

Illinois State Assembly of Surgical Technologists

June 2023 Newsletter

The Illinois State Assembly of Surgical Technologists has been working hard these past few months to serve our membership. We have hosted and attended some amazing conferences, held legislative events, and attended the State Assembly Leadership Forum. We are currently working on our 2023-2028 strategic plan and planning the September seminar to kick off Surgical Technology Week!

In March of this year, the ISA hosted our Annual Business Meeting and Seminar in Peoria, IL. It was an excellent turnout with 88 people in attendance. Congratulations to our newly elected officers Brooke Oliver, President, Sonya Conton, Vice President, Jennifer Jordan, Treasurer, Bridget Hoffenkamp, Board of Director, and Becca Good, Board of Director.

In April, the ISA hosted a Legislative Meet and Greet at Boone's Saloon in Springfield, IL promoting the renewal of our registration act. This gave our members from across the state an opportunity to speak with their state representatives about the importance of educational requirements for surgical technologists in the State of Illinois, as well as the integral role we play in the operating room. It was a great turnout, and we thank all who could make it! We found out at the end of May that the sunset extension for our registration act passed the House and Senate unanimously and will be sent to the governor to be signed within 60 days.



In May, the Illinois State Assembly delegates attended the 53rd AST National Conference in Chicago! It was such a great week spent networking, learning, and having a little fun! We saw history being made as the new surgical technology exhibit opened at the International Museum of Surgical Science, we attended a Roaring 20's opening night party, and we were able to be in attendance as two of our Board of Directors earned their F.A.S.T. awards! Congratulations to Sonya Conton, Vice President, and Jennifer Jordan, Treasurer, on this outstanding achievement.

Here are statements from each of our delegates regarding their experiences at conference:

- “Being a delegate at the 53rd AST National Conference and hosting it in our home state was an honor. The State Assembly Leadership Forum was my favorite aspect of this year's national conference. It was an amazing experience to get to spend the afternoon with the ISA board of directors and learn about ways we can better serve our members. This experience renewed my passion for the profession and the future that we can shape for all surgical technologists.”- Brooke Oliver, President

- “As a delegate I attended the leadership forum. There we learned a great deal about how to build up our state assembly to become better leaders and better teammates. I’m very excited and motivated to get organized and to put what we absorbed into practice so we can serve our Illinois members to the best of our ability.”– Emily Gregg, BOD
- “It was great to see that individuals in our profession did step up and run against some of the positions such as AST President, AST Treasurer and AST Board of Directors. To listen to the statements from each candidate was very interesting to hear their background and what they want to see for the future of AST or ideas to make our profession better known.”- Jennifer Jordan, Treasurer
- “Attending conference as the hosting state was a new experience for me! It was so great to help run our exhibit table and get our name out to the CST community. Being the hosting state also gave the opportunity for most of our board members to attend. This brought on the opportunity of getting to spend more time together and grow stronger as a group of women representing Illinois.”- Melissa Jensen, Board of Director
- “After battling covid-19, worker shortages, long call nights, and educational responsibilities, the 53rd Conference was a pleasant reboot. The 53rd Association of Surgical Technologists Conference in Chicago, Illinois, was a full-circle event for me. It represented vitality, wholeness, and completion. From the moment I arrived at the Sheraton Riverwalk Hotel, I was re-energized.”- Sonya Conton, Vice President
- “The highlight of the conference for me this year was the opening of the new surgical technology exhibit at the International Museum of Surgical Science. This one-of-a-kind exhibit highlights the role of the surgical technologist and the education required and provides an opportunity for the 40,000+ a year visitors to know who surgical technologists are and their important role in surgical patient care. Be sure to check it out the next time you are in Chicago.”- Janice Grewatz, Delegate



We will be hosting the ISA Fall Seminar on September 16, 2023 at Northwestern Medicine Huntley Hospital in Huntley, IL. Please save the date and plan on kicking off Surgical Technology Week with us! Registration and agenda will be emailed soon, as well as posted on the ISA website.