



The Connection

VOICE

May 2012

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President's Message

Alice Hawley
ASCLS-ND President

Don't know if you are an "American Idol" fan or a "Dancing with the Stars" fan or a "Survivor" fan but lately it certainly has been the time for selecting the winner on all of these reality shows. Well, we certainly have some winners as well at ASCLS-ND - and we didn't even make them sing or dance or eat crickets for a week.

It was my honor to be able to give out many awards at the state meeting in Bismarck. (Just an aside – hope you were able to attend the Bismarck meeting and a big "hurrah" to the planning committee for a great meeting!!). Now back to what I was saying – we had many awards for involvement in leadership and service – many at the state, regional and even national level (our own Mary Nagel who is Chair of the National Membership Committee). But the ones that mean even more are those awards to our own North Dakota constituency for length of service/ membership.

This year we had five 5-year awards to Kali Hieb, Linda Ray, Brooke Solberg, Jim Svihovek and Chris Triske. Our 10-year awards went to Jessica Anderson and Kay Williams. Sandra Matthey has been a member for 15 years. We had two 20-year awards to Ruth Paur and Robert Porter and one 25 year award to Renda Wilson. Elaine Ramstad was awarded a 30-year membership award while Julie Hoverson has been a member for 35 years – WOW! (NOW – drum roll please...) We have one member who has been in this profession and maintained her membership – and still works in the field – longer than some of us can even remember and that award winner is Patricia Hanggi from Fargo for 45 years of dedication and service to our profession and ASCLS-ND. These are our winners because their continued membership is just one way that they show just how much they value their profession and realize what ASCLS, our professional organization, can mean in their professional lives.

So, let's put this into perspective. What was going on 45 years ago? The Dow Jones ended the year at a whopping 905, a new house cost \$14,000, the average monthly wage was \$600.00, gas cost 33 cents a gallon and that new car cost \$2700.00. It was the year of the beginning of Star Trek and the first Apollo mission, which unfortunately ended up with a fire killing all three astronauts on board. The Beatles released Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club and Magical Mystery Tour albums, Elvis married Priscilla and something Pat Hanggi would know because she is a big car fan, it was the first year of the Shelby Mustang GT-500 Fastback. Interracial marriage was deemed constitutional by the Supreme Court which also had its first black justice in Thurmond Marshall. It was the year of the Six Day War in Israel and the year of the first Super Bowl between the Green Bay Packers (35) and the Kansas City Chiefs (10). The world saw the first ATM, pulsars are discovered and Dr. Christiaan Barnard performed the world's first heart transplant in South Africa.

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Isn't it amazing what can happen and where we have come from just 45 years ago? Some things for the good and we would never want to go back to, like the ad for a GIANT 23" screen TV that "only" weighed 145 pounds but cost \$490.00, and some things we wish we could go back to, gas at 33 cents per gallon. But, just think of all the medical breakthroughs that have also taken place. Just today I saw a story about a Maryland 15 year old who developed a blood test that is ~95% accurate in detecting pancreatic cancer in its earliest stages. Needless to say he took first place at the science fair – at the international level. Think about your laboratory career and the changes you have seen – the testing that you can now do that has direct impact on elongating patient lives. Take time to share your experiences with those who are newer to the field so that they too, can have a better appreciation of the impact we make on our patient's lives and the dedication of all those around them. Then please also remember that ASCLS is here to support you, encourage you and fight for you in all aspects of your career. We are all part of the ND team of laboratorians whose goal as stated in the ASCLS-ND Vision statement is to "ensure excellent, accessible cost-effective laboratory services for the consumers of health care". Who knows, maybe at next year's state meeting in Grand Forks, we will be attending a session for that new test for Pancreatic Cancer, done by laboratorians, that will increase the life of our patients because isn't that what it is all about – dedication to our patients and dedication to our profession!

Thank-YOU for all you do!

Member Spotlight

ASCLS-ND members are great at what they do, but they don't just do lab work! We're going to spotlight a different member every newsletter to give a face to clinical laboratory.



Linda Gylland, Sanford Fargo

One of Linda's favorite mottos is "You are never too old to learn something new!" She is a prime example of that. Why, just four years ago she taught herself how to play the accordion. Not only does she play the accordion, though, her life is rich in music. She sings, plays piano, organ, and the alto saxophone. And to top that off she has been teaching piano lessons for twenty years, hopes to one day also teach accordion, and she is active with the choir and more at Atonement Lutheran Church where she is a member.

The love for music seems to run in the family. Linda's two year old grandson also is very interested music. He will get the first accordion lessons. And for free to boot!

Linda originally became interested in lab work when she was ten years old. When she came down with "Romantic (rheumatic) Fever," she became interested in where all the blood that was being drawn was going. From there her interest was piqued. A member of ASCLS for over 30 years, Linda has no signs of stopping. She says there is no way she could ever get tired of what she does.



Region V Report

Deb Rodale
ASCLS Region V Director

What's New in Region V and ASCLS?

After an incredibly mild winter, spring came early to our region. Many volunteers in Region V were very busy putting together some awesome spring meetings. The success of the state meetings convinces me that we still prefer live meetings over the various virtual options. Live meetings allow for more interaction, opportunities to learn how others do things, and the chance to get to know more people from around your state or region. See the "Save the Date" flyer below for a chance to experience another "live" meeting option with the Region V Symposium.

