



The Connection

September 2009

ASCLS-ND

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President's Message



Another Opportunity as ASCLS-ND President By Mary Nagel

Greetings to everyone in North Dakota ASCLS. I am honored to be serving as President of ASCLS-ND again. I had to look back in the archives to find out when I was president for ASCLS-ND. I knew I followed Elaine Ramstad and John Festvog was president after me but the year had slipped from my memory. I was president in 1995. I have gained so much from this organization and wish to continue to give back in my time and efforts to make ASCLS-ND a strong society.

The last two months have been very busy for me. I have traveled to Mali and Uganda, attended the National meeting in Chicago and have moved to Brookings, South Dakota. My relocation to South Dakota is due to accepting a position teaching at South Dakota State University in a new CLS program. Once again, because of my connections to ASCLS, I have been given another job opportunity. This is an exciting time to be starting a new program

when we hear about so many programs closing all over the country. With my move to Brookings, I questioned if I should remain President of ASCLS-ND and decided that if I can do a job in Mali, Africa; live in Grand Forks, ND, I think I can be ASCLS-ND President from Brookings. So unless you impeach me as your President, you are stuck with me.

ASCLS-ND is strong and we are seeing this in our membership numbers. At our national meeting, ASCLS-ND received 3rd place in the category of member retention. We actually tied with two other states for this honor and Oklahoma and Louisiana took 2nd and 1st respectively. Thank you for knowing the benefits of belonging to ASCLS and renewing your membership.

ASCLS-ND received 1st place in the Constituent Society Publications Award (Paper Format) produced by our newsletter editor and graduate of the 2009 Leadership Academy,

Shannon Jongeward. Shannon and her dedication are making ASCLS-ND strong.

Mary Coleman was installed as Region V Nomination Chair to help ASCLS find and recruit nominations to National offices. Dawn Michelson is completing Deb Rodahl's term representing Region V on the National Leadership Committee. Mary and Dawn's involvement is another example of how ASCLS-ND is strong. Region V meetings will be held every year starting in 2010. They will alternate between Rochester, MN and Fargo, ND. This will make ASCLS-ND strong with the increase in visibility to others in the laboratory profession. Kathy Jones and Alice Hawley from Fargo have been working hard on a task force to implement this meeting. We are looking for volunteers to help Chair and Co-chair various committees along with others in the region. You DO NOT have to live in Fargo to do so. I will include a link for you all to look at the job

Continued from page 1....

responsibilities and contract that was signed by all states in our Region. This contract can be found on our Region V website www.ascls-sd.org. Look under ASCLS Region V President's Council meeting 6/20/09, it has the most recent document. In Rochester, 2010, we will be looking for a ND representative as Vice-chair along with Chair from MN for Program/Pace/Moderators/AV as well as Chair for Exhibitors/Sponsors and a Vice-chair from Wisconsin. If you are interested in helping with the meeting, please contact Kathy, Alice or myself.

Attending meetings has been a big benefit of ASCLS. I attended my first National meeting as a student in Houston – 1982. Since 1994 I have attended twelve National meetings in various cities: Nashville – 1994, Ana-

heim – 1995, Chicago – 1996, Atlanta – 1997, Chicago – 2001, Orlando – 2002, Philly – 2003, Orlando – 2005, Chicago – 2006, San Diego-2007, Washington DC- 2008, Chicago-2009. These meetings have provided me with many learning opportunities that have made me a stronger ASCLS-ND member. I encourage each of you to try to attend a National meeting, a Regional meeting or a State meeting.

Our Region V meeting this year is in October in Watertown and will be an excellent opportunity for you to experience national speakers, meet our current ASCLS national President Mary Ann McLane along with Elisa Passiment, ASCLS Executive Vice President and many others that have been involved on the national

front. I hope you will take this opportunity to participate in this meeting.

