



The Connection

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May 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dawn Michelson, ASCLS-ND President



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Greetings everyone! Spring is here (maybe?) and as I gather things to be put out on the boulevard for clean up week I think how we must have to constantly "de-clutter" our lives. It's a juggling game and a person has to continuously decide what their priorities are and let the minor things slide. More than likely, the majority of you getting this newsletter are ASCLS members and have already made that important step of making your career one of your priorities. That is fantastic! But, taking your commitment to the next level and volunteering in ASCLS makes it that much more rewarding. I think a lot of the ASCLS State Societies find they have to recycle their leadership and have a hard time getting new

members to step up to the plate. So, who will take over for the "seasoned" leadership? I know for a fact there are many energetic, bright new members in ASCLS-ND. It would be a shame to waste all of that hard-working Midwest potential (after all, we showed the country our tenacity during the flooding). So please, when our President-Elect, Mary Belanus is busy getting her leadership roster for the year together and gives you a call, just say "yes"!

I would like to thank all those who attended the ASCLS-ND Spring Meeting in Grand Forks. What a great turnout! I hope a good time was had by all. There were great speakers

and exhibitors. I think we are a little more prepared for those wedding dances this summer after our "Dancing With the Stars" seminar and everyone looked wonderful in their glamorous attire. A big round of applause to the Co-Chairs-Toscha Larson, Shannon Jongeward, Jessica Irion and Terri Hintz-great job! Congratulations to our Delegate to the National Meeting, Jessica Irion, our Student Representative, Alex Shepard and our newly elected ASCLS-ND Board members, Leola Olson (President-Elect) and Terri Hintz (Board Member at Large). Our next year will be busy! We will work to make ASCLS-ND even stronger.



Rolling Out The Red Carpet For Laboratory Professionals

See inside this issue of *The Connection* for highlights from this year's annual state meeting.

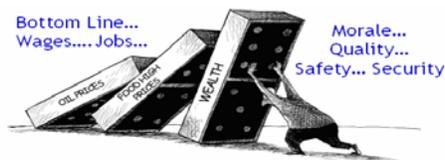


URGENT TIMES REQUIRE URGENT ACTION & NOT PROCRASTINATION

Lezlee Koch, ASCLS Region V Director

Many of our clinical laboratory professionals and the facilities they are working in are being impacted by the current economic downturn. New statistics released in December from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that more hospitals recorded mass layoffs in 2008 than any year in the past decade. On top of that bad news, an American Hospital Association report found that a combination of tightening credit, declining patient demand, and an increasing number of patients who cannot pay for care is forcing some healthcare facilities to make cuts to staff and services. Even while laboratories have been diligently doing their part to boost efficiency through measures like Lean for over a decade, national surveys are finding that this recession is compelling laboratories to ramp up cost cutting measures and tighten budgets to cope with the ripple effects of the bad economy. Unfortunately, the financial forecast will get even worse before it gets better. We will see an increasing domino effect of job losses and ensuing loss of health insurance which will add to the rising amount of uncompensated care. Bottom line, clinical laboratory professionals need to be educated, aware and ready to respond when action is needed.

Has your facility taken actions to respond to the economic downturn? If not, count your blessings but know that actions may still be required in the future. A national survey completed in December identified the top laboratory reactions to this economic recession.



Areas of Impact Being Seen:

- Budget Cuts
- Severe cut backs in education programs
- Implementation of hiring freezes
- Elimination of overtime
- Mandatory reduction to hours
- Reduction in force/lay offs
- Wage cuts and benefit reductions
- Delayed capital purchases
- Less referred testing but reduced staff means high workload demands
- Closing of satellite locations and smaller facilities
- Hiring less educated staff to perform testing, or cross training entry level positions to perform some testing responsibilities
- Mandating supervisory staff to work the bench fulltime

The fallout of these drastic actions has not even begun to be identified. Without appropriate staffing, clinical laboratories may require overtime which can lead to morale issues and fatigue – leading to increasing errors, decreasing service levels, and decreasing quality. Without appropriate instrumentation, clinical laboratories may impact directly on testing avail-

ability or service issues related to instrument downtimes. All of these have the potential to impact on clinical laboratory professionals and the way they strive to provide accessible, affordable, and safe clinical laboratory services.

No Time For Procrastination-CLS Professionals Must Be United!

