



THE SURGICAL ASSISTANT

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2016 ASA NATIONAL ELECTIONS

ASA Active Members – You’re On!

Beginning September 1, voting will open. If you are an active ASA member (credentialed as a CSFA or CSA; or SA-C (prior to October 1, 2015) and your membership is current through September, you are eligible to vote for candidates in this second national online election.

This is your opportunity to make your voice heard and determine the future directions of ASA.

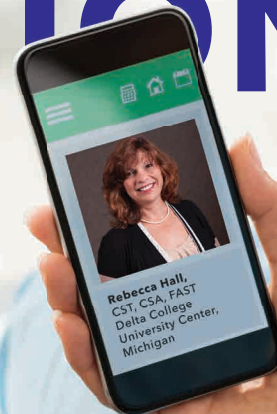
In 2016, your Smartphone is your voting booth — or your home office if you choose to vote on your tablet or your desktop.

You can vote for the future at your convenience — wherever you are! ASA is accessible!

We want you to participate — vote — be heard!

Get to know the candidates who are profiled in this issue on pages two through five.

In addition, you will find an opportunity to ask questions on the ASA Town Hall beginning August 22 on the ASA Members Only page on Facebook. Candidates will be



available for the entire week and respond to your inquiries and concerns.

Need to get a more personal feeling about the candidates. Interested in meeting them “face-to-face?” Visit <http://www.surgicalassistant.org/index.php/national-elections>. Each candidate is featured on a their own video — these were developed and produced by the individual candidates. Listen to them and get to know the candidates.

ASA is very fortunate to have candidates who are willing to step out in front and volunteer to serve the profession.

Election results will be announced on Saturday, October 1, at the ASA Business Meeting in Orlando, Florida.





2016 ASA

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY (VOTE FOR ONE)



Rebecca Hall, CST, CSA, FAST
Delta College
University Center,
Michigan

Professional Involvement

ASA Secretary 2014 — 2016; Core Curriculum Committee for Surgical Assisting 2012-2014.

Candidate Statement

Hello, my name is Rebecca Hall, and I am seeking re-election for the office of secretary on the ASA Board of Directors. The past two years I have served as secretary have been wonderful, and filled with great promise toward accomplishing our goal of

being more independent and providing workshops that are specific for surgical assistants. However, two years have gone by quickly, and I would like the opportunity to continue the work we have started as well as continue to be a part of the impactful changes that are sure to come!

It has been exciting to see how our organization has progressed over the last two years. We have been working on the goals first identified as important and have updated the strategic plan to transform your thoughts and concepts into reality.

In my previous election statement, I identified several areas that I felt were important to you, the members. The first was to help increase membership. As board liaison to our student committee, I am working with our students to identify ways to retain student members after they certify and become working surgical assistants. The board is also working on a plan that would increase recognition of surgical assistants in the public venue. This endeavor will raise the profile of our organization.

Secondly, I felt it was important to ensure the optimum infrastructure would be in place to support our members. I feel very confident that we are moving in the right direction to build a

strong independent organization that will support its members long into the future. This process may seem slow at times, but we are moving in a deliberate fashion so there are no missteps along the way.

Finally, I stated I would strive to work on reimbursement issues. This is a work in progress for our board. It is exciting to see state by state we are pursuing legislation to safeguard the role of the surgical assistant as well as protect the patient. Helping those who practice role fidelity and educating those who do not is a continual struggle which I will continue to keep in the limelight.

It has been an honor to serve as your secretary these past two years and would consider it a privilege to continue for another two years. I ask for your support and vote this fall in Orlando. Thank you!

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS (VOTE FOR THREE)



Derrick Autrey, CST, CSFA
MySurgAssist
Ft Worth, Texas

Professional Involvement

ASA Marketing Committee Chair, 2015-present.

Candidate Statement

I have been involved in some aspect of healthcare for the last 10 years. Before I pursued a position in surgical services, I was the Director of Training for LA Fitness and Bally Total Fitness. I transitioned in 2013 into surgery and have chosen this profession as a long-term career pathway. My time in the fitness industry required a constant pursuit of developing marketing,

sales, and training tactics that allowed each health club to succeed. What I have noticed after pursuing surgical technology, and now surgical assisting, is that the typical individual provider has not been given many of the tools to succeed in business. Although, only 15%-20% of surgical assistants practice privately, the skills to market, earn trust, and hold themselves to a high standard are critical components to long-term success. I believe that the leadership of the Association of Surgical Assistants has done a phenomenal job in establishing our position on the national stage. However, I believe at this point, the organization needs to transition toward the development of strong marketing strategies, work toward negotiations with other member bodies and unify nationally, and finally provide members the tools to advance themselves internally. This comes with providing more benefits to members and encouraging non-members to become active in the organization. I believe that the skills I have learned thus far in my professional life are uniquely suited to that task. I am the chair of the internal marketing committee which was established in the fourth quarter of 2015 and has already begun to develop ideas to

provide those benefits. I hope to utilize my passion for this profession and my knowledge of marketing and business to advance the ASA further in the future.



