

ASA MEMBERSHIP OFFERS NEW VALUE-ADDED BENEFIT

The Association of Surgical Assistants (ASA) has a new added benefit. The Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) membership is now included with the ASA membership as a value-added membership benefit! The new ASA and AST memberships entitle you to all the benefits and privileges of both memberships, including advance notice and discounts on educational events, CE credit opportunities, and access to member only areas on the websites.

The ASA is committed to embracing and advancing the interests of all surgical assistant practitioners—CSFAs, CSAs, and SA-Cs. Joining the ASA is a great way to become involved in practitioner affairs and to support the association. It is also a great opportunity to meet new people and network. ASA also welcomes CSTs, CRNFAs, RNFA, OPA-Cs and other surgical health care professionals as associate members.

Your support is vital. We hope you will consider becoming actively involved in the association and volunteer your talents and expertise in one of the many areas ASA seeks assistance, such as bylaws, education, membership, writing articles and state-level organizations.

Discover all that ASA has to offer at surgicalassistant.org. Take advantage today of this valued new benefit. When you become an ASA member, your AST membership is automatically included, and you will receive a separate membership card for both associations with all the added benefits. Renew both by paying the ASA annual dues, at the same time each year. Your member number is the same for both memberships. Are you already an AST member? No problem, we will extend

your new ASA membership to include any remaining value you currently have with AST. The ASA expiration date will be the same as the AST expiration date.

Join us today as a Founding Member of the new ASA. To join please see the application on page ??? or call at ASA Member Services, 800.637.7433, option 3. We are also available at memserv@surgicalassistant.org. We look forward to supporting you in your profession!

CURRENT ASA MEMBERS— NEW VALUE-ADDED BENEFIT

With the new value-added benefit of AST membership built-in with your ASA membership, recently new membership cards were mailed to you reflecting your adjusted expiration dates. You are now a member of both AST and ASA!

Your new combined membership was extended to reflect the number of remaining membership months on your AST and/or ASA membership and both memberships now expire at the same time. The member number is also the same for both memberships and you renew both by paying the ASA annual dues at the same time each year. Please disregard ASA and/or AST membership card(s) that you received in the past. New ASA & AST membership cards mailed to you on February 11th, reflect the extended expiration dates.

Thank you for being a vital part of the new ASA! For questions, please contact us memserv@surgicalassistant.org or call ASA Member Services at 800.637.7433, option 3. Business hours are 8 am–4:30 pm Monday–Friday, MST.

2011 ASA CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

■ PRESIDENT

(elect one)

DENNIS STOVER, CST, CSA
MERIDIAN INSTITUTE OF
SURGICAL ASSISTING
JOELTON, TENNESSEE



Professional involvement
ASA interim president 2010–2011; ASA interim vice president 2009–2010; ASA interim Board of Directors 2010–2011; ASA Advisory Committee 2008–2010; NBSTSA Exam Review Committee for Surgical Assisting, 2008; AST State Assembly Task Force 2000–2001. AST Tennessee State Assembly

Board of Directors 2007–2009; Spina Bifida Association of Tennessee.

Election statement

What an exciting time to be a surgical assistant. During the past year, much has been accomplished to redefine and reshape the commitment of the Association of Surgical Assistants. As our journey moves us from an appointed committee status to a fully functioning, elected Board of Directors, we will find ourselves directly responsible for our future. The first elected president of the ASA must be an individual, who has the desire and ability to provide experienced leadership and direction as we transcend toward building our independent organization in support of surgical assistants that carry the CSFA, CSA, or the SA-C credential.

As the appointed ASA President, I have had the opportunity to work with the Board of Directors to redirect the focus from past modalities which has drastically improved our vision and working relationships with the NBSTSA, ARC/STSA, ABSA, NSAA and AST.

The election, and not appointment, of the ASA Board of Directors is a historic milestone that some said we would never attain. I will strive to develop and share our vision to ensure the future of our connected, committed group of surgical assistants becomes a stronger organization. Through arduous work, I want to assist in reshaping a renewed mission for surgical assistants, one that is aligned with today's realities, exigencies, and challenges. This will be a lengthy process requiring honest and frank discussions about ASA, its unique role, its programs, goals, directions and performance. The success of the ASA will require input from all ASA stakeholder groups and leaders, involving analysis of not just the ASA Board of Directors, but also of the larger stakeholder groups represented. I will, as the ASA president, ensure that the voices of all members are heard.

If I am elected to lead ASA into the future, I will produce a fair representation concerning the challenges surgical assistants face on a daily basis and a sensible framework for approaching them, as well as developing a pragmatic outline of what must be accomplished within the capabilities of the ASA.

■ VICE PRESIDENT

(elect one)

DOUG HUGHES, CST, CSFA, CSA, CRCST
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY COLLEGE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

Professional involvement
ASA interim treasurer 2010–2011; ASA interim Board of Directors 2010; ASA Advisory Committee

2009–2010; NBSTSA exam item writer for CST and CSFA exams; Developer Surgical Assistant Resource website.



