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## Officers and Board of Directors:

### President

Jocelyn Maxwell, CST

### Vice President

Vera Polly Thomas, CST/  
CSFA/SA-C

### Secretary

Keri McKenney, CST/  
CMLSO

### Treasurer

Angela Wachter, CST

### Board of Directors

Mona Bourbonnais,  
CST, M.S.  
Biff Boggs, CST  
Carrie Nutsch, LPN/CFA  
CheRee Eveland, CST

## Why being a member of AST matters!

By Biff Boggs CST/CRCST

As a member of the newly formed Board of Directors for the Idaho state chapter of AST, I am excited about the opportunities that lay before us. I have been a member of AST since 1998, but not actively involved, until now. In most states I have worked, there were chapters of AST, but they could not sustain the chapter and folded. Joining never really seemed important to my career. After resisting for a number of years, upon moving, I found out that I had to be certified to be competitive for employment. Although not actually required by my employer, I did become certified. Once I became a CST, the hospital gave a \$300 bonus! That was a very good incentive. I have never looked back on being a member of AST.

So, why join? My biggest reason is because it's a professional organization and it carries some clout. AST was established in 1969 and has over 55,000 members and with chapters in 43 states (AST website.) The national organization works on important issues, but the local level is where it's happening. Ownership and involvement is what's needed to make this work. Being a member will empower effective change in state and federal laws and this in turn will enhance your ability to provide patient care, protect your career and shape the future of your profession. How can a person complain and blame if they don't participate?

Surgical technologist is one of the fastest growing professions in the country. It is projected to grow faster than the average of all other occupations through the year 2012 (AST website.) Doesn't that add a lot of pride knowing you picked a career that is so integral to American healthcare? Did you know that only 5 states require by law that a technologist graduate from an accredited program or must be eligible to meet the requirements for the credential of CST? As Idaho is one of those 5, I proudly proclaim that I'm a Certified Surgical Technologist. I've worked too hard to let someone walk off the street and do my job. I have experience, education, and extensive training. I believe that it should be a national requirement. And should certification become a national standard your value will continue to increase. I've heard from peers and hospital staff; "You're just a tech". I'm more than just a tech. I'm a highly educated professional, who has spent more than 20 years in the operating room. I could do any type of case and that makes me very valued. Being part of AST has given me a sense of purpose. With our support AST can be the vehicle that helps the medical profession understand our true value.

Certified Surgical technicians are a vital member of the Operating Room Team. So, we must stay highly trained and motivated. AST and certification is a great way to get this accomplished. At the local level, the IDSAST is creating many forms of education credit, tuition assistance, and fun gatherings for networking, with some socializing. Part of your dues to AST return to Idaho to be used for local programs. There are many opportunities to contribute ideas to direct the chapter, but we can't do it without you. IDSAST has hit the ground running, so let's keep it rolling. If there's an issue or concern, don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the leadership team.



## Education News

By Mona Bourbonnais

The Idaho State Assembly is off to an amazing start with our first educational event on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We were extremely fortunate that St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise offered to let us be a part of their fall conference on sterile processing. We were given 3 time slots for speakers. We were honored to have Ron Kruszal, CST, MA, CEO of the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting address the conference and shed light on what that organization does for the

**"One of the missions of the reformed IDSAST is to provide numerous educational events and offer free CEU's to all CST's in the state. "**

CST's. We also had Matt Hyde, CST/CFA do a wonderful presentation on image guided total joint procedures. Rob Frey, CST/CFA, a program director from South Dakota, along with Mona

Bourbonnais, CST, MS, program director at College of Western Idaho spoke on qualities that make good preceptors.

One of the missions of the reformed IDSAST is to provide numerous educational events and offer free CEU's to all CST's in the state. Following the Oct. conference, we sent out a

short survey to all of the AST members in the state seeking input on where and when our members would like to have their next educational event held. The input we received indicated that the majority of respondents preferred to have the event held in Sun Valley at the end of April. We immediately began planning the event that will be held on April 22-23<sup>rd</sup> at the Sun Valley Lodge and Sun Valley Inn. We were able to negotiate a reasonable price for rooms at either the Lodge or Inn for only 110.00 per room per night; these rooms can easily be shared by two people. The event will begin on Friday evening with a reception in the Sun Room on the second floor of the Sun Valley Lodge. This will be a free

reception with appetizers, beer and wine, as well as non-alcoholic beverages. The conference will begin Saturday morning with registration starting at 7:00 a.m., a complimentary continental breakfast will be served. We are still in the planning process as far as speakers but it looks like we should be able to award seven CEU's for this event. Lunch will also be served and is complimentary as well. The conference should end around 4:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

Please continue to check the website for information on registering for this conference and for booking rooms. This is a wonderful opportunity to travel to a beautiful part of our state, stay at a world class resort, listen to great speakers and earn CEU's, all for free!