Fred Fisher, CSFA, CSA
Chicagoland Surgical
Assisting
Naperville, Illinois

Professional Involvement

ASA Board of Directors 2014-2016;
ASA Billing and Reimbursement
Committee 2014-present

Candidate Statement

My name is Fred Fisher, and I am running for reelection for the ASA Board of Directors.

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED, VOTE FOR THREE)

I have been a surgical assistant for more than 26 years and established Chicagoland Surgical, my own surgical assisting business more than 15 years ago. I employ CSFAs, CSAs and RFNAs to cover three hospitals 24/7. I continue to work closely with hospital administrators, have negotiated several hospital contracts and actively remain current with practice-relevant issues at state and federal levels. My business experience has provided me with insights regarding many of today's challenges and frustrations — legislative recognition, writing contracts, gaining privileges, billing and the importance of strengthening relationships with hospital-employed surgical assistants.

I actively participated in the passing of legislation in Illinois which created a registry for surgical assistants. The development of this registry has promoted reimbursement and growth of the surgical assisting profession in Illinois for the last 10 years. I served as the vice president of the Illinois Surgical Assistant Association and remain an active member today. Currently, I am a member of the ASA Billing and Reimbursement committee.

There are many questions confronting the profession:

- Are we heading down the same pathway as the surgeons — reap the pay now and lose control in the future?
- Is standard reimbursement going to occur nationally?
- Is it time to set ethical and moral standards for reimbursement?
- How do we build this profession?

- What are the needs of the hospital-employed surgical assistants?
- What is the solution for speaking with one unified voice?
- Recoupment issues? What can we do? How to do it?

I am ready to listen to your perspectives and work to find strategies that respond to these challenges. We can develop approaches that are collaborative and forward thinking. We need more practitioners actively involved in the organization. ASA needs your input. ASA will be nurtured by the valuable knowledge that members have gained across the country. More active members will benefit our organization, advance our legislative recognition, advocate for our practice and ultimately improve patient care. If I have the opportunity to be re-elected as a member of the ASA Board of Directors, I will do my best to listen and represent all members and respond to your inquiries promptly.

I believe my 26 years of experience as a surgical assistant and my 15 years of experience as a surgical assisting business owner will provide valuable advantages to the membership.

I am asking for your vote and promise I will work to benefit the profession and the organization. Thank you for your consideration.



Deborah Klaudt, CSFA
Meridian Institute of
Surgical Assisting
Nashville, Tennessee

Professional Involvement

ASA Membership Committee 2013-2015 ; ASA Education and Professional Standards Committee 2014-present; ASA Nomination and Leadership Committee 2014-2016

Candidate Statement

Hello, my name is Deborah Klaudt. I am currently a CSFA/CST and an active member of ASA. I have 20 years' experience in the field as an employee, traveler and business owner. I am currently on the Education Committee and have served on the Nomination and Leadership Committee. I have actively participated in our bi-annual ASA conferences since joining in 2006.

At this time, I work for Meridian Institute of Surgical Assisting in Nashville, Tennessee. I am a strong believer in education for our profession.

I would like to be a board member for our Association, so I can represent

its members. I think all members need to have an active voice in their Association. It's important we as an Association come together to move our profession forward and set the standard. To accomplish that task we need power in numbers and members willing to be active in ASA. Working at Meridian Institute of Surgical Assisting, Inc puts me in the position to reach many new members and encourage their support in ASA. I would like to lead by example, which is why I am stepping forward to run for a board member position.

I encourage anyone with questions or concerns to reach out to me.

Thank you for your consideration



Michael Morrison, CST, CSFA

University Hospitals –
Case Medical Center
Cleveland, Ohio

Professional Involvement

ASA Planning Committee 2015 – Present; ASA Marketing Committee 2015-Present; Co-Leader ASA Endovein Harvest Workshop 2016.

