



SILVER STATE-ISTICS

Nevada Chapter of American Statistical Association



Dear Nevada ASA Members and Friends,

Read on for information on what our Chapter has been up to. Please keep an eye on our website for more details on upcoming events.
<https://community.amstat.org/nevadachapter/home>

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It's tempting to blame the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic for the decline in social participation, but hours of social isolation in the U.S. increased 50% from 2003 to 2019.

Time and opportunity can be substantial barriers to social engagement. NV-ASA creates opportunities for people of all ages to connect:

1. **Join NV-ASA!** You'll meet people from all walks of statistical life, spread across the state, and become part of a welcoming chapter community.
2. **Run for office!** Many local organizations struggle to fill officer positions and keep members engaged. Even if you're not competitive by nature, you can simply ask if there are positions without candidates.
3. **Attend our events!** We host an annual day-long meeting filled with networking opportunities and thought-provoking discussions—plus extra social events and unique activities, like the role-playing game featured in this newsletter.
4. **Get involved in the poster competition!** Students in grades K–12 design and submit their own statistics projects virtually, supported by a teacher, parent, or other mentor. You can volunteer as a judge or a mentor. Winning posters receive a cash award and advance to the national competition.

If you're interested in any of these opportunities, check out the rest of this newsletter or reach out for more information.

Social Participation

Along with healthy eating and regular exercise, “*getting out to meet people*” is a key element of living a full and satisfying life. It’s not just conventional wisdom—research backs it up. A study of more than 85,000 Europeans aged 50+ found a strong positive association between formal social activities and cognitive function.

2025 Annual Meeting and Symposium

The 2025 NV-ASA Annual Meeting and Symposium will be held on the University of Nevada-Reno campus on October 4, 2025. Activities begin at 9:30. The meeting will also be available online.

The Chapter is pleased to announce the keynote speaker is Dr. Ji-Hyun Lee, 2025 President of the ASA & Associate Director for Cancer, Quantitative Sciences & University of Florida Health Cancer Center, Professor, Department of Biostatistics. Dr. Lee's presentation is titled **ASA Nevada Chapter Conversation: The Power of an Everyday Statistician.**

The symposium will also include panel discussions in the afternoon, NV-ASA business meeting and UNR and UNLV student presentations showcasing their research. NV-ASA thanks the UNR Department of Mathematics and Statistics for their co-sponsorship of the event. Please look for forthcoming announcements on registration, cost, and other meeting details.

2025 Board Elections

Prior to the annual meeting, elections will be held for the following NV-ASA Board positions: President, Northern Vice President, Secretary, and Chapter Representative. Board officer duties and requirements are described below. They will be described in the ballot notification sent via email to NV-ASA membership.

Board Position Duties and Membership Requirements:

CHAPTER PRESIDENT (Term: January 2026 – December 2027): The President shall preside

over the Annual Meeting, all other meetings of the Chapter, and meetings of the Executive Committee. The President also serves as the Chair of the Education Committee. The President must be a regular member of NV-ASA and a national ASA member.

NORTHERN VICE PRESIDENT (Term: January 2026 – December 2027): One of the Vice Presidents shall preside in the absence of the President. Vice-Presidents serve as co-Chairs of the Arrangements and Program Committees. In the event of the resignation or incapacity of the President, the Executive Committee shall appoint one of the Vice Presidents to succeed to the Presidency. Vice Presidents must be regular members of NV-ASA.

CHAPTER SECRETARY (Term: January 2026 - December 2027): The Secretary shall attend meetings of the NV-ASA, take minutes of each meeting, and send them to the board for approval and posting to the NV-ASA website. The Secretary must be a regular member of NV-ASA and a national ASA member.

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE (Term: January 2026 - December 2028, note this is a three-year term.) The Chapter Representative to the ASA Council of Chapters shall represent the interests of the Chapter in the annual meetings of the ASA Council of Chapters and shall give an annual report on the activities of the Council and the Board of Directors of ASA to the membership or the Chapter. The Representative also sends an annual report on Chapter activities to ASA. Deadlines:

Nominations are due by midnight on Thursday, 18 September.

Ballots will be distributed to Chapter Members by Monday, September 22.

Ballots are due by midnight on Wednesday, October 1.

Election results will be announced during the 2025 NV-ASA Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 4.

Please send nominations or questions to Glenn Waddell, at glenn@mrwaddell.net

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NV-ASA April 2025 Workshop
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Role-Playing Games and Statistics? An Unlikely Pairing That Works

People who play role-playing games (RPGs) are attracted to these games because of their complexity and versatility in creating fantasy worlds and developing interesting characters. This widely known game format was found to also have another application: teaching statistics.

The NV-ASA workshop held at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on April 25, 2025. Dr. Chad Curtis from the Nevada State University adapted RPGs as an active learning pedagogy for an introductory statistics course through the “Reacting to the Past” RPG series. The game titled "The Cigarette Century: Tobacco and Lung Cancer, 1964-1965" explores this question in the context of the congressional debates surrounding tobacco and lung cancer after the publication of the 1964 Surgeon General's Report. The game challenges the participants to use real-world reports and statistical reasoning to argue their positions. The workshop was well-attended by graduate students, faculty, and industry partners of the NV-ASA.

Stay tuned for details on our next workshop this Fall!