Last year, the ASCLS-ND Board put in place a strategic plan to help us focus on what we felt were important in North Dakota. Several of these charges are dealing with membership in areas of recruitment, increase participation and connectivity. We are committed to working on these charges to make ASCLS-ND stronger. Will you as a member of ASCLS-ND volunteer your talents to help?

Again, I look forward to being President for ASCLS-ND and please do not hesitate to email me when you are ready to get more involved. ASCLS-ND needs its entire membership to have a voice.

WANTED!

What: Volunteers for the Region V Meeting

When: October 2010

Where: Rochester, MN

**ASCLS-ND Chair – Exhibitor / Sponsors
ASCLS-ND Vice-Chair – Program/PACE/Moderators/AV)**

Please contact: Kathy Jones, Alice Hawley or Mary Nagel

You DO NOT have to live in Rochester or Fargo to volunteer



Region V Report



New ASCLS Region V Director By Deb Rodahl

Hi!

I am your new ASCLS Region V Director and as such, my first order of business should be to introduce myself. And since in my work life we use an introduction process called "AIDET", I will use that here as well.

A = acknowledge

I = introduce

D = duration (how long are you going to take)

E = explain

T = thank

(A) It is with great pleasure that I serve the ASCLS members of Region V. As members of ASCLS you are all truly a credit to the profession.

(I) My ASCLS professional journey began at an ASCLS Minnesota Spring Meeting in 1990. At that time I had been out of school and working for ten years and thinking I was in touch

with current and new advances in our profession. As the saying goes – "you don't know what you don't know"!

Joining ASCLS and becoming actively involved has truly opened my eyes and has rewarded me personally and professionally ten-fold (at least). I have now been a Laboratory Professional for almost 30 years and currently work for the HealthEast Care system in St. Paul, MN as the System Director for Laboratory Services.

(D) My Term as ASCLS Region V Director will last 3 years, for which I will endeavor to keep you informed of ASCLS and professional activities and act as your liaison to the ASCLS Board.

(E) As your board representative it is my goal to address your needs and concerns, promote our profession with the larger community, and work to increase our membership base from the pool of laboratorians who

are not members of any professional organization!

(T) Thank-you for choosing ASCLS as your professional organization!!

Reminders:

It is currently membership renewal time. Please be good stewards of ASCLS resources and renew your membership as soon as possible. Thank-you if you have already done so!

If you would like to be on the e-mail listing to get periodic updates of interest, please contact me.

Please see my contact information below. I am always happy to connect with and hear from our members:

Deb Rodahl
ASCLS Region V Director
drodahl@earthlink.net
651-779-8906

POINT OF CARE TESTING SEMINAR

On March 5th, 2009 the St. Alexius Medical Center Point of Care Testing (POCT) department hosted a POCT seminar. Margie Vossler, Phlebotomy/POCT Supervisor & Jan Greenstein, POCT Coordinator at SAMC chaired the event. The invitation for the event went out to staff throughout the state that perform point of care testing in their facilities. The seminar consisted of several speakers, vendor displays and attendee networking. The presentations included updates on Clinical Lab Science licensure, CLIA and POCT, Troponins in the ER, Insulin Pump Therapy, and a motivational speaker. Several vendors were present with product and information to share with participants. Thirty people attended the seminar from all over the state.

Margie Vossler, MT(ASCP)SC
Phlebotomy/Point of Care Testing Lab Supervisor

Membership Services



Membership Recruitment By Leola Olson

As President-elect of ASCLS-ND, I will be serving as the membership chair until my term as President begins. I am excited and honored to serve ASCLS-ND again. I truly think that ASCLS is stronger and more dynamic than 20 years ago when I was NDSMT president, and delivers great service for the dues that we pay.

To sustain the ability to be the Voice, Vision, and Value for our profession, ASCLS needs to increase its membership and dues revenue. ASCLS has approximately 10,000 members. To continue to have the funds to be the society that represents us in the legislative and regulatory arena, the society that provides top notch continuing education, the society that moves our profession toward what is best for

laboratorians and consumers; ASCLS needs to increase membership to approximately 13,000 members. I know that I am preaching to the choir. If you are reading the *Connection*, you are someone who knows the value of ASCLS-ND membership.

