



## IDAHO AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER ASSOCIATION

*Providing support and resources to Idaho ASCs delivering high quality, safe, cost-effective care*

Greetings! Your Executive Director, Shane Ricks and I had a brainstorming meeting during which we discussed a number of thoughts about our annual meeting, legislative challenges facing our industry and IASCA membership. I find myself asking the question, "Why aren't most or all of the 52 CMS certified ASCs in Idaho members of their state association?" At last review, our membership roster listed 15 members.

IASCA's sole objective is to support and promote ASCs in our state. We do this by retaining a legislative lobbyist to work on our behalf with our elected officials on those issues that may be beneficial or detrimental to our success. IASCA has a representative on the ASCA State Affairs Committee. This representative serves as the point of contact between ASCA, its staff and our members, and will network with representatives from other state associations. We provide quality educational offerings at our annual meetings and will now provide CNEs to help meet the requirement for RN license renewal. Membership on a Board of a professional organization like ours will also fulfill some of the requirements for license renewal. This is the best time to join IASCA. With greater membership we have greater power. I encourage you to become involved.

Thank you for your time,  
Kris Sabo, President

### Need CNE's? IASCA can help!

Nurses new licensing renewals for 2021 require 15 CNEs.

Attend IASCA's Annual Educational Conference March 9-10 2020 Our meeting is approved for 8 CNEs. Attend annually and your CNEs will be met. Help us provide value to our 2020 conference. We have an excellent line up of topics and speakers. Our speakers want to hear from you to have their content best meet your educational expectations.

Please send your suggestions to: [info@iasca.org](mailto:info@iasca.org).

### Legislative Action:

Did you know that currently Medicaid on average pays 56% of Medicare's ASC fee schedule. Earlier this year IASCA met with and presented information to the Department of Health and Welfare with the objective of getting Medicaid rates for ambulatory surgical centers increased. We believe the results of this effort yielded a recommendation from the Department to the Governor's office to increase Medicaid rates to 90% of Medicare rates. The next step in the process is to convince the Governor's office to give high priority to the increase in his budget recommendation that he will present in January. Several IASCA members and I met with Alex Adams the Director of Financial Management for Governor Little and had an excellent conversation. While it will be a tight budget year this is a cost savings to the state in the long run so I am optimistic it will be recommended by the Governor and the first step in improving Medicaid reimbursement.

Next step: We need help! Meet with legislators who sit on the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee. Schedule a lunch or a facility visit prior to the state's congressional session.

### Regulatory Updates:

Who is excited about Medicare's burden reductions for Emergency preparedness, H&P, transfer agreements?!? Not so fast... while the Idaho facility standards will follow Medicare changes; If you are accredited continue to follow your accreditation regulations. AAAHC and Joint Commission **do not** plan on making changes until their 2020 standards are approved.

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