There are many updates on the national level that we should all be aware of; therefore the rest of this article will focus on ASCLS national updates.

ASCLS – CLMA Merger Update:

The ASCLS and CLMA Executive Committees met in January to continue discussions about merging the two organizations. The work done by the CASA task force last year was reviewed and the next steps were discussed. Task forces with representatives from both organizations were appointed to work on the following activities:

- Governance
- Membership Levels
- Offerings (meetings, publications, communication, etc)

Information from these work groups will be presented at the July Annual Meeting.

CE Organizer Data Transfer – An Additional Member Benefit

ASCLS members can now choose to have their CE Organizer P.A.C.E.[®] certificate data automatically downloaded to the Board of Certification (BOC). You will no longer have to enter ASCLS P.A.C.E.[®] certificate events into your BOC Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) form for re-certification purposes.

The next time you log in to CE Organizer, a pop-up box will ask you to enter your ASCP user ID number. This identifier, along with other information, will allow ASCLS P.A.C.E.[®] certificate information from January 1, 2012, forward to be included in weekly reports sent to the BOC, where it will be stored in your CMP Declaration file. If you do not remember your ASCP user ID number when the pop-up appears, you can enter it in your CE Organizer Account later. The pop-up will appear only the one time.

ASCP Customer ID Entry

ASCLS has just made your life easier. Link your CE Organizer P.A.C.E.[®] certificate data to the Board of Certification. Simply enter your ASCP customer ID one time. You may also add your ID in the Account area later. This pop-up will not appear again.

ASCP Customer ID:

Note: this is not your BOC certification number or your ASCLS number. Don't remember or have this customer ID number? [Click here](#)

The ASCP user ID number is the number you create when you set up an account with ASCP; it is not your certification number. The number is associated with any ASCP purchases you might make and with your Certification Maintenance Program. If you do not have this ID number or cannot remember it, go to the ASCP Login site. Use the same link if you are uncertain about the contents of your CMP Declaration file.

Please note: The CE information sent to the BOC is the P.A.C.E.[®] certificate data from certificates you generated using session codes from national ASCLS and/or ASCLS State Society continuing education events. Information that you may have self-entered in your CE Organizer transcript will not be sent to the BOC. **If you have questions or need help, contact ascls@ascls.org.**

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Certification Maintenance Membership Option:

ASCLS partners with MediaLab, Inc. to assist members with their recertification CE requirements. When members renew, or join, they are able to select a Certification Maintenance Member (CMM) and get 12 hours of P.A.C.E.[®] approved online continuing education for only \$55 for a one year subscription that includes designated discipline hours required for the BOC's CMP; the fee is in addition to national and state dues. This special offer is available ONLY to ASCLS members.

It is truly an honor to be representing Region V in ASCLS. I enjoy hearing from our members (or non-members) and can be reached at drodahl@earthlink.net

Sincerely,
Deb Rodahl
ASCLS Region V Director
651-779-8906



Save The Date!
October 11-12,
2012



**Calling All Clinical Laboratory Professionals
& Industry Partners!**
Mark your 2012 calendars!

ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium

Hosted by: ASCLS-MN, ASCLS-ND, ASCLS-SD

Location: Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria, MN

Hot Topic CE Sessions
Keynote Speakers
Exhibits & Social!
Networking at its Finest!

Registration, Meeting Updates & Program Info
Posted in 2012 As Available

Visit:
www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting



ASCLS-ND is currently looking for a member to fill the newsletter Editor position. If you are looking for a way to become active or stay active in the organization, this is a great opportunity. No experience necessary, mentoring available! Please contact either myself or Alice Hawley at the emails/phone numbers listed below with any questions!

**Thank You,
Shannon**

Shannon Jongeward
shannon@gra.midco.net
701-739-3484

Alice Hawley
Alice.hawley@sanfordhealth.org
701-282-2617



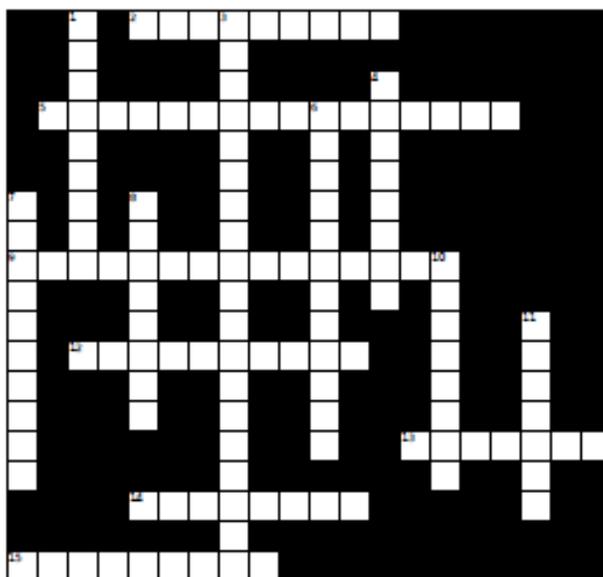
Student Report

Jennifer Wadeson
ASCLS-ND Student Rep

If you remember from the last newsletter, I decided that instead of the usual student report I was going to create a review to help students study prior to taking their boards. Last time the focus was on hematology. This time around will be one of my favorites, chemistry!

