

# NYSACSP Making a Difference Every Day



Six years ago, a task force of ten members of the Central Service Professionals Chapters throughout the State of New York initiated plans to begin lobbying in Albany to require mandatory certification of Central Service professionals. The purpose of the Task Force was to awaken the government's awareness about the roles, responsibilities and skills required to perform our technical responsibilities. The task force took the name of NYSACSP, with its role being to voice concerns/needs as a group in order to update the Department of Health (DOH) regulations for the Central Service Profession.

Requiring certification to perform our jobs will raise the status of our profession and therefore, the competencies required for employment. Currently, there are no formal requirements to perform the CS technician duties nonetheless, a technician is expected to perform and have as much technical knowledge as many other technical positions within the Surgical arena. More expectations have been added to our duties without modifying our job descriptions or status in the healthcare field. Moreover, we perform one of the most important tasks in a healthcare facility as we decontaminate all equipment and surgical instruments; assemble, pack, and sterilize surgical instrument sets and deliver throughout the nursing patient care areas all kinds of disposable goods.

The CS Legislative Bill A03220/S3737 requires that all central services staff directly involved with decontamination, preparation and sterilization of surgical instruments obtain formal education and acquire the necessary skills and knowledge for Certification. Certified technicians would then be eligible to obtain the NY State License through the Department of Education and earn the benefits of being licensed by the State. If the State makes Licensing mandatory our status would change from non-professional to professional. Healthcare facilities will be mandated to hire certified/licensed staff and as a result licensed technicians will become more marketable. Because sterilization is a patient safety issue, it is essential that CS technicians have the knowledge, skills and training to provide consistent, reliable and quality-focused service.

Central Services personnel who are not currently certified should enroll in an approved certification program in order to be eligible for the benefits upon approval of this proposal. Certified Central Service technicians should begin to encourage co-workers to become certified in order to increase the number of certified personnel in the State. You can also help promote this proposal by actively participating in your local chapter and helping your local representative in this task force. Attend your next local chapter meeting for more details on how you can help. For more information, visit the NYSACSP website at [www.nycentralservice.org](http://www.nycentralservice.org).



## 2010 Seminar:

The NYSACSP 8th Annual Educational Seminar will be at the new Crowne Plaza Hotel, Niagara Falls, New York USA on June 11-12, 2010 (Friday and Saturday.)

We have an outstanding educational program with well known dynamic speakers who will bring the latest in healthcare central service issues.

Don't miss this great opportunity to get great education and add a few days vacation.

A block of rooms at a reduced rate has been secured at the Crown Plaza Hotel, across the street from the conference center. The special rate is \$134.00 plus tax. Call Crown Plaza Hotel (716) 285-3361 just mention the NYSACSP seminar.

[www.nycentralservice.org](http://www.nycentralservice.org)