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1st QUARTER NEWSLETTER - February 2019

C S A

NODE

The Official Publication of the National Surgical Assistant Association

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ASA/NSAA 2019 Conference

Discover the rewards of attending the 1st ever ASA/NSAA

Conference this April in Rosemont, IL. [Visit our website](#) for details;

Registration is now open.

[Contact us](#) to participate at any level, including exhibiting at a booth or sponsoring events.

Member Articles

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

Announcement

Notice of upcoming Board of Directors Election



In accordance with the NSAA Bylaws, as cited below, this post provides notice of our annual Board of Directors election which will be held this year, via our e-voting system, with a voting window beginning at 12:01 a.m. EST Sunday February 24, 2019 and ending at 11:59 p.m. EST, Monday March 25, 2019.

An e-mail including specific voting instructions, with links to the ballot and to candidate statements will be forwarded to members immediately prior to the beginning of the voting period.

Elections are scheduled and overseen by the Nominations and Elections Committee with the assistance of the Chief Administrative Officer and other officers as needed. Members shall be entitled to cast up to one vote for each vacancy. However, no Member may cast more than one vote for any candidate on his/her ballot. Candidates receiving the greatest number of votes on the ballots cast will be elected.

We look forward to considerable membership participation in the accomplishment of another successful Board of Directors election.

View all of the [2019 Candidate's Statements](#)

Presidents Message



Fellow CSAs,

NSAA Board of Directors 2018-2019

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

President

Luis Aragon, CSA, LSA, RSA
Frankfort, IL
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Vice President

Terry Conyngham, CSA, F-OS
New Kent, VA
taconyngham@msn.com

Treasurer

Marvin Dozier, CSA
Lake Worth, FL
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Secretary

Jim Pressley, CSA, F-OS, RSA
Plainfield, IL
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Chairman of the Board

Daniel Baird, CSA, M.Sc., MBA
Woodstock, GA
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Member-at-Large

Brandon King, CSA
Atlanta, GA
brandonking@nsaa.net

Member-at-Large

Wesley Mitchell, Jr., MSA, CSA
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Member-at-Large

Sari Murray, CSA
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Member-at-Large

George Villarreal, CSA
Corpus Christi, TX
gvillarreal23@gmail.com

Medical Director

Paul Friedman, MD
Livonia, MI

Medical Director

William Dickhoner, MD
Cincinnati, OH



It has been a winter for the record books; at least in the Midwest and East Coast. However, it has been implied that extreme conditions create character and resilience, so I will keep that in mind next time we get minus 26-degree weather and it is freezing outside even with layered clothing.

I am hopeful that by the Chicago conference, our weather will be much warmer and comfortable so all of you can enjoy the educational events, workshops, and networking that our conference chairs, Jim Pressley and Fred Fisher, have prepared for us.

As my 1st term as NSAA President comes to an end, words cannot begin to express what an honor and privilege it has been to serve as a member of the Board and as your President. This past year, we were able to continue positive strides towards a unified profession, increased the communication of our value to all operating room stakeholders, and that we are an important part of the equation in improving patient outcomes, which is and always will be our main priority.

While each of these successes are steps in the right direction, we must remain vigilant as we continue to defend and promote the value of our profession, to reassure the surgeons and patients that they will have a competent, skilled, and knowledgeable surgical assistant in their procedures for decades to come.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors, we invite all of you to join us in Chicago in April to chat and discuss common goals, objectives, and issues that need to be addressed.

You will discover, with pleasure I hope, that the Windy City is one of the world's most fascinating cities in the world and is home to a unique diversity of cultures, food, and music.

See you in April!

Luis Aragon

News & Features



Gencarelli Report

Washington Is Running As Fast As It Can on Several Tracks



Georgia, Kentucky,

Tennessee, and Texas Updates

Dear Colleagues,



Testing & Credentialing News

The NCCSA has applied for accreditation with the National Commission for Certification of Surgical Assistants.

Stay Connected



NSAA members should know that the February through June period of each year is probably the most intense period of work in Washington, D.C. policy and political circles.

This year is probably one of the busiest in recent memory because it is just the second year of a new administration, the signature issue of the last presidential campaign-immigration-is front and center and possibly the issue that must be resolved before any semblance of bipartisanship and compromise can be expected on any other issue.