Over the past several weeks I've heard clinical laboratory professionals question whether the economic downturn will impact negatively on professional organizations and actions that need to be taken to move our profession forward. I would like to say... **now more than ever, Clinical Laboratory Professionals MUST INVEST in themselves, STRENGTHEN their professional networks and BECOME or REMAIN members in professional organizations (ASCLS!!) that are FIGHTING FOR THEIR PROFESSION!**

It is during times like these that clinical laboratory professionals **MUST** be visible in their workplaces, demonstrate the value they bring to health-care, and support strong advocacy at the local, state, regional, and national levels. Clinical Laboratory Science Professionals **MUST** be united and speak out in a common **LOUD** voice for the profession. This can not be done by individuals alone. There is strength and power in numbers!



Region V Report continued...

Now is the time for ALL Clinical Laboratory Professionals to:

- Become or remain members in strong professional organizations such as ASCLS!
 - Offer their talents and time to assist in accomplishing professional actions!
 - Be positive advocates for their profession!
 - Grow their professional network so they have instant access to professional leaders throughout the nation!
 - Take personal responsibility for their professional
- growth so they become more valuable to their employer!
 - Seek additional responsibility within their facilities and within their communities!
 - Be positive role models and mentors!
 - Identify new cost-effective ways to accomplish tasks!
 - Be accountable, flexible, involved, and engaged in their workplaces and in their profession!
 - Be aware and ready to respond to all areas that have the ability to impact on their profession!
- Live and practice their profession every day based on a strong code of ethics – Duty to the Patient, Duty to Colleagues and the Profession, Duty to Society!

Now is not the time to procrastinate on taking professional actions or to choose not to invest in our professional selves!

United in ASCLS... Clinical Laboratory Science Professionals Make A Difference & Must Support Each Other and Our Profession!

STUDENT'S CORNER

ASCLS-ND STUDENT REP REPORT

BY: NIKKI DILLMANN

Hey everyone! So, here is a quick little update regarding the world of ASCLS-ND students. Once again, I had a blast at the state conference up in Grand Forks. I had the chance to meet some of the student members, and I hope to see them next year as first year professionals! I am pleased to share that four of those student members were awarded ASCLS-ND scholarships. These students are Alex Shepard from Merit Care in Fargo, Nicole Hoffmeyer from

UND, Megan Melby from UND, and Abdirizak Mohamed also from UND. Congrats to you all! Alex Shepard will also be taking over the position as Student Representative and will be attending the ASCLS national meeting in Chicago this July.

Because of a hopeful increase in future student memberships and scholarship applications, I am helping to design a better system for selecting both scholar-

ship recipients and the student representative position. I am also still planning on visiting colleges in the fall to promote ASCLS-ND. Hopefully Alex will be able to get involved too.

That about does it for the student report. Hope you all have a chance to enjoy the summer, as short as it always seems!



Wonderful Opportunities Waiting

By Mary Belanus

Membership Update:

ASCLS-ND	Total	COL	EM1	EM2	FYP	STU	PF1	PF2
5/11/2008	108	2	1		5	16	45	39
5/12/2009	119	1	1	1	4	25	49	38

I am so excited after our ASCLS-ND spring meeting. Just look at the membership numbers from last year to this year. Look at the increase in student members. **WOW!**

I have chosen to write a note of thanks to those students that have joined this great professional organization. You have opened the doors to wonderful opportunities that are waiting for you. I had the pleasure of meeting many of our new student members at the ASCLS-ND spring meeting in Grand Forks and I have to say that these young professionals gave me new hope in my own professional career. Many of you know how excited I get about ASCLS but these students really lit a FIRE in me again. **WOW!** Is this possible, after all I have been a member of ASCLS since I was a student. Could I really get more excited about ASCLS? Students, thank you for adding more coals to the fire for me.

Welcome to our new student members in ASCLS-ND. WOW!

Megan Melby, CLS Student, UND, Grand Forks, ND

Jasmine O'Brien, CLS Student, UND, Grand Forks, ND

Alexander Shepard, CLS Student, NDSU, Fargo, ND

Karen Blair, CLS Student, NDSU, Fargo, ND

Alyssa Buschette, CLS Student, NDSU, Fargo, ND

Joshua Helmer, CLS Student, NDSU, Fargo, ND

Samantha Mathews, CLS Student, NDSU, Fargo

Edris Otazu, CLS Student, NDSU, Fargo, ND

Paul Samson, CLT student, UND, Grand Forks, ND

Justin Rosenau, CLS Student, NDSU, Fargo, ND

Dusten Unruh, CLS Student, NDSU, Fargo, ND

Nicole Hoffmeyer, CLS Student, UND, Grand Forks, ND

Sharon Caswell, CLT student, Rasmussen College, Moorhead

Samantha Craigmile, CLT student, Rasmussen College, Moorhead

Stephanie Domrose, CLS Student, UND, Grand Forks, ND

Chantel Faul, CLT student, Rasmussen College, Moorhead

Toni Haaland, CLT student, Rasmussen College, Moorhead

Biography of a student member:

Nicole Hoffmeyer: I am currently interning at Altru lab in Grand Forks, ND. I'm a senior CLS student at UND and will be graduating in May. I do have a job lined up at Altru so I will soon be considered a professional. I joined this organization because I'd like to stay updated with advancing technology. After I graduate and pass the boards, a lot of the information I've learned will be forgotten. This organization will help me grow educationally and professionally.

