



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY-ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

Summer/Fall 2022

Editor:

Claire Parda

### President's Update

NICOLE VAN VONDEREN, CST, FAST

Hey everyone I hope you are enjoying this summer so far! It sure seems to be flying by. I had the honor of attending our National Conference a few weeks ago in New Orleans as a delegate. It is such an honor to represent such an amazing state. I brought back so much knowledge and have been sharing it with my fellow colleagues and my employer hoping to improve some things. One thing I also learned was ways to better serve our State. One thing we need to do is get more student involvement. Students are the ones who will be driving our work force and we need to support them for success. As a Board we thought of the idea of sending a Student Delegate to Nationals to represent us. They would be with one of our delegates to mentor them. There will be more information provide with how we are going to do this and will keep you updated. Can't wait to see everyone in October in Eau Claire!!!

### Editor's Note

CLAIRE PARDA, CST, BSHCA

WI-AST BOARD DIRECTOR/NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Happy summer to all my fellow CST's! This summer took me to a four month contract in New Smyrna Beach, FL. As some of you know, I have family there; and have been able to spend some quality time with them. It is interesting to me, how cultivating these relationships helps us grow within ourselves AND the others around us.

I have flourished while working at Advent Health in Florida. This was the first contract I signed out of state. I was nervous, of course; because I haven't seen everything. There have been many new products and techniques I've seen and learned through all specialties. Although I went to a community hospital with 4 ORs, CSTs were also responsible for covering GI/Endo, and there was a separate day surgery area. While there were challenges every day, it expands our minds to see things differently—if only for a short while. I always try and remember to just take the experience in, fold it up and put in it my pocket for another time. Not all systems work at all hospitals; and as a traveler I must remember that I am the variant; I am not there to solve but one issue—staffing shortage.

As the kids go back to school and the seasons change, I have decided to stay local and head back to a surgery center I worked at earlier this year. It will be my first time returning to a facility previously at; which will be a new experience as well. For those attending the October meeting, I will see you all there!!!

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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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

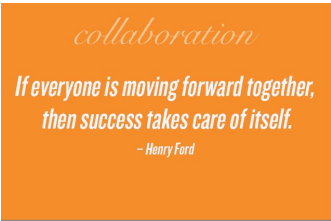


WI AST



wisconsin.ast

# Board Member Blurbs



## WILL WE EVER HAVE A NATIONWIDE CERTIFICATION LEGISLATION?

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

This past spring, I had the privilege of attending the 52nd Association of Surgical Technologists Conference in New Orleans, LA. I was both excited and honored to represent the state of Wisconsin as a delegate. It was such an amazing conference with so many really great speakers. In my opinion one of the most informative sessions that I attended was given by Josephine Colacci, esq. If you are not familiar with her, she is the AST’s Director of Government Affairs. Her presentation was titled “Are the Good Times Rolling for Certification Legislation” in which she covered the current legislation efforts that are happening in each state. Right now, there are only 12 states that have passed laws pertaining to the education and certification of surgical technologists.

Those states are:

Idaho (1991)	Indiana (2009)	Massachusetts (2012)
Nevada (2017)	New Jersey (2011)	New York (2015)
Oregon (2016)	Pennsylvania (2020)	South Carolina (2018)
Tennessee (2018)	Texas (2009)	Virginia (2021)

The legislative goal of AST states in part: “In the interest of patients safety, the Association of Surgical Technology (AST) promotes a policy that would require healthcare facilities to employ only individuals who satisfy baseline educational requirements and possess the CST credential...”. Furthermore, AST advocates that individual states pass laws that in order to be hired to practice surgical technology each person must:

- 1) Graduate from a CAAHEP-accredited surgical technology program
- 2) Obtain the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) credential from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) as well as
- 3) Maintain said CST credential by completing mandatory continuing education hours.

