



WISCONSIN ON-CALL

Winter/Spring 2023

Editor:

Claire Parda

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY-ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

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WRITE FOR US! WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR INTERESTING ARTICLES AND NEWS FROM AROUND WISCONSIN! SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS TO:
WIASTNEWS@GMAIL.COM



WI AST



wisconsin.ast

President's Update

NICOLE VAN VONDEREN, CST, FAST

Well, this winter has been pretty crazy for most and to say the least, I am definitely ready for Spring! I am hoping that everyone is staying in good health. I know many of us have been experiencing changes and have been dealing with a lot. Remember to stop, take a step back and breathe! You got this! It was wonderful to see so many faces at our Spring Zoom meeting a few weeks ago. I am hoping to see you guys at our Fall Meeting down in Menomonie Falls. Reminder; It's a voting meeting! I also wanted to let everyone the National AST conference is going to be in Chicago this year in May!! Let's represent our great state!

Editor's Note

CLAIRE PARDA, BSHCA, CST

WI-AST BOARD DIRECTOR/NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Hello? Spring? Are you there??? On the astronomical calendar, Spring was here on March 20th, 2023. On the Wisconsin calendar...spring won't be here until June!!!

How is everyone? Did we survive another Wisconsin winter? It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces a few weeks ago for our Spring Zoom meeting. I thought we had some very informative speakers, on topics we having touched upon before. I hope everyone felt the same as well.

This newsletter comes with many changes. We have a few new board members, but also on the national level and state level. We will keep you updated with all the news AST, don't fret!

Our family took the next step in our "travel together" goals as I continue to work near and far. We purchased a travel trailer! We are super excited to see what we can do with it! Our goal is to be living mostly full time in a year or so. In the meantime, keep up the great work giving our patients the best care, and keeping those surgeons in line!

Don't forget about National Conference, and our fall state meeting is a VOTING meeting!!! See everyone soon!

Board Member Blurbs

collaboration
If everyone is moving forward together,
then success takes care of itself.
 - Henry Ford

WELCOME TO THE BOARD!

**EMMA KRAFT, FUTURE CST
WI-AST STUDENT MEMBER**

Hello I'm Emma Kraft, and I am the first student board member of the Wisconsin Association of Surgical Technology. I am currently going to Chippewa Valley Technical college in Eau Claire, WI for surgical technology and will be graduating in May.

People may ask why I wanted to become a surgical tech. I used to work in a birthing center as a CNA and would help out during C-Sections and always wondered how I could work in the OR full time because I loved the atmosphere of being in surgery.

School doesn't always come easy to me so I started working in central processing which helped me learn all the surgical instruments before I would start school. I couldn't have made it through school without my amazing teacher Megan. She believed in me more than I did. Megan has always been a text or phone call away when I needed help with anything from clinicals to personal life.

Megan encouraged me to apply to be on the board and that is how I am here today. In a few weeks I will be heading down to Chicago for the National AST conference. I am excited to hang out with the board members and get to talk to surgical techs from all over the country.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to become the first student board member of Wisconsin!

#wisconsinAST

THE GRAM!!!

Instagram! Do you know that we are on it? Our username is Wisconsin.ast. Look us up and send us pictures. Find out what we are doing. Learn who the board members are. Share with us!



Board Member Blurbs

COMMUNICATION

*Kind words can be short and easy
to speak, but their echoes
are truly endless.*

- Mother Teresa

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER POSITION

**BRIDGET HANSON, CSFA, CST
WI-AST BOARD DIRECTOR**

Students!! We've all been one. Throughout your career the odds are pretty great that you've been in an operating room with one too. Or maybe you've even taken on the added responsibility to precept one. Just like so many other professions, the future of the Surgical Technology profession as we know it, depends on our students. Your WI-AST Board of Directors strongly believes that surgical technology students are a very important piece of the puzzle to our profession's overall long-term success. We firmly believe that becoming involved in your state assembly, at any point in your career, is the single best way to cultivate life-long friendships, find mentorship, a great way to stay connected with your peers and not to mention a fantastic way to earn continuing education credits.