WOW! *continued....*

I also want to applaud working professionals that have seen the value of ASCLS-ND and have chosen to have a VOICE, share a VISION and add VALUE to their careers. **WOW!**

Welcome to Professional 1 (PF1) and Professional 2 (PF2) categories:

Wendy Bulman, Altru Health System, Grand Forks, ND

Melanee Myers, CLS, Altru Health System, Grand Forks, ND

Raquel Hoskin, CLS, Minot Air Force Base, Minot, ND

Pala Waswick, CLS, Trinity Health, Minot, ND

Mary Matthews, CLS, Meritcare, Fargo, ND

Kay Williams, USDA Human Nutrition, Grand Forks, ND

Biography of a PF2 member:

Melanee Myers: After graduation from the AVTI in East Grand Forks with a 1 year degree in Medical Technology (MLA/MLT) I worked at UND. I moved to Corpus Christi, TX and worked in a blood bank and a small hospital lab. I returned to East Grand Forks and began working at the Dak Minn Blood Bank and later worked in the Hematology area of the Altru Health System Laboratory (then called United Hospital). I returned to school for my degree in Clinical Lab Science. With work and family being a big priority it took me 10 years to complete my degree. A few years after completing my degree, I was offered the position of Hematology Service Supervisor at the Altru Health System Hospital Laboratory, where I currently am employed. Mary Belanus is a very motivated member of ASCLS-ND. She motivated me to support my profession and me by becoming a member of ASCLS.

I am also inspired by the long time members that we have in our organization. During the Welcome session at our spring meeting, we recognized members for their years of service. To think that we have such dedicated professionals that they have remained members for 5, 10, 20, 35, 40 and even 45 yrs. **WOW!** Read more about why these members have retained their membership for so many years. **Congratulations and thank you for your wonderful years of service in ASCLS.**

5 years

Shannon Jongeward

Alice Hawley

20 years

Heidi Brosius-Fargo

Mary Dhuyvetter-Noonan

Thomas Bratten-Hettinger

40 years

Susan Tidball-Beach

Carol Nilles-Casselton

Janice Schuh-Grand Forks

10 years

Marlys Harrison-Bismarck

Dawn Michelson-Fargo

35 years

Linda Bossert-Minot

45 years

Judy Magnuson-Grand Forks

Why I am a member of ASCLS- ND?



Shannon Jongeward – Grand Forks

“I started my membership in ASCLS 5 years ago as a student. I had the privilege to represent North Dakota as the student rep. After my term as student rep, I wanted to stay active in the society, and the newsletter editor at that time resigned. I decided to give it a try, not knowing anything about putting a newsletter together. I have come to absolutely love doing the newsletter, and am proud to say we have won 2nd and 3rd place respectively at the last two national meetings! Maybe this year we will get that 1st place!! I am a current member of the ASCLS Leadership Academy and attended this year’s Legislative Symposium. I sincerely thank ASCLS-ND for giving me these opportunities and look forward to the next 5 years.”

Why I am a member of ASCLS- ND?

Alice Hawley – Fargo

“Originally I was a member of AACC because of my chemistry background, but decided that ASCLS was a better fit, especially after I started working more closely with education. I realized that if we didn't do something, it would be very scary who would be doing our lab work in the future. (March 2009 MLO, "...estimates tell us that by 2012, 100,000 vacant MT/MLT positions will exist..."). If we don't step up and get out of our labs to educate more students and the public, we are not fulfilling our roles as professionals!! What better way to do this than to get involved in our professional organizations and help put this issue on the front burner, instead of being relegated to the back burner by those who don't know who we are and/or what we do? If we don't toot our own horns, then who will? And if we are not willing to be the torch bearers, then we better not complain when we are one day on the receiving end of poor laboratory services because there just aren't enough qualified personnel to staff our labs. We need to be part of the solution and getting involved in ASCLS is one way to turn on some heat under our unique situation. Get those "Bunsen burners" fired up!!!”