So, what does this all mean? Well, it means that we need our voices heard. We need to continue to fight for both our patients and our profession. But how do we do that, right?!? I get it, small fish... big pond. But the fact of the matter is, the more we talk about our profession to anyone that’s willing to listen, the more we educate the public on just exactly how important our profession really is! If you are passionate about this topic, like me, I would encourage you to go to the AST’s webpage, click on the legislation tab and download the Grassroots Handbook!! In it you will find many ways to get engaged in AST legislative initiatives. This handbook reviews why our profession needs a voice, AST’s legislative mission and how to go about making your voice heard. Go check it out and keep talking about our profession!!

**#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



## CALL TO ACTION WI-AST BOARD MEMBERS

We talked at the Spring Meeting about the different duties we have as members of the WI-AST Board of Directors. We wanted to share that with the everyone, in hopes it will spark the interest of those within our organization. Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have!!! This next meeting is a voting meeting, we are looking for 3 Board of Directors and a Secretary. Intent to serve should have been turned in, however you may run from the floor. Look to the By-laws to see how!

### 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

### NEW IDEAS FROM NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**ILEA CORNELIUS, CST  
WI-AST TREASURER**

This year I was honored to be a delegate for the State of Wisconsin at the 2022 National Association of Surgical Technologist Conference in New Orleans, LA. Attending conference was an amazing experience. Nothing can describe the energy you feel sitting in a conference room with 1300+ CSTs. I was able to listen to several speakers talk about a variety of topics. My favorite speaker was Dr. Richard Daly from Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He spoke about Heart Transplant. I also had the privilege to attend the leadership forum. It was attended by board members from all over the country. We got to hear about the successes and issues with other State Assemblies. I listened to many states talk about different educational offerings for their states and how they involve and encourage students, our future, into state involvement. Our WI State Assembly got some great ideas and we are excited to bring you our new ideas. Change is our future and we are ready to embrace some new exciting opportunities soon.

## 2022 Board of Directors

*President:*

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

*Treasurer:*

Ilea Cornelius, CST  
Oct 2021 – Oct 2023

*Board Director:*

Claire Parda, CST  
Oct 2021 – Oct 2022

*Vice President:*

Shanna Liebel, CST  
Oct 2021 – Oct 2023

*Board Director:*

Coral Brennan, CST  
Oct 2021 – Oct 2022

*Board Director:*

Terri Scheel, CST  
Oct 2021 – Oct 2023

*Secretary:*

Chris Suttinger, CST, CSFA  
Oct 2021 – Oct 2022

*Board Director:*

Bridget Hanson, CST, CSFA  
Oct 2021 – Oct 2023

*Board Director:*

Tiffany Wolover, CST  
Oct 2021 – Oct 2022

## Items for Sale



Socks: \$5

Decals:  
\$10

Plus sweatshirts and more!





## News Around Wisconsin



### 30 YEARS OF EDUCATING OUR PROFESSION

CLAIRE PARDA, CST, BSHCA

WI-AST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WITH COLLABORATION FROM TRICIA COLAIANNI, CST, CSFA

We all remember our first day of post-secondary education, even if we need to take a minute and think a bit. Many of us felt excitement, anxiety, promise, or even doubt. What I remember about going to my orientation day (after being 1 of 14 selected for the surgical technology program!) was how warm and inviting Mrs. Sharon Corrao was on that day.

Sharon celebrated 30 years with Waukesha County Technical College in Pewaukee, WI; and just this past summer graduated her last class as an instructor and Program Director for the surgical technology program. She is retiring after 30 years as an educator, 33 years as a registered nurse, and over 35 years as a CST.

Sharon started her path as a surgical technologist in the 80's, attending Nassau Community College in New York state, where she would graduate and work as a CST specializing in peripheral vascular and thoracic surgery. I remember her telling us a handful of stories about when she scrubbed those cases; and the lessons she learned.