But before we get into that I would like to congratulate **Katherine Grosz** on becoming the newly appointed North Dakota Student Representative for 2012-2013. I would also like to congratulate **Kali Weinand** and **Katherine Grosz** again. These two students were the winners of the 2012 ASCLS-ND Scholarship. Both are current interns at Sanford Health in Fargo. Congrats ladies!

Chemistry



- | Across | | Down | |
|--------|--|------|---|
| 2 | Major intracellular cation | 1 | Biologically most active estrogen |
| 5 | An acute phase protein that is increased in inflammatory reactions | 3 | Produced by the pituitary gland and controls water reabsorption |
| 9 | Primary reason for doing a protein electrophoresis | 4 | The primary glucocorticoid hormone that regulates carbohydrate, protein, and lipid metabolism, maintains blood pressure, and inhibits allergic and inflammatory reactions |
| 12 | The end product of anaerobic metabolism of glucose | 6 | Amylase and lipase levels are elevated in _____ |
| 13 | Influenced by the parathyroid hormone, calcitonin, and vitamin D | 7 | Measure of the total concentration of dissolved particles in a solution |
| 14 | Major extracellular anion | 8 | Chemistry that is elevated in gout, renal impairment, and other metabolic diseases |
| 15 | LDH can be falsely increased when the specimen is _____. | 10 | $Na - (Cl + BIC) =$ _____. |
| | | 11 | Commonly used in the treatment of manic depressive psychosis |

Treasurer's Report

ASCLS-ND Financial Report April 2011– March 2012

Spring State Business Meeting – Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Submitted by Toscha Larson

		BUDGET
BEGINNING BALANCE		\$23,865.78
Credits		
	Annual Meeting	\$18,100.00
	State Dues	\$335.00
	Region V	\$1,513.68
Interest		\$16.44
TOTAL CREDITS		\$19,965.12
Debits		
Student Scholarships – ASCLS-ND and State Science		\$1,600.00
ASCLS-ND Spring Meeting		\$2,050.00
	registration	\$200.00
	gas receipts	\$50.96
National Meeting		\$1,840.00
	registration	\$1,840.00
	lodging	\$2,846.25
	airfare	\$3,226.80
	transportation	\$33.00
Region V Meeting		\$100.00
	registration	\$420.00
Secretary of State		\$25.00
Region V Dues		\$193.50
Newsletter/Membership for Editor		\$348.65
PACE		\$325.00
Legislative Days		\$585.00
	registration	\$380.00
	airfare	\$1,000.00
	lodging	\$600.00
Web Fees/Membership for WebMaster		\$200.00
ASCLS-ND gifts/awards/memorials		\$69.66
TBG Conferencing for Board Meetings		\$105.49
Check Printing		\$57.02
TOTAL DEBITS		\$12,336.53
ENDING BALANCE		\$31,494.37

Board Meeting Minutes: April 16, 2012

Meeting Attendance: Alice Hawley, Toscha Larson, Nicole Hager, Linda Ray, Shannon Jongeward, Terri Hintz, Elaine Ramstad, Jennifer Wadeson

Secretary's Report - Toscha

- Linda Ray made a motion to accept the March 2011 Board Meeting Minutes, Shannon 2nd, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Toscha

- All account balances were shared. Reports will be included with Annual Business Meeting minutes.
- Nicole made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Linda Ray 2nd, motion carried.
- An audit will be performed at the end of July (end of fiscal year).
- ND State Science Fair Award winners were shared and will be shared with the membership at the Business Meeting.

Old Business

Awards

- Next year the Past President will ensure national awards due in Feb. are completed.

Region V Leadership Academy

- Deb Rodahl, Region V President, gave us an update by phone call on what is needed from ND to support this activity.
 - This academy would be in addition to the National Leadership Academy.
 - Region V Treasury would primarily fund. Each state would only have the expense of sponsoring a student if they had a student interested.
 - ND would support by providing speakers on certain topics.
 - Wisconsin has chosen not to participate.
 - One more year of planning, 1st academy would begin in Region V Meeting 2013.
- Further discussion and questions from the Board?
 - Would there be a minimum enrollment requirement so the academy wouldn't be held for just 1 student?
 - Suggestion that a person(s) responsible for this on the regional level, someone to oversee and coordinate. Also suggest creating a position or a sub-committee to be responsible for this in ND.
 - What about doing the academy every other year?
 - It would be worthwhile if the academy not only included general leadership topics but also specific topics to laboratory leadership.
 - A list of all topics needed should be requested to determine how we could help support providing speakers for topics.
 - The topic will be shared at the Business Meeting to see if members have feedback.
- Alice will bring our feedback to the Region V Leadership Academy Committee.

Committee Reports

PACE/Political Action

- According to Sherry Miner at ASCLS it is acceptable to allow other organizations to use our PACE if they aren't regularly using PACE on their own and if we have Medical Lab Scientists that may be attending these meetings. We will likely continue to support the 2 Infectious Disease/Control meetings in the state that we did this past year.