Dawn Michelson –Fargo

“ I joined ASCLS at the urging of one of my co-workers. At first I didn't know much about the organization, I just knew I wanted to do more for my profession. I began volunteering by moderating sessions and being a planning committee member for ASCLS-ND State Meetings. I then had the fortunate opportunity to be an ASCLS-ND Board Member and attend my first ASCLS National Meeting. At the National Meeting I was able to see the "big picture" of what ASCLS really does. I saw how hard ASCLS works toward being the voice and garnering respect for our profession. I wish it were possible for every ASCLS member to attend a National Meeting at least once in their lifetime so they could witness that firsthand. Because of ASCLS I have established bonds with so many colleagues who are available anytime for advice or questions. ASCLS has made me a more confident, well rounded person and more capable employee. That is why I have stayed an ASCLS member for 10 years now and plan on many more! ”



Thomas Bratten –Hettinger

“ The reason I have stayed a member of ASCLS-ND all these years is the friends I have made and the networking with professionals in the laboratory. This has been invaluable to me personally and to our hospital.”



Linda Bossert –Minot

“ASCLS has provided an avenue to form lasting friendships with fellow laboratorians, both professional and personal. It has always been a great resource for education and leadership skills. As a group, ASCLS is always on top of government regulations lobbying on what is best for our profession.”

Carol Nilles – Casselton

“The reason I originally became involved in ASCLS meetings and conferences was for the mentoring from experienced colleagues. As time has passed, I find the meetings an informative session for education and camaraderie of fellow co workers.”



Janice Schuh -Grand Forks

“Each lab professional should belong to and support their national and state organizations. These groups represent us and our needs. Certainly one of the most important benefits of belonging is the great opportunity to meet and get to know wonderful people. They can become lifetime friends.”

Judy Magnuson -Grand Forks

“Sending regrets as I spend 4 months in Arizona now and won't be back until May 5th. I have enjoyed being a part of this great professional organization. Say hello to Janice Schuh and others for me. They are all a great group of folks.”

P.S. “I am not old enough to receive a 45 yr award

ASCLS/ASCP/CLMA/AMT Legislative Symposium 2009



In March I was given the opportunity to join many other lab professionals in Washington DC for the annual ASCLS Legislative Symposium. Shannon Jongeward and I were joined by many others in DC to learn about the issues affecting our profession. It was exciting seeing so many people there sharing the same voice for the laboratory profession.

As you know, at the end of March this year, Fargo got hit with record flooding. Given the urgency of the situation our North Dakota Senators and Congressman were here fighting the flood along side its citizens. So, even though we were unable to meet with our state leaders directly, we were able to talk with their legislative assistants.

We have many concerns in our profession, but the two topics we discussed in particular need action taken now. The first was to urge the support and the passing of the bill HR1452: Modernizing the Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Fee

Schedule. A legislative symposium synopsis article submitted by Cindy Johnson best describes the bills intention. "The Medicare program reimburses clinical diagnostic laboratory tests according to the fee schedule created under section 1833(h) of the Social Security Act. This fee schedule has not been subject to a fundamental review since it was established in 1984." Think about how much has changed in the laboratory in 25 years! New testing, methodology, and more strict safety guidelines (just to name a few) have all increased our cost of operation, yet Medicare reimburses the lab the same amount as they did 25 years ago! It has been stated that doctor's base 70% of the patients diagnoses on lab test results. It is important that ours labs get the funding needed to stay running so patient care isn't jeopardized.

The second was to bring the attention to our personnel shortage in laboratories across the country. We started by sharing statistics regarding the critical shortage of clinical laboratory profes-

sionals. We then pushed for our leaders to urge Health and Human resources to designate part of the \$200 million available for Health Professions Training in the stimulus package to go towards medical laboratory science students and medical laboratory training programs.

Overall, I think it was very well received by the legislative assistants. All of them were very engaged and asked us questions to learn more about the issues. We also gave them "leave behind" papers summarizing each of the topics we talked about to pass on to the Senator or Congressman. I learned quite a bit from the short time I was in DC and I hope I have the opportunity to experience it again!

Thank you,

Victoria Rensink MT(ASCP)
ASCLS-ND First Year Professional



Leadership Academy By: Shannon Jongeward

It's hard to believe that my time in the ASCLS Leadership Academy is almost over! We have two months left, and lots of things to do yet. In March at the Legislative Symposium we were able to meet as a group. We had one day to cover 6 topics including Team Building Skills, Influencing, Decision-Making, Delegating, Motivating, and Leading Self Managed-Teams. Our day was filled with exercises on each topic. We covered key skills and the ups and downs of each topic. We ended the day with a fun exercise in team work where we divided into two groups and each group had a bag of spaghetti and a bag of marshmallows. The task was to

build a structure as tall as we could in 10 minutes with these two ingredients. It's not as easy as it sounds, spaghetti doesn't slide onto a marshmallow as nicely as one might think. We thought we had it won-we had the Navy guy on our team, he should be able to do this right? Well, with about one minute left our tower came tumbling down. Needless-to-say, my team did not come away with the win.

