



THE SURGICAL ASSISTANT

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In Loving Memory of Karen Ludwig

Karen began her career at AST 21yrs ago. She became ASA’S executive director upon its inception in 2010. Karen was an extraordinary person, both personally and professionally, making all those she encountered feel important, and was always willing to hear their views, even if they were at odds with hers. She was an “outside the box” thinker, always trying to find a different way to represent the surgical assisting community and gain further recognition. During her tenure with ASA, Karen helped build an amazing organization by reaching out to other professional organizations to gain their respect and recognition. Karen always had a contact for anything needed, and if she happened not to, she would have one within days. She worked and fought hard for a profession she not only enjoyed working with, but also enjoyed the challenges it faced. Karen was instrumental in gaining recognition of surgical assistants by changing the Bureau of Labor job code, separating the duties of the surgical assistant from those of the surgical technologist; gaining progress in legislative efforts and finding the best lobbyist available; and running the day-to-day operations of the organization. Karen will truly be missed and the shoes she leaves behind will be difficult to fill, but we can hope to strive towards that end.



Karen Ludwig
 ASA Executive Director
 1945-2021

OperationBilling
SURGICAL ASSISTANTS & MEDICAL BILLING SOLUTIONS



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

April 2021

GREG SALMON, CSFA, ASA PRESIDENT

ELECTIONS

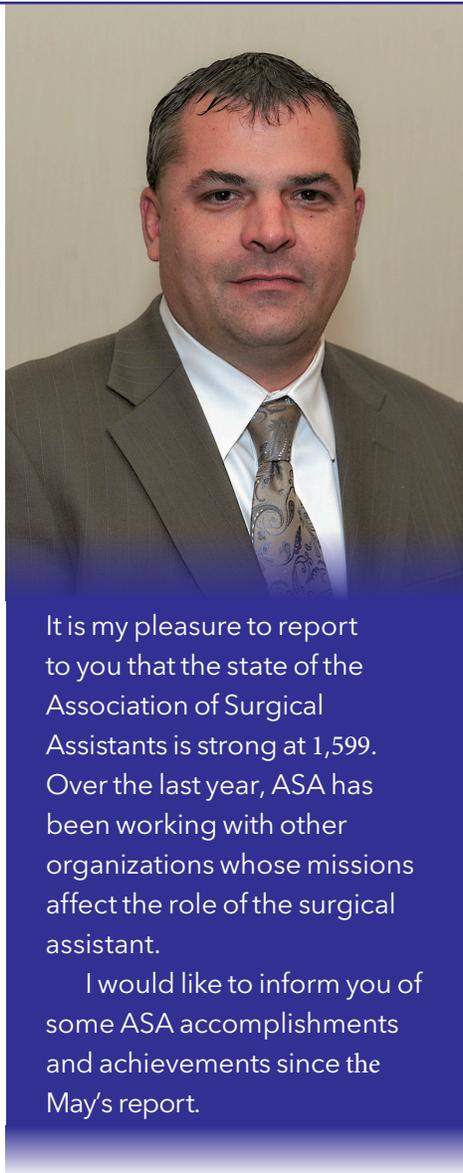
ASA will be holding elections for president, vice president, treasurer and three director positions. Election results will be announced at the second business meeting in Phoenix. Online voting will begin September 1 and concludes on September 24 at the end of the first business session.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is stable and we are focused on new and innovative ways to increase the numbers. The number of CAAHEP-accredited programs is increasing; at the moment, there are 12 CAAHEP-accredited programs and others are in the pipeline—more are anticipated. The CSFA examination remains the only nationally accredited exam, and ASA has been leveraging that at every opportunity. Last year, more than 880 practitioners sat for the CSFA exam; 568 passed the examination.

FINANCES

Despite some significant lobbying, survey, textbook and accreditation meeting expenses, ASA had a positive year. The opportunity to work with other organizations, including NSAA, ASP and the Georgia State Assembly of Surgical Assistants to seek surgical assistant legislation has been very helpful. Over the last several months, ASA has been able to field more legislative activities because of sharing these costs.



It is my pleasure to report to you that the state of the Association of Surgical Assistants is strong at 1,599. Over the last year, ASA has been working with other organizations whose missions affect the role of the surgical assistant.

I would like to inform you of some ASA accomplishments and achievements since the May's report.

LEGISLATION

Currently, ASA is actively seeking licensure in Ohio, Massachusetts, and Georgia. Virginia has passed and implemented the licensure of surgical assistants. Our licensure bill in Texas faded in committee due to the lack of support from the Texas Medical Association. This year in Georgia, our licensure bill is still on hold until a review in the summer by the Georgia Occupational Revenue Review Council which is now back in effect in Georgia. sponsors.

In Ohio, ASA and NSAA representatives recently met with the lobbyists and many surgical assistants in the state to discuss further actions in moving this legislation along. In 2020, we had introduced the licensure bill, but because of Covid, all legislative activity on the bill ceased. We have re-introduced this legislation and many assistants in Ohio have been performing the outreach necessary to inform the legislators. The bill is currently scheduled for the first committee hearing this week.

In Massachusetts, we have a bill being filed and things are slowly moving forward, as they were still somewhat distracted by the Covid issues. We should be hearing soon about scheduling committee hearings, now that we have found bill sponsors within the house and the senate.



