



# THE SURGICAL ASSISTANT

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## TENNESSEE SURGICAL ASSISTANT BILL ENACTED

The Association of Surgical Assistants successfully passed surgical assistant legislation in Tennessee. Efforts began in 2016 with our lobbyist laying the groundwork with Tennessee senators and representatives. In February 2017, the bill was filed. For a little while, the legislative effort was teetering on the edge but additional testimony from both Dennis Stover, CSA, FAST, and Greg Salmon, CSFA, contributed to moving the outcome in a positive direction.

General features of the bill include the opportunity for eligible surgical assistants to assume the title of "Registered Surgical Assistant." The Tennessee Medical Board shall register any applicant who presents satisfactory evidence that the applicant must holds and maintains a current credential as a surgical assistant issued by the National Board of Surgical Assisting or the National

Commission for Certification of Surgical Assistants or their successors; has successfully completed a surgical assistant training pro-



Pictured: Seated: Governor **Bill Haslam**. Standing: Representative **Charles Sargent**; **Holly McDaniels**, Tennessee Lobbyist; **Kathy Duffy**, ASA President; **Greg Salmon**, ASA Vice President and **Steven Noyce**, AST State Assembly President.

gram during the applicant's service as a member of any branch of the US armed forces; has practiced as a surgical assistant at any time in the six (6) months prior to July 1, 2017, provided the applicant registers with the medical board by December 31, 2019.

*Editor's Note: The Bill is available on page 2 of this issue*

**OperationBilling**  
SURGICAL ASSISTANTS & MEDICAL BILLING SOLUTIONS





# State of Tennessee

## PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 410

SENATE BILL NO. 789

By Dickerson

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1370

By Sargent

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63 and Title 68, relative to surgical assistants.

WHEREAS, surgical assisting is an established health profession in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, surgical assistants aid in ensuring a safe surgical environment by maximizing patient safety by using appropriate techniques for processes, including, but not limited to, maintaining hemostasis, proper patient positioning, clear visualization of the operative site, proper closure of the operative site, and correct dressing of a wound; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to encourage the most effective utilization of the skills of surgical assistants by enabling them to perform tasks delegated by a licensed physician; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 6, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) No person shall use or assume the title "registered surgical assistant" unless such person is registered with the board as a registered surgical assistant.

(b) The board shall register as a registered surgical assistant any applicant who presents satisfactory evidence that the applicant:

(1) Holds and maintains a current credential as a surgical assistant or surgical first assistant issued by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting, the National Surgical Assistant Association, or the National Commission for Certification of Surgical Assistants or their successors;

(2) Has successfully completed a surgical assistant training program during the applicant's service as a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States; or

(3) Has practiced as a surgical assistant at any time in the six (6) months prior to July 1, 2017, provided the applicant registers with the board by December 31, 2019.

(c) The board shall have the authority to deny, restrict, condition, revoke, or otherwise discipline the registration of a surgical assistant for violation of this section, violation of any rules promulgated pursuant to this section, or any basis provided in § 63-6-214.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.

APPROVED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 2017

BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR

SENATE

DEAKER  
ATIVES

# MEET THE CANDIDATES



## CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT (VOTE FOR ONE)



**Kathleen A Duffy,  
CSFA, CSA**

KAD Surgical Assisting  
Port St Lucie, FL

### Involvement

Surgical Assisting Committee Member 2007-2009; ASA Board of Directors 2009-2012; ASA Secretary 2013-2015; ASA President 2015-2017.

### Election Statement

The Association of Surgical Assistants (ASA) stands at a critical point in history. National recognition must be the priority of our organization to resolve barriers that inhibit our professional acceptance in the medical community. It has been my privilege to be an

active member and leader of the ASA since it was founded. My involvement first began in 2008, when seven members of the the Association of Surgical Technologists created a committee to form ASA. In 2010, we had our first official election, and I became a Member of the Board of Directors. In 2012, I was elected Secretary, and in 2015 elected President. Through my tenure, I came to understand the value of ASA

The ASA is growing, with our current membership at 1,350 diverse members. ASA leaders are challenged to provide services to all members in several different areas, including meetings, publications, state and national public outreach, and continuing education opportunities. We continue to provide high-quality products and services, but ASA needs to do more. In the past few years, ASA has increased public awareness of the surgical assistant profession. We are currently collaborating with the American Society of Hospital Risk Managers, and will be performing a mock knee replacement surgery at their National Conference in Seattle in October. We are improving educational standards by successfully lobbying the NBSTSA to remove the On-the Job pathway. We are successful in legislative efforts in Tennessee, Nebraska, Virginia, Texas Colorado and Illinois.

