



The Connection

ASCLS

The Connection
September 2006

Knowledge, Fun and *All That Jazz!*

The 2006 ASCLS Annual Meeting was held in Chicago on July 25-29th. See inside this edition of The Connection for articles and pictures.



President's Message

I would like to welcome everyone to a new year in ASCLS-ND. I hope you all have been enjoying the hot summer, soon we will be complaining about the cold. I would like to see us work on putting our ASCLS-ND vision in action.



President Stacy Askvig

The Vision of ASCLS-ND is:

The North Dakota Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, as the preeminent organization for clinical laboratory science practitioners, provides dynamic leadership and vigorously promotes all aspects of clinical laboratory service practice, education, and management to ensure excellent, accessible cost-effective laboratory services for consumers of health.

A few ways to promote our profession is to volunteer for career days, allow work shadows, be a speaker for a variety of service clubs, write articles for your local newspaper. Find one that interests you and go forth with your knowledge as a lab professional.

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An ASCLS- ND member has many people they can network with to help solve problems, gain new ideas and share information. Let us make it our goal this year to contact other members for their expertise and experiences, thus building our network system to better our facilities and services.

The spring meeting in Jamestown and the Region V meeting in Fargo are a few ways to show your support for the educational activities that ASCLS-ND provides. Take advantage of these to broaden your knowledge and interact with other people in your profession.

The clinical laboratory provides a great service to patients and practitioners and we need to make sure that the good work we do is known.

Submitted by Stacy Askvig
President, ASCLS-ND

FUN FACTS

The Characters Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street were named after Bert the cop, and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life".

Most people fall asleep in 7 minutes.

Most elephants weigh less than the tongue of the blue whale.

Ten minutes of one hurricane contains enough energy to match the nuclear stockpiles of the world.

News From Region V

Minnesota * North Dakota * South Dakota * Wisconsin

Pride & Passion in ASCLS!

By: **Lezlee Koch, ASCLS Region V Director**



Lezlee Koch, Region V Director

Pride and passion is very evident in ASCLS's Region V clinical laboratory professionals... **I am proud of our members... I am proud of each one of you!** This statement comes from the heart as I reflect on Chicago's National ASCLS meeting. Once again, this year's meeting brought recognition, awards, honors and leadership

roles to the dedicated ASCLS members in Region V. To mention just a few... we were honored with Publications awards, Membership awards, Presidential awards, scholarships, and many of our members were either elected to key ASCLS positions or appointed to serve on essential committees at the national level.
HATS OFF TO REGION V!

Each task undertaken for the good of our profession makes a difference for ASCLS and all clinical laboratory professionals. The professional life of each ASCLS member has an immense and unique value which clinical laboratory professionals sometimes have a tendency to overlook. Now is the time to recognize this value so that we can choose to make that professional value even greater. Every day our lives are overflowing with possibilities. We can choose to expand those possibilities even more through dreaming and transforming those dreams into grand achievements that will set the stage for even greater opportunities for ASCLS, our region, our state, our members and our profession.

There are times when we feel we can give no more or find ourselves wondering "why do I care". There are times when we are frustrated with fellow clinical laboratorians who go to work every day and complain that they are "the victim", that they "get no respect" or feel "they are not recognized" but yet, they are not members of ASCLS and they do not give back to their chosen profession. It is during these times and encounters that we, as proud ASCLS professional members, must remember the words of Paul Landauer, "I'm a proud clinical laboratory professional and I'm reporting for professional duty". As true clinical laboratory professionals, we need to get busy and visualize what can be. Rather than wasting our time and effort on useless complaints, we must invest in and commit ourselves to making our profession better. It is our professional duty and responsibility to:

- Continue our professional membership in ASCLS
- Encourage our co-workers to become ASCLS members
- Invite lapsed members to become members again
- Be professional shining examples at work, at home and in the community
- Speak highly of our profession and ASCLS
- Encourage our students and young professionals
- Recognize and communicate the value of our profession
- Support our fellow ASCLS members
- Step forward and volunteer for or suggest activities that will help accomplish ASCLS goals

Region V report continued from page 3...