## Committee Reports

### Finance:

*Chair-Angie Wachter*

**Members**-Open for volunteers.

**Ongoing Projects:** Financial Records, Statements, Legal Documents kept and filed in timely manner per AST requirements

**Current Projects:** Budget for 2011 Calendar year presented and motion of acceptance was adopted.

**Status:** Work in progress.

**Proposed Projects:** Recruitment of members to join this committee. Continued evaluation of how

to best use and save monies for our members. Budgeting for future legislative lobbying. Budgeting for future awards and scholarships for our members.

**Status:** Work in progress.

### Bylaws, Policies and Procedures:

\*This committee was dissolved due to the decision to standardize for all the states.\*

### Legislative Committee:

*Chair-Vera Polly Thomas*

**Members**- Mona Bourbonnais, CheRee Eveland, Biff Boggs

**Proposed Projects:** Researching what our national and state organizations have done and are currently doing. Develop a plan and choose a representative from IDSAST to contact our Idaho Representative and other Government Officials associated with the advancement of a bill supporting the requirement for Certification of the Surgical Technologist in the operating room. Make personal contacts at National Conference with those who are currently also working on these issues to develop a knowledgeable support group for our beginnings.

**Status:** Just getting started - working on the research part currently.

### Education:

*Chair-Mona Bourbonnais*

**Members**-Andrea Cook, open to volunteers.

**Finished Projects:** Successful Winter Conference and Business Meeting. Successfully obtaining all paperwork involved in acquiring AST approved CEU's for our members.

**Status:** Finished w/follow up board meeting.

### Ongoing Projects:

Google Calendar *Cont. next page*

## Committee Reports Cont...



**Did you know it only costs about \$6.50 a month to be a member of AST? The benefits outweigh the cost!**

of events. Filing paperwork with AST for upcoming CEU events.

**Current Projects:** Event Calendar for 2011. Spring Conference planning and paperwork filed per AST guidelines. Preceptor of the Year criteria and application.

**Proposed Projects:** Scholarships for Continuing Education for CST's and looking at other ways we can reward our members for their participation and pride of being in our profession.

### Marketing & Media:

*Chair-Vera Polly Thomas*

**Members:** Keri McKenney, open to volunteers.

**Finished Projects:** De-

velopment of first newsletter template and content. Successful promotion of the Winter Conference.

**Status:** Finished w/follow up board meeting.

**Ongoing Projects:** Newsletter, Promotion of any and all events through email, website, Facebook and word of mouth.

**Current Projects:** Finalizing details of Spring Conference to start promoting through all the above said resources. Volume 2 Issue 1 of newsletter final drafts and editing. Distribution January 31<sup>st</sup>. Note- Hardcopies will only be sent to current members in good standing with AST. Email Newsletter will go to all members and non-members of IDSAST and be available online on our state website.

**Status:** Work in Progress.

**Proposed Projects:** Adopt a Highway (our name will be promoted on the roadside sign and counts as community service), Race for the Cure team (will have promotional T-shirts made), Paint the Town (once again a community service). Application for State Assembly Leadership Achievement Award for National Conference (we may not qualify this year, but I believe for sure next year!)

## Logo Contest Winner Announced Congratulation Rob Blackston!

Congratulations to Robert Blackston, CST for his design of our new logo voted on at our Winter Conference in October. He receives roundtrip airfare and conference registration fees to attend the AST National Conference the end of May.

Rob lives in Twin Falls, ID and has worked at St. Luke's Magic Valley since 2004 upon graduation from the Surgical Technology program at the College of Southern Idaho. He worked

as a traveling CST in 2005 at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Montana where he scrubbed on the Heart Team and also "way too much Neuro". He moved back to Twin Falls and worked as a private scrub/ortho tech for Dr. McKee at Twin Falls Ortho until 2008. Rob is now a Level III tech at St. Luke's Magic Valley fulltime and is attending Idaho State University pursuing his BS in Professional-Technical Education. Rob has a wife

of 8 years and 2 daughters ages 8 and 5.

Thank you, Rob. It is valued that you took your time participating in the contest, and supporting your Idaho State Assembly.

We would also like to thank all the artists who sent in their renditions of the IDSAST logo, we appreciate your enthusiasm and creativity.