The following day we were able to sit in the gallery of the ASCLS Board of Directors Meeting. It was interesting to listen to the discussion and ideas that were being talked about.

We have two more conference calls, our

next one being in mid June. Our topic is Conflict Management. We will have one more conference call before we meet again in July at the national meeting in Chicago.

We are also in the midst of working on our group projects. Each state society will be able to take home what we present and use it to further develop their leadership at the state level. We are excited to present our projects at the national meeting and see how they help leadership at the state level!



TREASURER'S REPORT**APRIL 2008-APRIL 2009****Current Financials:**

Checking (0.50%)	\$14,587.36
Money Market (0.50%)	\$ 7735.92
CD (renew 5-16-09) (2.00%)	\$ 5159.13
CD (renew 12-7-09) (2.75%)	<u>\$ 8681.94</u>
Total Assets:	\$36,164.35

Major deposits:

Region V (May 2008)	\$ 8712.31
State Meeting Bismarck (Feb 2009)	\$14,069.54
State Dues (Fall, Winter 2008)	<u>\$ 405.00</u>
Total:	\$ 23,186.85 (+ minimal interest)

Miscellaneous Expenses: (expenditures <\$200.00)

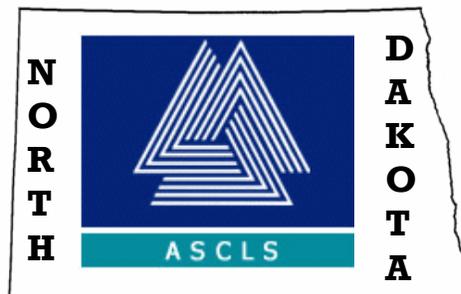
Website Maintenance	\$ 100.00
National Auction (Sue Nelson – quilt)	\$ 150.00
American Red Cross	\$ 20.00
State Science Fair	\$ 50.00
Non-profit Status	\$ 15.00
ASCLS-ND Check blanks	\$ 15.99
Connection – postage, ink	\$ 156.23
Region V Dues	<u>\$ 163.50</u>
Total Misc Expenses	\$ 670.72

Major Expenses: (expenditures >\$200.00)

Spring Meeting (2008)	\$ 823.72
Advance for Spring Meeting – GF	\$ 500.00
Student Scholarships	\$ 1500.00
National Meeting (2008)	\$ 6066.51
PACE/CEU Organizer (2009)	\$ 325.00
Fall Board Meeting (2008)	\$ 419.75
Legislative Days (2009)	<u>\$ 1699.86</u>
Total Major Expenses	\$11,334.84

ASCLS-ND Logo Contest

And the winner is...



Thank You to all who entered logos for the contest held at the state meeting in Grand Forks. ASCLS-ND members voted for their favorite logo at the business meeting. The winning logo was submitted by Toscha Larson and Mary Belanus. Congrats and thank you for creating the winning logo that will represent our state!

Submitted by: Jessica Irion



ASCLS-ND Spring Board Meeting

April 22, 2009

Clarion Inn, Grand Forks

Members present: Dawn M, Leola O, Nikki D, Jess I, Victoria (Tori) R, Shannon J, Mary B, Elaine R, Toscha L, Alice H

Item 1 – Secretary/Treasurer Report – Alice H

- Secretary's report - Item # 19 was amended to state that the web managers in recompense for their time will receive a free year of ASCLS membership and not free registration to the state meeting – motion made by Mary B, seconded by Nikki D
- Treasurer's report – See Item #14

Item 2 – Membership Development – Mary B

- 110 members as of 4-19-09 which includes 19 students but only 4 first year professionals
- Members who sign up at the meeting will get a rebate on their registration for state meeting
- Lapsed members need to get a call from a current member to see what we can do to retain their membership
- ASCLS state meeting booth will be awarding a membership as a prize drawing give-away

Item 3 – Leadership Development – Stacy A

- Past President becomes the Leadership Development board member
- Expectations need to be developed to ensure “return on investment” when supporting people to go to meetings
- Possibly re-look at job descriptions to allow for more involvement from the state membership
- Look for more ways to mentor new members and develop them for leadership – see Item #11

Item 4 – Point System for Scholarship and Student Rep applications – Nikki D

- Task force consisting of the Board Member at Large, 1st year professional and the Student Rep will review the application process for both the scholarship and the student rep applications to develop a point system grid to better review applications – report will be given at the Fall board meeting – motion made by Alice H, seconded by Mary B
- Discussion to give 4 scholarships this year because there were four applicants – motion made by Nikki D, seconded by Shannon J