Membership - Terri

- Approximately 110 members as of 2 weeks ago. Typically we have about 130 members.
- There are still problems with the online national membership application process.

Publication/Newsletter – Shannon

- Shannon would like to step down from her role of editor but would be willing to mentor a new editor. The open position will be mentioned at the Business Meeting.
- Shannon would like to purchase the printer she was using for the newsletter and will find out fair market value of the printer.
- Shannon has used her own Publisher Program, so a new program would likely need to be purchased by the new Newsletter Editor.
- Only approximately 10 newsletters are still mailed.
- Keeping up the database of members can be a challenge as the Editor doesn't have access to this online information.

Student Representative – Jennifer

- Jennifer spoke to Rasmussen and UND students about the benefits of ASCLS-ND membership.
- She is still trying to coordinate something with NDSU students.
- Three Student Representative applicants – Katherine Grosz was selected.
- Two scholarship applicants – Katherine Grosz and Kali Weinand.

Website – Elaine and Nicole

- At the end of the month our current website will not be available on our existing domain, godaddy.com.
- The new domain will be with webs.com. The cost will be approximately \$8.95/month. The website address will be the same.
- Elaine and Nicole are working on the build of the new website. Board Members were assigned parts of the website to review – make sure to get updates to Elaine and Nicole.
- There are a lot of new options with our new website – security, ecommerce, mobile friendly, very user friendly, blog, etc.
- In the future, we should consider how to coordinate the newsletter with the website – are both needed?
- Members should be asked what they'd like to see on the website.
- Privacy should be considered on the website - should members be listed? Could this be secured on the website in a “members only” section?

New BusinessState Meeting 2012 in Bismarck

- There was a suggestion to do something for a community donation at the meeting – didn't get this coordinated but need to remember to do this for future meetings.
- In the future need to have 2 scientific assemblies according to our bylaws.
- 175 registrants.

Region V Meeting

- Terri and Alice are helping with registration.
- ND needs to chair the 2013 meeting and vice-chair vendors.

Legislative Symposium – March 19-20, 2012

- Terri and Nicole attended. Workforce Grants and Modernization of Fee Schedule were discussed. They will share about their trip at the Business Meeting.

Shannon made a motion to adjourn, Linda 2nd, motion carried and meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Toscha Larson, ASCLS-ND Secretary/Treasurer

Business Meeting Minutes: April 17, 2012

Attendance: Terri Hintz, Shannon Jongeward, Toscha Larson, Mary Coleman, Linda Ray, Nicole Hager, Jeanette Festvog, Nikki Dillman, Alice Hawley, Dawn Michelson, Ruth Paur, Elaine Ramstad, Susanna Schelkoph, Kali Weinand, Katherine Grosz, Kelli Helgeson, Barb Hultin

Support of the Profession – President Alice Hawley shared her visions and ideas on the topic.

Nominations – Voting was conducted online for the 1st time this year. Nominees follow:

President-Elect - Shannon Jongeward

Secretary/Treasurer – Liane Anderson

Nominations Committee Chair – Karen Peterson

New Professional – Janise Pachnik, Daniel Sivak

Delegate – Linda Ray

Board Member at Large – Nicole Hager, Toscha Larson

By-Laws

New Professional is being added to the ASCLS-ND Bylaws per national ASCLS decision and bylaws.

Newsletter

The Connection Editor position is opening. Shannon is stepping down and is willing to mentor a new member into this position. Please let a Board Member know if you are interested.

Region V director report

Deb Rodahl was not able to attend the meeting. Alice shared a power point from Deb on national and regional society topics. Powerpoint will be made available online.

Legislative Days – Terri and Nicole attended this year and discussed the following topics with our legislators.

Reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act

Stopping Cuts to the Laboratory Fee Schedule

Modernization of the Fee Schedule

PAC – Political Action Committee – Mary Coleman

Mary Coleman commented on the importance of constituents to the political process – she recommended communicating with legislators that support healthcare.

A booth at the Exhibits will be available if anyone would like to donate to PAC. This is not a tax deductible donation.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from last business meeting were published in the Newsletter and were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes by Jeanette Festvog, 2nd by Linda Ray, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Report – checking account information for the past year was reviewed. (attached)

Proposed Budget – a proposed budget for the upcoming year was shared. (attached)

Awards

Omicron Sigma

- National – Mary Nagel
- Regional - Mary Coleman, Dawn Michelson, Alice Hawley
- State – Toscha Larson, Jennifer Wadeson, Terri Hintz, Nicole Hager, Elaine Ramstad, Shannon Jongeward, Nikki Dillman, Tara Bondley, Leola Olson

Years of Service

- 5 year – Brooke Solberg, Chris Triske, Jim Svihovec, Linda Ray
- 10 years - Jessica Anderson, Kay Williams
- 15 years - Sandra Matthey
- 20 years – Ruth Paur, Bob Porter
- 25 years – Renda Wilson
- 30 years – Elaine Ramstad
- 35 years—Julie Hoverson
- 45 years—Patricia Hanggi

Keys to the Future

- Brooke Solberg
- Linda Ray
- Nicole Hager

Student Scholarships

- Kali Weinand
- Katherine Grosz

Student Representative – 3 applicants, Katherine Grosz a student from Sanford in Fargo was selected.

