though the individual will pay the fee. On February 17th the bill was voted out of the Ways and Means committee and now headed to the Senate floor. But then the bill had to go back to Ways and Means committee for an amendment the legislators wanted which would delay the start date of the bill by one year. The bill came back out of the Ways and Means committee on February 19th with the new amendment. The bill then went to the Senate floor on February 23rd and passed off of the Senate floor with a 20-10 vote. Very stressful time for those involved with trying to get this bill passed. We are now over these hurdles and on to the House side with not much time left in the special session. Working on a very tight timeframe our bill was allowed to bypass the Healthcare committee and go directly to the House floor. By a vote of 23-34, with 3 excused, Senate Bill 1010 failed on February 24th. It basically came down to two arguments.

The chairperson of the committee disputed other states saying rates etc are going using Certified Technologists. His felt the bill should committee and he the 2011 session. Healthcare swayed members



healthcare the evidence from that infection down in facilities Surgical other issue was he have gone to his will look at it during As the Chair of the committee he to wait until 2011.

Second argument was about the rural hospitals. In a way it was a circular argument with some voting against it because rural Hospitals would be held to a different standard (would be able to use those who are not registered) and is this making them second class and thus also opening them up to being sued because they did not hire registered technologists. This was put in the bill to assist the rural hospitals, since we know it may be hard for them to find CST's to fill their positions. While others argued that distant learning was not good enough and that this should all wait until more Community Colleges have programs around the state. Well folks you can not have it both ways, unless you wait for years and years for all Community Colleges to come up with programs.

Over the course of the last 10 years OAST has been working on this bill. OAST formed on October 7, 2000. We saw the future of the profession of Surgical Technology as a

growing technical field, which would require appropriate training for the job at hand. There is no need to fill the operating room with lesser-trained individuals. We feel that merely training someone for a few short weeks or months poses a threat to the patient, and that the only individuals qualified to serve in the scrub role are properly trained Surgical Technologists. Those Technologists should be graduates of a CAAHEP accredited school of Surgical Technology.

Surgical technologists have a system of educational standards, developed over 30 years ago. In December 1972 the American Medical Association council on Medical Education adopted the recommended educational standards for this field and the Accreditation Review Committee on education in Surgical Technology was formed. The specialized accreditation of programs in surgical technology began in 1974, implementing standards of compliance that were developed by the collaborating organizations the American College of Surgeons and the Association of Surgical Technologists. These training programs along with taking and passing the National Certification exam should be a requirement before working as a Surgical Technologist.

We first introduced our bill in January 2003. This bill was for licensure of the Surgical Technologist and the Surgical Assistant. We met with the AORN and ONA representatives here in the State and began negotiations. We had 8 points of contention and settled on 7 of those points with the last one being one we would not settle on. That would be going under the Board of Nursing. So it was decided that we would go under the Department of Human Services instead, they also register Hemodialysis Technicians in this State. Additionally, the nurses wanted us to split the bill and take the Surgical Technologist out and focus just on this professional. When the bill went to the Senate Healthcare committee, we were told that the bill would need to go to work session until we could come to an understanding with those who were opposed, which did not happen during this session.

The bill was re-introduced in January 2005; actually we had two bills, requiring mandatory certification, one for the ST and one for the FA. Again the nurses wanted us to focus just on the ST and come back at a later date and work on a Surgical Assistant bill together with the Nurses. This bill did not make it out of the Senate committee.

Again in 2007, the bill did not pass and again in 2009. So you can see we have been working on this bill now for 5 sessions, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, special session 2010. The closest we have ever gotten was during the special session this year.

Now what? Do we still have the time, energy and money to continue to pursue this bill? I say YES, let's provide safe, quality care to surgical patients. To achieve this goal, certification of this profession should be mandatory. The Board members of OAST realizes that just because someone is Certified does not necessarily make them better than someone who is not Certified but it does provide 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. Certified individuals demonstrate mastery of a broad range of knowledge of surgical procedures, aseptic technique, and patient care by successfully completing the

surgical technologist certifying examinations. 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.

Now, I ask you the same question.

Do you think that OAST should continue to pursue legislation for mandatory certification of the Surgical Technologists?

Why do you feel this way?

What is your interest level when it comes to helping make this reality?