Item 5 – New Professional Report – Victoria R

- Presentation was given to 20 Rasmussen College/Fargo first year students – many will be attending meeting on Thursday
- ASCP Ambassador Program – application for monies to support an outreach to schools program – Tori, our Region V New Professional, will pursue this – discussion will continue at Fall board meeting as to our willingness to financially support such a program as a ND initiative for ASCLS-ND

Item 6 – Government Affairs – Elaine R

- New area on website about government affairs in regards to Health Care Reform issues with new administration
- Tori and Shannon gave an update about their Legislative Days meetings with our State legislative personnel

Item 7 – Reimbursement with Region V – Dawn M

- ASCLS-ND made a motion to append the ASCLS Region V Operational Procedures to include a sharing of expenses (½ of air and ¼ of the room) when a Region V appointed or elected representative, who is also a State delegate, would be attending a Region V or National meeting and representing both groups. Motion passed and website will be updated.

Board Meeting Minutes continued...

Item 8 – Nominations – Toscha L

- One nominee for President Elect, 5 nominees for Board Member at Large – voting will take place at ASCLS-ND business meeting – voting will also be held for the ASCLS-ND logo
- Absentee ballots were available on the Connections newsletter but there were very few responses
- Member of the Year will be awarded – was part of our processes and will now be renewed – National is in discussion of selecting not only a National Member of the Year but also a Lifetime Member award

Item 9 – Website Update – Tori R and Elaine R

- Since August 2008 – website rebuilt, old site data transferred, updated student section, links added for government issues, state meeting info updated regularly to allow vendors and registrants ability to get current info, historical page begun
- Plans for future – expand historical section, ability to utilize a free storage feature (discussion will take place at Fall board meeting as to what to store), develop a ND list-serve to allow for real-time messaging and discontinue bulk mailing,
- Possibility of using website for complete electronic registration for the 2010 state meeting in Fargo – this will require more information as to cost of Pay-Pal account, etc – Elaine will discuss this with both National and Minnesota and report at Fall board meeting

Item 10 – Newsletter Update – Shannon J

- If newsletter went totally electronic/web-based then purchase of a “publisher” program would be necessary
- Will be attending a session at National about this possibility and thus will report back to board after that meeting

Item 11 – Leadership Academy – Shannon J

- Next deadline for application is March 2010 – will post this info on the web and in Connections – will encourage a ND applicant for each session
- Shannon will be contacted to present at the next State Meeting about her experiences as well as to share some of the leadership tools that she learned through Leadership Academy

Item 12 – Spring Meeting 2010 – Fargo – Dawn M

- Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn – April 19-21, 2010 (Monday through Wednesday)

Item 13 – Strategic Plan – Mary B and Dawn M

- 2010 budget shared
- Getting more involvement for State Meetings from individuals outside of the meeting area (being tried for the Region V)
- Putting our face/profession out there by doing more on-site education with school classrooms (Flat Stanley), career fairs, etc
- Looking for better financial investment – See Item #14

Item 14 – New Business

- Discussion to find a better placement of funds to allow for a better return on investment – treasurer will research other financial options and report back to the board – motion made by Mary B, seconded by Shannon J
- Discussion by treasurer to return to an annual audit of the financial records – best case practice – decision made that financials will be reviewed by the past president and one other board member of their choosing – possibly to take place in August after each fiscal year

Motion to adjourn made by Elaine R, seconded by Dawn M



ASCLS-ND Business Meeting

April 23, 2009

Clarion Inn, Grand Forks

Meeting called to order by Dawn Michelson, President

Item 1, 2 – Introduction of Candidates and Collection of Ballots – Toscha L

- President Elect – Leola Olson
- Board Member at Large – Robert Arndt, Terri Hintz, Liane Anderson, Laurie Martell, and Susan Finneman
- Delegate to National Meeting – Jessica Irion, Laurie Martell
- Also voting on ASCLS-ND logo – 9 options and By-law/SOP changes

Item 3 – Secretary/Treasurer’s report – Alice H

- reports submitted from last annual business meeting – motion to approve made by Elaine R, seconded by Leola O