**Robert Blackston, CST**

# Election News

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 at the Spring Conference in Sun Valley elections for two Board of Director positions will be held. If interested in running and needing more information or direction, please contact any of your current B.O.D. via the Idaho State Assembly Website.

## \*Eligibility of Directors:

A candidate for the State Assembly Board of Directors shall have been an active member for one year immediately preceding nomination and if elected, shall maintain that active status.

Other than submitting the required curriculum vita and consent to serve and one year of active membership in the state assembly are the only eligibility criteria that will be considered by the Credentials Committee.

## \*Duties of the Board of Directors:

- A. Read and review the state assembly's Bylaws annually and any other materials as directed by AST.
- B. Have the authority to transact business between meetings of the active members.

- C. 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*.
- D. Foster the growth and development of the state assembly.
- E. Have the authority to establish State Assembly Board of Directors standing committees, the composition and duties of which shall be stated in the *State Assembly Policy Manual*.
- F. Review all committee reports and determine action to be taken.
- G. Submit a written report to the active members for all State Assembly Board of Directors' activities.
- H. Authorize the awarding of all contracts.
- I. Authorize the exclusive use of the official insignia of the state assembly.
- J. Fulfill any other duties as specified in these Bylaws.

\*Section 2 and 5 of Article VIII of the AST State Assembly Handbook

# ST Students

## Preceptor of the year awards:

IDSAST wants to recognize outstanding preceptors of surgical technology students by awarding three \$200.00 Southwest Air gift cards.

The students from the three accredited programs in Idaho- CWI, CSI, and EITC, will have the opportunity to nominate their favorite preceptor from the middle of March to the middle of April. The top three nominated preceptors will be announced at the Spring Conference in Sun Valley on April 22-23. Look for flyers coming soon to your Operating Room!

CWI Surgical Technology Students, who are located on the BSU campus, hosted a tailgate party for the BSU/Oregon State Football game

in Sept. of 2010. This coincided with National Surgical Technology Week, which is recognized during the last week of Sept. each year. They sent out flyers to the hospitals in our area inviting all Surgical Techs to the party. The students provided all food and beverages and even hooked up two large screens in the tailgate tent for everyone to watch the game. It was a huge success and we hope to make it an annual event!

The CWI Students also participated in the October 30 conference that was co-hosted by St. Luke's. They contacted vendors throughout the valley to ask for items that could be donated as door prizes. They were extremely successful gathering over 30 door prizes. Participants when away with wine baskets, skin care products, and restaurant gift certifi-

cates just to name a few.

These events have had a very positive impact on the students. Participating in these has enabled them to feel that they are a vital part of this wonderful profession here in Idaho.

## Other student events:

Recent CWI graduate Heidi (Reitmann) Summers took her education to a new level. As part of earning the AAS in Surgical Technology from CWI, students are required to complete an advanced practicum. Heidi chose to participate in a medical mission to Belize. She and her husband Tyson, who is an RN, researched several agencies in South and Central America and decided on a small hospital in Belize. They were located in a remote area of Belize that was

far from the beaches and resort areas that we think of when we imagine Belize. They also each had to earn around \$3500.00 to pay for their flights and lodging. The hospital was only one of four hospitals located in Belize but still only had one operating room. Tyson worked primarily in the emergency room which also functions as the hospital's clinic. Heidi was allowed to scrub everyday, giving the only scrub person there a much needed break. She was amazed at the differences that she found there. Especially in the way that everyone in the operating room was treated with the same respect. As the surgical tech, the surgeon and assistant frequently deferred to her when they had a question. She was allowed to close

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## *Professional Updates*

\*At the April 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors, the National Board of Surgical Technology and surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) approved a designation change of the Certified First Assistant (CFA) credential to that of **Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA)**.

The designation change to CSFA begins January 1, 2011, and all individuals currently holding the CFA credential will be issued a new certification card and certificate reflecting the change to CSFA.

In response to a number of inquiries from our CSFA community, the NBSTSA has developed a statement that may be used by our constituents to better communicate this change to current and prospective employers. This statement can be found on the NBSTSA website at [www.nbstsa.org](http://www.nbstsa.org).

Any questions, comments, or concerns can be addressed to Ron Kruzal, CEO NBSTSA, [ron@nbstsa.org](mailto:ron@nbstsa.org).

\*This information was from the official NBSTSA letter sent to current CSFA's.