We are alive, able to think, to dream, to share, to plan, to act, to learn and adapt, to grow and to create our profession's future. Great professional accomplishments will happen for ASCLS and will come to our members that know what being a true clinical laboratory professional is all about. It is about professional pride, purpose, and passion. Stay connected to that passion, keep listening to that purpose, for there is so much that each of our members has to offer. As ASCLS members, we are filled with unique value and the more that we live it, profess it, and let it shine, the greater it grows. Together in ASCLS and in Region V we can and will make a difference.

Membership Development



Dawn Michelson
President-Elect

Hi everyone! I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. Hmmm, that reminds me.....it's now August already and if you have not renewed your ASCLS membership it's not too late! I know what you're thinking: "I don't have the money" or "I don't have the time" (I bet you didn't know I was psychic!). I want to remind that your dues go to fund many different areas. ASCLS pays for delegates to go to Legislative Days where they meet with their Representatives to discuss important issues facing laboratorians in their state.

ASCLS provides P.A.C.E. approved on-line courses, audio-conferences and workshops which are easy ways to meet your required continuing education. ASCLS also has a PAC Committee that streamlines money to areas that impact us the most. As an ASCLS member, you can be as involved as you want to be. Even if you don't choose to be on a committee or hold an elected position, you are entitled to discounted registration rates for the State, Regional and National Meetings. If you are an educator, your registration for the CLEC Meeting is also reduced. You will also receive ASCLS Today and the Clinical Laboratory Science publications to keep up with the latest buzz.

So, please access the ASCLS website (www.ascls.org). The Membership section has an on-line renewal link for past members and a membership application for those joining for the first time-it's so easy!. For the new members signing up-WELCOME! You'll find that ASCLS provides the voice that our profession needs. I will be contacting the lapsed members in the next few weeks to give them a gentle reminder. So renew now and start getting all those wonderful benefits I mentioned. Please feel free to contact me at medtecdawn2@msn.com if you have any problems or questions. I'm looking forward to a productive, busy year!

Sincerely,

Dawn Michelson
President-Elect

Knowledge, Fun and All That Jazz!

I just want to state for the record: this prairie person did not find Chicago particularly windy, compared with our fair state.

There was, however, a wonderful air of excitement around the Renaissance Hotel and McCormick Place convention center as the 2006 national ASCLS meeting convened during the last week of July. It was my pleasure to attend as a delegate from North Dakota. Our delegation had the chance to meet and listen to men and women from all over the country who are doing great things to make our profession more visible to the public, as well as educating the politicians who make the rules that our laboratories have to play by. We heard about how the medical world is looking at some old diseases in new ways, discovering new things that are making people sick and why it is happening now, and ways of getting more detailed information into the hands of clinicians faster than ever. We were updated on the progress of a task force studying the possibility of a Clinical Laboratory Doctorate, a position that would involve a lab professional more directly in patient care. We found out more about www.labsarevital.com, a website for lab professionals as well as anyone who has an interest in finding out more about what goes on in a lab. (Check it out!)

This was the first year that the ASCLS provided a website listing the handouts available to print ahead of time for the sessions of interest to each person. There was also a disc containing the handout info for each registrant, in case there was a session you decided to attend at the last minute. Kudos to whoever thought of that environmentally friendly idea.

And the exhibits! My fellow delegates laughed at the expression on my face when I saw the acres of instrumentation and vendors' stalls set up at the convention center! It was fascinating to see the displays of fluidics blocks, tubing, circuit boards and all the other components needed to make the instrumentation that we use in the lab every day (and the new ones we put on our wish lists). We learned about the cell lines and molecular assays that are becoming ever more important as diagnostic tools. We brought home lots of good door prizes for next spring's lab week celebration, as well as lots of respect for the people who come up with the ideas for our lab recipes and machinery.

