

Winter 2018

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

President's Message

Happy New Year,

As we all embrace 2018, I find it a good time to reflect on the past and think forward. There are numerous mergers within the local and regional healthcare organizations that will affect all of us. Healthcare is an expensive business and the CEO's are always looking at ways to become more cost effective. This is a challenge that every surgical technologist will be involved with while still focusing on patient care; the reason we are there. Our patients need

us to continually maintain the highest level of skills required for the best surgical outcomes. This profession requires constantly learning to do the job you have chosen. While education is mandated, seize this opportunity for personal growth. Your options are numerous. Our Wisconsin Board is busy preparing for our 2018 Spring and Fall meetings where you can expand your knowledge close to home. Danielle Cook will be presenting again this year at the instructor's forum in Charleston and

Dan Dickover is one of the speakers at the National Convention in Orlando. Speak for your profession and enjoy learning. Accept the challenges, enjoy what you do, and flourish beyond your dreams.

Susan McNeely, MS
BSN CST

WIAST President

2018 National Conference Delegates

As elected at the fall WI-AST meeting in Milwaukee, the six delegates going to the National AST Conference in Orlando Florida are: Linda Beine, Dan Dickover, Nicole Drott, Shanna Liebl, Susan McNeely and Tina Pollex.

Inside this issue:

- What about lobbying in Madison? What can I do?
- A surgeon did what?!?
- Spring Meeting Details

History of AST Lobbying in Madison

At the fall WI-AST meeting at Froedtert Hospital a member asked why the lobbying efforts for mandatory certification in our state were not continued after 2012. Many factors contributed to this change but here is a brief history of the past efforts and some commentary on future ones.

Between 2009 and 2012 Trudy Armstrong, Sue McNeely and Chris Suttinger were registered lobbyists for the WI-AST and made many visits to meet with state legislators in the capitol. An additional lobbyist, Joseph Strohl, was hired to represent the AST also. According to the Wisconsin Lobbying Website the WI-AST spent \$78,000 between January of [2009](#) and [June of 2012](#) on lobbying. Two bills were presented to committee during that time: 2009-2010 [Assembly Bill 744](#) and 2009-2010 [Senate Bill 660](#). Both bills required, "qualification requirements for persons employed by a hospital or ambulatory surgery center to perform surgical technology." The bills were sponsored by State Senator Judith Robson and State Representative Sandy Pasch. AB744 was approved and [voted out of committee](#) on March 17th, 2010. SB660 was [referred to committee](#) but was never voted to be forwarded on to the State Senate. The Wisconsin legislature has detailed information about each bill that is introduced but also has information about different lobbying organizations' support, or lack thereof, for any proposed bill. SB660 only had [one positive opinion](#) from the WI-AST. AB744 had [one positive \(WI-AST\)](#), one neutral, four undisclosed opinions and one against (Wisconsin Nurses Association.) Although AB744 did make it out of committee, both bills were killed (or subjected to "adverse disposal") during the 2009-2010 legislative session pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1 ([AB744](#), [SB660](#)) in April of 2010. Due to the fact that both bills did not make it to their respective legislatures for a vote during their floor periods, the bills would need to be re-introduced in the next legislative sessions.

In the 2010 midterm elections the balance of power [shifted control](#) of the state assembly and the state senate to the Republican Party. This meant that each committee in both bodies was then controlled by the Republican Party while both of our bills were sponsored by Democrats. However, even after these two bills died our lobbying efforts continued into the next legislative session, though no further bills made it to committee. According to Sue McNeely, the current president of the WI-AST, our lobbyists continued to search for a sponsor for a bill from 2010 to 2012 but none was found. In addition, in February of 2012 the protests in Madison regarding Act 10 started and made it nearly impossible to make progress in efforts to require certification. At this point it was decided to discontinue lobbying for the time being.

After our fall meeting I decided to write to my state senator (Chris Larson) and my state representative (Christine Sinicki) to ask them their opinions of the legislative climate for a renewed effort to pass legislation requiring surgical techs to be certified in Wisconsin. Although representative Sinicki did not respond to my request, Senator Larson returned the following letter:

History of AST Lobbying in Madison (cont'd)

Your national board is right to be skeptical of efforts to lobby on this issue, particularly because of efforts happening right now to get rid of many licensing requirements. Governor Walker was unsuccessful in his recent effort to dismantle the current system of professional licenses in Wisconsin in the state budget. However, two bills, Senate Bill (SB) 288 and SB 296, have been introduced that could dramatically change the professional licensure, certification, and occupational license process in the State of Wisconsin. Both bills have received public hearings and have been voted out of committee, meaning they can come up for a vote in the full Senate anytime.

That said, I do think it's important for professionals to advocate for changes they feel are needed in their field. My suggestion would be to have some of the other members of the Wisconsin State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists contact their senators and representatives as constituents with the reasons why they believe national certification should be required (particularly, the members who have Republican senators/representatives). They should clearly state that they are looking for said senator or representative to introduce legislation to do this. The response from the GOP legislators may at least help your association get a better sense of whether or not there is an appetite for this legislation.

