



## President's Message



Luis Aragon, CSA, RSA, LSA  
NSAA President

Dear Colleagues,

An amazing and rewarding experience is what comes to mind when describing the 2018 NSAA's Annual General Meeting and Conference that took place in Norfolk, Virginia on April 20 and 21 which was fitting as it was the 35th Anniversary of our Association and where it all started.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and its membership; our sincerest gratitude to Debbie Redmond for a job well done! She made the conference an outstanding success for the record books. The speakers presented engaging and educational topics and the interaction with the attendees was fluid and active. Our vendors had a valuable opportunity to make live connections with our membership and others in the industry, we thank them for the support and hopeful that we count and enjoy their continued sponsorship for many years to come.

It is worth mentioning and worth of praise the tireless hard work behind the scenes and attention to detail from our Chief Administrative Officer; David Jennette, our Member Services Coordinator; Jami Reilly and other great volunteers that were responsible for this event to occur without a glitch. The planning and coordination that needs to be done for these types of conferences is mind boggling and their efforts and results were very impressive and I personally want to let them know that it did not go unnoticed.

The host city and the venue were warm and welcomed us with open arms and we can only look forward to coming back in coming years as a testament of honoring our roots.

I hope and expect that next year you will join us in Chicago in 2019 for the first ASA/NSAA joint conference that I'm certain will be an event that brings us together, unifies our profession and strengthens our ties by working towards common goals and objectives.

Again, thank you to all those that made time to join us and for those that made it happen!

Luis Aragon, CSA, RSA, LSA  
President, NSAA

## Featured Article

**Can surgeons be trained using gaming technology?**

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## 2019 NSAA/ASA Joint Conference



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

## Continuing Education Units (CEUs)



This month saw the first ever "virtual reality operation," conducted as part of research into how the Oculus Rift headset may benefit surgical training. We examine this and other unexpected collaborations between surgery and gaming technology.

[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 Product Approval



## New low-cost surgical instrument moves like a surgeon's hand

For the first time, FlexDex was used in minimally invasive procedures at Michigan Medicine.

ANN ARBOR-In an era of spiraling health care cost concerns, a new \$500 surgical instrument developed at the University of Michigan is vying to take the place of a \$2 million robot for certain minimally invasive procedures.

U-M startup FlexDex Surgical's first product-a simple, ergonomic and intuitive "needle driver" for stitching inside the body-has been used for the first time in a series of operations. FlexDex has begun shipping its product throughout the U.S. The platform is also expected to expand the use of minimally invasive surgery, an approach that allows patients to recover faster.



Learn more about the [FlexDex](#)

## News and Features

### Legislative Report



Although Washington politics seems to use up most of the air in many living rooms these days, there will be surprisingly

2018



### Election Results

To see who won and the voting breakdown click the link below:

[2018 NSAA Board](#)



### Testing & Credentialing News

Welcome New CSAs!

## NSAA CEU Policy

**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 2018-2019

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

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### Medical Director

William Dickhoner, MD  
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little meaningful activity in the nation's capital until after the November elections. Other than bills naming post offices and resolutions praising hometown sports teams, only appropriations bills will get much attention in coming months. It is for that reason that NSAA has continued to use the appropriations process to make gains and to raise its profile.



EVMS Masters of Surgical Assisting Class of 2018

[Click here for larger image](#)

[Dave's Full Presentation](#)

Stay Connected



## News & Features



This quarters' CEU article is submitted by NSAA Student Members J. Haley, A. Lord, and G. Hassan, on behalf of the Eastern Virginia Medical School's Masters of Surgical Assisting Class of 2018. After reading the article, challenge yourself by answering the questions that follow. Print your answers and E-mail to: [info@nsaa.net](mailto:info@nsaa.net) or Fax to: 202-587-5610. Score 80% or better and receive credit for 2 CEUs.

### Evaluating Traditional Laparoscopic and da Vinci Robotic Surgery: Advantages and Disadvantages

#### Introduction

In the operating room, new technological innovations are constantly being introduced and implemented. Some new products find favor with surgical teams, while other equipment does not show a marked improvement in comparison to its predecessor. Since its first human application in 1910, laparoscopic surgery has become the preferred surgical technique for a variety of surgeries including cholecystectomies and hysterectomies (Perugini, 2001). Although improving various aspects of surgery such as decreased blood loss, smaller incisions, and less pain, traditional laparoscopic surgery is not without its faults (Agha, 2003). Attempting to solve some of the common complaints regarding laparoscopic surgery, Intuitive Surgical introduced the da Vinci Robotic System to the market in 2000. This robotic system improves visibility and manipulation in comparison to traditional laparoscopic with the utilization of a 3D camera, tremor filter, and articulating instruments (Köckerling, 2014).

[Read the full article](#)

[CEU Article Questions](#)

[Print Answer Sheet](#)

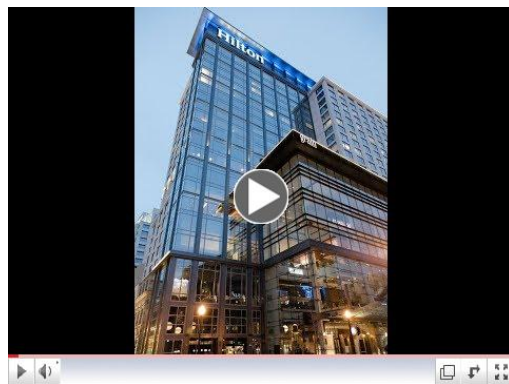
**NSAA Members** - If you would like to contribute an article to the Node and receive valuable CEUs, please email your ideas to: [articles@nsaa.net](mailto:articles@nsaa.net)

## 2018 NSAA Conference Recap



The 2018 35th NSAA Conference was held at the Norfolk Hilton the Main in Norfolk, VA last month. Once again it was a huge success, due to the tremendous help on the ground from Conference Chair, Debbie Redmond. Thanks to all who attended and to the generous support from the 14 Exhibitors.

Check out some of the Conference Highlights!



This year's conference presented twice the hotel room block than normal. Substantially, the hotel comped several room nights. To spread this welcomed savings to the NSAA members staying at the Hilton, names were randomly drawn from and their stay, or portions of their stay were comped. The lucky recipients were Corree Weaver from Rocky Mount, VA and Noel Halaguena from Columbia, MD.

Congratulations to all the door prize winners: Meghan Gawne, CSA; Gabrielle Hassan; Abdullahi Mohamud, SA-C; Collins Osuji; Chris Cogswell, CSA; RV Hunter, CSA; Corree Riddle, CSA; Kevin Harper, SA-C; and Aimee Novelly. This year's Conference Door Prizes were NSAA Embroidered Attache Bag, NSAA Embroidered Backpack, \$100 American Express Gift Cards, 2019 NSAA /ASA Joint Conference Registration, and 2019 NSAA Membership Dues! The Grand Prize, a GoPro Hero 6 with Accessory Package, chosen from the completed Exhibitor Card, was Brittany Bacallao, an EVMS MSA Student from Clewiston, FL!

Thanks to all attendees that completed the post conference survey. The results were very encouraging. Selected from those who completed the survey, the winner of a **2019 NSAA/ASA Joint Conference Registration in Rosemont, IL** was **Meghan Gawne, CSA**. Congratulations Megan, see you in Rosemont next April!

For complete information including the program and a slide presentation capturing some candid shots during the event, visit the "Past Conferences" page on the NSAA website.

## 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: [www.csaexam.com/becoming-a-csa/recertification-requirements/](http://www.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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