

Summer 2018

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

## President's Message

Hello to all,

I was proud to represent Wisconsin at the National Conference in Orlando along with my fellow delegates. While the Sunshine State did not live up to its reputation, the atmosphere amongst the attendees was filled with excitement.

At the opening ceremony, Danielle Cook was awarded the 2017 didactic educator of the year. As an educator, national recognition is the highest achievement you can be given. Educating our future surgical technologists is challenging and integrating new ideas is endless hours of work. I was at the Instructors Forum in South Carolina and her presentation was impressive. Danielle is dedicated to her students and to the profession of surgical technology. Wisconsin is proud of her!

I am humbled to report that

I am now a Fellow of the Association of Surgical Technologists. Joining AST in 2001 I have been actively involved within our organization. I will continue to encourage WIAST involvement for both practicing CSTs and students. Reminiscing about this award I like the idea of "FAST" behind the name of an active senior.

Wisconsin did not receive the State Leadership Award, but your Board was given ideas from SALC on how to accomplish this in the future. I feel that we are a great state and with more documentation of our work can accomplish this in 2019. I am looking for any members who have made contributions to promote Surgical Technology in our state to send me the details at [mcneelys@yahoo.com](mailto:mcneelys@yahoo.com) so

this information can be included on the application.

Dan's presentation for "Keeping it Clean" was informative and encouraged thoughts to how we prepare for surgical procedures and what to expect on mission trips. Spending time with our members, meeting first time attendees, and new students made this a memorable time.

Hopefully, everyone gets the opportunity to enjoy some Wisconsin summer traditions and I plan to see you October 13<sup>th</sup> as Waukesha Hospital hosts our Fall WI-AST meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan McNeely MS BSN  
CST FAST

### Inside this Issue

- How to become a delegate to the National Conference in Maryland in 2019
- National conference in Milwaukee? Hmm...
- What is FAST?
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## News from Nationals

I recently attended the National AST Conference in Orlando as a delegate for the state of Wisconsin. This is my second year going as a delegate and I find it very educational and rewarding. It is an amazing event to learn many things and how others around the country do things. It is also a great way to network with other colleagues and friends. It gives members an opportunity to talk to the National Board members about issues going on within our profession. This year was especially rewarding as I got to watch our secretary get the Teacher of the Year and to also see our president accept the award of Fellow of the Association of Surgical Technologists (FAST).

Nicole Drott

Hello fellow Wisconsin AST members,

I hope you all have been enjoying the start of summer. I returned home from the National AST Conference in Orlando a few weeks ago. It was magical! Not only were the speakers great but I also had the opportunity to enjoy some of what Disney has to offer with my family. My almost five year old was over the moon! Going to Nationals gives me such pride and motivation for our profession. I also get the opportunity to share some of what I learned with my coworkers through a PowerPoint presentation.



Shortly after returning home from the National Conference I was approached by a nurse in a separate department about talking to her niece regarding surgical technology. I was given permission by my manager to bring her into the OR to explain our job and allow her to see first hand what we do in the operating room. We spent four hours discussing schooling and certification. I was told this week that she is looking in to schooling to become a surgical technologist. I am proud of our profession and hope you are as well.

I hope you enjoy your summer. See you in the fall!

Shanna Liebl, CST

### What is FAST?

In the surgical technology profession, FAST stands for Fellow of the Association of Surgical Technologists. Much like a FACS (Fellow of the American College of Surgeons), the AST recognizes those in the profession who have met certain qualifications as well as contributed to the field with the FAST designation. It is an honor for working techs, educators and those that have dedicated themselves to our profession over many years. Each year at the National Conference the award is given to various techs from around the country who have made a difference.

## News from Orlando (cont'd)

I had the privilege of attending the 49th AST National Conference. Each state has six delegates. I was lucky enough to be selected to represent our state as one of them. Delegates are required to attend the business meetings and you get to vote for officers and the board of director positions. We listened to the candidate speeches and attended the candidates' forum, and as a group we decided who we thought would do a good job for our organization and the Wisconsin State Assembly. For anyone who has never attended an AST national convention, I encourage you to make it one of your goals. Ask your place of employment if they have an education budget to help fund your trip, apply to go as a delegate or make it a vacation. It is very exciting to attend the National Conference and makes you proud to be a certified surgical technologist. Two other highlights of the convention for me were, seeing our WI-AST president receiving AST's highest award, the FAST designation. Congratulations Sue! Also I attended our director Dan Dickover's educational talk about sterilization on mission trips and he did an awesome job.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Linda Beine CST, CSA, FAST



Orlando 2018 Delegates: Shanna Liebl, Susan McNeely, Linda Beine, Tina Pollex, Nicole Drott and Dan Dickover (Your picture could be here next year! See page 5.)