Election statement

My name is Doug Hughes, and I am running for vice president of the Association of Surgical Assistants. In January of 2010, I was extended an invitation to serve ASA as a member of the Surgical Assistant Advisory Committee by AST President Sherri Alexander. Shortly thereafter, with the approval and assistance of AST, we officially laid the groundwork for the only national association dedicated to advancing the profession of the non-physician surgical first assistant for all practitioners. Since that time, I have had the honor of serving you and the profession as a member of the interim ASA Board of Directors. The organization of an independent ASA prepared and able to meet the growing needs and demands of practicing CSFAs, CSAs and SA-Cs is a dream that many of us have had for years. I am proud to say that the dream is now becoming a reality, but we still have a lot of work to do. As vice president, I will continue to dedicate myself to the growth and development of the ASA

and help each and everyone of you as we work together to move surgical assisting forward.

As we begin the new decade, we face a number of challenges as a profession. Coordinating legislative efforts, developing educational opportunities, establishing clearer standards of practice, increasing public knowledge of the profession and obtaining reimbursement are just some of the topics that the association is setting its sights on. In order for us to obtain our goals, we need to have dedicated members and strong leaders to continue to build ASA. As a member of the interim Board of Directors, I have played a key role in developing ASA's strategic efforts to tackle many of these tough issues. I have also had the chance to assist many in the surgical assistant community through the development of my website, SurgicalAssistantResource.org. Additionally, I am an experienced and highly trained surgical first assistant and educator in the field of surgical technology, a published medical author, and an effective leader and manager. As vice president, I will continue with my commitment to the membership and the profession. I know that my experience, strong desire to succeed and willingness to serve ASA, will continue to prove highly beneficial, if I am elected.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to run for national office in the first-ever Board of Director elections of the Association of Surgical Assistants. This is truly a historic time in our profession, and I am honored to be a part of it. I look forward to working with each of you over the next two years as your vice president.

■ TREASURER

(elect one)

DUANE PRICKETT, SA-C
JACKSON SURGICAL ASSISTANTS
ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA

Professional involvement
Association of Surgical
Technologists; Association of
Professional Coders; Georgia
Society of Surgical Assistants
2002–2006.



Election statement

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to tell you about myself and why I am running for the office of treasurer with the Association of Surgical Assistants. I began my surgical assisting career in 2000, and I feel blessed to have found a career that I deeply enjoy and that offers me an opportunity to truly make a difference in the lives of patients. My commitment to surgical assisting can be seen by the physicians I assist, the OR staff I work alongside of, and the staff I manage. I am passionate about introducing others to this wonderful profession and helping existing surgical assistants make the most out of their careers.

During my career as a surgical assistant, I've benefited from the hard work and dedication of previous ASA leaders, and it has long been a goal of mine to make a similar contribution to our profession. My commitment to giving back can be seen in my active role in the ASA, my mentoring efforts for surgical assistants entering the workforce and in my surgical mission trips to the Philippines and the Congo.

If elected to the ASA Board, I will continue to move our profession forward and stridently advocate for the increased recognition our field deserves. I believe the leadership abilities I have demonstrated throughout my career will help me as I serve the ASA in this capacity. In 2000, I founded my own surgical assisting company. By 2010, my company supported over 75 surgeons in six facilities in the Atlanta area. This experience helped me to see the challenges that face our profession and provided me with the opportunity to apply my leadership abilities to overcome these challenges.

For instance, I launched a medical billing organization to better service collections for the surgical assisting business. I took the initiative to become a certified biller, so that I could better understand the reimbursement process and help produce better collections for the surgical assistants that I employed and for the other surgical assistants who used my company's billing services. My billing organization supported surgical assistants in multiple states, offering me insights into the reimbursement challenges throughout the country.

My top priorities as a Board member will be to:

- Enhance the profession of surgical assisting
- Build ASA membership through increased outreach and local events
- Communicate more effectively with the public on the importance of our role in patient care
- Bridge the gap between our fellow surgical assistant groups

I plan to strive toward a true working environment between organizations like the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses and Association of Surgical Assistants, encouraging each group to work toward national recognition for all surgical assistants.

■■■ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(elect three)

ROBERT BUSH, CST, CSFA
ALPHA SURGICAL ASSIST
TUCSON, ARIZONA

Professional involvement
 AST Arizona State Assembly Treasurer 2008–2011; AST Arizona State Assembly President 2005–2008; AST Arizona State Assembly Board of Directors 2004–2005.

Election statement
 Hello, my name is Robert Bush. I am applying for a position on the ASA Board of Directors.

I have been a surgical technologist for over 37 years. I became a Certified Surgical Assistant in 1993, and within the first two years, started my own surgical assisting business.