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NV-ASA K-12 Poster Competition
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The Nevada Chapter of the American Statistical Association recently held its annual statewide Poster Competition, inviting K-12 students to showcase their statistical skills. Participants were tasked with collecting and analyzing data on a topic of their choosing and presenting their findings through creative and informative posters. Judges included Nevada educators, university professors, and working statisticians.

This year, 24 posters were entered, representing a mix of Washoe County (11 entries), Clark County (8), Douglas County (1), and home-schooled students (4).

Winners included:

1st Place, K-3: Block Towers: How Do We Stack Up? Ms. Bolano's Kindergarten Class, Jessie Beck Elementary (Washoe County), mentored by Carrie Hair.

2nd Place, K-3: Which Marshmallows Will Be in My Cereal Bowl? Aurelian Hansen, Home schooled, mentored by Alicia and Michael Hansen.

3rd Place, K-3: Who Are the People in My Neighborhood? AnnMarie Hansen, Home schooled, mentored by Alicia and Michael Hansen.

1st Place, 4-6: Dice Distributions. Tristan Hansen, Home schooled, mentored by Alicia and Michael Hansen.

1st Place, 7-9: Does Caffeine Affect Height? Annie Brown, Pau Wa Lu Middle School (Douglas County), mentored by Jennifer Worthington.

2nd Place, 7-9: Satellites in Our Skies. Michaela Hansen, Home schooled, mentored by Alicia and Michael Hansen.

The competition was fierce in the grades 10-12 category, which saw 18 submissions. Top honors went to:

1st Place: Survival Outcomes for Titanic Passengers Based on Demographic Information. Kaison and Casy Fong, Davidson Academy (Washoe County), mentored by Kai Hsiao.

2nd Place: Absence and Grades. Tianna Blackwood, Sparks High School (Washoe County), mentored by Elsa David.

3rd Place: Screen Time vs Academic Performance. Madison Snyder, Palo Verde High School (Clark County), mentored by Tara Crouch.

“This was the first non-pandemic year since we transitioned to an online entry process which allowed electronic files or pictures of physical posters, making it more accessible statewide,” said Cheryl Hightower, 2024-2025 President of the Nevada Chapter of the American Statistical Association.

“The students always have interesting ideas and beautiful artwork. We’re excited to send our winners to the national competition. We’re looking forward to even more entries next year.” The association commends all participants for their hard work and thanks the dedicated judges who made this event a success.

For more information, visit
<https://community.amstat.org/nevadachapter/home>

***** **Other News Around the State** *****

UNR has a weekly StatsChat on campus every Tuesday this semester. The Chat often includes graduate students using data and statistics in the analysis of their thesis projects. For more information, check out the following website:
<https://guides.library.unr.edu/StatsChats>

Join the StatsChats mailing list:
To receive notifications and reminders, participate in discussions, and submit your discussion topic requests, send an email to statschats-join@lists.unr.edu and in the subject field enter "subscribe" (without the quotation marks). Leave the email body blank.

Southern Nevada Vice President Miguel Fudolig attended JSM and met with the Nevada Delegation! Yay!

***** **NV-ASA is on LinkedIn** *****

We now have a LinkedIn page for our Chapter.

Visit
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/nvasa>. If you are already a LinkedIn member, you will go to our page directly. If not, you will need to join first. One feature is that our NVASA page will allow job postings. To do that, please contact our webmaster at the email address given on our website. ▲

***** **Joining NV-ASA!** *****

Only a minority of the people who receive this newsletter are members of the Nevada Chapter of the American Statistical Association (NV-ASA). Dues are nominal. For full-time students at NV institutions, the cost is \$10 per year (\$2 for student members of the national ASA). Otherwise, it is \$20 per year (\$10 for members of the national ASA). One can become a Life Member for \$100. You can join NV-ASA when you renew your national ASA membership (or join for the first time); this can be done on-line at www.amstat.org/chapters.

There are two ways to join NV-ASA:
- at amstat.org, while initiating or renewing your national ASA membership; or
- at Wild Apricot
(<https://ncotasa.wildapricot.org/>).

Why should you join?

NV-ASA events provide opportunities for networking and contact with other statisticians working in a wide variety of areas in Nevada. But in addition to that, a major reason is that your dues help support the outreach activities of the NV-ASA including the K-12 Poster Competition and Career Days. Our financial needs are not great, so long as we all pitch in our modest amounts.





NV-ASA Officers & Others



Voting officers are

President: Cheryl Hightower
(2024-2025)

Past President: Andrey Sarentsev
(2024-2025)

Northern Vice President: Deb Stiver (2025)

Southern Vice President: Miguel Fudolig (2025-2026)

Secretary: Glenn Waddell (2024-2025)

Secretary:
Treasurer:

Treasurer: Charles Davis (2021-2026)
Chapter Representative: Alicia Chancellor Hansen

Chapter Representative: **Alicia Chancellor Hansen**
(2023-2025)

(2023-2025)

Also issued under

Webmaster:

Poster Competition Lead: Elizabeth Harris

Newsletter Editor: Deb Stiver

Newsletter Editor: **Dee Stever**

Silver State-istics welcomes news items and letters from members and friends of the NV-ASA on matters of interest to the Chapter and the profession. Manuscript or items can be sent as a Microsoft Word document, PDF, or within an e-mail.

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For contact information, go to
<https://community.amstat.org/nevadachapter/home>

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