



## President's Message



Luis Aragon, CSA, RSA, LSA  
President, NSAA Board of Directors

Dear Fellow CSAs,

The end of the year and the Holidays are upon us and as we reflect on what was accomplished and what the future holds for the surgical assistant profession, I am optimistic that we are moving forward in the right direction.

With that being said; this week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that their Standard Occupational Classification Committee accepted the request to add the surgical assistant profession to their list. This important step was achieved by the collaborative efforts of both the ASA and the NSAA that started

several years ago, and it could not have been achieved without the support of all of you that answered the call to submit your comments when it was requested. For those that participated and took the time to send your comments: THANK YOU VERY MUCH! Information on the bureau's new definitions can be found within this newsletter.

Also, we are working to further and strengthen our current positions in some states such as Texas and Virginia with lobbying efforts as well as working closely with the Veteran's Administration to recognize the profession as a valid pathway for active duty personnel as an option for those interested in pursuing this career choice.

The collaboration with the ASA has been strengthened this year and I believe that we are heading in a path that will only be conducive to a stronger profession where we can be more efficient in our efforts to reach common goals. We can no longer be isolated as we will only be capable of having our voices be heard as a united front.

May you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, enjoy the holiday season with the assurance that your Board of Directors is serving you and working hard representing your interests.

Happy Holidays

Sincerely,

Luis Aragon, CSA, LSA

## Featured Article

### What is a Decompressive Craniectomy?

A decompressive craniectomy is brain surgery that removes a portion of the skull. When the brain swells following an injury, the pressure in the brain can build inside the skull, causing further damage. The body's natural healing response to injury is to swell. Swelling in the brain, however, can be dangerous because the skull restricts the swelling and pushes on the

## In This Issue

[President's Message](#)

[Featured Article](#)

[New Standard](#)

[Bonus Article](#)

[News & Features](#)

[2018 NSAA Conference](#)

[Announcements & Reminders](#)

[Continuing Education Units \(CEUs\)](#)

## 2018 NSAA Conference



Discover the rewards of attending next April's conference in Norfolk VA. [Visit our website](#) for details, and [contact us](#) to register for any level of participation, including exhibiting, sponsoring, or speaking.

## Continuing Education Units (CEUs)



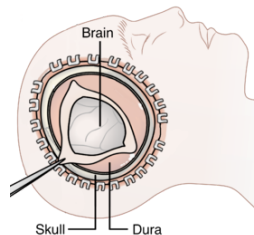
NSAA CEU Policy

brain.

Removing a portion of the skull can reduce the risk of severe brain damage, and may even be life-saving.

Fast facts on decompressive craniectomy:

- Injury can cause dangerous pressure in the brain that increases blood pressure, slows blood flow, and damages the brain.
- In some cases, brain swelling can cause fatal injuries.
- A decompressive craniectomy involves removing part of the skull to reduce pressure in the brain.
- A large number of people who undergo decompressive craniectomy still die from brain swelling, despite the surgery.



[Read Article](#)

**NSAA Members - If you would like to contribute an article to the Node and receive valuable CEUs, please email your ideas to: [articles@nsaa.net](mailto:articles@nsaa.net)**

## New Standard



## The Bureau of Labor Statistics has approved for 2018 a separate definition for Surgical Assistants.

*This is the accepted definition as it is listed:*

*29-9093 Surgical Assistants Assist in operations, under the supervision of surgeons. May, in accordance with State laws, help surgeons to make incisions and close surgical sites, manipulate or remove tissues, implant surgical devices or drains, suction the surgical site, place catheters, clamp or cauterize vessels or tissue, and apply dressings to surgical site. Excludes "Registered Nurses" (29-1141) and "Surgical Technologists" (29-2055)*

You can see the changes at the Standard Occupation Classification site [here](#).

## Bonus Article

### Hammer toe surgery: What to expect

A hammer toe is a potentially painful deformity of the second, third, or fourth toes, where the toe bends upward at the joint, resembling a hammer.

When a hammer toe causes pain, and other treatments fail, surgery may be the only option for correcting the joint.

A hammer toe causes the toe to bend at the first joint, which is called the proximal interphalangeal joint. The problem usually begins with a muscle imbalance. When a muscle gets too weak, it can put pressure on the tendons of the toe. This can eventually cause the joint to become deformed.



**The Continuing Education Policy for the CSA is provided for CSAs as participating in Continuing Educational Units (CEU).**

[Read Full Policy](#)

**NSAA Board of Directors  
2017-2018**

As your representatives, NSAA's Board of Directors appreciate any comments, concerns, or questions you might have about the profession or your association.