Item 4 – Region V Update – Lezlee K

- Total membership down by 1%, but seeing a 49% increase in First Year Professionals (FYP)
 - Region V total membership down by 0.5%, but seeing a 35.3% increase in FYP
 - ND down by 3.8% (but based on a 100 member base, we are currently at 110 members)
- Annual meeting changes – strive for more cost effectiveness
 - only 60 minute sessions
 - no 1st house – Board of Director’s meeting instead
 - opening keynote on Wednesday
 - lunch provided on Friday
- Legislative Symposium – Region V largest delegation
 - medical laboratory personnel shortages
 - modernizing the Lab Fee Schedule
- Government Affairs Committee
 - more articles, journal submissions, power-points on the web for education
 - responding to MUE –Medical Unlikely Edits
 - promoting ASCLS as premier resource for laboratories to members of Congress
- CLEC
 - forming a permanent committee to work on the Doctorate in CLS
- NCA & BOR joint registry
 - letter of intent signed – doing due diligence
- Patient Safety Committee
 - working to produce patient safety education
 - will eventually be made available to laboratories
- Levels of Practice
 - white paper will hopefully be presented at the National meeting
- Leadership Development
 - mentor program being revitalized and will be marketed soon –available to all ASCLS members
 - Leadership Academy
 - “A Life Saved” – 12 minute video – able to view and download from ASLCS site – great for outreach

Business Meeting Minutes continued..

- Consumer Information Response Team
 - respond to ~100 questions / day
 - 50 team members (8 from Region V)
 - always looking for more ASCLS members to get involved in answering the questions
- Additional Strategic Actions
 - State Revitalization Taskforce – to help those state that are floundering – Region V doing well
 - Licensure Opposition Response Taskforce – to help those states who are experiencing opposition to licensure
 - Millennial Retention adhoc Committee – student to FYP to Professional 1
 - New Professional Committee - <5 years practice in CLS – email address: asclsnp@gmail.com
- Region V
 - last traditional 3 day Region V meeting in Watertown – October 14-16
 - Region V meeting changes as of 2010– one day – 2nd Friday in October - site rotating between Rochester, MN and Fargo, ND
 - The planning of said meeting will also rotate amongst the four states involved – MN, ND, SD and WI.
 - Standardized SOP
 - ASCLS Face book account – NP and students are getting connected
- Reach for the stars – get involved, get fired up, get connected, get ready – Speak Out, Step Out- don't wait to be asked

Item 5 – Legislative Days Summary – Tori R and Shannon J

- HR 1452 – Fee Schedule Act – established in 1984 and no changes in the last 25 years – hope is to increase Medicare reimbursement for lab costs using the consumer price index – ex:1984 phlebotomy charge \$3.00, 2010 charge should be \$6.10
- Workforce Shortage Investment Act – looking for % of grant \$ to be earmarked for CLS training and scholarships – \$200,000,000 stimulus package for healthcare
- not able to meet with congressmen directly because they were all in ND for the flood – Conrad on finance committee – watch for more info from National meeting

Item 6 – Membership Update – Mary B

- 110 members currently – looking for ideas to keep and help members stay better connected
- National is discouraging personal emails

Item 7 – Website Update – Tori R and Elaine R

- website has been rebuilt since August 2008 – please go and take a look – see Board meeting minutes for more info
- contact them at asclsnd@gmail.com

Item 8 – Leadership Academy – Shannon J

- in the midst of project – working on handbooks for the Sec/Treas and Membership Chair
- developing a “canned” presentation that would be available to be used at the state level

Item 9 – Proposed '09/'10 Budget – Mary B

- budget reviewed – motion to approve made and seconded – unanimously approved

Item 10 – PAC – Mary C

- \$ from volunteers, \$ to ethical causes
- see www.asclsnd.org under Government Affairs to contact our elected officials

Item 11 – ASCLS-ND Scholarships –

- scholarships awarded to Nicole Hoffmeyer, Megan Melby, Abdirizak Mohamed and Alexander Shepard
- ASCLS-ND Student Representative – Alexander Shepard

Item 12 – Strategic Plan – Dawn M and Mary B

- See plan at www.asclsnd.org under the Member Information tab



Business Meeting Minutes continued....

Item 13-16 – Awards

- State Omicron Sigma awards presented to Elaine R, Jessica I, Leola O, Toscha L, Terri H, Nikki D, Alice H
- Region V Omicron Sigma awards presented to Victoria R, Susan H, Dawn M, Mary B and Kathy J
- National Omicron Sigma awards presented to Mary C and Shannon J
- Key to the Future award presented to Nikki D
- Member of the Year award presented to Alice H

Item 17 – Election Results –

- President Elect – Leola Olson
- Board Member at Large – Terri Hintz
- Delegate to the National Meeting – Jessica Irion
- Bylaws and SOP's passed
- Logo passed developed by Mary B and Toscha L – look for this on all future documentation

Motion to adjourn made by Nikki D and seconded by Alice H

ASCLS-ND Member of the Year

Submitted by Kathy Jones

The ASCLS-ND Member of the Year Award is sponsored each year to recognize a member of the North Dakota Society who has contributed significantly to the field of clinical laboratory science and to the Society and who has, by outstanding example, inspired others over their time as an active member in the organization.