Candidate Statement

Hello! My name is Michael Morrison, and I am a Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA) in Cleveland, Ohio. I am currently one of 10 Assistants who cover the Cardiac Surgery Service at University Hospitals – Case Medical Center, a Level 1 Trauma Center. I would like to be considered a candidate for the ASA Board of Directors Position.

I started my career as a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) at a smaller hospital in Charlotte, NC in 2003. From there, I was trained and “groomed” as an assistant, since this hospital did not have physician assistants or residents. This was the “spark or light bulb” moment that would lead me down this road to pursue the role of a surgical assistant. After learning the requirements set forth by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA), I completed the experiential pathway and sat for my certification boards. I went back to school during this time and finished my Bachelors in Biology (B.A.) and Kinesiology (B.S.) to become more diverse in my education. Following graduation, I moved to Nashville and practiced as a surgical assistant there for 3.5 years before moving to Cleveland.

I have been currently working on the job description as a member of the ASA Marketing Committee to set a “Gold Standard” job description. Recently, we have just shifted our focus to marketing the ASA and our profession to future assistants, how to expand our organization clinically, and how to improve member retention.

As stated before, I had the distinct pleasure of organizing and co-leading the Endoscopic Vein Harvest workshop. We also covered techniques on Open Vein Harvest and had a half-day open lab. During this conference, I had the honor of speaking in front of my colleagues, my peers, about Minimally Invasive Mitral Valve Surgery. I have been asked to speak at the Orlando and future conferences. It is great to interact with members and hear their stories and triumphs at the conferences.

I am excited on the direction the ASA is headed and would love to be a part of the instrumental planning for our profession. Although we are still in the early stages of our organization, I believe that we have made great progress and huge strides amongst our community. I also see that continuing along those lines is paramount to growth. I would love to be a part of this succeeding organization and to help see it get to the next phase in our journey!

This organization has had, and will continue to have, a strong leadership team at its helm. Because of them, we are where we are today. I would like to have the opportunity to serve in one of those positions, so I too, can be one of the strong advocates for our organization! I would take every opportunity to learn from them everything I could, and eagerly use that knowledge to help this organization reach new heights and boundaries.

Thank you again for considering me for the esteemed position as an ASA Board of Director.

ASA NEEDS WRITERS!

ASA is looking for credentialed practitioners to write *continuing education articles* specifically focusing on the role of the surgical assistant.

Possible topics would include your clinical specialty or interests, or clinical subjects that you would like to see covered — orthopedic, OB/GYN, cardiovascular, robotics etc.

The article must be your original work and credible references cited. The minimum word limit is 2,200. Continuing education credits are available.

Write for the profession!

Contact kludwig@surgicalassistant.org.

TESTING FOR THE CSFA EXAM? BE PREPARED AND TEST SMART WITH THE ASA EXAM PREP PACKAGE.

The CSFA exam is not easy. Of course, you need to study, study, study from a variety of resources. Study guides, references, and online opportunities.

Passing an exam is not always knowing the right answer — because sometimes you don't. But you can learn skills to identify the incorrect responses.

The **ASA Exam Prep Package** takes you back to critical exercises in A&P, physiology, medical terminology, pharmacology and physiology. What do you know? What can you surmise?

The **ASA Exam Prep Package** reinforces what you think you know — and helps you pinpoint areas you need to reinforce.

The **ASA Exam Prep Package** includes three online videos in conjunction with pre- and

post-evaluation exercises. This package was recorded live during an ASA Exam Prep Workshop and materials were developed by leading allied health practitioners.

The package is available only to ASA members. It only makes sense to boost your study skills for this important exam.

Order it online for \$35 at www.surgicalassistant.org.

CSFA Exam Prep Workshop

Chris Keegan, CST, BS, BA, MS, FAST
Professor / Chair, Surgical Technology
Vincennes University

EARN UP TO 13 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS AT THE 2016 ORLANDO MEETING

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 1, 2016
HOLIDAY INN ORLANDO—LAKE BUENA VISTA
All CSTs, CSFAs, CSAs and SA-Cs are invited.



ASA ORLANDO MEETING FEES

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

Association of Surgical Assistants

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Littleton, CO 80120

303-694-9130

www.surgicalassistant.org

ASA MEETING AGENDA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

11 am–5 pm **Registration**

9 am–1 pm **ACL Graft Workshop** 4 CEs

Chris White, CSFA

See agenda online on ASA website.