*“She makes you think. She makes you work. She brings something out of you you didn't know was there.”*

*Claire Parada, CST*

*This year marks my ten year! I have to say that it does not feel that I was in the surgical technology program that long ago. I think that was the toughest and most fulfilling time in my school career. I remember you telling us about your vascular stories when you were a tech in New York. Some scared the pants off of me (figuratively) and yet intrigued me all at the same time. It obviously did not scare me enough to leave. Graduating and getting hired right away was one of the proudest moments in my life. I can gladly and proudly say you were a part of that and I am very grateful. P.S, I am still bitter about my grade on my end of the year project “fire safety”. I think if you every time our yearly fire safety CBL comes up. So bitter. Enjoy your retirement, you deserve it! But I still expect a retirement tri-fold by Monday ;).*

*-Safety First, Kal Mason*

After gaining her CST credential, Sharon continued on, getting her RN degree in New York, and working both in New York and Florida before moving to Wisconsin and working at our community hospital in Waukesha. During that time, she gained the WCTC instructor position until her retirement this past summer. So many lives touched, taught, and putting the patient first.

What I experienced through my 2nd year of surgical technology school (that is when you get to work with Sharon the most); is her incredible sense of giving you what you need when you need it. I guess that goes with being an amazing tech! But in all honesty, Sharon is able to be there for the 18 year old just coming out of High School stu-

## Continued

dent; but also the non-traditional student as I myself was. The ability to direct, comfort, teach, lead, and relate to that large spectrum of students is what makes Sharon an amazing instructor. She also has a knack for just knowing what you need; she is also a mother, wife, peer, and great friend.

*If it wasn't for Mrs. Corrao I would have never made it through the surgical tech program and become the professional I am today. During my last year I was pregnant with my second child. He was born over Christmas break and I went back to school after four weeks. I remember being at clinical exhausted after being up all night with my newborn son. I pulled her aside to inform her that I was going to leave the program. She told me 'no', and gave me the encouragement I needed to get through the tough time. She also reassured me that she would help me in any way possible. I am so thankful that she believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. I love my career as a surgical tech and I am so grateful for her pushing me not to give up. Thank you so much for the inspiration, drive, and success that you helped me achieve. It will never be forgotten.*

*-Rebecca Bribnow*

*"I am so thankful  
that she believed in  
me when I didn't  
believe in myself."*

*Rebecca Bribnow*

I remember this and share it will all my students when I precept them. I was in clinical working with another amazing tech in gyn-laparoscopic case, and Sharon came in when I was setting up. There wasn't much to this pan; a few soft tissue instruments, some laparoscopic instruments, knife handles, etc... and she offered some advice as to putting a roll towel in my pan. She did it in a nonchalant way. I decided to; however she took a picture of my pan before (sheesh), to make an example of neatness (or lack thereof at this point). She came back later in the case, and we had to open a full 'down below' setup because we couldn't get the uterus out. I got the look from Mrs. Corrao... and it clicked. She just had a perfect way of going about her precepting and instructing; and I will forever be grateful for her guidance and knowledge she bestowed on us.

From all of us near and far; THANK YOU. Thank you for making us the techs, nurses, and PEOPLE we are today. Your dedication to the next generation(s) of CSTs is treasured, and we all wish you the best in retirement!

*Congratulations on your retirement! I am so appreciative I was able to have you as an instructor for your last year. On the other hand, I am sad future students won't get to experience your stories and your love for aneurysms. I remember when you would come for visits to Community Memorial and one day, you told me that I looked happy. That moment stuck with me because I struggled to feel welcomed at other sites, and it helped me realize I could envision a future there. Now I'm working there and loving it!!! I am so happy for you and can't wait to see what kind of new adventures (and puzzles) retirement has in store for you. I hope you will get to hear all the good things I do as a tech as a result of your passionate teaching!!!*

*-Ei Zin Nge*

## THANK YOU SHARON CORRAO!!!

*Lori Gail*

Wishing you all the best! All those memories stay with you and form the fabric of the rest of your life. Your contribution to excellent health care in southeastern WI & beyond is immeasurable. You have changed & saved lives, both of your students & all those patients touched by your surgical technologists. Your touch has reached the horizons

*Morgan Fenninger*

Congratulations ☺ thank you for everything you have done for us, you are AMAZING :) enjoy your retirement, you deserve every minute of it

*Angela Tsiampas*

Congratulations!! Thanks for everything, I wouldn't be the tech I am today if it weren't for you. Enjoy your retirement, you deserve it! ☺

*Lori Rodriguez*

Congratulations! Enjoy your retirement! I feel privileged to have you as my instructor. Every year when students come around at work I think of you! I strongly feel you have had a tremendous impact on my skill and knowledge and those important lessons have made me the tech I am today!