With only 10 accredited surgical technology programs in the state of Wisconsin, we wanted to create a way to get these students involved early in their careers with our state assembly and allow them a pathway to connect with you, their peers. In turn, after years in the making, we are very excited to have finally created a "Student Board Member" position within our WI-AST Board of Directors. This student board member position is a one-year term, non-voting seat that can only be filled by a current surgical technology student, attending one of the 10 accredited programs within our state. We felt that this opportunity, would allow the student to be directly connected with our current Wisconsin State Assembly Board of Directors and allow them be fully immersed into the innerworkings of our state assembly. In conjunction with this, we are also excited that this chosen student will be invited to travel this year to Chicago, to attend the AST National Convention with our newly elected state delegates to help represent you and the state of Wisconsin.

Earlier this year, we announced this position on our Facebook page and we also reached out to each of the 10 surgical technology program directors. We asked them to pass along this information as well as the application information to apply for this once in a lifetime opportunity. On it's inaugural launch the program was well received and now it is with great pleasure that I am able to announce our first ever student board member as EMMA KRAFT. Emma is currently attending Chippewa Valley Technical College and will graduate May 18th!!! She is from Menomonie, WI and her hobbies include showing beef cattle, reading, making shirts and tumblers.

Emma has already begun her term and we couldn't be more excited about her future within the board. WELCOME EMMA!!!

For more information on our next student board member position, please contact us at Wisconsinast@gmail.com and continue to watch for updates on our Facebook page as well as in upcoming newsletters.

Board Member Blurbs



CALL TO ACTION WI-AST BOARD MEMBERS

We are always looking for members to join our Board! This fall is an in-person voting meeting. The positions open are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and 2 board of directors. If you or someone you know is interested, please look to the below duties, and to the website to submit your CV and intent to serve! See everyone in Fall!

President

- The President shall be the official representative of the State Assembly at all times and places. He/She shall be responsible in discussions with the State Assembly Board of Directors for the activities of the State Assembly and shall preside at all meetings of the State Assembly, the Annual July Business Meeting and Board of Directors (BOD).

Vice-President

- The Vice-President shall, by active aid to the President, acquaint himself/herself with the duties and responsibilities of the presidency. Shall perform the duties of the President during his/her absence or inability to serve, and shall perform other duties as delegated to him/her by the BOD.

Secretary

- The secretary shall maintain a record of the proceedings of the BOD and the Annual Spring/Fall Meetings and Elections. He/She shall forward to the President for distribution to the BOD and membership all minutes and correspondence related to the State Assembly business.

Treasurer

- The treasurer will bear responsibility to assure that all Wisconsin State Assembly funds be collected, safeguarded, disbursed, and accounted for in a manner determined by the BOD pursuant to the Wisconsin State Assembly of AST, Inc. Policy Manual. He/She will deliver an annual report to the membership at the Annual Spring/Fall Business Meeting and Elections.

Board of Director (x5)

- Read and review the State Assembly's Bylaws annually and any other materials as directed by AST.
- Have the authority to transact business between meetings of the active members.
- Formulate policies and procedures to be included in the *State Assembly Policy Manual*. No state assembly policy or procedure may supersede or take precedence over the State Assembly Bylaws.
- Foster the growth and development of the State Assembly

Board Member Blurbs

excellence

Arriving at one goal is the starting point to another.

- John Dewey

WEARING NEW HATS

**NICOLE VAN VONDEREN, CST, FAST
WI-AST PRESIDENT**

Besides being the Wisconsin State Assembly President, I also serve on the National AST Bylaws, Resolutions, and Parliamentary Procedures Committee. For the last 10 years, I have been behind the mayo stand proudly doing what I love. Recently I took a job as an instructor, now spreading my love and joy of our profession to many coming into it! Outside of this I am a volunteer firefighter for 13 years and serve as the Training Officer and EMT. I am also a mom to a handsome 6.5-year-old boy. He is my pride and joy and is often found right by my side. He often comes down to the fire department to hang out with me and see all the big trucks. I love all of this and it makes me who I am. I couldn't imagine it any other way!

