

CTAST
CONNECTICUT ASSEMBLY of
SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER / MINUTES

April 6, 2009

TO OUR MEMBERS,

Our Conn. State Assembly is already beginning our 9th year with over **435 members**, the most members Connecticut has EVER had and there is so much to share with you! On Saturday, April 4, 2009, we held our **Annual Spring Educational Seminar and Business Meeting**, hosted by the CT Joint Replacement Institute, CJRI at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, CT.. It was a fascinating day with experts in the field of Joint Replacement Surgery sharing their expertise with our members. We had **100 attendees**, first time ever to see the attendees reach such a milestone!! 65 CST's, 3 CST/CFA's, 27 Surgical Technology students and 5 RN's.

Otis' Total Knee Replacement, represented by Mark Cieplinski and Stryker's Total Knee Replacement Computer Navigation Systems, represented by David Hoffman were huge supporters of this event, we say "Thank-You"!! To ALL!! As always, we awarded 6 CEU's and we had a fabulous day! The minutes from our business session will now become part of our bi-annual post-conference newsletter which will be posted on our website, **CTAST**, immediately following our programs. Please visit our site and be informed!

As we do each spring, we held elections at the end of our session and most of our **CTAST** officers were able to attend. The election results are as follows:

President of CTAST, Conni Levesque, CST, Hartford Hospital; **Vice-President Jennifer Florio, CST**, Danbury Hospital; **Secretary Laurie Carroll, CST** from Midstate Medical Hospital in Meriden; **Treasurer, Betty Hall, CST**, Hartford Hospital. We have 5 members on our **Board of Directors**. They are: **Lucy Boccaccio, CST**, Hartford Hospital; **Judy Barham, CST** from Hartford Hospital; **Dwayne Hunt, CST**, Yale New-Haven Hospital, **Jannette Ramos, CST** at Hartford Hospital and **past - President, Gail Tucci, CST**, Bridgeport Hospital.

. We appreciate and thank all of our members that step up to leadership roles in our organization. It is key to our success.

Also, a very **special thank-you** to **Laura Maffucci, CST/CFA** and her team for their outstanding and passionate planning and coordinating of this seminar. Our members thank-you!!! It was wonderful!

Speaking of our business meeting, we, the leadership and active members of **CTAST** and **AST** are thrilled to see an increase in the number of members that stay for the business meeting/elections held at the end of the program. Our goal is to involve all active CST's in the business meeting and elections, so we have decided to always try to have our

business meetings during the lunch period. We hope that this change will increase membership involvement.

Our fall meeting will take place on Saturday, **September 26, 2009** at Bridgeport Hospital. The program's title is "Surgical Management of Burns" and **CTAST** Past President, Gail Tucci, CST and Instructor in Bridgeport Hospital's Surgical Technology Program is the coordinator and contact person for this program. As always, we will be awarding 6 CEU's to our attendees. Because we value our students and the importance of their involvement in our organization, Surgical Technology students will be charged only \$10.00 to attend our seminars. Students are the future of AST and of our profession. We must always respect and embrace their efforts, so please bring students with you and support your local **CTAST**! Remember, 27 students attended this past Saturday's spring event so let's keep them involved!

Flyers for the Fall Seminar will be mailed out to our members in July, 2009, so mark your calendars. If you have not had the opportunity to become a member of CTAST, please visit AST.org and click on membership and become an active member of your professional organization.

We also have our Spring, 2010 Seminar in place. Hartford Hospital will present "Plastic Facial/OMF Surgery", co-coordinated by Brenda Bialy, CST and Kimberly Davis, CST both educational preceptors for Hartford Hospital's Operating Room for many years. More information will be coming.

We have been very fortunate to have such enthusiastic members who are so willing and generous to help all of our members get their CEU's by sponsoring our educational programs. Remember, we need 60 credits per each 4-year cycle in order to maintain your certification so please bring a fellow CST and /or students to our seminars. We always have a great time networking with our fellow CST's!

Our National **SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY WEEK** will take place **September 21-25, 2009**. Remind your administrators, surgeons and OR managers. Hartford Hospital will be able to obtain proclamations from Governor Rell and our Hartford Mayor, Eddie Perez. Contact your local mayor's office and simply ask for a "Proclamation" to recognize our national week. Please call Betty Hall, 545-3957 if you would like a copy of Governor Rell's proclamation for display in your hospital during our National Surgical Technologist Week. At Hartford Hospital, we display our proclamations in a huge display case in our main lobby and in our OR for all to see, including our patients, their families and all our visitors. We take plenty of pictures of our celebrations so that we can send them to AST for October's magazine. Anything you have (or received from your hospital, supervisors and /or reps) to share with our members to show how your hospitals recognized National Surgical Technology Week, please forward to AST in Colorado for our national magazine.

Be sure to visit our local website, **CTAST**, by logging on to www.ctast.org or you can go to our national website, www.ast.org and link to our state assembly's website **CTAST**. Click on "Directors" on our website and see who your **CTAST** officers are, upcoming Educational Programs will be posted as well as the CT Delegates for AST Annual Conferences. Elections for our CT State Assembly are always held during our spring workshop/business meeting. Also on our website there is a list of all the Surgical

Technology Programs in CT listed with phone numbers for those interested in referring people to our programs. We will be posting this letter on the website under the “News” link for all CST’s including non-members to see. **Only** our **members** are mailed letters/ brochures, can be **CTAST** officers and delegates for AST Annual Conferences, so be sure to encourage your fellow CST’s to **join our CT State Assembly by joining AST!**

Mark your calendars, we will be going back to Caesar’s Palace in beautiful Las Vegas for our next Conference, **May 25-30, 2009**. **CTAST** is so proud to announce that 2 CST’s from CT will be presenters at our National Conference this year. They are **Kimberly Davis, CST** from Hartford Hospital and **Rich Clark, CST**, Coordinator of the Surgical Technology Program at Manchester Community College. Kim will be presenting a lecture entitled “OMF Surgery” on Friday, May 22, 2009. Rich will be a guest speaker at the Instructor’s Workshop, May 25 and 26, 2009. He will share teaching techniques for instructors that teach clinical labs.

Our state assembly sends 6 members to represent CT at our AST National Conference, as delegates. We have 5 commitments to date: Judy Barham, Kim Davis, and Betty Hall, all CST’s from Hartford Hospital,; Dwayne Hunt, CST from Yale New-Haven Hospital and Dorothy Connolly, RN, from Bridgeport Hospital’s Surgical Technology Program. The role of the delegate includes mandatory attendance at both business sessions and all voting sessions. If you are interested, please contact our President, Conni Levesque at 545-2761. Remember, **DELEGATES** must be a current CST and an active member of the CT Assembly of Surgical Technologists.

Have a great summer! See you in September!

Respectively submitted by:

Betty Hall, CST
CTAST Coordinator