In 1994, Julie Stanley approached me about starting the Arizona State Assembly of AST. I was



nominated at the formation meeting and became a Board member on April 26, 2004. In January 2005, I was appointed president after Julie unfortunately became ill and could no longer fulfill the responsibilities. I had not previously fulfilled a role of this nature, and it was a great learning experience. Fortunately, I had a great asset behind me with AST and the staff. I also had a great mentor, who helped me in being successful as a leader and demonstrated how to get things accomplished.

In addition to being an active member of the state assembly, I teach surgical technology courses for Mohave Community College in the distance education program. My years of experience in the educational process for surgical technology will be an asset to the surgical assistant programs.

The strengths I will contribute to the ASA are:

- Knowledge and background as a surgical first assistant and business owner
- Understanding issues members have and being able to represent those concerns
- The ability to assist students with concerns related to the

educational process and clinical process

- Ability to work with various personality types in a constructive and professional manner

It is my passion to put my background and experience to work for the ASA; to see our national organization work toward excellence in education and to pursue legislation, which will provide the same nationally recognized title in every state similar to radiology techs and physician assistants.

As surgical assistants we have a hard uphill battle ahead of us. The first step is having a mind set of cooperation and unity. Second, we need to educate those who have misconceived perceptions of surgical assistants and show them through example that surgical assistants are a valuable professional asset they want and need by their side in the operating room.

Reimbursement issues for the surgical assistant need to be addressed. Through personal experience and filtering complaints from other surgical assistants, this is a current issue of concern. There is no simple solution, and there will not be a change overnight but, it is something we need to address in the near future.

With over 37 years of surgical experience and seven years' experience working with the state assembly, I am asking that you cast your vote for me, so that I may serve you as a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Surgical Assistants. I want to be a part of the ASA Board as it moves to the next level, be a contributing voice and continuing the success already put in motion by the previous and current members.

BRUCE GRUENEWALD, CST, CSFA
RENO ORTHOPEDIC CLINIC
RENO, NEVADA

Professional involvement

ASA interim Board of Directors 2010–2011; AST Nevada State Assembly Treasurer 2009–2011, 2005–2006; AST President 1997–1998; AST President-Elect 1996–1997; AST Legislative Committee 1995–1996; AST Ad Hoc Committee on First Assisting 1995–1996; AST Board of Directors 1990–1994.



Election statement

I would like to offer myself as a candidate for the office of ASA Board of Directors. I have worked in and around the surgical setting since 1974. I graduated from my surgical technology program and became certified in 1978. I have remained active and certified since that time. In 1992, I took and passed the very first certifying exam for surgical first assistants (CFA, now CSFA) offered by the LCC-ST (now the NBSTSA).

Why do I want to serve ASA? The Association of Surgical Assistants brings new challenges to the floor. The concerns of surgical assistants are far different than

those of the full time surgical technologist and deserve to have a full-time Board and, in the future, a full-time association to address those concerns. I would like to be part of this movement.

Should only full time surgical assistants be members of ASA? NO! ASA was started as a sounding board and voice for all non-physician surgical assistants other than PAs and APNs (they are, of course, welcome). CSFAs, CSAs, SA-Cs and CSTs who first assist as part of their job will benefit from membership in this organization. I feel that there are others, who can also benefit from ASA. Surgical assistants from the National Association of Orthopaedic Technologists (NAOT) who first assist on a regular basis and have privileges in hospitals around this country are just one example. There are others! That is why I am running for the ASA Board of Directors to help find ways to include all surgical assistants—to ensure quality education and to elevate the standard of surgical assisting care in our nation.

I have served AST and the surgical community in many ways. I am currently an appointed member of the ASA Board of Directors. I am the Nevada State Assembly Treasurer, I have instructed at Synthes workshops, held casting and splinting workshops and served on multiple AST committees on the regional and national levels. I have been elected twice to the AST national Board of Directors and served two terms as AST national President and President-Elect. I believe in quality surgical patient

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RENEWAL OPTIONS FOR SURGIC

In the last issue of *ASA News*, we published a comparison chart related to the three credentials, CSFA, CSA and SA-C. We intended to offer a quick summary of details related to the application process, eligibility and renewal options since this information has not been previously published in one venue. We did receive some feedback, and many seemed to be confused about issues concerning the subsequent costs of maintaining the certification. In an attempt to provide some additional clarification, we have added provided a timetable spanning eight years that includes the annual costs and renewal options for maintaining the respective credentials. It also provides an annual average cost, presented from the most expensive to least expensive.

Title	Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA)
Organization	National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Ass (NBSTSA)—www.nbstsa.org
Certification Cycle	Four Years
Methods for Renewal	Earn 75 continuing education credits during the 4-year Or Retake the certification examination
Renewal Fees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ASA member—free credit transfer and \$50 renewal fee 2. ASA/AST members and nonmembers. Recertification examination fee is \$499 (No renewal fee). 3. Nonmember—\$400 credit transfer fee and \$50 renewal fee 4. AST member renews in final year for \$80 and pays \$50 renewal fee.