[SB288](#) creates an Occupational License Review Council which consists of nine members appointed by the governor, the senate majority leader and the speaker of the assembly plus a representative for the secretary of Safety and Professional Services who only votes if there is a tie among the other eight members. The purpose of this committee is to create, "[recommendations for the elimination of occupational licenses in this state, or the modification of laws and rules governing occupational licenses, and the reduction or elimination of occupational license continuing and other education requirements.](#)" [SB296](#) establishes, "an electronic self-certification registry that allows individuals certified by state-approved supporting organizations to apply to be able to use the title "state certified" in conjunction with their practice." The AST bills were written to increase the qualifications to practice in the state of Wisconsin while these bills aim to reduce regulations on qualifications.

As of January 27th, 2017, according to the [Wisconsin Lobbying Website](#), there are 23 principals (lobbying organizations) against, eight undisclosed, seven neutral and four principals supporting the SB288. Some of those against the legislation are Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Dental Association and the Wisconsin Public Health Association. Those in favor of SB288 include Americans for Prosperity and Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce. So far 145 hours have been spent lobbying on this legislation nearly all from organizations opposing its passage. The professional and healthcare organizations in Wisconsin clearly oppose the bills.

From my research, some of which is cited above, my conclusion is that it would be very difficult to introduce legislation advocating a CST requirement for the state of Wisconsin when, in fact, the political current is moving in the opposite direction for professions in all areas. That being said, as Senator Larson indicated above, it is always a good idea to let your local elected officials know what is important to you. As the currents change we will continue to consider taking on this challenge again to advocate for our members and, in turn, for the surgical patients in our state. I look forward to hearing your ideas on this matter and what your representatives have to say.

Dan Dickover, CST
Board Member WI-AST

Want to go to Nationals?

Each year the Former Presidents' Conference of the National AST offers scholarships for up to \$1000 for qualified individuals to attend their first National AST conference. The application deadline is March 1st so you still have time to apply. Just follow the link below and go for it!

[APPLY HERE](#)



You too can host a WI-AST Meeting!

I hope everyone is having a great new year. Our next WIAST meeting “Spring into Central Wisconsin” will be March 3, 2018 in Weston, WI. Please check our website for registration and details. We are always looking for future hosts for our meeting. Currently we are in need of a Spring 2019 location. Please consider bringing us to your facility. I planned the Spring 2017 meeting with a few of my coworkers and I really enjoyed the experience. We, as board members, are here to support and help you through the process. If you would be interested in having a meeting in Spring of 2019, Spring of 2020 or Fall of 2020 please contact me at Ilea.cornelius@aurora.org. I hope to hear from you.

A Reflection on What Matters

We all have choices to make in life. From the everyday simple ones pertaining to food, clothing, work to the more complex ones about where to live and what you want to accomplish in life. These can be overwhelming if you let them. I will never get bored watching the sun rise over the ocean in the morning and enjoying the beautiful sunsets in the evening. This simple pleasure I have no control over and the extent of its beauty is determined by natural forces. Still it brings a calming feeling to everyone who opens their eyes. What gives you this feeling? A hug from your child? A kiss from a loved one?

I had the opportunity to watch the SpaceX Zuma missile launch earlier this year. It was not the first time I saw a launch nor was it my first night launch. As I waited with the crowd during the countdown I listened to a mother explain what was happening to her son. The thrill of each launch is exhilarating, and the night sky makes it a spectacular sight.

I challenge you to find what gives you this feeling and keep it with you on your life journey for 2018.

Susan McNeely

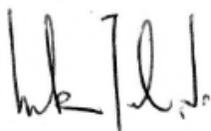
Dear WISA,

I am writing to thank you for your generous \$100 "A Star for Luci" scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. As you know, college can be very draining emotionally and financially. This scholarship is very important to me because of the context of where it comes from is very personable

I am currently a student at Madison College in Madison, WI in the Surgical Technology program. My background is in Architecture and decided to return to school after 15 years. I chose the Surgical Technology field because of its dynamic and progressive nature. Thanks to the WISA, I am one step closer to my desired goal.

By awarding me the "A Star for Luci" you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,



Mark Turben



The Fall 2018 winners of the "Star for Luci" scholarship at Froedtert Hospital. Pictured are Shannon Rupert and Mark Turben.

A Surgeon Put His Initials Where?

A surgeon in the United Kingdom was fined £10,000 for using electrocautery to burn his initials in a patient's liver. It was discovered when a second surgeon returned later to the site of the operation and saw the first surgeon's initials. No harm was done to the patient through the act but I am guessing that that part of the operation was not on the consent. Dan Dickover from Telegraph.Co.Uk

Wisconsin Association of Surgical Technologists

Spring Center Wausau

March 3, 2018

Ministry St. Clare’s Hospital

3400 Ministry Parkway Weston, WI 54476



Holiday Inn/Green Mill

1000 Imperial Avenue, Rothschild, WI 54474

715-355-1111 group code: AST Queen \$74/King \$83

Best Western

803 W. Industrial Park Ave, Rothschild, WI 54474

715-355-8900 request AST block double Queen/King \$71

The Sun Porch at the Green Mill is reserved for AST guests to dine or socialize starting at 6:30

Registration 7-7:45 Meeting begins at 7:45am – ends 2:55pm

Fees:	Before March 3	After
Members	\$50	\$70
Nonmembers	\$70	\$90
Students/Retired	\$10	\$30

Online Registration Only:

Please go to WI.AST.org. On the home page, click Events/Spring Event and the “Register” button and follow the directions given. [Or Click Here](#)

If you have a food allergy, please contact:

Michelle McKellips 715-693-4983 micklips1966@yahoo.com

Sorry no refunds will be given

Two student Scholarships will be awarded to students in attendance