Region V meeting – A “destination meeting” is planned at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, MN in October 2012.

Member of the Year Award - Alice Hawley was honored with the award for her contributions to the society in the past year.

Mary Coleman made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Nikki Dillman, motion carried and meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Toscha Larson, ASCLS-ND Secretary/Treasurer

Legislative Symposium



Nicole Hager
ASCLS-ND New Professional Representative

I will be the first person to tell you, I'm not a political person. However, I'll also be the first person to tell you about how much I love my job and laboratory science so going to the Legislative Symposium on March 19th and 20th I wasn't sure what to expect.

The first day of the two day meeting is filled with sessions. Looking at the schedule can be a little overwhelming, but to be honest each session is quick and to the point and speakers are interchanged throughout the day to keep the flow moving. Questions are encouraged and by the end of the day, you are not only well fed, you are well informed and ready to tackle Capitol Hill.

There were three key issues this year: Modernizing the Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Fee Schedule, Clinical Laboratory Pay Cuts, and the Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act.

Modernizing the Clinical Lab Fee Schedule

The fee schedule was first introduced in 1986. To help you out with imagining how long ago that was, I was not yet a thought on my parents' minds. It hasn't really been looked at since then. As lab professionals, we know that technology changes every single day. To think that our fee schedule is based on technology that is over 25 years old is a little crazy. By modernizing the fee schedule, tests were once very difficult and expensive, but are now more cost effective to run could stand to take a hit with reimbursement. On the flip side, those new tests such as cancer screening tests could be given the higher reimbursement that is needed for smaller labs such as the ones in North Dakota to be able to offer them. Everything would balance each other out and could also actually decrease healthcare costs because patients could be diagnosed sooner and begin treatments sooner.

Clinical Laboratory Pay Cuts

We all know that the clinical lab has faced its share of cuts. We realize that in our economy that this is something that is going to happen regardless, yet we feel like the lab has taken more than its fair share. Proportionally the lab has taken more cuts than any other division of healthcare.

Workforce Investment Act

There is an over abundance of laboratory jobs in our country, yet there is a nation wide problem of CLS /MLS and CLT/MLT programs closing. It's an expensive program for schools to offer. That's why we need help from the federal government to keep funding those programs through the Workforce Investment Act. Since there will be jobs available for these graduates, their funds will directly go right back into the economy.

Now, my trip to Washington D.C. was more than just sessions and running around Capitol Hill speaking to congressional Health Aides. My sister and her husband, a pilot, who live in Georgia, used their flight benefits to visit me for the day. We spent nearly eight hours walking around the monuments seeing the White House, Lincoln Memorial, and the new MLK Memorial among many, many more.

I said I'm not a political person, but I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at Leg Days. It really is your opportunity to fight for your profession and actually make a difference. So many of us say we would like to advocate for our profession. The Legislative Symposium is the perfect place to get your voice heard. I hope that I will be so lucky as to represent North Dakota for many more years.



Nicole Hager and Terri Hintz

2012 Elections

President-Elect: Shannon Jongeward, Grand Forks

Shannon graduated from the University of North Dakota in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Clinical Laboratory Science. She did her clinical internship at Altru Health System in Grand Forks. She has been employed at Altru since graduation and is currently the Laboratory Quality Assurance and Safety Officer. She has been the ASCLS-ND Student Representative, Board Member at Large and Delegate to the National Meeting. She is a graduate of the ASCLS Leadership Academy and is the current editor of the ASCLS-ND publication, *The Connection*. In her spare time she likes to be at the lake with her family, garden and spend time with her two kids.

Secretary-Treasurer: Liane Anderson, Minot

I am a graduate of the University of Mary, and St. Joseph's School of Medical Technology. I am employed in Hematology at Trinity Health in Minot, where I am the student coordinator. I also teach Parasitology at Minot State University, and have been a presenter at the ND state meeting of the ASCLS. I have been a member of ASCLS for many years for several reasons. I think it is important that our profession have the voice in government which ASCLS provides to ensure continuing excellence in laboratory work all across the country. It is a great way for people to keep up with continuing education, as well as network with fellow lab scientists to exchange ideas and find out what is or isn't working for other labs.

Board Member at Large: Nicole Hagar, Jamestown

Nicole is a 2010 graduate from the University of North Dakota. Originally from Rugby, she has been working as a Medical Laboratory Scientist at Jamestown Regional Medical Center for the past two years. She has been a member of ASCLS for over two years, serving as the Student Representative, First Year Representative, and co-webmaster. Nicole has been very busy the last few months between buying a house and planning her wedding in June.

Delegate: Linda Ray, Grand Forks

Linda Ray, MS, MLS(ASCP) received her B.S in Medical Technology and her M.S in Clinical Laboratory Science from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND. Linda worked in the clinic and hospital laboratories for 17 years before she joined the School of Medicine & Health Sciences. Currently, she is an assistant professor in the Medical Laboratory Science Program and teaches clinical chemistry and molecular diagnostics. Linda loves being in the classroom, and her passion lies in the student laboratories interacting with the students, teaching and sharing the excitement and mystery of the laboratory and laboratory techniques. Linda is the ASCLS-ND Scientific Assembly Chair in Molecular/Genetics & Nominations Chair. She also serves as a senator at UND, UND Committee on Committees, and UND Institutional Biosafety.