EIGHT YEAR COST COMPARISON TIMETABLE (excludes initial d

Credential	Year 1*	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Average Annual Cost (Years 2 to 8)	
CSA-1	N/A		\$900		\$900		\$900		\$450	CSA NSAA nonmember (includes \$500 exam fee a
CSA-2	N/A	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$375	Certified CSA NSAA me \$125 annually to ACS; an
CSA-3	N/A		\$700		\$700		\$700		\$350	CSA NSAA nonmember \$100 recertification fee).
CSA-4	N/A	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	Certified CSA NSAA me certification.
CSFA-1	N/A	\$150	\$150	\$200	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$200	\$162.50	Certified CSFA ASA mem
CSFA-2	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$499	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$499	\$125	Certified CSFA ASA me
CSFA-3	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$450	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$450	\$112.50	Certified CSFA nonmem
CSFA-4	N/A	\$80	\$80	\$130	\$80	\$80	\$80	\$130	\$92.50	Certified CSFA AST me fee to NBSTSA.
SAC-1	N/A	\$180	N/A	\$180	N/A	\$180	N/A	\$180	\$90	Certified SA-C practition
SA-C-2	N/A	\$100	N/A	\$100	N/A	\$100	N/A	\$100	\$50	Certified SA-C practition

*Assumes first year of certification and the initial examination fees that were discussed in the last issue of the *ASA News*. **Adopted by

CAL ASSISTING CREDENTIALS

	Certified Surgical Assistant (CSA)	Surgical Assistant-Certified (SA-C)
Assisting	National Surgical Assistant Association (NSAA)— www.nsaa.net	American Board of Surgical Assistants (ABSA)— www.absa.net
	Two Years	Two Years
cycle.	Earn 50 continuing credits annually during the 2-year cycle.	1. Earn 80 continuing education credits during the 2-year cycle, 2. Submit case log documenting serving as a surgical assistant on a minimum of 400 clinical procedures (1,500 clinical hours); 3. CPR, ACLS or PALS current certification required. Or Retake the certification examination
e. al fee.)	1. \$900 bi-annual fee to NSAA for nonmember who renews by examination. 2. \$250 annual NSAA membership fee for ACS affiliate member (includes \$50 renewal fee plus \$125 ACS affiliate membership fee). 3. \$700 bi-annual fee to NSAA for nonmember who submits credits to recertify. 4. \$300 annual NSAA membership fee (includes \$50 renewal fee and \$250 dues fee).	1. Renewal by exam fee is \$180 every two years. 2. \$100 renewal fee every 2 years.

certification fee)

who pays \$900 to NSAA, does not submit CEs and renews by examination.
and \$400 exam processing fee)**.

member, who is an Allied Health Member of the American College of Surgeons; pays
and pays \$250 dues and \$50 renewal fee to NSAA.)**

who pays \$700 to NSAA and submits CEs (includes a \$600 processing fee and a

member pays \$250 dues and \$50 renewal fee for a total of \$300 for the life of the

member, who maintains continuous ASA membership and includes the \$50 renewal fee.

member who re-tests to renew certification and pays \$499.

member who pays \$400 to process CE credits and includes \$50 renewal fee to NBSTSA.

member who maintains continuous AST membership and includes the \$50 renewal

member who renews by examination and pays \$180 to ABSA.

member who pays \$100 renewal fee to ABSA.

by the NSAA Board of Directors April 2010.

You can also renew your CSFA credential by CE, even if you're not a member of ASA (or AST) for all four years of your certification cycle. While not recommended, you can also renew by CE, even if you have only been a member in the last couple of years of your cycle. For example, if you join ASA in the third and fourth years of the cycle and pay \$150 per year (\$300 for two years), earn the required 75 CE credits starting at that point, and then pay the \$50 renewal fee, the total would be \$350—an average of four years of only \$87.50. You can do the same thing as a member of AST for the last years of your cycle, and the costs are even less. As most experienced practitioners know, it's never been less expensive or easier to earn CE credits. There are a variety of online opportunities that allow you to earn all the credits you'll need to earn for \$100 or even less. You can call ASA to learn more about those options which don't require membership.

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care. It is what I do and who I am, and that will not change.

**WILLIAM PRICE, SA-C, RSA
I CARE SURGICAL ASSISTANCE, INC
HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS**

Professional involvement
Illinois Surgical Assistant
Association and affiliate member,
American College of Surgeons

Election statement

After attending the national conference in Grapevine, Texas, I decided that it was my turn to either “put up or shut up.” I am an SA-C, who is running for the ASA Board



of Directors under the newly formatted Association of Surgical Assistants.

