



Minnesota State Assembly  
of surgical technologists

**Inside this issue:**

- > Minnesota AST Chapter Pushes CST Credentialing Bill  
Time to Get Energized!
- > A letter from the President



Minnesota State Assembly  
of surgical technologists

**Minnesota State Assembly of AST  
Pushes CST Credentialing Bill  
*Time to Get Energized!***

The Minnesota AST Assembly is working to enact legislation that would provide for surgical technologists in Minnesota to be credentialed. The bills, H.F. 1094 and S.F. 467, are now pending in the Minnesota Legislature and their passage is AST's highest legislative priority in Minnesota.

**Enactment of our bill is important for multiple reasons:**

- 1) **It defines the role, tasks and functions of surgical technologists in the OR;**
- 2) **It protects patients by requiring hospitals and surgical centers to hire surgical technologists who have successfully completed an accredited program and hold the CST credential and maintain it by completing continuing education requirements;**
- 3) **It protects the jobs of surgical technologists working in Minnesota now; and**
- 4) **It elevates our profession.**

Today, Minnesota has no requirements for surgical technologists to be educated, credentialed or competent before they are hired by a hospital or surgical center. Surgical technologists are the ONLY health care professionals in the OR that are not regulated in any respect. This lack of recognition by the State demeans our profession as well as the professional surgical technologists that work in Minnesota. And, it potentially compromises safe surgical patient care.

Our bill was introduced in the Minnesota Senate as S.F. 467 by Senator Sharon Erickson Ropes (DFL-Winona) and in the House as H.F. 1094 by Representative Jim Abeler (R-Anoka). To read our bill, go to <http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/bills/billinf.php?ls=86>. From this link, on the Minnesota Senate's website, you can also access H.F. 1094, the House version.

Newsletter

Minnesota State Assembly  
of surgical technologists  
505 Harriet Avenue, # 1302  
Shoreview, MN 55126



**SAVE THE DATES**

Spring 2010 Workshop  
Saturday, April 17, 2010

Fall 2010 Workshop  
September 18, 2010

National AST Conference  
May 25-29, 2010  
Gaylord Texan Hotel  
Dallas/Fortworth, TX

## ***A Letter From The President***

The 2010 legislative session begins February 4, 2010. Before then, we want every member of the Senate Health, Housing and Family Security Committee and the House Licensure Division to hear from the surgical technologists living in their legislative districts that they need to support our bill. They listen to their constituents!

If legislators do not hear of support for our bill from their districts, it will be difficult to move our bill forward next session. The 2010 legislative session will be short and the number of hearings in the key health committees will be limited. Only bills that have garnered support are expected to be scheduled for action.

To find out if you live in one of these districts and what specific steps you can take to help build support for our bill, read on.

### **Key Legislators Make Decisions on Surgical Tech Licensure**

The Minnesota Legislature has 201 members, but only 21 members – 13 in the Senate and 8 in the House – will decide the fate of AST's credentialing legislation.

To find out if your state representative is a member of the House Licensing Division, go to <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/> and click on "Committee Information" in the left column. Scroll down to "Licensing Division" to find a listing of the Division members. Not sure who your legislators are? Click on "Who Represents You?" in the left column to find your state senator and state representative.

To find out if your state senator is a member of the Senate Health, Housing and Family Security Committee, click on the blue "Senate" link at the top of the Minnesota Legislature page, then click on "Committee Information" in the left column. Scroll down to the Health, Housing and Family Security Committee to find a listing of the Committee members.

### ***Talk With Your Legislator!***

If your state senator or state representative is one of the key 21 Minnesota legislators with a vote on our credentialing bill, you need to meet them. Legislators are looking ahead to the November 2010 elections and are seeking meetings with constituents. A call from a constituent knowledgeable about health care is something they will welcome.

Tom Lehman, AST's Minnesota lobbyist, can help facilitate these meetings and attend with you. He is experienced in working with provider associations and can help you make your meeting the most productive it can be. Contact him at [tom@thelehmangroup.com](mailto:tom@thelehmangroup.com)

***It's time to get active and get engaged!! Take action now!!***



First, I want to thank everyone that was able to attend the Fall two-day workshop that was held in Bloomington on September 18th and 19th, 2009. We had a great turnout for our first Friday night event sponsored by Stryker Spine. Also, another fabulous turnout for Saturday, along with excellent speakers. I want to thank Jaki Ortmeier, CST and Nancy Iverson, CST/CFA for chairing this event.

As most of you may be aware, we had elections at the meeting that was held on Saturday, September 19th in Bloomington with the following results: Sara Vodnick, CST into Second Term as President; Timothy Molko, CST for Vice President; and Kristi Houselog, CST/CFA for Board of Director, as well as Darby Wacker, CST for Board of Director. No one ran for the position of Treasurer, so Nancy Iverson, will remain until a successor is voted in, thus we will be having a "special" election at the Spring hands-on workshop on April 17th, 2010 at the Allina Commons. So, please contact myself or Ellie Swedenborg and her e-mail is [eswedenborg@comcast.net](mailto:eswedenborg@comcast.net).

I am very sorry to report that since elections we have had a resignation on the board. Timothy Molko, CST resigned from the Vice President position. Due to this resignation, we have had some adjustments per bylaws, on the board to fill this vacancy. Jaki Ortmeier, has agreed to step up into the Vice President position and finish out this term. With that in mind, it has left the Secretary position open. Miaja Jorgenson, CST agreed to finish out the Secretary position vacated by Jaki, who is moving to Vice President. Charles Saxon has accepted a Director position appointed by the MN State Assembly Board. Please check out the website for our new board members and their autobiographies. Also, I wanted to thank our out going board members, Kelly Lockman, CST, and Katie Testa-Naylor, CST, for all of their hard work and dedication.

Also, just a reminder in the Fall of 2010, the following positions will be available for elections: One 2-year Secretary Term and Three 2-year Director positions.

Another announcement is regarding the Legislative Committee, formerly the Government and Public Affairs Committee. Kristi Houselog and myself will be co-chairing this committee. We will be updating you as often as possible with progress via e-mail, website, and newsletters. Please feel free to contact myself or Kristi Houselog with questions or to get involved. Kristi's e-mail is: [jkhouselog@valyousat.net](mailto:jkhouselog@valyousat.net) and mine is [svodnick@yahoo.com](mailto:svodnick@yahoo.com).

Also, I am very pleased to announce that Naydeen Juszczak, CST/CFA has stepped up as chair person of the MN State Assembly website. So, please bear with us over the next month or so while we remodel and update that. Please look for legislative updates, PDF's of registration forms, and business meeting minutes to be posted on the website, which is [www.mnast.org](http://www.mnast.org).

The Minnesota State Assembly board has decided after this newsletter they will be posted on the MNAST website and will be electronically emailed to your email address that is registered with AST. This will keep our expenses to a minimum.

*Sapanne Vodnick*