2–4 pm **Bone Splinting** 2 CEs

- Various splints for upper and lower extremities
- The concepts of Splinting in the OR
- Supplies needed for splinting
- Landmarks, techniques and procedure
- Hands on Splinting—2 Upper and 2 Lower extremities

David Bartczak, CSA, LSA, OPA-C

Noon–4 PM **CSFA Exam Prep Workshop**

5–6 pm **Business Session 1**

6–7 pm **Keynote Address:
Creating Value in Healthcare** 1 CE

William Cooper, MD, MBA, FACS

7:15–8:30 PM **Reception**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 8 CEs

7:45–8 am **Welcome** Kathy Duffy, CSFA, CSA

8–8:50 am **Pedispine** Mark Moran, MD

9–9:50 am **Assisting in Robotics**

George Stransky, MD

10–10:50 am **Health Professions**

Dennis Stover, CSA

11–11:50 am **Billing Q&A**

David Bartczak, CSA, LSA, OPA-C

Noon–12:50 pm

Lunch (sponsored by NBSTSA)



1–1:30 pm **Business Session 2**

1:40–2:30 pm **Paraesophageal Hernia**

George Tuchsén, MD

2:40–3:30 pm **TAVR** Michael Morrison, CSFA

3:40–4:30 pm **Hospital vs Independent Assistant**

Joseph Lundberg, CSFA

4:40–5:30 pm **Closing** Sam Araba, MD

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 12, 2016. **Accommodations:** Holiday Inn Orlando Downtown Lake Buena Vista, Florida; 1805 Hotel Plaza Blvd, Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830, 877-394-5765. **Rates:** \$105/night plus tax, single or double occupancy. **Reservation deadline** is August 23, 2016. Room block is limited.

ASA ORLANDO MEETING

ASA member: \$275

ASA student member:
\$175

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

Nonmember: \$300

HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

ACL Graft:

ASA member \$250 /
nonmember: \$275

Bone Splinting:

ASA member \$125 /
nonmember: \$150

Exam Prep:

ASA member \$50 /
nonmember: \$75

Register and pay online at
www.surgicalassistant.org

WHAT DOES ASA DO FOR ME?

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND RECOGNITION

- Enacted Virginia Registration Surgical Assistant Law 2013
- Enacted Nebraska Surgical Assistant Licensure Law 2016
- Supported Illinois Registration Law 2015
- Engaging in Texas Sunset Legislative to Sunrise 2015–2016
- Initiating Tennessee Surgical Assistant Legislation 2015
- Enacted Colorado Sunset to Sunrise Legislation 2016
- And more states to come!



ADVANCED SURGICAL ASSISTANT EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ **2011**
 - Three hands-on workshops SAN FRANCISCO
 - Endovein Harvesting in partnership with Sorin, Inc. at the SimSurg Center
 - Advanced Suturing Workshop
 - Orthopedic Cadaver Lab with Arthrocare in Sunnyvale, California
 - Learning at Sea Cruise and Education MIAMI/EASTERN CARIBBEAN
- ▶ **2012**
 - Meeting and Workshop CHICAGO
- Robotics Practicum HOUSTON
- ▶ **2013**
 - Learning at Sea Cruise and Education HOUSTON/WESTERN CARIBBEAN
- ▶ **2014**
 - Robotics Workshop HOUSTON
 - Casting Workshop DENVER
 - Covidien Workshop and Meeting ORLANDO
- ▶ **2015**
 - Spring Meeting and Ethicon Workshop PHOENIX
- Hands-on Pig Lab and Workshop NASHVILLE
- ▶ **2016**
 - Maquet Endovein Lab LAS VEGAS
 - Wound Management LAS VEGAS
 - IV Therapy LAS VEGAS
 - Spring Meeting LAS VEGAS
 - Splinting Workshop ORLANDO
 - ACL Graft Prep ORLANDO
 - Fall Meeting ORLANDO
- ▶ **2017**
 - Spring Meeting HOUSTON
 - Fall Meeting ATLANTA (TENTATIVE)

CAREER AND PRACTICE BENEFITS

- Surgical Assistant Salary Survey
- Finance Advisory Committee
- Best-practices guidelines
- Web-based CSFA Exam Prep
- Future Commitments
- Hospital Risk Managers Conference FALL 2016
- Salary Survey 2016



We can accomplish even more when you join ASA.
Easy to sign up on line at www.surgicalassistant.org.