This new Board has a direction unlike any other in the past. It serves as an umbrella to all non-physician surgical assistants. This distinguished panel has encouraged us all to lend a hand to our future. No longer do we have to battle our differences; I look forward to pooling our resources and ideas. My desire is to help increase our

membership, which is one of the main focus points when growing a new professional body in order to be taken seriously by the legislature. I aim to link my prior experience from serving on the Illinois Surgical Assistant Association membership board. The focus during my two years of service was growth and retention of the surgical assistant membership.

Currently, our state boasts more than 300 members. Illinois is also at the forefront for surgical assistants with a title protection act and a billing act specifically written to mandate insurance companies pay surgical assistants for their services at surgery. As an active member, I witnessed how basic membership to the association held weight when trying to get laws passed. It took many tries in the statehouse, until we had a critical mass large enough to get lawmakers to listen.

Delightfully, I have been looking forward to serving with my fellow surgical assistants from all over the country. I believe that I will add to the Board by looking at issues from the point of view of an independent surgical assistant and business owner. My strength will be the ability to educate physicians, administrators, hospital staff and the public (including patients), daily about our profession. I have been a cheerleader for our field since I passed my boards with the American Board of Surgical Assisting in 2003. I visualize sharing my knowledge and experience to all novice and seasoned assistants nationwide. I promise to stand tall as we press lawmakers to recognize our profession as a whole. Thank you for this honor to serve us all.

**SHANNON E SMITH, CST, CSFA, BSHS
GULF COAST COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA**

Professional involvement
AST Florida State Assembly Board
of Directors 2010-present

Election statement

Hello, my name is Shannon Smith. I am running for the position of Board of Directors for the Association of Surgical Assistants.



As a founding member of ASA, I am very excited to be running for this position. I have 22 years of combined experience in the operating room with 15 years experience as a Certified Surgical First Assistant. I also hold a Bachelor's Degree in Health Sciences with a minor in Management. I currently work as the Assistant Coordinator of Surgical Services at Gulf Coast Community College. In addition to assisting with administrative duties for our programs, I oversee lab and clinical assignments for the surgical technologist program, and I am the instructor for our new surgical assistant program. Prior to starting this position I worked for a private practice

as a surgical assistant for 13 years. In addition to assisting in the office and surgery, I also assisted with many administrative duties, including obtaining preauthorization for procedures and writing appeal letters to insurance companies for reimbursement. I believe my experience and education will be a tremendous asset to our great organization. These are our formative years, a crucial time for our organization, and we need a dedicated, competent, well-informed leadership.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I pledge to commit myself to the advancement of our organization with the level of dedication, passion, and professionalism that our members so rightly deserve.

I began my career in the operating room because of my desire to make a difference. It is with this same desire that I ask for your consideration for this position.

**VERA P THOMAS, CST, CSFA, SA-C
BOISE SURGICAL GROUP
MERIDIAN, IDAHO**

Professional involvement

AST Idaho State Assembly Vice President 2010–present; St Luke’s Hospital Education Committee, 2002–2007, Chair 2005–2007.

Election statement

My legal first name is Vera; however, I have answered to “Polly” my entire life. My decision to run for a position on the ASA Board of Directors is driven by the belief that the surgical first assistant role in the operating room is separate than the role of the surgical technologist.

Some people search their whole lives for a career that is fulfilling

in all aspects of life. I am lucky that after I became a CST and was exposed to the different career paths chosen by others on the operating room. I realized I had the best job in the OR! I met the person who first suggested being a first assistant to me about eight years ago. Beth Amos, CSFA, LPN (now retired), became my mentor for choosing to continue schooling in an accredited first assistant program. I found in her the passion and knowledge that sparked my own and gave me the direction to follow when I knew I did not want to be a nurse, physician’s assistant, anesthetist or administrator.



In the last year, I have served as vice president of the Idaho State Assembly of AST. Working with the other officers and Board members, has given me the satisfaction of being able to provide new opportunities and experiences to the CSTs and CSFAs in Idaho through AST. I would like to eventually start the Idaho State Assembly of ASA to provide more specific education focusing on surgical first assistant related topics.

It is difficult in limited space to express all I see in the advancement

of the surgical first assistant profession. I am a strong advocate for our specialized role in patient care. If I am elected as a member of the Board of Directors, I would like to be a part of making the decisions that will define and support the validity of our credential. I believe in requiring that a CST or other eligible practitioner attend and graduate from an accredited first assistant program to legally work in that role. I have much to learn about legislation, but am learning every day. I believe in justifiable reimbursement from insurance companies to pay our nationally recognized credential the monies for the service provided, as currently some are excluding the credential we hold, yet pay to other people of varying degrees who don’t have the training of the actual role we fill.

