



# Peach Review

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## The Business of 2018 AST National Conference

This year's national election was held for Secretary and 3 Board of Directors. Congratulations to the newly elected Secretary and directors!



Dustin Cain  
CST

AST Secretary

*We are especially proud of our GASA President, Dustin Cain, who was elected this year as the AST Secretary!*



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## **My First Delegate (& Conference) Experience**

**by Jennifer Behlmann, CST, Secretary, GASA Delegate**

I have always wanted to attend a national conference ever since I graduated and became a Certified Surgical Technologist, but have not had a chance until this year. This year I attended my first AST National Conference, in Orlando of all places, and also had the honor of attending as a delegate for the Georgia State Assembly.

As one of your delegates, I was tasked with learning about the candidates running for the national board and voting for who I thought would best represent you. It seemed like a large task, but I was privileged to be surrounded by a great group of people from GASA's current and past boards. They were welcoming and very helpful at guiding us newbies to where we needed to be and how the whole process worked. I thoroughly enjoyed reading, listening to, and interviewing all the candidates. There were many great ideas on how to keep AST moving forward and promoting Certified Surgical Technologists in the entire country. I am excited to see what our new national board will do for us!

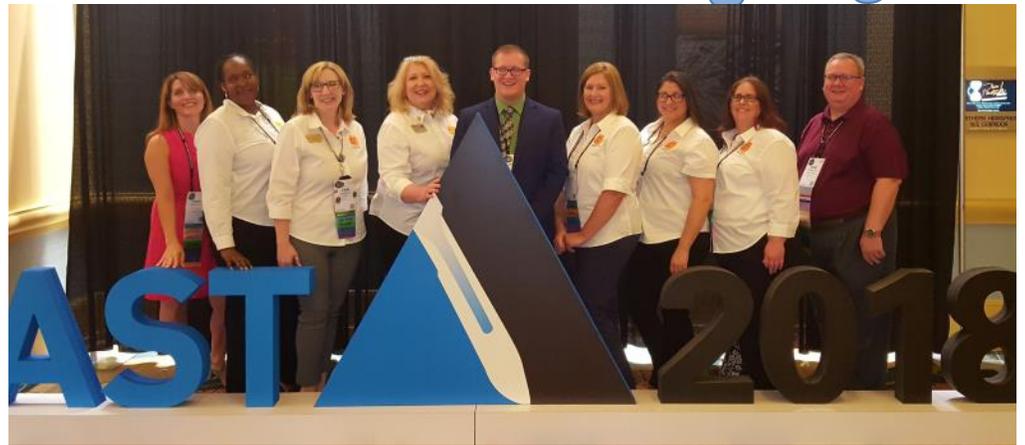
Being in a room filled with 1500 CSTs, cheering and wanting to learn, is a wonderful experience. There were items from serious business meetings, to the fun opening and closing ceremonies. There were many great speakers to learn from at the workshops. There was also a hall of vendors where you could learn about things from new instruments and technologies, to ways to keep you safe and healthy in the OR, to items you could purchase for yourself or the OR. Many of the vendors also had give-a-ways.

Even with all the work as a delegate, there was still time to have some fun. I enjoyed meeting new CSTs from around the nation, and made new friends. I got to spend time relaxing and taking in the attractions Disney had to offer. Who could resist getting your picture taken with Pluto!

I look forward to attending next year's conference and hopefully many more to come. Thank you for entrusting me to be one of your delegates this year.



# 2018 National Conference Highlights



## What a Great Week!

by Kelly Phillips, CST, BSN, RN, Board of Director, GASA Delegate

The AST conference in Orlando is now just a fond memory, and as I reflect upon it there are a few things that I would like to highlight. The conference is always held in great hotels and the Disney Dolphin had so much to offer. There was a lot to do during conference hours and more than enough afterward. The area in and around the hotel had some amazing restaurants and everyone knows about the theme parks.

If you did not go or have never been to a conference, it is a good time to combine work with relaxation and you should make plans to bring your family along to the next conference.

This was my second year as a GASA delegate and once again it was a very rewarding experience. There are times that the election results go a different way than anticipated, but the process of interviewing the candidates is empowering. It feels good knowing that my decision helps Surgical Technologists in Georgia and other states by electing people to the national board who have a desire to make the profession one that is respected and acknowledged.

I would like to encourage members to take that first step and run for the role of delegate at the next business meeting in March 2019.

During the conference, the exhibit hall is always a busy place with lots to see and this year was no exception. There were large crowds of people hovering over the exhibits

trying to catch a glimpse of the next new thing and possibly get a sample and a free gift or two. I love the networking that occurs during the conference, and the exhibit hall was a great place to do some networking.

There were recruitment opportunities from every corner of the U.S., and a person looking to relocate could easily get their foot in the door by speaking with a representative, taking a business card and exchanging email addresses. I was pleased to see vendors from a multitude of specialty areas, as well as shoes and scrub attire vendors, which gave a little something for everyone. My students enjoyed seeing all of the surgical gadgets that they have never seen or used before - they were like kids in a candy store.

The workshops were informative and professional, from learning about how to handle different types of tissue and matching it with the appropriate suture, to increasing the survival rate of patients with prostate cancer. There was a topic for everyone regardless of your interests.

The workshops are also a great way to learn about a procedure or technique that is of interest to you but that you might not have the opportunity to scrub at your place of employment. The workshops serve as a way to keep Surgical Technologists informed of the latest techniques, equipment and supplies. We all know how quickly technology advances in the medical

field and it is important to stay on top of the trends.

Overall I enjoyed the conference very much and am always sad to see it end, but it does build up the anticipation level for the next one! I look forward to the opportunity to meet some great new people and discuss the trials and tribulations that occur in our daily lives. It is fun to compare notes to see who uses what, what has been placed in which body orifice, and to tell stories about surgeons and how we love the profession of Surgical Technology.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next conference in National Harbor, Maryland!

**Make your plans now!**



**May 29-June 1, 2019  
Gaylord National Resort  
& Convention Center  
National Harbor, MD**

*Surgery Southern  
Style*



*Saturday, September 8, 2018  
Wiregrass Technical College  
Valdosta, Georgia*

**Saturday, September 8, 2018  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Wiregrass Technical College  
Valdosta GA**

Earn 8 CE's for only \$65 (early bird price),  
plus receive hot breakfast and lunch!

To register online, go to

[www.ast-gasa.org/fall-2018-meeting](http://www.ast-gasa.org/fall-2018-meeting)