### **Insurance Reimbursement Updates**

Effective January 1, 2011, Regence BlueShield of Idaho will no longer reimburse for the individuals-RN w/o FA credentials, **Certified Surgical Assistants, and Certified Surgical Technicians** (we are **Technologists!**). They will however reimburse for the following- non-physician assistants with the credentials of nurse practitioner, physician assistant, clinical nurse specialist, registered nurse first assist (RNFA), certified registered nurse first assist (CRNFA) and CNOR.

This directly affects the security and attainment of the goals and high standards that our profession is trying to achieve with accredited schooling and specific operating room criteria that has to be met to qualify to safely take care of a patient in the operating room. We as CSFA's are held accountable for patient outcomes, carry our own malpractice insurance (or have to qualify to be under the policy of the surgeon we work for), and according to level of schooling and certification requirements, have to maintain a continually evolving knowledge base to keep up with the advancements of science and new practices used on a daily basis.

As those of us in the current surgical community know, except for the physician assistant and registered nurse first assist, the majority of these accepted credentials for

reimbursement do not actually practice in the operating room environment in Idaho on a routine basis.

I personally am involved in disputing this decision through my Surgical Assisting company, and working with the surgeons I work with and even those I am just acquainted with, to have this decision reversed. If you have any questions about this policy change or the letter that may have been sent to your employer, please contact Kerry Light at [Kerry.Light@regence.com](mailto:Kerry.Light@regence.com) or (208) 798-2289.

Please feel free to also contact me- Vera Polly Thomas at [sasi@mindspring.com](mailto:sasi@mindspring.com).

This is one of those issues the CSFA has to take responsibility for. If you don't choose to participate, however small, in the support of our unique and specialized credentialing, you cannot expect to reap the rewards of your service to your community for self satisfaction or on the financial level. This is an unjustified policy change on many levels, and worthy of our bringing it to the attention of the community and our professional organizations.

Personally, and not as representative of the Idaho State Assembly, I currently have this insurance for my family of 3 (including myself) and have just had my premium raised to a little over \$850.00 dollars a month. I am an advocate of quality patient care and do not believe an insurance company has the right to decide who will be reimbursed for the care of me or my family in the operating room. This should be the surgeon's decision to have a nationally recognized, credentialed assistant (as that of the CSFA), they trust to take part in the care of their patients. Who would you feel safe trusting yourself or your family with? Would it be a person who is specifically educated, credentialed, and in surgery everyday or someone who may have a degree/s yet only is in the operating room once or twice a year? The CSFA is the person I would trust my family with.

*Author*

*Vera P. Thomas, CST/CSFA/SA-C*



*Aeger Primo – The Patient First*

**IDSAST**  
**P. O. Box 735**  
**Star, Idaho**  
**83669**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **Spring Conference:**

**“Exploring the positive  
benefits of Reps in the  
O.R.”**

***Reps helping Techs***

**April 22-23, 2011 Sun Val-  
ley Idaho**

### **2011 AST National Con- ference:**

**May 31-June 4, 2011**

**Please visit our website for  
more detailed information  
and links to our Facebook  
and calendar pages.**

**<http://id.ast.org>**

## ***Presidents Note***

Hello Idaho. Thank you all who attended the annual business meeting in Boise, we had an awesome turnout. We had mostly positive feedback and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The only negative comments we had were minor and can be fixed in the future. With that, I would like to apologize for the comment I made about the box from past assemblies being “junk.” I was making an analogy that was incorrect. There was helpful information inside of it, and I would like to thank the previous owners for their hard work. Please remember we are all trying our bests and there will be slips along the way, but we won’t let them get in the way of “the big picture.”

I would like to inform the assembly of an upcoming meeting in Sun Valley this spring. The board members sent out a very helpful survey to the members, and Sun Valley was where most wanted the meeting. Thank you for participating in the survey. A board meeting was held December 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss all the details. Keep an eye out for the announcement, so you can free up the date.

Thank you all once again for supporting your Idaho State Assembly and the people who serve on it. Please remember that a ton of work goes in to planning a meeting, and everyone does it out of the goodness of their heart and a love of their profession. So please next time you see a board member or officer, remember to thank them. They work their butts off for all of us. There are a few vacancies for board members and one chair up for re-election next year. Please consider serving.

Thank You,

Jocelyn C. Maxwell Sr. CST President Idaho State Assembly of AST

## **ST Students cont...**

the skin on almost every procedure and also taught medical students from the U.S. how to suture as well. It was a wonderful experience for both Heidi and her husband. She has since become employed as a CST in Memphis Tennessee at the University of Tennessee Medical Center where her husband Tyson is enrolled in CRNA school.