2022-2023 Board of Directors

President:

Nicole Van Vonderen, CST, FAST
Oct 2021 – Oct 2023

Board Director:

Karen Bisesi, CST, CSFA
Oct 2022– Oct 2024

Board Director:

Terri Scheel, CST
Oct 2021 – Oct 2023

Vice President:

Shanna Liebel, CST, FAST
Oct 2021 – Oct 2023

Board Director:

Bridget Hanson, CST, CSFA
Oct 2021 – Oct 2023

Board Director:

Rachel Gresk, CST
Oct 2022 – Oct 2024

Secretary:

Claire Parada, CST
Oct 2022 – Oct 2024

Board Director:

Nicole Sexton, CST
Oct 2022 – Oct 2024

Student Member:

Emma Kraft
Oct 2023

Treasurer:

Ilea Cornelius, CST
Oct 2021 – Oct 2023

Items for Sale

New Items Coming!!

Decals: \$10

Plus sweatshirts and more!



News Around Wisconsin



A FEW CHALLENGES, BUT ONE OF THE BEST

LORI RODRIGUEZ, CST

SUBMITTED BY CLAIRE PARDA, BSHCA, CST

My name is Lori, I am 46 years old and have been a CST for seven years in May 2023. I would like to share my journey thus far.

When I graduated high school way back in 1995, I had no idea of what I wanted to do for a career. I knew that I wanted to be in the medical field but had no idea what careers there were out there besides being a nurse or a doctor. We didn't have presentations on career day from the medical field. So after high school I attended UW-Waukesha for a year then went to UW-Oshkosh for a nursing degree. In the meantime, I was a CNA and working part time while going to school. After struggling with school, I decided to drop out. I went back to waitressing and bartending for many years and continued to do part-time CNA work at a local nursing home. I still had a passion to be in the medical field but was unsure of what I wanted to do. The local technical college sent out a flier of associate degrees offered and that's when I discovered surgical technology as a career. At this point I was married and had a five year old and was unsure how I was going to juggle going back to school and working full time. I was 34 years old and terrified to go back to school. But I applied and started going to college part time. Luckily, most of my general college credits transferred and I just needed to take a few courses. I was glad I did, to refresh on and get in the swing of school again. I applied to the surgical tech program and was on a two year wait list. When I finally got in I was 37 years old. My goal was by the time I was 40 to finally have a career in the medical field that I was passionately wanting for years.

I started the program in August 2013. I was finally here and everything was going well. Thus far in life I was married, had a daughter and recently purchased our first home. The program only took 14 applicants a year. When I started I found out I was pregnant. I told my instructors and they said maybe I should reconsider doing the program at this time. I was so determined and told them I could do it. They reminded me that there was no light duty and that I couldn't miss school. I was not going to give this opportunity up and I was determined to prove that I could do it. I had my second child during spring break March 2014 and only missed two days of school. I went back after 10 days of giving birth. I graduated in May 2015 with honors and top of my surgical tech program. I received awards from my instructors and was so proud of myself to have graduated.

Continued on next page...

*“When I think of
Lori, I think how she
always gets the best
out of you, but in this
gentle, caring sort of
way.”*

Claire Parda, CST

News Around Wisconsin



CONTINUED...

I started my career at Waukesha Memorial Hospital June of 2015 and worked for them for three years. During this time I realized the passion I had for Ortho and Neuro and I excelled in this specialty. But being a mother of two little ones and married, the call was hard to juggle. I needed to find a better work life balance for myself and my family. The ortho surgeons that worked at this hospital had their own surgery center with no call, no weekends and no holidays. I was ecstatic when I got the opportunity to work for them at The Orthopaedic Surgery Center.

During my journey here I have overcome so many obstacles. In December of 2019 I lost my husband suddenly. I had to juggle being a single parent, running a household on my own and working full time. I dove in and used work as my distraction for the loss of my husband while healing and found that I was stronger than I ever knew I was. While working at the Orthopaedic Surgery Center I have flourished in my career and have taken on many roles as team lead, training new employees, central supply, decontam, and building and updating surgeon preference cards. I can assist the surgeons and have learned to prepare grafts. I am so glad that after my long journey I have finally got to where I was always meant to be.