We are collaborating with the Bureau of Labor Statistics in creating

a surgical assistant professional code, and NUCC for a National Provider Identification code. We published Robotics Guidelines for the Surgical Assistant, a Code of Ethics and are an active participant in developing the *Core Curriculum for the Surgical Assistant*. ASA has representation on the Education Committee of AST. ASA offers hands-on workshops geared toward the surgical assistant. We are beginning to develop a new, fully functional website that will provide our members the tools they need, whether they are hospital employed, self-employed, or academic faculty. With a planned launch of late 2017, our new and improved website will be our greatest resource to our members, hospitals, educational institutions and to the public to provide information about our profession. Finally, in conjunction with the NBSTSA, ASA recognizes all newly certified CSFAs in our CSFA Pinning Ceremony. My continued strategy for ASA is to continue to develop more avenues for our profession to gain the same level of recognition as other mid-level providers.

Fiscal responsibility requires developing new ways to raise revenue, expand membership, meet the needs of our membership and, at the same time make decisions to end services that no longer deliver appropriate value. It is my vision for ASA to continue elevating our profession through legislative

efforts, educational opportunities, involvement with our sister organizations, on state and national level. As your president, I will work to continue to improve the services and outreach activities that enhance ASA membership, as well as provide opportunities for our members to influence the future of surgical assisting.

I would like to thank the members for the opportunity to currently serve as President. I believe that my experience through my years in ASA leadership roles acting as a founding committee member, as a Board Member, as Secretary, and your current President has prepared me to help our Association succeed. Thank you for your continued support.



**Greg Salmon, CSFA**

Meridian Institute of  
Surgical Assisting  
Nashville, TN

## Involvement

ASA Founding Member 2010; AST Treasurer 2011-2015; AST Vice President 2015-2017.

## Election Statement

It has been a great pleasure to serve you as Vice President of ASA for the past two years. In every office that I

have been privileged to serve in, I have become more inspired by the professional growth and dedication of the membership. I have had the privilege to see the organization develop from its infancy to an enduring professional organization representing all aspects of surgical assisting.

ASA has become the premier organization for the surgical assisting community, regardless of credential and regardless of what employment paths are taken. ASA continues to promote the profession in various fronts to take this profession to the next level. Our educational events are unmatched by any other organization, and facilitate members developing new skills; refreshing those skills that have been neglected by learning new techniques and advancements, as well as becoming familiar with billing and legislative information. ASA continues its legislative efforts with the successful signing of surgical assistant registration in Tennessee, which now brings eight states with some form of licensure or registration for the surgical assistant. Membership is at an all-time high with numbers approaching 1,400 members, and ASA will continue to provide education and legislative efforts to promote the profession.

With all that has been done over these past seven years, I believe our profession is at pivotal point. How will we gain higher membership? What future legislative endeavors will we be involved with? When will we seek independence? What relationships will strengthen and build upon? These are some of the many questions that will need to be answered, and I am confident my leadership skills and working with the board will strengthen our vision for the future.

I believe in the Association of Surgical Assistants and what it

stands for. I was very involved in the Tennessee legislative effort -- meeting with the sponsors, opponents, and participating in all the hearings to ensure successful legislation. I represented ASA in a collaborative meeting with the Hospital Risk Managers in Orlando, where we shared our views of the utilization of non-credentialed and untrained personnel. This was great exposure for us, and I will be presenting at their conference in Washington in the fall. It was also my privilege to represent ASA in an ongoing discussion with The Joint Commission to establish recommendations or developing a standard to require all surgical assistants to be appropriately trained and certified.

My vision will be to continue to promote the profession by building collaborative relationships with other organizations. I will continue to promote growth of our profession by investing in membership and our student population. I would encourage increased legislative and marketing efforts to increase the awareness of the profession within states and hospitals. I will commit to continue promoting our educational events and online continuing education to ensure that our members continue to receive hands-on training at our conferences, along with the most updated techniques and educational lectures available.

I am confident that my experience within the organization, as well as my personal experience of being an independent assistant, educator, and hospital-employed assistant, provides me the opportunity to promote and provide the leadership necessary to lead ASA into the future. I ask for your vote of confidence for President as we work to enhance profession of surgical assisting.



## CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT (VOTE FOR ONE)



**Paul Beale, CSFA**

Profalliance Surgical Assisting  
Lakewood, CO

### Involvement

ASA Board of Directors 2014-2016;  
2012-2014.

### Election Statement

As a CSFA since 1995, I have observed our profession make huge in-roads in the areas of professional advancements. As an organization we have seen improved recognition and relationships in both the hospital setting and with our peers. We have a membership that has increased in both numbers and in involvement. It is our goal to advance through legislation, educational opportunities and to further our knowledge in our field of expertise. Since my tenure on the Board of Directors we have introduced legislative efforts with moderate success and know that pursuing these endeavors will continue to advance into professional license, registration and title protection. I believe there is much more work to be done and I would like the opportunity to serve as your next Vice President of ASA.

## CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER (VOTE FOR ONE)



**Jodi Woods, CSFA**

St Alphonsus  
Boise, ID

### Involvement

ASA Board of Directors 2013-2015;  
ASA Treasurer 2015-2017.

### Election Statement

I am running for the office of treasurer. I have been involved with the ASA for many years and I have seen changes and growth that I thought would never come to fruition. I am proud to have been on board for many of these changes. When I started with the ASA our goal was to become a separate entity and to have national recognition and legislation for our chose profession. We have worked tirelessly to make these goals a reality, when I first started with ASA we had national convention with the AST, now we hold our own bi-annual meetings and the feedback from our members has been phenomenal and also helpful in bringing speakers and classes that we know our members find beneficial in their careers. Our membership has also grown to over 1300 and counting.

With increased membership we find power in our numbers and our passion for assisting. We also find our voice and this is where legislation has been so vital to our profession. We as the ASA board have been fighting to get recognition for our profession and will continue that fight until every state has national certification. In closing, it's been my pleasure to serve as your treasure for the last two years and I would be honored to be elected for a second term and continue to participate in the growth of our profession.

## CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS (VOTE FOR TWO)



**Mary Elizabeth  
McNaron, CSFA**

Gulf Coast State College  
Panama City, FL

### Involvement

ASA Education Committee 2016-2017

### Election Statement

It would be my honor to serve the membership of ASA if given the opportunity. As a program director in the state college system for

surgical first assistants since 2011, I have gained a good understanding of the core skills and needs of those who are surgical assistants and those interested in becoming surgical first assistants. As a member and worker for our state and national AST since 1997, I also have experience and knowledge of the history of our organization. I have served on both state and national committees, made many presentations at instructor's workshops, given lectures at national conference on SFA education and how to become one. I have a reputation of working hard to complete any task given. With a master's degree in human resource management that specializes in human resource development, I have the education that enhances my ability to work with others. While there is a need for all of us to focus on the development of the organization, time is sometimes very limited. I believe I have the time, the core knowledge, the ability to do literature research, and the writing skills be an asset to the Board. As a member of the board, my first goal would be to become familiar with the board's current strategic plan and the systems in place. As a "doer", I would be glad to provide support, time, and any talent that I may have to ensure continued progress. Membership, membership benefits, and the promotion of activities that stimulate the organization to grow are areas that should remain a top priority. Our leaders have brought us quite a way since 2011 but there is much more to do. I am here to work, let me know what you feel are the priorities. If you will give me the opportunity, I will work and speak for the strategies necessary to make a positive difference for our organization.



**Trey Wiseman, CST, CSA**  
Meridian Institute of  
Surgical Assisting  
Nashville, TN

## **ASA Involvement**

ASA Member Since 2013.

## **Election Statement**

My name is Trey Wiseman and I have been a surgical assistant for the past 10 years. I am now the lab director at Meridian Institute of Surgical Assisting and have been for the past four years. Previously, I worked as a hospital-employed assistant for one of the largest hospitals in Nashville, TN. I am certified by the National Commission for Certification of Surgical Assistants.

ASA has been the leader in developing the educational and professional standards of the assisting profession by offering educational meetings and pushing forth a legislative effort to bring about the recognition of our profession. Education is the key element of this mission to me. Education is more than just going to meetings or learning from others, it is about seeking ways to promote the assisting profession to fellow assistants, hospitals, legislators, and those who would seek out this profession. To be effective, members and others, must be able to project the ASA

mission by articulating our capabilities to hospital administrators, legislators, and members of the healthcare community.

I want to be that voice for ASA! I have had the opportunity to experience this leadership while serving on the Tennessee Association of Surgical Technology as a past Vice President and Board of Director. In my own growth in becoming a surgical assistant to now working and educating others as lab director has brought about significant accomplishment in my career. It is imperative that ASA continues to educate the assisting community on how to get involved and serve the profession. I have had the privilege of having significant role models to lead and support me on this path and I would like the opportunity to pay it forward. I ask for your support in my decision to run for Board of Director. Together we can keep ASA moving forward.



# EARN UP TO 17 CE CREDITS ASA 2017 FALL MEETING

## RICHMOND, VIRGINIA SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2017

**DELTA HOTELS, BY MARRIOTT, DOWNTOWN RICHMOND**  
555 E CANAL ST, RICHMOND, VA 23219

### ASA MEETING AGENDA

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

7 am–4 pm

##### **Endovein Workshop at VCU Health** **VCU School of Medicine**

##### **Center for Human Simulation and Patient Safety**

Participants will have a detailed lecture on how to harvest, learn about the history and advancements made in Vein Harvesting, as well as, Anatomy and Physiology related to harvesting. Practitioners will actively be walked through the processes from beginning to end and have full understanding how to practice.

