

NCSA-AST CONNECTION

January 2015



Jamie Tinsley-
NCSA-AST Board Member

Upcoming Events:

- **NCSA-AST
1st 2- Day Convention
sponsored by Miller-
Motte College, Cary,
NC (March 21-22,
2015)**
- **Asheville Workshop
Sponsored by AB Tech
Community College
(April 18, 2015)**

Message from the Board; Community Outreach

Just a little over 16 years ago I walked across the stage at our pinning ceremony and a couple of months later I sat for the National Surgical Technology Certification exam. I have never thought twice about becoming a Certified Surgical Technologist (even when I get that 3:30 am phone call on a rainy day), I take pride in my job. I never thought all those years ago that this 19 year old girl starting out would be where I am today. I serve as Lead Surgical Technologist on the Urology team, I am on various committees, and most recently I was elected to serve on the NCSA- AST Board of Directors. Over my career, I have had the opportunity to take part in orthopedics, general, gynecology, urology, plastics, and, oral maxillofacial. I enjoy my job and I look forward to many more years of experience. I also look forward to serving NCSA-AST and working towards furthering our profession.

I often pass a billboard that has a young lady in scrubs and a head cover on that is hugging another person and the caption says "We're here for you". It makes me think about, we as Surgical Technologist, are here to take care of people in the operating room however; when that person leaves, do we ever think about what type of situation they are going home to. Do they have what they need to provide for their recovery? Are they worried about their cost of their medical bills, are they missing time off from work, or do they even have the proper nourishment their body needs to aide in their healing? We can go beyond the Operating Room (OR) doors and help provide for our patients and community. We can pay it forward and help those in need. Through community outreach we can tell the community about our profession and the role we play in their care.

We serve a very important role in patient care. Some people may have never heard of Surgical Technologist or the education it takes to take care of a surgical patient. Through our community outreach program we can tell the community who we are and how we serve them. We can go beyond the OR doors and help our patients that have more than just a surgical need. Let's come together and challenge each other to see how much we can help our communities. I challenge us as the NCSA-AST to see how much of our community we can reach. Let's not only take pride in our everyday work but, let's take pride in serving our fellow citizens.

Written by: Jamie Tinsley

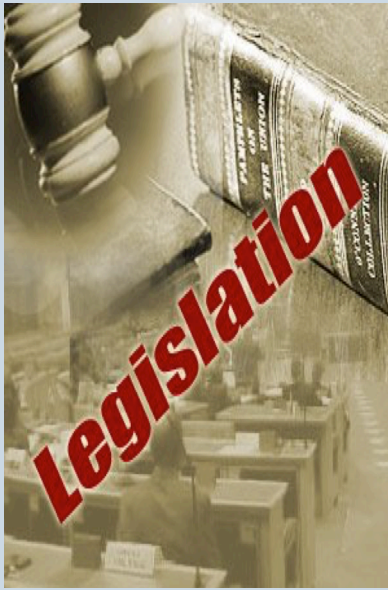
Legislation News

The NCSA-AST Legislative Committee has been working diligently on moving our legislative efforts forward. We have been pursuing opportunities with AORN's pending legislation efforts, Senate Bill SB371, "Patient Safety in Operating Rooms". The committee has also been networking with Senator Fletcher L. Hartsell, Jr., District 36 for Cabarrus and Union counties, in an effort to get the profession, certification, and advancement of Surgical Technologists out in the community.

On Friday, September 26, an executive meeting was hosted by NCSA to educate executives in our community about Surgical Technology, as well as, the importance of certification for patient advocacy. The discussion included credentialing, professional competencies, the importance of ongoing professional development, and risk management from the Surgical Technologist's perspective. Roy Zacharias, CST, FAST, AST President, represented AST and the legislative efforts at this meeting.

It is important to support legislation activities to recognize the Surgical Technology profession at the state level.

Written by: Heather Hodges & Michelle Gay

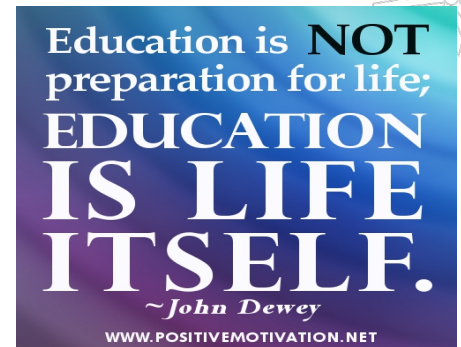


SHARING the IMPORTANCE of EDUCATION

A goal for NCSA-AST Board Members is to provide continuing education throughout the state. Once a Surgical Technologist receives their certification, they are required to maintain the credential with 60 continuing education credits every 4 years. The NCSA-AST board offered 3 workshops in 2014. One was in Nags Head, a second in Asheville, and the state meeting was held in Concord, North Carolina. 2015 Continuing Education will kick-off with North Carolina holding their **1st NCSA 2 Day Convention**. The convention will be a two day event that will include the state business meeting. The dates are March 21-22, 2015 and a total of **12** continuing education credits will be offered.

Education is important on several levels when relating to the healthcare professional. It is important to have a standard level of education to be eligible to take state or national exams after graduating a program. These standards are to ensure the essential knowledge and skills are instilled before starting a career in healthcare. After graduating, one should strive to grow as a professional through educational opportunities to provide optimal surgical patient care. As healthcare professionals, we should seek out opportunities to learn from others and gain more knowledge to continue to be great at what we do.

Written by: Kristina Stewart-Horton



UPCOMING EVENTS & SHARING INFORMATION

Community Outreach Project

March 20-21, 2015:

Shepard's Table of Raleigh

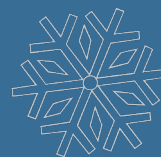
The Shepherd's Table serves a free lunch meal to anyone who walks through our doors - no questions asked. Every person who comes to us is welcomed without regard to employment status, race, sex, age, color, national origin, religious preference, handicap or income.

Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen needed items list:

- #10 canned vegetables (green beans, mixed vegetables, collards, carrots, canned diced tomatoes)
***regular size cans will work too but larger #10 are easier for us to open and serve more people.**
- Pam Cooking Spray , Spices: Cumin, Garlic powder, dehydrated onion, sugar,
- Pasta/spaghetti noodles, Pasta/spaghetti sauce
- Dish towels/hand towels (can be used but must be clean), Liquid Hand soap ,Cleaning supplies: 409, bleach,
- Forks, spoons, napkins
- Financial Donations Accepted

Register on-line for the
NCSA-AST Convention
(March 21-22, 2015)

www.nc.ast.org



ARC STSA SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications now being
accepted... view the
ARC/STSA website for more
details. Due by Feb 27th.



Happy Valentine's Day from NCSA

