



**VOLUME 1/ 2010**

## **WEST PALM BEACH**

### **Here We Come!!!**

By Joe Rios, CST, AS, FSA Board of Director Member

Just to let you know that all is going well here in South Florida. The membership will be happy to hear that the arrangements have been made at the Palm Beach County Convention Center here in West Palm Beach.

We are a go for Saturday March 6th, 2010 for the Florida State Assembly for Surgical Technologist Convention. I have lined up a number of powerhouse speakers. Besides being educated, they will be entertained. We have speakers coming in from the West Coast; Central and South Florida areas. Our membership will enjoy their stay here in South Florida. Our "Meet and Greet" is scheduled at the Hyatt Place on Lakeview Drive, in West Palm Beach, on Friday, March 5th, 2010 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

All these venues are within walking distance of the spectacular City Place, which houses a variety of entertainment, for example "The Improv at City Place"; "Blue Martini"; "B.B.'s House of Blues"; "Taverna Opa's" and "LaCaberet", just to name a few.

There is also a multiplex Movico on site; and a variety of shops. The courtyard at City Place always has free entertainment, and within walking distance of this is Clematis Street where a variety of themed restaurant's and club's are located.

We here in South Florida are looking forward to seeing our brothers and sisters of the O.R..

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If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me directly at 561-201-8710 or via email [joerioscst@comcast.net](mailto:joerioscst@comcast.net)

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## **DELEGATES WANTED**

The FSA is in need of Delegates for representation at the next AST National Conference in Texas this year. We qualify for 6 delegates and alternates. Our organization has budget a stipend of up to \$500 for each delegate. If interested, hurry and check our website for details. [www.floridasurgicaltechs.org](http://www.floridasurgicaltechs.org)

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## **FACEBOOK- STAY CONNECTED**

Did you know that your Florida State Assembly has a facebook page? To date, we have over 680 friends! Sign up and let your colleagues know. [www.facebook.com/floridastateassembly](http://www.facebook.com/floridastateassembly)

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## **MEMBERS**

Don't let your membership expire! Maintaining your certification is a way to keep **your** organization continuing its mission. We have come a long way and membership continues to increase. We are so close in bringing our profession to the legislative level. Any ideas in recruiting and retaining members, contact one of your FSA officers or Board of Directors.

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## **FSA OUTLET**

Check out our new FSA apparel at the State Convention in WPB!!!

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Orlando at the Doubletree Guest & Suites in Walt Disney Resort. August 6-7, 2010

# PRESS RELEASE

By Tiffany Faublas,  
Marketing Palm Beach County Convention Center

The FSA will be having a Press Release about our profession and our Convention in West Palm Beach.

## **Surgical Technology Statewide Convention** **comes to West Palm Beach**

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, the Florida State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologist will host its Annual Statewide Convention at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, in West Palm Beach, FL. The Florida State Assembly brings together numerous professionals in hopes of ensuring quality and safe patient care, in addition to gaining more awareness and support on the importance and benefits of surgical technologist becoming certified. Their legislative committee has worked long and hard to advocate mandatory education and standardization of skills through registration, regulation, and possible licensure of their profession. It is imperative for them to gain the support from the Florida Hospital Association and the Florida Nurses Association for their bill to pass.

Seminar registration opens at 7:30 am

Registration Fee: Up to 6 CEU's

Complimentary continental breakfast and lunch and much more in store for all attendees!!!

### **Background**

The Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) is the only national organization that represents over 55,000 surgical technologists and surgical assistants. Established in 1969, is renowned as the oldest and most widely recognized professional organization for surgical technologists and surgical assistants. AST's primary purpose is to ensure that surgical technologists and surgical assistants have the knowledge and skills to administer safe patient care of the highest quality.

Surgical technology is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States. Currently, there are over 91,000 persons employed in surgical technologist positions throughout the United States. So fast, that it was recently projected to grow faster than the average of all other occupations through the year 2012. As baby boomers approach retirement age, the volume of surgery will increase

exponentially and the high demand for this profession will follow suit.

### **Profession Description:**

A Certified Surgical Technologist is an Allied Health professional largely unknown to the general population, performing his/her role behind the closed doors of the surgical suite. The CST sets up the surgical case and assists the surgeon by passing sterile instruments, sutures and sponges during surgery, making sure that the operation proceeds smoothly and efficiently. He/she provides highly specialized care for the patient, keeping constant watch that the surgical procedure is conducted under sterile conditions, employing sophisticated surgical technology skills and applying in-depth knowledge of anatomy for each procedure being performed.

“This is a profession that may be hidden from the public eye, but it is well-respected and appreciated. We are the patient’s advocate and will settle for nothing less than to deliver the highest quality patient care.”

Luis Melendez, CST, CFA, FSA President

### **Importance of being certified**

Certification is not only beneficial towards the assurance of patient confidence but also beneficial to surgical technologists’ advancement in the workplace. In results published in the 2002 Job Analysis Report by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA), 46% of Certified Surgical Technologists (CSTs) and 52% of Certified First Assistants (CFAs) reported that employers compensated them for maintaining their credential. An increasing number of employers are compensating employees for certification. In an online survey of surgical technologists conducted by NBSTSA, hourly wage differences between certified vs. noncertified staff ranged from a low of 50 cents per hour to a high of \$5 or more for earning the credential. At this rate, the certified surgical technologists have the potential to earn a minimum of \$2,000 annually over that of their noncertified team members.

View hourly rate in your state, [2009 Hourly Average Pay Rate](#) View certification verification, [Online Verification](#) For more information about attending the Surgical Technology Statewide Convention, please visit [www.floridasurgicaltechs.org](http://www.floridasurgicaltechs.org)