Our member of the year is one of those people who often works behind the scenes where no one notices. She often spends time in the wee hours of the night perfecting a thought she had, a brochure or worksheet she thought would be helpful, or a kind gesture to show appreciation to someone for a job well done. She is always willing to help and goes above and beyond what your expectation is. She is a great organizer, very creative, and a computer wizard. Every task she takes on, she completes with class and grace. She compels students to get involved and her enthusiasm is contagious. She is an active member of our current board and willing to service and promote our society with her whole heart. This describes our member of the year, Alice Hawley!

Congratulations Alice Hawley

State Meeting Highlights



The registration table, seated from left to right: Debby Olson, Bonnie Pung, Evonne Lopez and Linda Larson.



The co-chairs from left to right: Terri Hintz, Jessica Irion, Toscha Larson and Shannon Jongeward. AKA...Charlotte, Carrie, Samantha and Miranda (for those of you who watch Sex and the City)



Tori Rensink and Shannon Jongeward giving an update on this years Legislative Symposium.

A Night on the Red Carpet





The Connection

ASCLS-ND Leadership & Key Contacts Roster 2008-2009

Position	Name	Preferred Email	Home Phone	Work/Cell Phone
President	Dawn Michelson	medtecdawn2@msn.com	701-237-9705	701-306-8037
President-Elect	Mary Belanus	mbelanus@hotmail.com	701-775-7088	218-779-5333
Past President	Stacy Askvig	saskvig@medicine.nodak.edu	701-839-1847	701-858-6789
Secretary/Treasurer	Alice Hawley	Alice.hawley@meritcare.com	701-282-2617	701-234-2482
Board Member	Jessica Irion	jirion@altru.org	218-791-8440	701-780-5645
Board Member	Elaine Ramstad	datsmar@msn.com	701-775-3426	701-780-5144
Nominations Chair	Toscha Larson	tolarson@altru.org	218-857-3303	701-780-1650
Student Forum Rep	Nikki Dillman	nikkijo_03@hotmail.com		
New Professional Rep	Victoria Rensink	victoria.rensink@meritcare.com	406-581-5740	701-234-7795

State Committee Chair or Key Contacts

Awards	Dawn Michelson	medtecdawn2@msn.com	701-237-9705	701-306-8037
Bylaws	Leola Olson	lolson@primecare.org	701-258-5835	701-530-5700
Government Affairs	Elaine Ramstad	datsmar@msn.com	701-775-3426	701-780-5144
Leadership Development	Stacy Askvig	saskvig@medicine.nodak.edu	701-839-1847	701-858-6789
Membership Recruitment/Services	Mary Belanus	mbelanus@hotmail.com	701-775-7088	218-779-5333
PACE	Mary Coleman	mcoleman@medicine.nodak.edu	701-775-3664	701-777-2652
Political Action (PAC)	Mary Coleman			
Professional Affairs	Elaine Ramstad	datsmar@msn.com	701-775-3426	701-780-5144
Publication-Newsletter	Shannon Jongeward	shannon@gra.midco.net	701-775-9330	701-780-5144
Website	Victoria Rensink/Elaine Ramstad			

Scientific Assembly

Chemistry/UA	Alice Hawley	Alice.hawley@meritcare.com	701-282-2617	701-234-2482
Microbiology	Patricia Person	Pat.person@meritcare.com	701-280-0136	701-234-2112
Lab Administration	Sandra Matthey	Sandra.matthey@meritcare.com	701-297-9171	701-234-2481
Immuno/Immunoheime	Terri Hintz	thintz@altru.org	701-772-1388	701-780-5146
Heme/Hemostasis	Brooke Solberg	bsolberg@medicine.nodak.edu	701-330-3202	701-777-4468

Generalist/Pub Health

Industry

Education Alice Hawley

POC/Phlebotomy

Molecular Diag/Genetics Linda Ray lindaray@medicine.nodak.edu 218-773-8599 701-777-2687

Consultants

Reg Affairs/QM

Area Leaders

Bismarck	Nancy Buchholz	nbuchholz@primecare.org		701-530-5721
Minot	Liane Anderson	liane.anderson@trinityhealth.org	701-852-1607	701-857-5210
Grand Forks	Chris Triske	ctriske@medicine.nodak.edu	701-746-9432	701-777-2634
Fargo	Heidi Brosius	Heidi.brosius@meritcare.com	701-280-7021	701-234-2115