

Summer 2017

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

## President's Message

Hello to all,

Did you know that Wisconsin AST currently has over one thousand members? WOW! We have good attendance at our State meetings and continue to vary the locations. The price of our meetings has not increased since I became a member in 2001 and our Board has decided to maintain this. The one change that will be implemented is a \$20 cost to everyone for on-site registration. For anyone who has ever hosted a meeting the food order is dependent on preregistration numbers and hopefully this will encourage more of you to register early.

It felt strange not attending the National Convention this year.

Our delegates represented Wisconsin with honor and I was proud to hear from them. My youngest daughter graduated from Madison and has kept me busy helping her relocate. I really missed being able to spend time with our Board members and the friends I have made from other states and look forward to this opportunity in the future.

Wisconsin is already beginning to prepare for the 2018 State Leadership Award at Nationals. I am looking for any members who have made contributions to promote Surgical Technology in our State to send me your details at [mcneelys@yahoo.com](mailto:mcneelys@yahoo.com) so this information can be included on the application.

Jessica Brueggen, who was our treasurer, resigned in June as she and Chris now reside in Colorado. Jess was active with WI-AST as a Board member, delegate, meeting host and Treasurer. It goes without saying that she will be missed and everyone wishes her the best on her Westward adventures.

I hope that everyone gets the opportunity to enjoy some Wisconsin traditions this summer and I plan to see you October 7<sup>th</sup> as Froedtert Hospital hosts our Fall WI-AST meeting.

Sincerely,  
Susan McNeely

### WI-AST Board of Directors Elections

Now is the time for you to consider being an active Wisconsin member. At the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in Wauwatosa we will have elections for: President, Vice President, Treasurer

and two Board members. Officers must come from current Board members or a prior Board member from the last five years. If you are interested in running for any of these positions send your

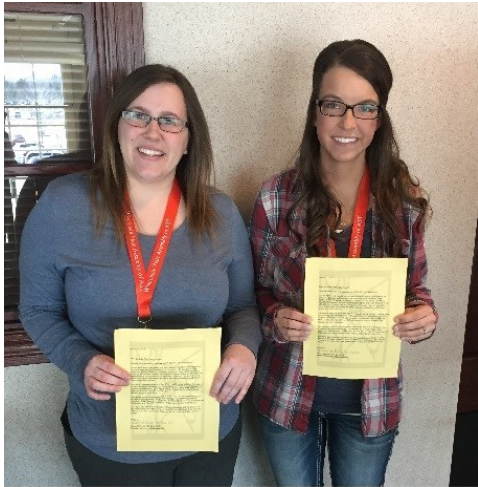
CV and willing to serve form by September 7<sup>th</sup> to Dan Dickover at

[danattippe@gmail.com](mailto:danattippe@gmail.com)

### Inside this issue:

- Spring Student Scholarship Winners
- Keeping Your Mission Clean
- Fall Meeting Details
- Tales from Nationals

## “Star for Luci” Scholarship—Spring 2017



The two recipients of the “Star for Luci” scholarship were Ashley Welch-Longworth (L) and Abbey Anderson (R). Congratulations!

“My name is Abbey Anderson, I am currently a surgical tech student at CVTC in Eau Claire, WI. I am in my second round of clinicals and so far I have really enjoyed neuro, cardiac, and general procedures! I have accepted a full-time job at

OakLeaf Surgical Hospital in Altoona, WI. I look forward to graduating May 19th, 2017.”

Ashley was recently hired at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Appleton after graduating from tech school.

## Our Thoughts Go out for a Long-time Member

WI-AST would like to extend our condolences to JoAnn and Joe Steffes who unexpectedly lost their son David at the age of 35 on April 30, 2017. JoAnn has been a dedicated and passionate member of AST since 1986. She has served on the board in numerous positions and has attended every meeting and nationals since 1986. In JoAnn's words, here is a tribute to her son David:

David was our baby and a good kid. He was loved by many and would lend a helping hand to anyone in need. His smile was infectious, and Dave touched many lives. He was the one that would always help us. He could fix anything! He had such good masonry, construction and welding skills.

We have many good memories of family vacations taken while the three boys were growing up and also four wheeling trips with Dave while in his twenties.

Joe and I take comfort that Dave did not take anyone else with him. We always knew Dave wanted to be a donor and are happy his wife

honored that request. Dave donated his skin and tissue, which went right to Milwaukee burn center. Also, his tendons, bones, veins, arteries, pericardium, heart valves and his beautiful devilish brown eyes. Through this we get comfort that he is helping a lot of people live a better life and his legacy lives on.

This has been the worst nightmare. I would not wish this on my worst enemy. I have had many sleepless nights and still do. I try to keep busy, so I do not think about it, but it is very hard. The last hug I got from Dave was the Tuesday before he died. We stopped at Wieses and visited him. He did not want us to hug him because he was dirty, greasy and smelled of poo. Joe and I are so glad we said "who cares" and he gave us the biggest hug and kiss. So hug your kids, even if they are dirty, it may be your last chance.

No one should ever have to lose a child this way.

Please keep Dave and his brothers James and Don, Joe and I in your prayers.

## “March to the Bay” - Spring Meeting in Green Bay



Standing, L to R:

Shanna Leibl, Susan McNeely, Dan Dickover, Linda Beine, Ilea Cornelius

Seated, L to R:

Jean Moglia, Nikki Drott, Tina Pollex, Jessica Brueggen

I would like to thank the AST Foundation for awarding me a \$500 donation to support a medical mission trip to Guatemala. Once you have completed a trip you can apply for the award from the Foundation. Look up more information on the AST website. Applications are due by the end of the year and I was notified of my award in April. Good luck!