Now here is the problem. I am following membership chair Mary Nagle Belanus, one of the most extroverted and energetic people that I know. She becomes a friend to anyone that she meets. I am a low-key introvert, how am I ever going to live up to her success increasing our membership? With your help!

Do you have students that rotate through your laboratory? Let them know that part of being a professional

is being in a society like ASCLS.

Have you participated in planning state meetings with people who are not members? They have already demonstrated their commitment to professionalism. Maybe they just need to be asked one more time to join us.

Are you willing to check out the ASCLS.org website and see what promotional material is available? You know the value of membership; ASCLS helps you put it into words.

I look forward to working with all of you during my term as president-elect and president. ASCLS-ND will continue to thrive because of its most valuable resource – YOU.

Delegate's Report



Wow, what a great experience! I can't even count the number of times I have said that in the last few years in reference to ASCLS. I had no idea what I was doing when I joined ASCLS to save some money on my state meeting registration. That was in 2006 and since then I've met so many wonderful friends and role models. I am so thankful that I decided to join this great organization which most recently allowed me to travel to the windy city...Chicago! At the end of July, I had the opportunity to attend the ASCLS National Meeting, and what an experience!

Throughout the week, governance and educational sessions kept us busy, but the most interesting part of the meeting for me was the House of Delegates. I have always wondered what it would be like to be a fly on the wall in Washington, D.C. This experience as the Delegate from North Dakota was probably as close as I'll ever come to being that fly. The format of the meeting was very organized, we were seated with the delegates from Region V and had ample opportunity to speak if we so desired. Reports were given from the President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Executive Offices, as well as the many task forces that were hard at work all year long. We voted on the levels of practice and heard opinions regarding the merger between ASCP and NCA. The newly elected officials were sworn in, and commendations were given.

Of course we had to check out the Magnificent Mile and other Chicago attractions while we were there. We enjoyed lunch at Harry Carey's and watched a disappointing White Sox game at U.S. Cellular Field.

I would like to thank the members of ASCLS-ND for allowing me to attend this phenomenal meeting. What a great experience! The only caveat is that I want to attend again!

Jessica Irion

Student's Corner



A Student's Perspective By Alex Shepard

ASCLS. What does that acronym mean to you? To some it might be one more random grouping of letters in a vast sea of acronyms. However for people that work in a clinical laboratory, this "random" grouping of letters is far from that. Deciding to join the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science and becoming involved was one of the best professional decisions that I have made in my short career so far.

The opportunities are truly never ending with this professional society. My first experience with ASCLS was going to the North Dakota state conference. There I was able to meet several people that were passionate about not only their jobs as medical laboratory scientists but also ASCLS. ASCLS "provides dynamic leadership and vigorously promotes all aspects of clinical laboratory science practice, education and management to ensure excellent, accessible cost-effective laboratory services for the consumers of health

care" (as taken from www.ascls.org) and after learning more about the mission of ASCLS, I knew that I wanted to become involved in this organization. Being involved with ASCLS is easy because you can decide how involved you want to be. First, you can be an active member and join a committee or help plan a state or region meeting. Or, if you want a larger leadership role, you can be an officer at the state, region, or even national levels. I applied to be the ASCLS-ND student representative, which is a state office, and was appointed to that position during the North Dakota state ASCLS convention. This meant that I was a delegate for North Dakota and had voting power while at the National Conference. The national conference was amazing! It was great to see so many people passionate about the profession. Attending the national conference opened my eyes to all that is possible in ASCLS.

While in Chicago, I attended the

Government Action Committee meeting because health care reform has been in the news and I wanted to hear what the opinion of the reform was in the laboratory community. It was exciting to see that this one meeting turned into several meetings throughout the week as the members were busy discussing what was happening in Washington D.C. and then decided to write a statement that stated ASCLS'S views and opinions on the current health care reform.