*Shannon Latona*

Congratulations! You always believed in us and always had the right words to say... that gave me so much confidence. Thank you!!

*Ellie Lynn*

Congratulations Sharon!!!! Thank you for the encouragement and making me the tech I am today! I could always tell which students came from your program and which ones I had to re-train! Enjoy retirement, you ABSOLUTELY deserve it!!!

*Ewa Stepek*

Congratulations ☺ on your retirement. Thank you for all you did for all of us. It was an honor to have you as my instructor. I was always happy to see your smiling face in class and clinical.

*Tricia Giesie Colaianni*

Congrats friend. Well-deserved retirement. Thank you for mentoring me and taking me in to help you with students. You changed my world and career! Great fun. Be well and enjoy the next chapter

*Sarah Mae*

It was an honor to have you as an instructor!! Best of wishes on retirement and I hope you enjoy every second of it!!

*Leslie Helminiak Haugen*

Congrats Sharon. So glad I had a chance to meet you and help your students enjoy surgery as much as I do! Enjoy the next chapter of your life ...well deserved!

*Claire Parda*

Honored for sure! Thank you so much for guiding me and making me who I am today!

Side note...I ALWAYS put a roll towel in my tray if there's no stand in it! Let me tell you it makes a world of difference!

*Kristie Winter Lecher*

The students were lucky to have you as a mentor! Enjoy every day from now on! Do whatever you want!

*Debbie Black*

A beautiful day for the final class graduation ☺You are so dedicated to the profession and have had a positive impact in the local OR scene. Congratulations.

*Edna Plant Mundo*

That's wonderful!! Enjoy every single day!! So glad I got to work with you and make such fun memories!! :)



## 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.*

### Bridget Hanson



I am a Mom, a wife, a sister, an auntie, a friend;

I am a surgical technologist...

I'm a lover of Friday afternoons and quiet Sunday mornings with a good book...

I'm a Basketball coaching and Volleyball cheering mama of 2 amazing tiny humans...

I'm a PTO using, traveling junkie...

I'm a wife of 16 years who's still smitten on the daily...

I'm a multitasking, supper making, chauffeur, and the ultimate organizer of all the things...

I am a surgical technologist!!



## I Am a Certified Surgical Technologist

### Bunny Wolover

I am a woman who went against the grain and decided to not go to nursing school.

I was a non-traditional student who went back to school to start a new chapter at 31 after years of working as an assistant activities coordinator at an old folks home.

I have ADD, failed A&P twice, but still graduated on the Presidents List in 2016.

I started at the only Level 1 Trauma Center in the drunkest city in the United States as a Generalist in 2016, so needless to say, I HAVE THE BEST HIPAA FRIENDLY STORIES.

I am a wife to a devilishly handsome, beautifully bearded man whom I call "Pickle". We will be celebrating our tenth anniversary this October.