Dan Dickover, CST, Board of Directors.

“There are five duties in surgery: to remove what is superfluous, to restore what has been dislocated, to separate what has grown together, to reunite what has been divided, and to redress the defects of nature.”

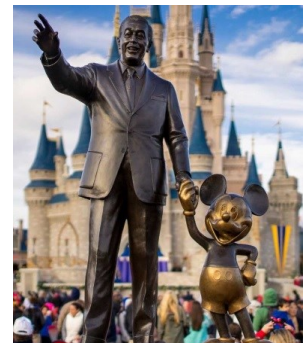
**Ambroise Paré 1510-1590**

## Become A Delegate at Nationals!

Have you ever attended a National convention? Here is your opportunity to go as a Wisconsin delegate. WI-AST will have a separate ballot at the annual business meeting to vote for delegates for the May 31, 2018 convention in Or-

lando. **Any member who has attended the last two WI-AST meetings with current membership and certification is eligible to have their name on the ballot.** If you are interested fill out the delegate form by Sep-

tember 7th to Dan Dickover at [danatippe@gmail.com](mailto:danatippe@gmail.com). If you are chosen as a delegate you will receive a designated amount of reimbursement to attend.



## AST National Conference 2017 — New Orleans



L to R:

Shanna Leibl, Sheryl Blaschke, Nicole Drott, Dan Dickover, Jean Moglia, Ilea Cornelius

Hello All! I want to start by thanking everyone who attended the Spring Meeting at Aurora BayCare. It was a great time.

I had the pleasure of representing our state at the National AST Conference in New Orleans in June. It was my first experience at Nationals and I cannot say enough great things about it. Being a part of the voting for our National board was amazing. It was an honor to be a part of

the future of AST. I also learned many things from the speakers. I was moved to tears by one who spoke about a hand transplant he did on a little boy. What an amazing story that was. It was very empowering to listen to the speakers talk about how important we are in every case. I also loved the feeling of being in a room with 1600+ CSTs. It is nice to have a conversation with someone without having to explain

your job to them. I was able to meet and talk with many CSTs from all over the country. If you have never been to the National Conference, I strongly encourage you to go. I would love to be able to go again in the future. I hope everyone has a fun and safe summer. I hope to see you all October 7 at Froedtert Fest!

Ilea Cornelius, CST – Board of Directors





## AST National Conference 2017 — New Orleans (Cont'd)

I recently attended the 2017 National AST Conference in New Orleans, not only as a delegate from the state of Wisconsin but also as a recipient of the 2017 Past Presidents Scholarship. This is awarded to people who have never attended a National Conference. This opportunity really enlightened me and really made me see what is all out there for us techs, and gave me such an opportunity to learn new things. I also found it beneficial to see who is representing us at a national level and getting the opportunity to meet them and discuss issues that are going on in our profession. It was awesome to see AST hit the 40,000 member mark! Attending the business meetings both days really opened my eyes to what goes on behind the scenes. It was nice to see how the board plans to work on these issues. I attended many educational seminars and learned many new techniques to bring back to show my fellow techs to help us. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to attend as a delegate.

Nicole Drott, CST  
Board of Directors



### Your Mission is to Stay Clean!

As we march towards our fall meeting in October, I am asking my fellow techs to think about best practices for decontamination, cleaning and sterilization on mission trips. Many of you have been on mission trips. I would like to know more about how you maintain standards in, sometimes, less than optimal conditions in other countries. In Guatemala, where I have worked on orthopedic missions, we have access to large sterilizers and a small flash sterilizer. However, I wonder if they use regular biological indicators to confirm the effectiveness of their sterilization process.

Some trips may work in ORs that meet the same standards that we hold in the U.S. Others may not. How have your teams worked with those limitations? Decontamination may be done by the techs on the mission similar to how the local staff does theirs. Are there cleaning products that you bring from home to help with your part of the process? Often times the benefits of the procedures performed are so life-changing (an eye surgery allowing a family member to work, an ortho surgery that will let someone with a deformity walk again) that standards lower than ours, but that comply with theirs, outweigh the risks. If we held the same standards we have here in the States could we perform any surgeries? Does it give you pause to perform surgeries on patients when there are fewer quality controls than we have here? All questions to ponder.

So before the fall meeting please think about techniques that you use to ensure the highest possible standards in other countries: decontamination and cleaning, wrapping and sterilization. I would also like anyone who has been on a mission to fill out a survey during our fall conference at Froedtert. I hope to give a presentation about this subject at the National AST meeting next year in Orlando. Thanks for helping out!

Dan Dickover CST  
Board of Directors

# Wisconsin Association of Surgical Technologists

Froedtert Fest

**October 7, 2017**

Froedtert Hospital

9200 W Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee WI 53226

Accommodations:

Crowne Plaza

10499 Innovation Drive Wauwatosa WI 53226

414-389-8569 WIAST room rate \$108.00

There is a hotel shuttle that will take you to the meeting

Registration 7-7:45

Meeting begins at 7:45am – ends 3:50pm

<b>Fees:</b>	<b>Before October 1st</b>	<b>After October 1st</b>
Members	\$50	\$70
Nonmembers	\$70	\$90
Students/Retired	\$10	\$30

**Online Registration Only:**

Please go to WI.AST.org. On the home page, click the Blue “Register Now” tab and follow the directions given. If you have a food allergy, please contact Kelly Thurman [thurman6026@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thurman6026@sbcglobal.net)

**\*\*Sorry no refunds will be given\*\***

Two student Scholarships will be awarded to students in attendance.  
Please remember your certification and membership cards for voting.