



Peach Review

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The Business of 2017 AST National Conference

This year's national election was held for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and 3 Board of Directors. Congratulations to the newly elected officers and directors!



Holly Falcon
CST, FAST

AST President



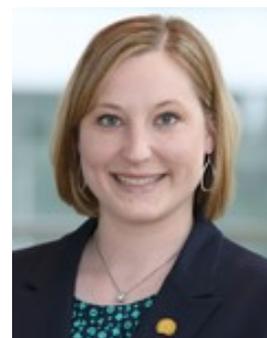
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AST Director



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AST Director

My First Delegate Experience

by Kelly Phillips, CST

While the AST National Conference in new Orleans was not my first, it was by far my favorite. The reason for that was because I spent it with a great group of people from the Georgia State Assembly as a first time delegate. I knew GASA was a strong organization, but I was very impressed by the close-knit relationships they all share with each other, and now share with me. I am proud to be a part of such a knowledgeable and friendly group of peers. The GASA members are always willing to give advice or answer any questions.

The conference was as always full of energy, and I met some fantastic people including members of the AST national board. This year was a perfect year to be a delegate because several positions were up for election, including President and Vice President. The nominees all presented their vision for what the future of AST should look like, then we got an opportunity to ask them questions to help us make a decision on who would do the best job for the future of the profession.

I was honored to be able to have a voice in who was elected. I enjoyed myself so much that I am planning on running for a delegate position again to represent our state at next year's conference in Orlando. I hope to see you all there!

My First AST National Conference

by Nannette Dillard, CST

For the very first time in my long career as a surgical technologist, I attended the AST national conference in New Orleans in July 2017. I was excited, nervous, and thrilled all at the same time and wondered why I had not done this before. From the beginning, it was as energizing and positive as I thought it would be. The pageantry of the Opening Ceremonies was just the start of a truly wonderful experience. The educational sessions were incredibly informative and thought provoking; the keynote sessions were inspiring and uplifting. The exhibit hall was amazing and the vendors provided incredible information and education. I truly enjoyed pursuit of signatures for prize eligibility. It was an innovative way to make sure conference participants visited as many vendors as possible.

I started the conference as an alternate delegate, and that was remarkable in itself, but I soon found out that I had been advanced to a full delegate for the state of Georgia. This was all new to me, but T.C. Parker, chair of the Georgia delegation, made sure I was informed and comfortable with these new responsibilities.

She represented Georgia with kindness and compassion and I am grateful to her for making an anxious situation so easy. Being a delegate meant that now I was able to vote for national officers and help decide who would be the best candidate for the job. I found that the candidate information that was available and the candidate's forum was very helpful in my decision making process.

One of the best conference experiences was being able to network with other surgical technologists from so many different places. The ability to share experiences, to ask questions, and to learn from others was truly remarkable and I came away with ideas and practices that will be put to use in my practice setting.

I now have a new goal to attend as many national conferences as possible in the future and to encourage my surgical technologist coworkers to attend at least one national conference in the future. I am very thankful that I was able to serve the state of Georgia as a delegate; it was an experience I will not ever forget.

2017 National Conference Highlights



What a Great Week!

by Gene Burke, CST

Just returning from the AST National Conference and all I can say is WOW! What a conference!

Again this year as your delegate, I had the privilege and honor of meeting all the national candidates and asking them questions directly so that I could make an informed decision about how to vote.

Let me start from when I arrived. I arrived on Monday and had that afternoon to just relax a little bit and get some great food. On Tuesday, as a member of the State Assembly Leadership Committee, we had a meeting which I attended. It was a long meeting but we discussed a lot of material.

We then went on to the State Assembly Leadership Forum reception. It was nice to be able to meet several military members at this reception. I was also privileged enough to meet the Colorado/Wyoming State Assembly President, Vice President and Secretary. Serving on the SALC, this is one of "my" state assemblies.

Wednesday hit and it was all about the State Assembly Leadership Forum. What a blast was had by all that attended. Some great speakers, including our own GASA Secretary, Erin Baggett. Our state assembly was put up front with the way we run our elections.

Erin did a fantastic job and we heard some great comments from the forum attendees. She will probably be receiving a lot of emails or phone calls regarding how to set up the voting process.

After the forum we had the first ever President's meeting where the SALC met with all State Presidents (or their representatives) to discuss anything that they wanted. This was an eye opening experience but I believe we were able to help several Presidents with their questions and concerns. On to Opening Ceremony Practice. This was an adventure but we made it through and were finally released to go get dinner.

Thursday morning, the big opening. I was excited and nervous as I was in charge of making sure the Army Color Guard was in place and prepared for their duties. As always, our military members did a fantastic job at presenting the colors. After the introduction of the National Board and Standing Committees, I was honored to take the color guard to breakfast. It was so nice that I was given the honor to show some appreciation to the men and women who fight and protect our freedoms in America. They were so appreciative. After the breakfast, we said our goodbyes and they went back to their military lives. I want to thank them publically for all that they did for AST.

The big opening night party, what would everyone wear, who would be the ones standing out? Well, I have to say that the SALC did stand out in their New Orleans Saints jerseys. It was a fun time to be had by all.

Friday was the Candidates Forum and Exhibit Hall day. Everyone had to get the monkey from Ruhof. That is the highlight for everyone it seems. After the GASA met the candidates, we had a short meeting to discuss our thoughts and ensure everyone understood the voting procedures and where we were to meet the next morning.

Saturday morning, voting took place and the GASA was well represented. Your delegates were where they were supposed to be and on time. The second session of the business meeting was held and election tallies were given. Congratulations to all the newly elected National Leaders.

Overall, it was a very busy week for me, but it was an honor to serve the state that I love as a delegate to the professional organization that I give my heart to everyday. We say goodbye to the "Big Easy" and look forward to seeing Mickey and Minnie next year at the Swan and Dolphin Hotel next year.



Saturday, September 9, 2017
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Savannah Technical College
Eckberg Auditorium
5717 White Bluff Road, Savannah GA

Join us at Savannah Tech to learn from the Savannah medical community! Earn 8 CE's in one day for only \$65 (early bird price), plus receive hot breakfast and lunch. Make it a long weekend and enjoy downtown Savannah or the beach!

To register online, go to
www.ast-gasa.org/fall-2017-meeting