What I witnessed at the state and national conferences cemented the fact that I wanted to be a part of this organization.

Whether you decide to be involved locally, at the state level, or chair a national committee, ASCLS is the premier society for laboratorians. ASCLS strives to be the "voice, value, and vision" of the profession.

Don't you want to be too?

Upcoming Events

ASCLS-ND Spring Meeting

April 19-21, 2010

Holiday Inn, Fargo

Go to www.asclsnd.org for further information

Publication Submission Deadline

The publication submission deadline for articles for the next issue of *The Connection* is Monday December 21, 2009. Submit any articles to:

Shannon Jongeward
shannon@gra.midco.net

Treasurer's Report—April 2009—August 24, 2009

Current Financials:

Checking (0.25%)	\$ 8302.63
Money Market (0.50%)	\$ 7748.86
CD (renew 5-16-09) (2.00%)	\$ 5262.31
CD (renew 12-7-09) (2.75%)	\$ 9016.26
Total Assets:	\$ 30330.06

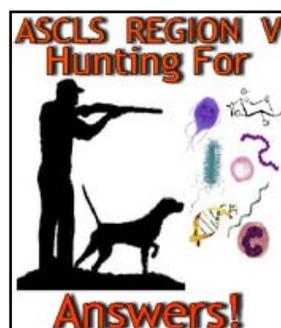
Major Deposits:

State Dues	\$ 135.00
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Major Expenses:

Region V Membership Dues	\$ 180.00
ASCLS Region V Director – ND State Meeting expenses	\$ 352.44
National Meeting – 5 attendees	
Silent auction item	\$ 99.34
Registration	\$ 1352.64
Airfare	\$ 1242.34
Hotel	\$ 1785.27
Mileage	\$ 585.90
Parking	\$ 106.00
Cab	\$ 26.00
(Total for National Meeting)	\$ 5197.49
Total Expenses:	\$ 5864.93

Region V Meeting 2009



October 14-16, 2009

Best Western Ramkota Hotel, Watertown, SD

Host Society: ASCLS-SD

Keynote Speakers!

Hot topics for Today's Professionals

Exhibit Hall ~ Social Events ~ Fun

Special Student Sessions

Visit the meeting website at:

www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting/id51.html



Three Wonderful Years of Creative Magic!

By: Lezlee Koch

ASCLS Region V Director, 2006-2009



Over the past three years of serving as your ASCLS Region V Director, I have witnessed **creative magic in action!** It has been a truly awesome and inspiring experience! Creative magic happens at board meetings, state, regional and national meetings, conference calls, committee meetings, emails, and every time a new professional friendship begins or we reach out to support one another. Creative magic runs wild in ASCLS & Region V to move our professionals, our profession and ASCLS into the future.

ASCLS and its dedicated grassroots members are finely tuned and highly effective instruments of creativity when professional challenges lie before us. I

have witnessed dreams turned into reality and successful outcomes happen when clinical laboratory science professionals come together united in the mission/vision and core values of ASCLS. One step at a time, we have moved forward together to make a difference. Time and time again, undying passion and purpose brought groups together and ignited professional fires that are unstoppable. I have heard new professional and student voices speaking out and taking action to create a brighter future for our profession and our professionals. In every thought, every action, every moment, every experience over the past three years, I have witnessed creative magic in ASCLS and in its members. It is

because of this creative magic and each of you that I feel tremendous professional pride in who we are and what we can accomplish together!

ASCLS Region V Grassroots Members... **I salute you! You have touched my heart! You are the creative magic in ASCLS!** May all your dreams be filled with beauty, may all your thoughts and actions give you the successes you are so deserving of, may all your moments be filled with professional passion and may your professional fire burn bright. Thank you for allowing me to serve you! Thank you for the memories!