Nominations: Karen Peterson, Grand Forks

In 1995 I graduated from Northwest Technical College, East Grand Forks, with an Associates of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Science. Immediately following graduation I worked as a generalist in a rural Minnesota hospital for five years. While working, I choose to further my education and work toward my Bachelors of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS). In 2001 I received my BS from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks and my Masters of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science in 2004. While completing my Master's degree I worked as a graduate teaching assistant for the University of North Dakota CLS Program. It was then I found teaching to be my true passion. My current position as the Education Coordinator for the CLS program at UND encompasses my passion for teaching and my desire to further the profession of Clinical Laboratory Science. As part of our program's curriculum I co-teach a class on the professional issues of the CLS career. The focus of this class is to inform the future of CLS on the current trends and issues of our profession as well as emphasize the importance of professional societies. In addition to teaching, increasing the awareness of CLS as a career opportunity is a true passion of mine. In the last two years I have visited seven different schools, presented a two summer camps and various organizations including Girl Scouts. I assisted our student in their participation of Super Science Saturday, and presented at a Girls Science Day in Fergus Falls. I have the unique opportunity to educate and empower students in the Clinical Laboratory Science Profession while working side by side with health care facilities throughout North Dakota, Minnesota and many other parts of the nation. I am a Clinical Laboratory Scientist by trade a teacher by passion.

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New Professional Delegate: Daniel Sivak, Jamestown

I am a born and raised North Dakota boy who has a strong work ethic, and an extravagant personality. My home town is Dickinson, ND where I attended preschool, grade school, and High School where I thus advanced my heights and joined track, drama, choir, jazz band, band, bowling and speech. Through my life of growing up in Dickinson, I have transitioned many ideas through my head on what I want to do with my life and where I want it to go. I went from being an Astronomer, to a botanist, to a storm chaser, to a music buff, and lab researcher, I just couldn't make up my mind.

After I moved to Bismarck, ND to attend college at University of Mary, I was first music major. That, needless to say, didn't last too long. I love music, but more as a past time and for fun, not a job. My next choice was biology major. I didn't mind the major at first, and then my advisor saw how good and passionate I was about the science labs and recommended laboratory sciences. I said yes sign me up! However, she did forget to tell me it would be MEDICAL laboratory sciences, which I found out later on and now love it!

As I was doing my studies, I grew quite fond of every area, except chemistry, and of course the ever so popular phlebotomy, which my advisor forgot to tell me about because she didn't want me to get scared away. Well needless to say I moved forward. I finished my clinicals and passed my board exam which was a great challenge and a wonderful accomplishment.

I now work at the Jamestown Regional Medical Center in Jamestown North Dakota as the night technologist. I work alone, which was hard on the nerves a little bit at first but you build awesome experience and your own path of thinking and accomplishing tasks. The hospital is new, so it was a perfect place for me to start considering the hospital was in the process of moving to the new one. After living in Jamestown I accomplished so much already, I have a wonderful apartment, great friends, and I decided I deserved a new car so I defiantly like that. The laboratory also purchased some new analyzers which I got to advanced chemistry training in Delaware. Remember when I said I hated chemistry? Well, now I love it, and that was also the first time I was ever on an airplane. And recently I just became head of urinalysis and serology. I do have a great passion towards my job and love what I do and I wouldn't switch it for the world.

It's funny how I used to say things such "Oh I will never work in a lab and draw blood", or "Oh I will never work with chemistry", and now, I am doing it all!

Crossword Answer Key

1. Estradiol
2. Potassium
3. Antidiuretic Hormone
4. Cortisol
5. C Reactive Protein
6. Pancreatitis
7. Osmolality
8. Uric Acid
9. Multiple Myeloma
10. Anion Gap
11. Lithium
12. Lactic Acid
13. Calcium
14. Chloride
15. Hemolyzed

PAC

On behalf of the ASCLS Political Action Committee (PAC), it is now time to think about contributing funds to the ASCLS PAC fund. Your ASCLS PAC contributions and solicitations strengthen your voice, value and vision on Capitol Hill. Past ASCLS PAC contributions helped defeat competitive bidding and prevented Medicare laboratory copays. ASCLS PAC contributions aid in continuing the fight to revamp the outdated laboratory fee schedule. Your PAC dollars are another way to assist your profession.

Due to FEC regulations, some frequently asked information includes:

1. PAC contributions are not tax-deductible.
2. ASCLS can only solicit ASCLS members for PAC contributions, however ANYONE can donate.
3. ASCLS is required to list name AND address of every contributor regardless if they pay cash, credit or check.
4. If a person contributes more than \$200 within a year, ASCLS is required to list employer and position.

ASCLS State awards for the most money collected/ number of members will be given at the national ASCLS meeting in Los Angeles, CA, July 2012. These awards can be won by mere pennies of each other. The average contribution is anywhere from \$1.50/member to \$5.00/member. So every little bit helps.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the ASCLS PAC Board of Trustees. We are here to assist with any of your questions.