In closing, I would like to say that although I may not have the years of experience of some, and admit I have much to learn, if you choose to elect me to this position, I will serve, promote and support ASA and all of you who have chosen this career. My motivations for running come from the heart of a person who has found the passion for exactly what they were meant to do in life. As my mentor has opened this door for me, I would like to give back in return. Thank you for your consideration.

Editor's Note: More candidates may run from the floor during the first ASA business session. Prospective candidates must have submitted their Consent to Serve and CVs and have their credentials verified before the first ASA business session. Hours will be posted in the conference handbook.

2010 CSFA AND SA-C SALARY SURVEY RESULTS

In 2010, two surgical assisting practitioner groups were surveyed to obtain the most recent salary and practice information for Certified Surgical First Assistants and Surgical Assistants–Certified. The results are published here.

Three hundred fifteen participants responded to the CSFA online survey, and 257 participants responded to the SA-C mail survey. Some respondents hold dual credentials and this will be reflected in the statistics. Data for the state of employment were widely varied. For these results, the top three states that were reported by respondents in each of the two surveys were listed.

Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA)

Which credential do you hold?

	# Responses	Percent
CSFA	257	81.6%
CSA	44	14%
SA-C	14	4.4%

How long have you been certified?

	# Responses	Percent
0-10 Years	221	63.7%
10-20 Years	93	26.8%
20+ Years	33	9.5%

What type of employer do you have?

	# Responses	Percent
Hospital or Surgery	207	59.7%
Physician/Surgeon	90	25.9%
Self Employed	50	14.4%

Which state do you work in?

	# Responses	Percent
Florida	27	7.8%
Texas	50	14.4%
Wisconsin	27	7.8%

How long have you been working as a surgical assistant?

	# Responses	Percent
0-10 Years	187	53.9%
10-20 Years	1167	33.4%
20+ Years	44	12.7%

My annual salary range is:

	# Responses	Percent
\$18K-\$25K	7	2%
\$25-\$50K	117	33.7%
\$50-\$75K	139	40.1%
\$75-\$99K+	52	15%
\$100K+	32	9.2%

Are you employed under a specific job description as a surgical assistant?

	# Responses	Percent
Surgical Assistant	259	74.6%
Surgical Technologist	88	25.4%

Surgical First Assistant–Certified (SA-C)

Which credential do you hold?

	# Responses	Percent
CSFA	21	8%
CSA	44	14%
SA-C	170	66%
MD	19	7%
PA-C	3	1%

How long have you been certified?

	# Responses	Percent
0-10 Years	187	73%
10-20 Years	53	21%
20+ Years	15	6%

What type of employer do you have?

	# Responses	Percent
Hospital or Surgery	152	59%
Physician/Surgeon	39	15%
Self Employed	80	31%

Which state do you work in?

	# Responses	Percent
Florida	45	18%
Illinois	40	16%
Texas	27	11%

How long have you been working as a surgical assistant?

	# Responses	Percent
0-10 Years	141	55%
10-20 Years	67	26%
20+ Years	44	17%

My annual salary range is:

	# Responses	Percent
\$18K-\$25K	12	5%
\$25-\$50K	57	26%
\$50-\$75K	80	37%
\$75-\$99K	47	21%
\$100K+	32	11%

Are you employed under a specific job description as a surgical assistant?

	# Responses	Percent
Surgical Assistant	199	86%
Surgical Technologist	29	13%
PA or RN circulator	3	1%

ADVANCING LICENSURE LEGISLATION

A CASE STUDY CATHY SPARKMAN, ASA DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Oftentimes, in the heady realm of government affairs, it is heard, “If you build it, they will come.” That is, if there is a good idea, such as licensure of surgical assistants, run it up the flagpole, and everyone will salute. While it is without question that the surgical assistant profession and surgical patient safety will both benefit greatly from the requirement that practitioners who assist at surgery be appropriately credentialed, competent and recognized as professionals in the operating room, the road to such recognition can be arduous and serpentine. Experience in this process can yield some useful guidance in pursuing licensure initiatives.

The beginning: have a plan

To paraphrase Judy Garland in the 1939 film, *Babes in Arms*: “Hey! My Dad has a barn! Let’s put on a show!” Charging forward to file legislation will not be so well received. First, it is necessary to evaluate the political landscape and determine allies, detractors and distractions, interest, motivation, incentives and, of course, worst case scenarios. Identify interested parties and assess their involvement, or opposition. Determine what is essential to the legislation and what can be bargained. “Eye on the Prize!” But first identify specifically what is the prize.

Chart a course

What is the path to licensure? Does it include evaluation by governmental

agencies or professional organizations? What is the process to introduce the initiative to each, and what will be the benchmarks of persuasion? Case in point: if a state requires a “sunrise” process, proponents must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Demonstrable harm from the unregulated practice of a profession or occupation;
- 2) Inherent qualities peculiar to the proposed regulated professions that distinguish it from ordinary work or labor;
- 3) Requirements of the profession that include specialized skill or training to benefit the public needs;
- 4) Demonstration that the public cannot be protected by any means other than professional regulation.