[Read full report](#)

I am hopeful that you enjoyed your holidays in company of family and friends. Now we are in the middle of tax season while enduring heavy snowfalls and cold weather in most of the country....

The NSAA and ASA continue collaborating on legislative issues in several states that impact surgical assistants directly.

Allow me to provide you with a synopsis of what we are working on and the progress that has been made thus far.

[Read more](#)

Certifying Agencies Accreditation (NCCA), an independent program of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE). Accreditation for professional certification programs provide an impartial, third-party validation that the NCCSA has met recognized national and international credentialing industry standards for development, implementation, and maintenance of the CSA certification examination program.

[Read more](#)

2019 ASA/NSAA Joint Conference



National Conference & General Meeting

On behalf of the ASA/NSAA 2019 Conference Planning Committee, Presidents Greg Salmon and Luis Aragon welcome you to attend this special event! They are confident that you will enjoy this great educational opportunity and the chance to visit with old friends, make new friends, and be part of a

historical milestone!

April 26th & 27th, approximately 200 surgical assistants will meet in Rosemont, IL at the Embassy Suites for the 1st ever joint conference of the Association of Surgical Assistants and the National Surgical Assistant Association making it the largest surgical assistant conference in the country! Enjoy an extraordinary hotel experience with classic hospitality and distinctive service at the Embassy Suites O'Hare Rosemont. This contemporary hotel recently completed an \$11 million renovation designed in the style of Frank Lloyd Wright, with stained glass windows, wooden accents and skylights.

Conference registration is open! Online price is \$275 for ASA and NSAA certified members, \$175 for student members enrolled in a CAAHEP SA Program, and Non-member fees are \$350. Onsite fees are an additional \$25. Full 2-day registration includes Cocktail Reception, Keynote Address, all Scientific Presentations, Lunch, and Break-out Sessions. Register online from the NSAA website, or directly here:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07efpdud7jf7234f15&oseq=&c=&ch=>

The Embassy Suites Chicago * O'Hare /Rosemont is just 1.5 miles from the Chicago O'Hare Airport. Complimentary hotel shuttle is available at the Bus/Shuttle Center located at Level 1 of the Main Parking Garage between Elevator Centers 3 and 4 just outside baggage claim at Door 3 @ every 20 minutes. Reservations with an

ASA/NSAA Conference Room Rate of \$143.00 for Single and \$163.00 for Double may be made via this link:

<http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/C/CHIRMES-NS9-20190423/index.jhtml>

Begin each morning with a free made-to-order breakfast in the seven-story garden atrium. Lounge in your two-room suite, complete with a separate living room, refrigerator, microwave and WiFi access. Sample Mediterranean specialties in a casual atmosphere at Basil's Kitchen or have snacks and drinks at Basil's Bar. Maintain your exercise routine at the complimentary fitness center, equipped with brand new LifeFitness machines. Relax in the heated indoor pool, located on the ground floor.

The Embassy Suites Chicago - O'Hare/Rosemont hotel is convenient to transit facilities such as the Rosemont Blue Line CTA train station, which will take you to attractions in Chicago, Illinois. Eat and play at Rosemont's dining/entertainment district, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, or shop at the Fashion Outlets of Chicago, located two blocks from our hotel.

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 together to help surgical assistants provide the best support to the surgeon and care for their patients. The ASA and NSAA sponsors this meeting to provide a continuing educational experience and promote advancements in surgery.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)



Revised CEU Requirements for CSAs

Beginning June 1st, 2019, individuals desiring to recertify by continuing education will be required to submit 38 CEUs during the 2-year recertification cycle. Of these, 8 CEUs must be derived from a live event, physically attended by the practitioner.

Current NSAA CEU Policy

The *Continuing Education Policies for the CSA* is provided for CSAs as participating in Continuing Education Units (CEU). CSAs as must adhere to these high standards, established by the profession to ensure the ongoing educational development of individual practitioners and to demonstrate to the public the profession's commitment to providing the highest level of quality surgical patient care. The National Surgical Assistant Association (NSAA) is recognized by the National Commission for the Certification of Surgical Assistants (NCCSA) as the responsible authority for the approval of CEU programs for the CSA, including responsibility for CEU credit processing and maintenance, which is subject to NCCSA audit or verification. [Read full policy](#)

Print an [NSAA CEU Submission Form](#)

National Surgical Assistant Association

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