So let the State PAC competition begin!

Sincerely,
Renee Setina
ASCLS PAC Chair

PAC: Positive Action and Commitment

The acronym PAC stands for "Political Action Committee," a voluntary non-profit organization created to provide financial & educational support for the election campaigns of responsible candidates for Congress. All PACs are legal, ethical, and strictly regulated by federal law, which limits the amount of individual contributions and requires full and regular disclosure. ASCLS/PAC offers members a simple, convenient way to influence the elections process and actively participate in the federal decision-making process. Through the PAC, ASCLS members are able to unite together to gain the attention of candidates for national political office. In another sense, your support and generous contributions to the ASCLS/PAC represents your P-ositve A-ction and C-ommitment.

Now More Than Ever... Our Profession Needs A Voice in Government

Our system of government depends on the wisdom and integrity of elected officials. They, in turn, represent us best when they are exposed to and held accountable by an informed and active public. Now more than ever, laboratory professionals must take an active role to see that congressional reforms of American health care support cost-effective, high-quality clinical laboratory services. You can help by supporting ASCLS/PAC. Each dollar you give improves the chances that informed and capable people will be elected to Congress to enact responsible reforms in America's health service delivery system.

Access and Attention: A Key to Political Success

Healthcare in America has unfortunately evolved into a complex and intricate network of legislation and regulation. Legislation approved today can vastly change the future course of a profession... our profession. It is the responsibility of the profession itself and its members to keep lawmakers fully informed and cognizant of the key issues that may directly impact on us. To provide the needed information to our lawmakers, it is necessary to gain access and attention. ASCLS/PAC is designed to do just that...to gain access to and obtain attention of lawmakers. By providing campaign contributions to a carefully selected number of candidates, ASCLS/PAC helps ensure the re-election of lawmakers who have been sensitive to the needs of the clinical laboratory profession. Our support for these candidates guarantees that ASCLS is well represented in Congress.

ASCLS/PAC: Working for Your Best Interests

Established in 1976, the ASCLS/PAC is administered by its own Board of Trustees. Campaign contributions must be approved by the Chair or by the full Board of Trustees. Recommendations for contributions are made by both ASCLS staff and members; decisions are based on a candidate's past record of performance, understanding of health care issues and likelihood of future support for clinical laboratory science. Any solicitation for contributions to ASCLS/PAC is intended solely for members of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, an individual membership organization, for the purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1976, as amended. Nothing contained in this brochure should be considered as a solicitation for contributions from those who are not members of ASCLS. ASCLS/PAC is supported solely by donations from ASCLS members. Under federal law, these donations must be voluntary, and cannot be listed as a charitable contribution for tax purposes. The PAC files financial reports with the Federal Election Commission on a quarterly basis. Your support of ASCLS/PAC demonstrates your support of hardworking and responsible candidates for public office. Your contribution decision will in no way affect your rights as a member of ASCLS.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: ASCLS/PAC is supported by donations solicited solely from ASCLS members. Federal law requires that these contributions be voluntary. Your support of ASCLS/PAC demonstrates your support of hard-working, serious and responsible candidates for national office. Your decision will in no way affect your membership in ASCLS. Please clip this coupon and send it, with your PERSONAL check or credit card information (do not send cash) to: Evans and Katz ASCLS/PAC 1831 Bay St SE Washington, DC 20003 I would like to support ASCLS/PAC. Enclosed is my personal check or credit card information for: \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

Federal Election Law requires you provide us with the following information:

Name: _____
 Address: _____ City _____ State _____
 Employer: _____ Occupation: _____
 ASCLS Region: _____ (for ASCLS Awards)
 Signature: _____ Date: _____
 To make a credit card donation: VISA MC AMEX
 Credit card number _____ Exp. Date _____
 Name on Card _____ Signature _____

P.A.C.E Update

ASCLS Professional Acknowledgement for Continuing Education (P.A.C.E.®) Update. This article in a similar form by Sherry Miner, ASCLS Staff, will be published in the ASCLS Today publication too.

ASCLS Member New Benefit: you can now use the CE Organizer to ease the Board of Certification (BOC) Re-certification Process!

The CE Organizer has been updated to automatically download your CE Organizer P.A.C.E.® certificate information directly into the Board of Certification (BOC) Certification Maintenance system. This is a new benefit for ASCLS members only! You no longer have to manually enter your CE Organizer P.A.C.E.® certificate information into your Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) declaration form for any ASCLS P.A.C.E.® approved continuing education sessions as of January 1, 2012.

The first time you log in to the CE Organizer after March 1, 2012, a pop-up window should display asking for your ASCP Customer ID number. In order for the data to be transmitted to your CMP Declaration Form, it must be linked to your ASCP Customer ID number. This number is not your ASCLS member number or your certification number. It is the number of an account you set up with ASCP if you purchase an ASCP product or participate in the CMP. If you do not have an ASCP customer ID number or do not remember it, go to: <https://www.ascp.org/services/default.aspx> or call 1-800-267-2727, option 2. Then enter the ID number in your CE Organizer account profile. You may also email your account number to ASCLS at ascls@ascls.org.