Please email your responses or just questions and or concerns to Deborah Turner at DeborahT@comcast.net

Bylaws, Polices & Rules

La Deane Heaton CST, LPN

Last year during the Spring AST Board of Directors meeting, the Board of Directors decided to require all of the State Assemblies to have the same Bylaws. What this meant for us, is that we can no longer make changes to the State Assembly Bylaws unless it has been approved by the AST Board of Directors first and then that change will take place for all State Assemblies. During this meeting they also decided that all State Assemblies would have 4 officers and 5 Board of Directors. In the past State Assemblies could have as many Board of Directors as they wanted and they could combine the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Some States had 4 Board members and some other States had 10, no longer, now all States will have 5 Board of Directors and a Secretary and a Treasurer.

During the AST Board meeting this year, they made a few more changes to the State Assembly Bylaws and they are as follows.

After being formed five years, only the office of President must have served a two-year term on the Board within the previous six years, not the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, or Vice President.

ARTICLE VI: Officers

Section 1. The officers of the State Assembly shall be the following: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Eligibility of Officers

A. A candidate shall have been an active member for one year immediately preceding nomination and, if elected, shall maintain that active status.

B. Other than submitting the required curriculum vita and consent to serve, and 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.

[Proviso: The following bylaw is required for all states that have been formed for at least five years.]

C. A candidate for the office of president shall have served at least one full term as a director or officer during the previous six years on the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Term of Office of Officers

A. President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve for a term of two years or until a successor is elected.

B. All newly elected officers shall assume office at the close of the elections.

C. No officer may serve more than two full terms in the same office.

D. Any amount of time served that equals more than half a term shall be considered a full term of office.

Section 4. Duties of Officers

A. The President or her/his designee selected from the remaining officers and directors shall be the official representative of the State Assembly at all times and places.

B. The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws, the State Assembly Policy Manual, and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

Section 5. Vacancies of Officers

A. A vacancy occurring in the office of President shall be automatically filled by the Vice President.

B. A vacancy occurring in the office of Vice President shall be filled by the State Assembly Board of Directors from among the Board members.

C. In the event there is a vacancy in both the offices of President and Vice President, both offices shall be filled by the State Assembly Board of Directors from among the Board members. Both offices shall then be elected at the next Annual Meeting.

D. A vacancy occurring in the office of Secretary or Treasurer between Annual Meetings shall be filled for the unexpired term by the State Assembly Board of Directors.

Section 6. Within ten days following the completion of a term or a resignation, the respective officer

shall transmit to the successor all State Assembly records and property of that officer.

State Assembly Policy and Procedures are also set by AST and are the same for all State Assemblies.

Fundraising

During the workshop on April 24th the fundraising committee gave away 5 door prizes, which were \$5 Starbucks gift cards. Raffle items, messenger bag, with a shirt, pedometer, and a cap inside, 2 of these brought in \$106, of which we netted \$42.02 for both.

We also raffled 50/50 tickets at the workshop, and we made \$43.50 for this raffle, half of the money that was taken in. Additionally we sold a padfolio, 2 caps, 2 mugs and 12 OAST tee shirts.

We are looking for some fundraising ideas. Maybe you have heard of some ideas other clubs or organizations have put together, if so please send your ideas to our President Catherine Reid at cst4oast@yahoo.com.

OAST NEWS

Dear Friends of OAST,

It is with heartfelt sorrow that I must leave the position of Vice President and Education Chairman. Over the past few weeks I have been dealt a heavy hand and had to restructure my priorities in regards to my time, efforts and passions. Working with OAST, after much consideration and thought, was a joy of mine that I had to let go. My goal is to someday join the profession of Sports Management and Administration which I am currently obtaining my degree in. To maintain a devout focus on Surgical Technology would have inhibited that goal. My time while with the board and respectful committees has been an enjoyable challenge and one that I will never forget.

To Catherine Reid, Deborah Turner, Carol Hogenkamp and all other fellow members, I thank you for the opportunity to serve with such a wonderful association. And to the rest of those who wish to serve, don't let this chance pass you by. To run a professional association such as OAST is a creature of complexity, frustration, success and triumph. In summation, it was worth every moment of my time.

Thank you all for your support and I hope to see you at the next workshop.

With sincerest gratitude,

James W. Steele, CST

FALL WORKSHOP 2010

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter the fall workshop location has been moved. It is now in Gold Beach on September 11, 2010. Please join us in Southern Oregon to learn and share. There are exciting speakers as well as fun things to do outside of the workshop. Hope to see new and old faces at the new location of Gold Beach.

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“Promoting a Higher Standard of Quality Patient Care”