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**MEMBERS OF AAASC AND FASA OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVE MERGER;
NEW ASC ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS NAMED**

ALEXANDRIA, VA & JOHNSON CITY, TN (NOVEMBER 30, 2007) – Members of the nation’s two largest and most influential ASC associations—the American Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers (AAASC) and FASA—overwhelmingly voted to approve the proposed merger of the two groups in independent votes each organization conducted. As a result, on January 1, 2008, AAASC and FASA will join together to become one organization that will be known as the Ambulatory Surgery Center Association, or the ASC Association.

“The new ASC Association will provide a unified voice for ASCs and enhance the value of all the benefits and services that both AAASC and FASA currently offer their members,” said current FASA President and future ASC Association Chief Executive Officer Kathy Bryant. “While both AAASC and FASA were legally required to obtain the approval of their members for the merger to occur, we were pleased to find that approval of the merger was nearly unanimous and the members of both associations are clearly looking forward to the advantages the new ASC Association will offer them.”

“The votes reaffirm what many in the ASC community have been saying for some time: One association that can advocate for the owners and operators of ASCs will strengthen the ASC community in new and important ways,” added current AAASC Executive Director Craig Jeffries. Jeffries will support the merger and then step aside from any continued staff responsibility.

The new ASC Association’s Board of Directors will include 10 members from the existing FASA/Foundation for Ambulatory Surgery in America Boards, five members of AAASC’s existing Board and two members to be appointed from neither Board. Nomination information for those two positions will be posted on the new association’s web site. The new ASC Association’s Board will be led by Chair Alsie Sydness-Fitzgerald, CASC, current chair-elect of FASA. David Shapiro, MD, currently a member of the AAASC Board of Directors, will become chair-elect of the new ASC Association Board and take office as chair at the conclusion of Sydness-Fitzgerald’s term. Current AAASC President Joseph Banno, MD, and current FASA Chair Allen Hecht will both serve as immediate past chairs. Other members of the ASC Association Board will include Nap Gary, secretary, Jerry Henderson, CASC, treasurer, Joe Clark, Greg Cunniff, David George, MD, Michael Guarino, Sandra Jones, CASC, Keith Metz, MD, Brent Lambert, MD, John Schario and Donna St. Louis.

Also on January 1, 2008, the education and research arm of the ASC community will become known as the Ambulatory Surgery Foundation. That Board will include five members from the existing FASA/Foundation Boards and three from the existing AAASC Board. David Shapiro, MD, will serve as the chair of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. The other members will be Ann Geier, CASC, Dick Hanley, Jovanna Lee, CASC, Sarah Martin, Margaret Orman, Debra Stinchcomb, CASC, and Arnaldo Valedon, MD.

Both of the new organizations will be headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia.

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