## Star for Lucy Scholarship

My name is Elise Cox. I wanted to thank everyone again for the generous scholarship donation. I graduated from Northcentral Technical College in Wausau on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and started working at Aspirus Wausau Hospital on May 29<sup>th</sup>. I joined their General Team as a Surgical Tech and am now officially a Certified Surgical Technologist. I'm learning so much and I'm just so excited for what my future holds.

Hi, All! My name is Cassidy Dziekan and I've recently graduated with a degree in Surgical Technology from a local technical college. I grew up in a small town of nearly 3,000 people with a class of only 67. I've now moved to a larger city and am committed to a career in the operating room! The coolest part about this journey has been seeing myself grow into the person I am today. You learn a lot about your strengths and weaknesses while being a scrub. I am very fortunate to have received this awesome award with such a meaningful story!

Elise Cox and Cassidy Dziekan



## How to Become a Delegate

Have you ever attended a National AST Convention? Here's 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 AST's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference to be held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. Any member who has attended the last two WI-AST meetings with current membership and certification are eligible to have their name on the ballot. Can't afford it you say? Those elected are eligible for reimbursement of the early bird registration fee, coach airfare, transportation to and from the airport and hotel up to a certain amount. If you are interested please email Sue McNeely a [signed delegate agreement](#) by October 6th stating that you would like to be on the ballot for delegate. [Click here for delegate requirements.](#) [mcneelys@yahoo.com](mailto:mcneelys@yahoo.com)

## Legislative update

In the Winter 2018 newsletter there was an article about the WI-AST's efforts several years ago to pass a law requiring surgical techs to be certified in the state of Wisconsin (Click to Read Article). Unfortunately this effort failed at that time due to various factors. In addition, this year new legislation was brought to the floor of the state house and senate to review and possibly eliminate certifications and registrations among various professions in the state. This effort was in direct opposition to our efforts. Luckily, [senate Bill \(SB\) 288](#) and [SB296](#) both failed to pass in March. This means that although the current state of the legislature is not conducive to passing legislation in our favor, at least bills that would have made it even harder to reach our goal did not pass. AST currently employs attorney Stephanie Whalum as its Director of Government Affairs, to track legislative activity involving professional credentials and to advocate for the passage of state laws that will strengthen the surgical technology profession. We will continue to work with Stephanie and the National AST as conditions change. The Board will update you as further events unfold.

Dan Dickover, CST



## Let's Bring the Conference Home

Don't want to travel across the country to attend a National AST Conference? Well, you may be in luck. Your WI-AST board is making an effort to bring the conference to Milwaukee a few years hence. We thought that as Milwaukee has more and more to offer we would like to showcase all that's going on here: restaurants and entertainment, revitalized neighborhoods and downtown, the Harley Davidson Museum, the Milwaukee Art Museum and plenty of hotel and convention space. And don't forget about the holy trinity of Wisconsin: beer, cheese and sausage! How can they say no? So send all your positive thoughts towards bringing the convention home to Wisconsin. We'll keep you posted.

### Photos from the National Conference



Waking up at the Dolphin Hotel



First time attendees Savanna Thompson, Claire Parda and Karen Bisesi.



First time attendees Dino Korjenic, Savanna Thompson and Merette Abad.



Nightlife at the Dolphin Hotel

## Fall Charity Drive

During our summer board meeting we discussed what kind of donation drive we should try for our fall meeting. In the past we have done coat drives which have been successful, however we wanted to change it up this time. We decided as a board to do a sock drive. Please bring new socks to donate to the homeless on October 13th at our fall meeting in Waukesha.

Thanks, Shanna Liebl, CST



## Host a WI-AST Meeting

Are you looking to be more hands on with WIAST? Host a Spring or Fall meeting. We are currently looking for host sites for 2020. Please let me know if you are interested in hosting. You can email me at [ilea.cornelius@aurora.org](mailto:ilea.cornelius@aurora.org). I would love to assist you!

## Wisconsin Association of Surgical Technologists Fall Conference

### Fall Into Learning

**October 13th, 2018**

Waukesha Memorial Hospital

725 American Ave., Waukesha, WI 53188



Online registration details will be on [www.wiast.org](http://www.wiast.org) in August. Keep an eye on the website.