The pop-up window will display only once. If you missed seeing the pop-up window display, you will need to contact ascls@ascls.org with your ASCP customer ID number.

The certificate data report is sent to the BOC weekly, each Friday evening, containing certificate information from January 1, 2012 and forward. A return report is sent to ASCLS with ASCP customer ID numbers that have no match found in the BOC database. If you have entered an incorrect ASCP customer ID number, the data will not transmit and ASCLS will be notified. An email notification will be sent to all members on the mismatch report. Please reply to the email notification with your correct ID number or let us know if you are not participating in the CMP program, so we can record your preference.

For ASCLS P.A.C.E.® approved continuing education sessions prior to January 1, 2012 you will still have to manually enter into the BOC CMP declaration form. Also, any CE activity that is not in CE Organizer will have to be manually entered into the BOC CMP declaration form as well.

CE Organizer Tip from Sherry Miner

Constituent Society Spring Meetings bring many members and non-members to CE Organizer. Some members have reported that when they print certificates from a multi-day multi-session meeting, such as a spring meeting or the annual meeting, the certificate prints on two pages with the seal and signature on the second page. This can happen if more than ten sessions are on the certificate or if the session titles are particularly long. The certificate is still valid, even though it is broken up on two pages. To prevent this, we recommend printing a separate certificate for each day of the meeting.

2011-2012 ASCLS-ND Leadership Roster

Position	Name	Preferred Email	Home Phone	Work/Cell Phone
President	Alice Hawley	Alice.hawley@sanfordhealth.org	701-282-2617	701-234-2482
President-Elect	Terri Hintz	thintz@altru.org	701-772-1388	701-780-5146
Past President	Leola Olson	lolson@primecare.org	701-258-5835	701-530-5700
Secretary/Treasurer	Toscha Larson	tolarson@altru.org	218-857-3303	701-780-1650
Board Member	Brooke Solberg	brooke.solberg@med.und.edu		701-777-2245
Board Member	Jim Svihovec	jimsvihovec@catholichealth.net		
Nominations Chair	Linda Ray	linda.ray@med.und.edu	218-773-8599	701-777-3687
Student Forum Rep	Jennifer Wadeson	jennifer.wadeson@gmail.com	701-799-8134	
New Professional Rep	Nicole Hager	nicolehagger88@hotmail.com	701-542-3337	701-952-4774
Region V Director	Deb Rodahl	drodahl@earthlink.net	651-779-8906	651-232-3224
State Committee Chair or Key Contacts				
Awards	Leola Olson	lolson@primecare.org	701-258-5835	701-530-5700
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	Leola Olson	lolson@primecare.org		
Membership Services	Terri Hintz	thintz@altru.org	701-772-1388	701-780-5146
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	701-739-3484	701-780-5638
Website	Nicole Hager 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/Immunohe	Terri Hintz	thintz@altru.org	701-772-1388	701-780-5146
Heme/Hemostasis	Stacy Askvig	saskvig@medicine.nodak.edu		701-839-1847
Generalist/Pub Health				
Industry				
Education				
POC/Phlebotomy	Margie Vossler	mvossler@primecare.org	701-222-3177	701-530-6782
Molecular Diag/Genetics	Linda Ray	lindaray@medicine.nodak.edu	218-773-8599	701-777-2687
Consultants				
Reg Affairs/QM	Shannon Jongeward	sjongeward@altru.org	701-739-3484	701-780-5638
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	Karen Peterson	karen.peterson@med.und.edu		
Fargo	Linda Gylland	Linda.gylland@meritcare.com		701-234-2113

Upcoming Events

2012 Annual Meeting

July 17-21, 2012
Los Angeles, CA

Region V Meeting

October 11-12, 2012
Alexandria, MN

VOICE

VALUE

VISION

ASCLS-ND Member of the Year



Congratulations to Alice Hawley, ASCLS-ND 2012 Member of the Year! We would like to thank you for all you have done for ASCLS and your leadership this last year. You deserve this!!

DID YOU KNOW WHY WE ARE SO WELL "CONNECTED"?

So, for how many years have you been reading the ASCLS-ND newsletter, The Connection? What a great way to stay in touch with others in the state and get a little better picture of what is going on in the world of laboratories in the state of ND. Did you know that the newsletter has had the same editor for the last seven years? Did you know that this editor tirelessly works to edit and produce an award winning newsletter three times a year? Did you know that this editor wants no glory for herself but continually works behind the scenes to enable us to have this great product? Did you know that this editor is now taking off her editor hat to take up the hat of being our state president in just one short year? Did you know that this person is Shannon Jongeward?

I think we all need to tip our hats and give Shannon a huge round of applause for all she has done for us through ASCLS-ND and her wonderful product, The Connection. YEA!!!! Shannon, thanks for all your hard work and your efforts in producing such a fine product. Congratulations as you step down as editor and take up the task of presiding over ASCLS-ND. I look forward to the same wonderful, tireless service to our organization at this leadership level.

Please, if you are a reader of "The Connection" drop Shannon a line and let her know how much she is appreciated and what a great job she has done - shannon@gra.midco.net .

Shannon, thanks for all you have done for ASCLS-ND and what you will do in the future!

Alice Hawley, ASCLS-ND President 2011-2012