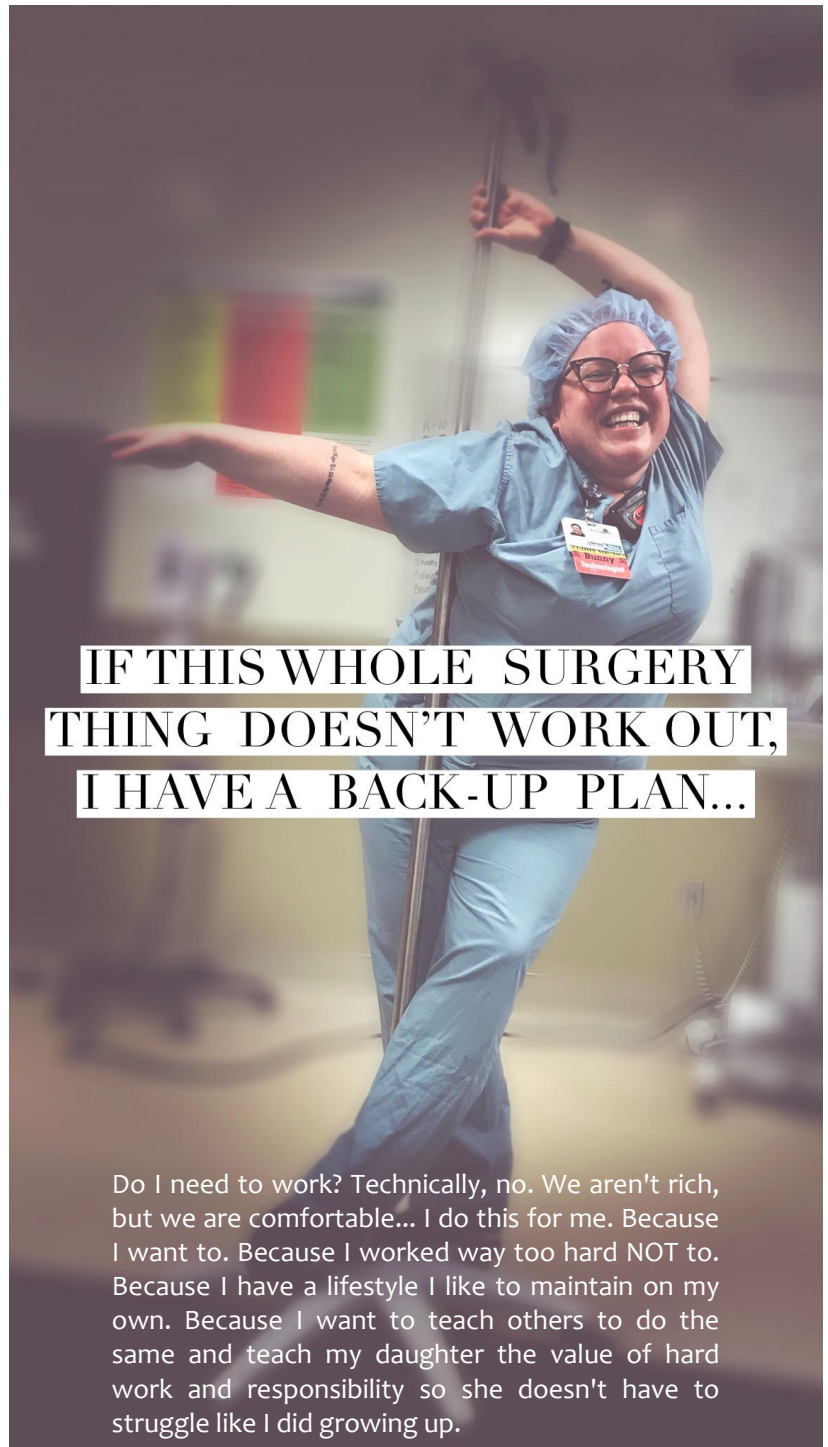
I am a fifteen times crowned Pin-Up Pageant Queen who has been internationally published in multiple magazines, both as a model and writer. I think I'm funny as hell. I retired at the end of 2017 because I wanted to start a family, and won everything I had wanted to win.

I worked twice as hard during that time to support my pageant habits while Pickle finished his PHD, then I was able to finally relax because... I became the proud mumma of a beautiful little girl named Olive. She's three, and she is my world.

I cut back my hours, and switched over to Plastic Surgery after she was born, and fell in love with it.

I learned it's not just boob jobs and butt lifts... it's about changing someone's life by helping them find their self-esteem again after surviving an accident or cancer treatment.

I love my team. I love my surgeons. I love my patients and I love what I do. I wouldn't change a thing.