I asked Lori to submit her story, because although I have known her since she precepted me at Waukesha Memorial in 2017-2018, we didn't have that relationship. When I took a local agency contract at the same orthopedic center, we were reunited again on a different level. I have respected Lori since she taught me about neuro and ortho at the hospital. She always had a way of getting the best out of you...but in this gentle, caring sort of way. She is an amazing teacher and preceptor, and I have taken the skills she has shown and given me and added it to my skill set. I think it is a real honor when she tells me I did a great job on a difficult case; because she saw me as a student, and as a full fledged peer. That growth and development over the years we can BOTH see when reunited again.

During her time at WCTC, Lori earned the "Who's Who Among Students" award which recognizes upperclassmen who combine a strong academic background with leadership skills evidenced in extracurricular involvement on campus. It is one of the most renowned honors programs in the nation. Over 2300 college and universities in the U.S. select student to be named for this award.

Recently in 2021, Lori was named in the Top 10 Contestants of One Medical Passport's "Everyday Heroes Program". What an amazing honor and recognition for Lori!

I Am a Certified Surgical Technologist

Certified Surgical Technologist Practitioner Definition

The Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) is a credentialed professional who works collaboratively with physicians and other healthcare professionals, under the direction and supervision of the surgeon in providing optimal care to the surgical patient. The CST is a graduate of an approved, accredited educational program in surgical technology.

The CST possesses a broad knowledge of perioperative care practices and patient safety. This includes proficiencies in aseptic techniques, surgical procedures, instrumentation, supplies, and equipment. A comprehensive knowledge of anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, microbiology, pharmacology, and biomedical sciences is also required. The CST is required to maintain the currency of their certification.

Nicole Sexton



I am a director of my funny farm, including two kiddos, two dogs, 3 cats, 30 chickens and 6 bunnies.

I am a lover of all animals and think it is my job to give them all a home, to my husbands dismay, lol.

I am renewed by outdoor activities and nature.

I am a calming force in the OR and remain level when things get shaken.

I am an adjunct instructor, ortho tech, labor and delivery tech and substitute teacher.

I am a lover of Jesus and a volunteer at church.

I love building people up and watching them succeed.

I am a surgical technologist and can't imagine not being part of our profession!

I Am a Certified Surgical Technologist

Ilea Cornelius

I am a wife, mother, daughter, sister, auntie, friend...

I am a Surgical Technologist.

I am a mother of teenagers, a chauffeur, a manicure giving, hair styling mom of a beautiful daughter...

I am a CST.

I am a hockey loving mom, a cheerleader, my sons biggest fan.

I am a scrub tech.

I am a lover of bonfires, lake life, reading great books.

I am the surgeon's right hand.

I am a wife of 17 amazing years.

I am an ST.

I am a Cancer Survivor.

I am a Surgical Technologist!!!



Education Updates



FALL 2023 MEETING MENOMONIE FALLS AND FROEDTERT WELCOME YOU!!!

Agenda - TBD

This is a voting Business meeting

MEETING:
FROEDTERT MENOMONEE FALLS
W180N8085 TOWN HALL RD
MENOMONEE FALLS, WI 53051

HOTEL:
TBD

MORE INFORMATION IN THE JUNE NEWSLETTER!

National Conference



53RD AST SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE MAY 25-27TH, 2023 | CHICAGO

Join us in Chi-Town next May as we come together to promote the surgical technology profession, highlight the latest and greatest surgical techniques and connect you to supporting organizations from across the country.

Chicago, known for its architecture and skyscraper skyline off of Lake Michigan, also offers visitors plenty to see and do with numerous eateries, museums and tours of the city. With our conference hotel right on the river and only a short walk to Navy Pier, it's a prime place to get and out explore! Register at the link Below!!!

AST Member Fee \$390

AST Student Member Fee \$129

(these are the fees after March 15th)

[Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk](#)

301 East North Water Street
Chicago, IL 60611

The discounted room rate is \$199.00++ (single/double), \$219.00 (triple) and \$239.00 (quad).

Discounted rooms are available until April 28 or until the room block is full, whichever comes first.

NEXT ISSUE

- Fall Meeting 2023
- National Conference 2023 Recap
- "Your Article Here!!!"

Submit articles to wiastrnews@gmail.com

