

# **The Association Of Surgical Assistants And The National Surgical Assistant Association Announce Their Intent To Merge**

The Presidents of the Association of Surgical Assistants (ASA) and the National Surgical Assistant Association (NSAA) have officially begun the necessary process of merging the two organizations.

This has been discussed among the association's leaders for the past 8 or 9 years, and a Joint Association was actually incorporated back in November of 2018; however, the implementation plan was delayed for several uncontrollable reasons.

The time to move forward is now, and as it was announced at the 2025 ASA/NSAA Joint Conference in Dallas last weekend, that this newly formed organization will be known as the American Academy of Surgical Assistants (AASA).

The AASA was Incorporated and will be headquartered in Washington, DC. The AASA will be led by Fred Fisher (ASA) as President and Jim Pressley (NSAA) as Vice President. Together, they have appointed a talented Transitional Board of Directors, with the majority being dual credentialed, holding both the CSA and CSFA certifications. Once the complete merger takes effect, this combined organization will immediately represent over 2200 CSAs and CSFAs in North America, and we expect that number to increase dramatically due to the merger.

The similarities between our two groups are significant, making the transition into one association a much easier path.

This merger will benefit both ASA and NSAA members, as well as our valued sponsors and partners, by increasing our membership footprint throughout the US and helping to ensure our collective future viability.

In addition, the merger will enhance our position within the healthcare community, as well as legislative initiatives, while working alongside surgeons, PAs, nurses, and other surgical team members. We can't think of a better way to start off 2025.

By forming the American Academy of Surgical Assistants, we will have the ability to build on past successes, make a greater impact in the healthcare marketplace, and identify more ways to benefit our members, educational partners, and associates. Because this profession is always evolving, taking this proactive step and merging the two groups will

help safeguard the membership, and position us to compete and achieve mutual success well into the future.

As we proceed through this merger process, it is important that we be very conscientious and clear that this will be a merger of equals, and creating one new organization will be built on the long-term success of our legacy organizations.

A merger of equals means that the leadership of both organizations have equal input and influence in the process. Most importantly is the fact that as this Board works to finalize all the details required for a smooth and successful merger, the ASA and NSAA will continue to serve their members as usual. Realize that this process has just started. It could take a year or longer to fully implement. We will do our best to keep you informed as we continue to progress toward the important goal of fully integrating both organizations into the American Academy of Surgical Assistants!

“This merger marks an important chapter in the lifetimes of both associations,” said ASA President Fred Fisher. “By combining our resources as a single association, we can provide the best possible service to surgical assistants throughout the United States.”

“We are proud to join forces, yet our work shall continue under the banners of the ASA and NSAA,” said NSAA Past President James Pressley. “Surgical assistants will now have a broader influence and a bigger voice in the healthcare profession.”