2021 ASA NATIONAL ELECTIONS

ASA will hold elections for national officers online in 2021. The open positions include president, vice president, treasurer and three board of directors

In order to vote, individuals must maintain their active membership status through September 24, 2021. Active membership status is predicated on the individual having a current credential as a CSFA or CSA.

Voting will open September 1, 2021 and close on Friday, September 24, 2021. Election announcements will be made on Saturday, September 25, in Phoenix.

Most individuals have multiple email addresses. Voters will need to use their official email address that is in their ASA membership record in order to access the ballot.

If you are interested in running for a national office, you must submit a Curriculum Vitae and Consent to Serve by June 1, 2021. Or if you believe you would like to lend your expertise to a committee, you would need to submit a Curriculum Vitae and Consent to Serve. All forms can be downloaded at <https://www.surgicalassistant.org/WebApplications/forms/officers.aspx>.

CONSENT TO SERVE

I, _____, do hereby consent to serve the Association of Surgical Assistants, Inc., (ASA) in the capacity of:

President
 Vice President
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Board of Directors

I understand that by consenting to serve ASA in this position I am making a commitment to perform a variety of activities and further agree to carry out all tasks appropriate to the office including, but not limited to, the following.

I will:

1. Make every effort to familiarize myself with the ASA Bylaws.
2. Maintain an adequate filing system pertaining to all aspects of my position beginning immediately following conference.
3. Maintain an open line of communication with national headquarters. Communication is essential to the harmony and effectiveness of ASA business.
4. Give thoughtful consideration to my efforts when assigned by the President to work on any assignment or special project and will perform those tasks to the best of my ability.
5. Fully understand that holding an elective position requires a considerable amount of verbal and written communication skills and entails a substantial work effort.
6. I further agree to resign from the Board of Directors in the event of seeking employment with ASA, AST, ARCS/STSA, or NBS/STA.
7. Read and comply with the requirements described in the Candidate Handbook.
8. I further agree that if at any time I am unable to serve in this capacity or if I fail in my responsibilities to the Board of Directors, and membership, I will offer my resignation and notify the ASA Board of Directors in sufficient time so that a replacement may be acquired to ensure that committee activities are not unduly interrupted.
9. I agree that as a national candidate for office that I will register and attend the ASA Annual Fall Meeting.

Dated this 25 day of March, 2018

Street Address _____

City, State, & Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

This consent to serve form will be discarded two years from date of receipt. If after that time you remain interested in working with ASA, you must submit a new consent-to-serve form and curriculum vitae.

If you are running for an elective office, please submit an election statement on why you want to serve ASA. This statement will be published for the membership. Additionally, a headshot is required, please submit a high resolution jpeg which will be needed for publication.

Curriculum Vitae Candidate

ASA Requests All Information Be Completed In Full

Name _____ Date

Address _____ Cert. Number _____
Address _____ Certification Number _____

City _____ State Zip _____
City _____ Zipcode _____

Phone _____ Email _____
Phone _____

Employment:

Facility Name _____ Phone _____
Facility Name _____ Facility Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State Zip _____
City _____ Facility Zipcode _____

Number of Years Employed _____
Number of Years _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

POWERED BY TINYMCE

ASA Involvement:

NUMBER OF YEARS IN ASA:
Number of Years _____

PAST POSITIONS HELD WITHIN ASA

POWERED BY TINYMCE

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ROLE IN THESE POSITIONS

POWERED BY TINYMCE

Additional documents are optional 2MB max per file.

Current Resume (optional)
Browse... No file selected.

WHY JOIN ASA?

Legislative Advocacy for Surgical Assisting

The central focus of ASA has been legislative recognition for the profession and protecting the right to practice for credentialed surgical assistants.

ASA has been legislatively successful with either licensure or certification in Texas, Virginia, Tennessee, Illinois, Nebraska, Kentucky, and the District of Columbia. Indiana does recognition the profession in vein harvesting.

In 2021, ASA will return to Georgia and file surgical assisting licensure bills in Ohio and Massachusetts.

In addition, ASA is beginning discussions with two midwestern states to identify the issues and challenges related to legal initiatives in those particular states.

Legislative initiatives represent long-commitments for ASA and the members. It has been encouraging that other organizations have partnered with ASA in these efforts in 2018. These partnerships demonstrate that the profession is maturing.

National Professional Healthcare Initiatives

Bureau of Labor Statistics

In 2013, ASA began discussions with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Four years later, the BLS created a separate occupational code for surgical assistants. Other groups and individuals contributed to this success but ASA initiated the discussions.

The Joint Commission

In 2016, ASA began seeking avenue to communicate with The Joint Commission. After sustained efforts, ASA began to find the appropriate representatives to discuss the challenges to patient safety that occur when practitioners are working outside of their scope of practice.

Association of Healthcare Risk Managers

In 2016, ASA exhibited at the Association of Healthcare Risk Managers and presented the following year. This is a critically important audience for surgical assistants to maintain.

Healthtrust

In 2017, ASA began conversations with Healthtrust, in conjunction with The Joint Commission effort. Healthtrust credentials surgical assistants in nearly HCA hospitals and will be expanding their credentialing services to other healthcare organizations in 2018.

These efforts require sustained commitment and support of members. ASA has been a careful steward of membership dues revenues and allocated resources strategically to benefit the profession. In order to accomplish even more, ASA needs your continued support and the commitment of more surgical assistants. Thank you very much for your confidence in ASA and our future goals. Renew your membership or join at www.surgicalassistant.org.