In Virginia, the Department of Health Professions conducted a two-year study to determine that surgical assistants meet these criteria and recommended licensure for the profession. But, it was only the first step.

Assess the political landscape, gather supporters and identify opponents and detractors

A favorable determination of a sunrise process does not guarantee passage of legislation. The journey has only begun. Legislative proponents must assess the political landscape to determine whether the relevant legislature is conducive to entertaining the type of legislation being

proposed. Further, the selection of a sponsor (or patron) should position the initiative for movement through the relevant committees, onto the floor, and to the companion chamber. Selecting a sponsor only by “constituent request” may not create sufficient credibility or momentum to move the bill forward. Similarly, developing supporters and identifying opponents should be accomplished at the earliest opportunity. If other members of a profession are impacted by the legislation, they should be contacted and their buy-in and support obtained. It will be one of the first questions asked by the legislators, “Who have you talked to? Are they on board?” Case in point: a licensure bill proponent, who does not involve all practitioners of the profession risks difficult questions from legislators about the solidarity of the initiative at best, and at worst, may appear to be divisive, fragmented and self-serving as the process goes forward. Similarly, if the proponents have not at least identified the opposition and created arguments to blunt or rebut their arguments, they risk appearing unprepared or unable to demonstrate solid arguments. Legislation is not pursued in secret, or even in private, in the current political culture. Questions concerning the legislation, its positive effects and its detractors must be addressed openly, if the political decision makers are to take the legislation and its proponents seriously.

Get all the facts, and share them

Legislation will not go forward without good reason. In today’s political climate, legislation that further

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Association of Surgical Technologists

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involves a state's bureaucracy (with its attendant costs) will be viewed with suspicion at best. Developing the factual support for licensure legislation in advance of the legislation, and in anticipation of the questions to come, is as important as developing the supporters to advance the bill. Development of "white papers" and other public policy analyses should accompany any effort to advance legislation. Data should be gathered from all available sources and shared with all decision makers at all levels. Case in point: a committee or subcommittee hearing is the best opportunity not only to show solidarity with all stakeholders, but to submit data, information and arguments supporting the legislation for the decision makers. Appearing with only argument and

without facts dilutes the impact of the initiative.

Optimize the strengths of the legislation as well as all of its proponents

Legislators discover almost immediately whether proponents have done their homework and have brought the best face of the bill forward. Controversy can and will derail a bill almost as fast and certainly as opposition. Exclusionary tactics, especially among proponents, will discourage, if not derail, serious inquiry into the efficacy of a proposed bill. Legislators are tempted to abandon legislation that appears divisive. Thousands of bills are filed annually in all 50 states. Only a small percentage will pass. Preparation, planning, alignment and strategy play critical roles in securing passage of professional licensure legislation.

FLORIDA SURGICAL LEGISLATION PROPOSED

Currently, Florida SA-Cs are proposing a bill for the recognition and licensure of surgical assistants in the state. The bill recognizes all three credentials, CSFAs, CSAs and SA-Cs; defines a scope of practice; seeks reciprocity with other states; and seeks reimbursement from insurance companies for surgical first assisting services provided.

To read the bill, Senate Bill 742, please visit the website of the Florida Association of Surgical Assistants Certified, www.flasac.org. The bill is also downloadable on the ASA website, www.surgicalassistant.org under Legislation.



Membership Application

Association of Surgical Assistants • www.surgicalassistant.org
6 West Dry Creek Circle • Suite 200 • Littleton, CO 80120-8031
Phone: 800.637.7433, option 3 • Fax: 303.694.9169
memberv@surgicalassistant.org

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____
Address _____ Apt # _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
Have you ever been a member of ASA? No Yes, under the name of _____
Email _____
I was recruited by: _____ (member's name), _____ (membership #)

MEMBERSHIP DUES **Membership categories and discounted first-time CSFA exam bundles explained on the back of this form.**

Please check the appropriate choice for membership dues or bundle.

Active...\$150 (INCLUDES AST MEMBERSHIP)

Copy of your credential must be submitted for verification.

Credential Held: CSFA = NBSTSA CSA = NSAA SA-C = ABSA

Certification Number _____ Cert Start Date _____ Cert End Date _____

Associate...\$150 (INCLUDES AST MEMBERSHIP)

Credential Held: CST CRNFA or RNFA PA-C OPA-C Other

Bronze Exam Bundle...\$317 (First-time certification only, **INCLUDES ASA & AST MEMBERSHIP**. See other side for requirements.)

Silver Exam Bundle...\$202 (First-time certification only, currently an ASA member. See other side for requirements.)

Student...\$45 (Requirement: currently enrolled in a CAAHEP-accredited surgical assisting program.)