During this workshop, participants will have a designated lecture time to learn about and be taught how to harvest. Then, participants will have the opportunity to dissect actual cadaver pig hearts to learn cardiac anatomy, since this goes hand in hand with Vein Harvesting. Following dissection, there will be a brief lunch period and then move onto hands in portion of the workshop.

This workshop doesn't certify participants to take vein. This is a mock lab with no cadaver leg tissue. This workshop's purpose is to educate participants on how to harvest and to educate future harvesters in their practice. This course doesn't certify you to harvest vein at your facility. This is only an introductory course to Vein Harvesting for practitioners who are considering pursuing Vein Harvesting at their sponsoring facility. Other means will need to be made with your facility and with a Certified Vein Harvesting Representative in order to practice safely and effectively. Note: participants should wear scrubs and bring loupes, if available.

*With support from Meridian Institute of Surgical Assisting*

5 pm **Business Session 1**

6 pm **Patient Safety in the OR**

Marianne Sevcik, RN, MSN  
Hospital Surveyor, The Joint Commission

7:15–8:30 pm **Reception**

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

7:45–8 am **Welcome**

Kathy Duffy, CSFA, CSA,  
ASA President

8–8:50 am

**Not Your Mother's Hysterectomy**  
Keith Berkle, MD

9–9:50 am

**Keynote Address: Virginia Update**  
Hunter Jamerson, JD

10–10:50 am

**How Virginia Hospitals Are Increasing Patient Safety**

11–11:50 am

**Endovascular AAA**  
Charles Drummond, MD

Noon–

12:50 pm

**Lunch**

(sponsored by NBSTSA)



1–1:50 pm

**Podiatric Surgery**  
James Baldwin, DPM

2–2:50 pm

**3D Printing for Resident Training, Patient Education, and Surgical Planning**  
Dwight Dart, MS

3–3:50 pm

**Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery**  
Matthew Brengman, MD, FACS

4–4:50 pm

**Cases in Medical Ethics**  
Rebecca Hall, CSA, FAST

5–5:30 pm

**Business Session 2**

### ASA RICHMOND MEETING FEES

(Includes Friday reception and keynote, Saturday Ed sessions and lunch).

**Association of Surgical Assistants**

6 West Dry Creek Circle  
Suite 200

Littleton, CO 80120

303-694-9130

[www.surgicalassistant.org](http://www.surgicalassistant.org)

#### ASA RICHMOND MEETING

**ASA dues paying member: \$275**

**ASA student member: \$175**

*(currently enrolled in CAAHEP-accredited surgical assisting program)*

**Nonmember: \$300**

#### FULL DAY ENDOVEIN WORKSHOP

**ASA dues paying member: \$375**

**Nonmember: \$400**

**Attendance** is limited to 125.

**Confirmation** will be emailed.

**Onsite registration** will be available on a space-available basis. **All cancellations** must be received in writing by September 15, 2017. Cancellations are subject to a \$50 administrative fee.

**Accommodations:** Delta Hotels, by Marriott, Richmond Downtown, 555 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia; 804-788-0900. **Rates:** \$139/night plus tax, single or double occupancy. **Reservation deadline** is September 6, 2017. Room block is limited.

Register and pay online at  
[www.surgicalassistant.org](http://www.surgicalassistant.org)





# Join ASA— the only professional surgical assisting organization that:

- ✓ Successfully applied to the National Uniform Code Committee (NUCC) for a new definition of surgical assistants in the taxonomy code.
- ✓ Completed first application phase to the BLS to add the surgical assistant to the Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations.
- ✓ Provided major financial support in Florida and for **enacting legislation** in Virginia
- ✓ Offers an authoritative job description
- ✓ Sponsors billing and reimbursement education opportunities
- ✓ Researches and provides Recommended Standards of Practice
- ✓ Publishes the *Core Curriculum for Surgical Assisting*
- ✓ Sponsors advanced-level hands-on workshops, including robotics, cadaver labs, endovascular harvesting, and learning-at-sea cruises
- ✓ Offers discounts to take the CSFA examination
- ✓ Publishes information that's relevant in the quarterly *The Surgical Assistant*
- ✓ Sponsors an annual meeting that features nationally recognized surgeon speakers
- ✓ Hosts open Facebook site for surgical assistants
- ✓ Hosts an open Discussion Board
- ✓ Host an open online Jobs Board
- ✓ Offers ASA dues-paying members free opportunities to post Positions Wanted

**Join ASA to advance your career in surgical assisting and advance our profession.**

**[www.surgicalassistant.org](http://www.surgicalassistant.org)**