Do I need to work? Technically, no. We aren't rich, but we are comfortable... I do this for me. Because I want to. Because I worked way too hard NOT to. Because I have a lifestyle I like to maintain on my own. Because I want to teach others to do the same and teach my daughter the value of hard work and responsibility so she doesn't have to struggle like I did growing up.

But most of all, I do this for HER. Because I love her.

I am a \*proud\* surgical technologist!!!



# I Am a Certified Surgical Technologist

## Claire Parda

I am a mother, sister, aunt, granddaughter, daughter...

I am a surgical technologist.

I am a bust your arse, work 110%, give it all I got hockey player...

I am a surgical technologist.

I am a trail seeking, backpacking, cook over a fire, camp in the wilderness, get lost in the woods outdoors woman...

I am a surgical technologist.

I am a supporter, mentor, troop leader, camp volunteer, stargazing, SWAP making, craft creating, Girl Scout Volunteer...

I am a surgical technologist.

I am a loving partner of over 13 years and this day still get butterflies...

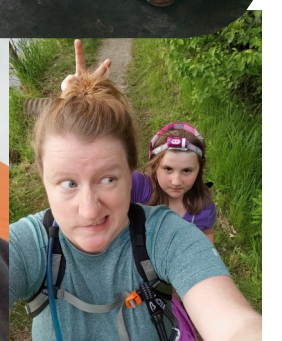
I am a surgical technologist.

I am a traveler, explorer, try-it-all -er, go-getter, adventurer...

I am a surgical technologist.

I am a got your back, precepting, ortho and spine, get it done, work till its done peer and co-worker...

I am a surgical technologist.





## Surgical Technologists Week

**SEPTEMBER 18-24TH, 2022**

Surgical technologists are essential – not only in the operating room.

This year's theme is Behind the Mayo. For promotional posters, images to download and display and more, visit <https://www.ast.org/surgicaltechnologistsareessential/>

To enter our Behind the Mayo photo contest, visit <https://pr.easypromosapp.com/p/943128>

We wish everyone a Happy ST Week!!!





# Education Updates



## FALL 2022 MEETING EAU CLAIRE AND MAYO CLINIC WELCOME YOU!

### Agenda

7:00-7:45	Continental Breakfast and Registration
7:45-8:00	Nicole Van Vonderen, President: <i>Welcome</i>
8:00-8:50	Dr. Sean Primley: <i>Kidney Stone Surgical Intervention</i>
9:00-9:50	Dr. Maria Linnaus: <i>Hemostatic Agents</i>
9:50-10:10	Break/vendors
10:10-10:30	Business Meeting
10:30-11:20	Heather Holman, Arthrex Rep: <i>Cartilage Regrowth</i>
11:30-12:30	Voting/Lunch/Vendors
12:30-1:20	Dr. Marcus Greatens: <i>Total Knee</i>
1:30-2:20	Dr. Christopher C. Johnson: <i>Robotic Bowel Surgery</i>
2:30-3:00	Conclusion of Business Meeting
3:00-3:50	Tina Bialzek, HR Employee Wellness Coordinator: <i>How to deal with Stress in the work place and effects of COVID</i>

*\*This is a voting Business meeting\**

**\$55 BEFORE SEPT 26TH**

**\$10 FOR STUDENTS**

**\$70 @ THE DOOR IF NOT  
PRE-REGISTERED**

### MEETING:

**MAYO CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEMS- EAU CLAIRE  
1221 WHIPPLE STREET  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703**

### HOTEL:

**HOLIDAY INN AND EXPRESS AND SUITES  
2703 CRAIG ROAD  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701  
(715) 839-7852**

**TO REGISTER,  
EMAIL  
WISCONSINAST  
@GMAIL.COM  
PAYMENT WILL  
BE TAKEN AT  
THE DOOR**



## 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!

More conference-specific and room-block information coming soon!

Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk  
301 East North Water Street  
Chicago, IL 60611



### NEXT ISSUE

- Spring Meeting 2023
- National Conference 2023 Info
- "Your Article Here!!!"

Submit articles to  
[wiaastnews@  
gmail.com](mailto:wiaastnews@gmail.com)