Complete School Name _____ Start Date _____ Graduation Date _____

Instructor's Name _____ Instructor's Email _____

Gold Student Exam Bundle...\$237 (First-time certification only, includes ASA membership. See other side for requirements.)

DUES INFORMATION All dues are for one year. Dues are not refundable and membership is not transferable.

PAYMENT METHOD **Remit to: ASA, 6 West Dry Creek Circle, Ste 200, Littleton, CO 80120-8031 or fax 303-694-9169**

Check or money order enclosed (make checks payable to AST)

Bill my credit card: VISA MasterCard AmEx # _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

- Check here if you **do not** wish to receive email notification in addition to your regular postal notifications.
- ASA shares mailing information with a very limited number of organizations which provide membership with liability coverage and other services at a discounted rate as a benefit of membership. Check here if you **do not** wish to receive information.

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EARN UP TO 17 CE CREDITS AT THE 2011 SURGICAL ASSISTING LEARNING AT SEA

An educational cruise jointly sponsored by ASA, ASOPA and the Meridian Institute of Surgical Assisting
October 30–November 5, 2011



Surgical assistants, techs and orthopaedic physician assistants are going to sea together—for an unparalleled learning opportunity in the Eastern Caribbean aboard the *Carnival Destiny*. Participants will experience on the go—learning and earning continuing education credits even before they embark.

This is the first time the Association of Surgical Assistants will be joined by members from the American Society of Orthopaedic Physician Assistants (ASOPA). This is the first time surgical assistants and orthopaedic physician assistants are cruisin' and learning together.

The ship features an huge array of dining options—buffet, international, made to order—all at your fingertips. Extravagan-

shows, a dance club, casino, Karaoke lounge, luxurious spa, sports bar—all yours to choose and just steps away from your cabin.

There's more!

The cruise will be making stops at three ports of call—Grand Turk, Half Moon Cay and Nassau. Participants have an appealing range of choices for shore excursions that can be purchased separately or aboard ship.

Grand Turk

The beautiful island of Grand Turk is the capital of the Turks and Caicos. Beautiful beaches, historical buildings and shopping at small arts and crafts boutiques are just a few of the attractions to enjoy during the shore excursion.

Half Moon Cay

This privately owned paradise features horseback riding on the sand, experiencing a stingray adventure, exploring a nature trail or relaxing in a private beachfront cabana.

Nassau, Bahamas

Stretches of white sand beaches, crystal-clear waters and an abundant marine life are waiting for you to discover. Or shop til you duty-free shop, hop on a carriage ride or see the watery depths in a glass bottom boat—you will have lots of fantastic memories to take back home.

And we even have planned some surprise amenities that we know you will enjoy.

EDUCATION AGENDA (subject to change)	
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2011	
11 am–5 pm	Registration at precruise Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay hotel
1–5 pm	Advanced Suture Workshop at Marriott Biscayne Bay hotel (4 CEs)
MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2011	
Noon	Embarkation
4:15–5:15 pm	Keynote Address (1 CE)
5:15–6:15 pm	Reception
6:15–7:15 pm	Dinner
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2011	
7 am–Noon	Education Sessions (5 CEs)
Noon–1 pm	Lunch
1–5 pm	Education Sessions (5 CEs)
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2011	
7 am–2:30 pm	Grand Turk Port Call (on own)
3–5 pm	Education Sessions (2 CEs)
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011	
9:30 am–6 pm	Half Moon Cay (on own)
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2011	
7 am–5 pm	Nassau, Bahamas (on own)
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2011	
8 am	Arrive Miami

THE DETAILS

We have reserved several levels of cabins. They are in limited supply so be sure to make your reservations early to ensure you receive your preferred choices. All cabins are double occupancy and require two guest registrations. Prices lists below are per person. Be sure to double the per person price to arrive at the accurate cost for the cruise and program. The per person price includes cabin accommodation, educational sessions, meals, specified soft drinks and many shipboard activities.

CABIN CATEGORIES	CHARGES (PER GUEST)	TOTAL CABIN CHARGE (2 GUESTS)
4B Interior	\$601	\$1,202
4C Interior	\$606	\$1,212
4D Interior	\$611	\$1,222
4E Interior	\$616	\$1,232
4F Interior	\$621	\$1,242
6B (Ocean View)	\$666	\$1,332
8B Balcony	\$781	\$1,562
8C Balcony	\$786	\$1,572

Additional charges: A \$50 per person tip is not included.

Precruise Hotel Information: October 30, 2011, Marriott Biscayne Bay, 1633 North Bayshore Drive, Miami, FL 33132. Visit the hotel website to register: www.marriott.com/miabb.

Cruise Registration Online: Visit the ASA/AST websites and click on the 2011 ASA/ASOPA Cruise link. Registration deadline is August 1, 2011. No refunds after August 1, 2011.

For questions, please contact Michele Frey, 303-325-2514 or mfrey@ast.org.