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People with hammer toe may also develop corns or calluses at the top of the joint from the toe rubbing on poorly fitted shoes. Wearing ill-fitting or pointy-toed shoes is one of the most common causes of a hammer toe. High heels can also cause the condition, because the heel pushes the front of the foot down, forward, and against the shoe. Over time, the toe muscles grow weaker and are no longer able to straighten the toe.

Stay Connected



[Read Article](#)

## News & Features



### Legislative Report

Just as surgeons and CSAs can be called for emergencies any time of day or night, Washingtonians working in or with Congress won't be sleeping soundly for weeks and months to come. Despite the hectic scheduled and unscheduled bombshell happenings in the city over the last several weeks and the existential threats of war from the Korean Peninsula, and the infernos in California, NSAA's initiatives are quietly making headway downtown and on Capitol Hill.

[Dave's Full Report](#)



### NSAA becomes an Education Sponsor with CSurgeries

Created by surgeons for the surgical community, [CSurgeries](#) is an online surgical video journal dedicated to creating a centralized source of brief, peer-reviewed medical videos that are accessible to a wide audience, including students and professionals in all surgical disciplines.

CSurgeries aims to be a useful resource for teaching basic and complex surgical techniques, and a venue where surgical innovations can be shared across specialties. Enhance your learning by getting video publications delivered directly to your inbox

[Read More](#)

[Become a member, publish videos, and contribute today!](#)



### NSAA 2018 Elections

The Call for Nominations opens January 2nd, 2018 and seeking candidates for the positions of Vice President, Secretary and Member at Large.

Service on the Board of Directors of NSAA in an officer position is a rare chance to help drive the decisions of our highly-respected national association and shape the future of the surgical assistant profession. The opportunity to work with other leaders in NSAA allows you to be on the cutting edge of Allied Healthcare concerns and to be part of the decision-making process on the national level, driving the strategic goals of the organization.

[More on the 2018 Elections](#)

## 2018 NSAA Conference



## 2018 National Conference

April 20th & 21st, approximately 200 surgical assistants will meet in downtown Norfolk, VA at the Hilton Norfolk The Main for the largest surgical assistant conference in the country at the National Surgical Assistant Association's 35th Anniversary Conference! Enjoy an extraordinary hotel experience with classic hospitality and distinctive service at the most exceptional hotel in downtown Norfolk. The Hilton Norfolk The Main welcomes you with everything you need for a relaxing and productive stay. Take some time out for relaxation and unwind with a swim in a beautiful indoor pool, work out in the 24-hour fitness center, or enjoy

a refreshing beverage and appetizer at any of the three onsite dining options, including the Grain, a rooftop bier garden..

The Hilton Norfolk The Main is just 9 miles from the Norfolk International Airport.

Reservations with an NSAA Conference Room Rate of \$139.00 may be made via this link [2018 Conference Hilton Room Reservations](#) or from the Hilton Norfolk The Main link on NSAA's website. Reservations are also available by calling 1-757-763-6200 and ask for the group code "NSA" for the National Surgical Assistant Association Conference. The deadline for this special room rate is March 20th 2018.

Prepare to be highly motivated and participate in the cutting edge educational programs, technical exhibits, and "Hands-On" workshops. Current thinking and innovative products and services go hand-in-hand to help surgical assistants provide the best support to the surgeon and care for their patients. NSAA sponsors this meeting to provide a continuing educational experience and promote advancements in surgery.

## Announcements & Reminders

### Submitting CEUs

CSAs must recertify every 2 years. Part of the recertification requirement is to submit 50 continuing education units (CEUs) within those 2 years. CEUs need to be received by the NSAA 30 days prior to your certification expiration date to provide enough time for verification and processing, and for NCCSA to process your CSA recertification certificate. For questions, please refer to this link: <https://csaexam.com/becoming-a-csa/recertification-requirements/>

NSAA will send out emails to its members 60 days prior to your expiration date as a reminder. Please check your email spam settings to ensure that you are able to receive emails from [info@nsaa.net](mailto:info@nsaa.net).

### Checking CEU Status

You can check where you stand with your CEU count in the members area section of the website. Go to [www.nsaa.net](http://www.nsaa.net) and click on 'members area' at the top and log-in. If you have trouble logging in please call the office at 855-270-6722. This is a great way to know how many CEUs you have on file at any given time. This information is updated about 72 hours after CEUs are submitted to NSAA. Once you submit CEUs, we encourage you to check your member profile to ensure your CEUs were properly received and recorded.

### National Surgical Assistant Association

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