Leadership Academy



ASCLS Leadership Academy Class of 2009

By Shannon Jongeward



This will be the last article that I write as a member of the ASCLS Leadership Academy. I can not believe how fast the year went, last year at this time we were just getting ready for our first conference call!

We met as a class for the last time in Chicago at the National Meeting in July. Sunday night was an informal get together with the incoming class. The 2009-2010 class has 5 members this year, smaller than in the two previous years.

Monday was spent in class, where we focused on ideas for recruiting new members. We also discussed goal setting and strategic planning. We were honored to have members of the Biomedical Laboratory Science group from Kenya join our class. This group provided the Opening Keynote address for the meeting. They were very interested in learning about our organization and how we as an organization are

helping our profession to grow. Tuesday was spent attending the Board of Directors meeting. Thursday evening was the Awards Ceremony where the Leadership Academy class of 2009 was recognized as graduates of the ASCLS Leadership Academy. We presented our projects on Friday during the sessions, and provided each member of the BOD, Leadership Development Committee and each state society a copy of our projects.

Our final projects focused on helping state societies "grow" leaders. The binders we provided included "Building Blocks Towards Leadership". This is a resource that can be used to hold mini Leadership Academy classes at the state level. Our other project was "H.E.L.P in a Book-Help Explaining Leadership Positions". This is a resource for newly elected state leaders. It includes duties, schedules, tips, resources and templates for Treasurer's, Secretaries and Membership Chair po-

sitions.

As I sit and write this article, I am thinking back to all of the work put in this last year. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. I have learned a great deal, not only about the organization itself and becoming a better leader, but I have also learned a great deal about myself. The best part of this experience is the friends I have made. Eight of us graduated this year, and I am proud to say that each one of these classmates is a friend for life. I also need to say a special "Thank You" to our facilitator, Lynn Ingram. She is an inspiration! I have learned a great deal from her. I will miss chatting with my classmates and Lynn each month on our conference calls. But I know that any future National Meetings I may attend, these people will be there alongside me supporting this great organization! Thank you ASCLS-ND for supporting me throughout this past year.

NATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Shannon receiving her diploma for The ASCLS Leadership Academy



Shannon and Jessica at the White Sox game



Tori, Jessica and Shannon at the Silent Auction



Shannon giving the Leadership Academy's project presentation



Alex, Tori and Jessica at the White Sox game



Leola and Dawn at the Silent Auction



The North Dakota delegation. Back row left to right Tori Rensink, Jessica Irion, Shannon Jongeward, Mary Nagel and Mary Coleman. Front row left to right: Alex Shepard, Leola Olson and Dawn Michelson.

2009-2010 ASCLS-ND Leadership Roster

Position	Name	Preferred Email	Home Phone	Work/Cell Phone
President	Mary Nagel	mcnagel@live.com		218-779-5333
President-Elect	Leola Olson	lolson@primecare.org	701-258-5835	701-530-5700
Past President	Dawn Michelson	medtecdawn2@msn.com	701-237-9705	701-306-8037
Secretary/Treasurer	Alice Hawley	Alice.hawley@meritcare.com	701-282-2617	701-234-2482
Board Member	Terri Hintz	thintz@altru.org	701-772-1388	701-780-5146
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	Alex Shepard	alex.shepardnd@gmail.com		701-205-6557
New Professional Rep	Nikki Dillman	Nikkijo_03@hotmail.com		701-471-7462
Region V Director	Deb Rodahl	drodahl@earthlink.net	651-779-8906	651-232-3224
State Committee Chair or Key Contacts				
Awards	Alice Hawley	Alice.hawley@meritcare.com	701-282-2617	701-234-2482
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	Dawn Michelson	medtecdawn2@msn.com	701-237-9705	701-306-8037
Membership Services	Leola Olson	lolson@primecare.org	701-258-5835	701-530-5700
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	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/ImmunoHEME	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	Susan Finneman	susan.finneman@rasmussen.edu		218-304-6200
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				
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	Linda Gylland	Linda.gylland@meritcare.com		701-234-2113