

## 2019 PSW Technician Educational Forum Recap

by Miranda Peek, CPhT, and Sarah Raether, CPhT

Each year, PSW hosts the largest technician-centered education forum in the country. This year was no exception when around 80 technicians gathered at The Ridge Hotel and Conference Center in Lake Geneva, WI. The PSW Technician Educational Forum focuses on strengthening a technician's professional skillset and portfolio through peer learning, networking and experience sharing. The conference content was determined by the PSW Technician Section Board, who aimed to increase engagement, networking and professional content. This was met by a number of great speakers, several of which were pharmacy technicians sharing about the great work they are doing at their organizations.

"This year the networking that took

place as phenomenal! It is inspiring to watch people from all over the state come together and connect, sharing experiences, making friendships, and asking questions about each other's jobs and specific roles," said Miranda Peek, PSW Technician Section President.

Prior to the Forum, the Technician Section Board met for the first time in the organization year. This year, the Technician Board welcomed the Technician Engagement Committee (TEC) for the first time. This committee consists of technicians throughout Wisconsin who are passionate about increasing technician engagement in PSW. The Technician Board and TEC committee discussed how PSW can advance the technician profession by facility professional engagement.

Friday night is all about having fun at the Technician Forum and this year

was no different. This year's Friday Night Party consisted of a fun and friendly game of Pharmacy Jeopardy, testing our knowledge of all different aspects of the pharmacy world. Technicians were able to enjoy some great hors d'oeuvres and laugh and mingle with other technicians in attendance. Additionally, Pharm to Tables, a Wisconsin-based organization started by John Muchka, PharmD, attended the Friday Night Party to collect food donations. This year, as a group, 222 pounds of food was donated!

On Saturday morning we got into our own harmony with the help of the amazing group "Gin, Chocolate, and Bottle Rockets." This trio of women focus on the importance of living in harmony and provide insight on achieving this through purpose, communication and presence. They were both fun and inspirational, and

**Below:** New Technician Section Board during their oath of office at the 2019 PSW Technician Educational Forum on November 2, 2019. Pictured from left to right: Jane Barton (Past Technician Section President), Jodi Marino (Region A Director), Barbara Ranzenberger (Region B Director), Miranda Peek (President), Jennifer McLarty (Region D Director), Tina Browne (Region E Director), Jennifer Leitner (Region F Director), and Sarah Raether (President Elect)



a great way to start the day!

The ceremonial oath of office for the Technician Section Board was completed, where Board members pledged “to preserve the rights and privileges of the pharmacy profession and adhere to the highest standards of practice and ethical conduct to serve the Pharmacy of Society of Wisconsin to the best of their ability”. Sophie Becker was congratulated as the 2019 PSW Technician of the Year.

The educational events were then kicked off with PSW Technician Section President-Elect, Sarah Raether, who presented on drug diversion. Sarah covered the essential components of a medication diversion prevention program, robbery preparedness and medication take back boxes. The next speakers, and pharmacy technicians, Miranda Peek, Melissa Thompson and Sheri Kennedy presented on building a technician training program and technician advancement, pulling in the audience to talk about their current unique roles and the path they took to get there.

Other topics covered at this year’s Technician Educational Forum included “Obtaining Medication Histories”, “Tips and Tricks for Personal Finance as a Pharmacy Technician”, “How to Become a Pharmacy Leader”, and “The FDA Approval and Recall Process.” These topics presented a broad perspective of the pharmacy world and allowed technicians to attend sessions that focused on their specialties. “The programming offered was varied enough that it offered something for everyone. I appreciate the opportunity to learn more about different practice settings that I may not be exposed to in the normal course of my daily work,” said Sarah Raether, PSW Technician Section President-Elect.

New this year, we had four posters presented by pharmacy technicians between our morning breaks. The topics included “Advanced Pharmacy Technician Roles at Gundersen Health System: Pharmacy IV Specialists”, Advanced Pharmacy Technician Roles at Gundersen Health System: Pharmacy Diversion Specialists”, “Development and Implementation of Pharmacy Technicians Completing Medication Histories”, and “Project Search Success in an Inpatient Pharmacy.” These posters were all presented by technicians

at past PSW meetings and showcased work being done by technicians at local organizations.

During lunch the technicians put their networking skills into action. Lunch tables were set up by “interest area”, such as inpatient hospital, final product verification, drug shortages, and controlled substances. This allowed technicians to meet others that share similar interests but work in different roles across the state. This approach has created a comfortable atmosphere that supports networking and ongoing conversation throughout the lunch hour. “I personally have met some great people during the lunch hour that has allowed me to expand my knowledge of other roles and other facilities. I have also witnessed an increase of networking taking place year after year, which is truly amazing to see,” said Miranda Peek, PSW Technician Section President.

The PSW Technician Forum is truly unique in its ability to bring together pharmacy technicians to collaborate and learn about pharmacy practice while becoming more powerful together. If you are interested in becoming more involved with PSW, there are many ways to do so that are easy and incredibly rewarding. Some of the ways to become more involved include serving on the Technician Section Board of Directors, presenting at a conference, presenting a poster, and writing an article. “I never envisioned myself presenting at a professional conference,



Above: Sophie Becker accepting her award at the 2019 PSW Annual Meeting in Green Bay, Wisconsin on September 14, 2019.

but I am very glad that I did. PSW was incredibly helpful throughout the entire process and I would definitely present again. I encourage any fellow technician who is thinking about presenting to just go for it”, said Sarah Raether, presenter and PSW Technician Section President-Elect. Thank you for making this year’s Forum a success and we hope to see everyone at next year’s Technician Educational Forum!

Miranda Peek is the President and Sarah Raether is the President Elect of the PSW Technician Section Board.

# SAVE THE DATE



## 2020 PSW TECHNICIAN EDUCATIONAL FORUM

October 23-24, 2020  
Holiday Inn, Manitowoc