I left Chicago and the ASCLS meeting with a feeling that we have elected some excellent leadership, nationally, regionally, and statewide. Our incoming officers are bursting with ideas for staff recruitment and retention, streamlining lab workflow for better cost effectiveness, and general lab moral boosting. I can't wait to see what develops.

Submitted by Liane Anderson,

Delegate to the National Meeting

National Meeting Highlights



Rick Panning, past Region V director and National President-Elect at the House of Representatives.



Emily Tron receiving the Alpha Mu Tau scholarship



Liane Anderson, Delegate



The North Dakota gang. From left to right are President Stacy Askvig, President-Elect Dawn Michelson, Delegate Liane Anderson, Student Rep Kim Larson, Region V Student Rep Emily Tron and Past President Kathy Jones.



Region V dinner. Seated left to right are Rick Panning, Emily Tron, Kim Larson and Kathy Jones.



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer report 4-23-06-8-23-06

Expenses

- Office supplies-\$41.38
- Scholarships-\$1,500.00
- Gifts-\$232.61
- Website maintenance\$128.40
- Airfare ASCLS National Meeting 2006-\$1,764.81
- Registration ASCLS National Meeting 2006-\$1,720.00
- Hotel/Dining ASCLS National Meeting 2006-\$3,052.93
- Taxi ASCLS National Meeting 2006-\$165.70

Total Expenses-\$8,605.83

Income

- State Dues-\$45.00
- Interest-\$2.40

(I have not received the check from the 2006 Spring Convention in Fargo but it will be roughly \$14,000.00)

Total income-\$47.40

Balances as of 8-23-06

Checking-\$1,606.58 (0.5%)

Money Market-\$7,217.15 (3.94%)

12M CD-\$4,724.07 (4.75% Matures 5-16-07)

12M CD-\$7,969.47 (4.0% Matures 12-7-06)

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Michelson-Secretary/Treasurer



Leadership Roster



Position	Name	Address	Phone Number	E-mail Address
President	Stacy Askvig	810 45th Ave NE Minot, ND 58702	701-839-1847	sask- vig@medicine.nodak.edu
President-Elect	Dawn Michelson	521 21st Ave S Fargo, ND 58103	701-237-9705	medtechdawn2@aol.com
Past-President	Kathy Jones	814 Meyer Blvd West Fargo, ND 58078	701-282-6381	kathy.jones@meritcare.com
Secretary/Treasurer	Sue Hollister	1751 157th Ave SE Hunter, ND 58048	701-234-2481	hollister@polarcomm.com
Board Member	Terri Hintz	227 Circle Hills Dr Grand Forks, ND 58201	701-772-1388	thintz@altru.org
Board Member	Shannon Jongeward	3701 20th Ave S Grand Forks, ND 58201	701-775-9330	Shannon@gra.midco.net
Nominations Chair	Robin Brisky	6102 24th St S Fargo, ND 58104	763-458-7808	robin.brisky@meritcare.com
Student Representative	Kim Larson	1820 39th St SW #114 Fargo, ND 58103	701-282-3468	kimandtom- meyer@hotmail.com
First Year Professional	Kari Kempel	1741 39th St S Apt 110 Fargo, ND 58103		kari.kempel@meritcare.com
Region V Director	Lezlee Koch			lezleek@sio.midco.net
Region V Student Rep	Emily Tron	4961 44th Ave S #107 Fargo, ND 58104	701-793-2402	emily_tron@yahoo.com
Delegate	Liane Anderson	1615 13th St SW Minot, ND 58701	701-852-1607	liane.anderson@trinityhealth.org
Leadership Development	Kathy Jones			
Membership Development	Dawn Michelson			
PACE Coordinator	Mary Coleman	1517 Oak St Grand Forks, ND 58201	701-775-3664	mcole- man@medicine.nodak.edu
Publications Editor	Shannon Jongeward			

Student Rep Report

Hello to all of my fellow ASCLS members!

My name is Kimberly Larson and I am your North Dakota Student Representative.

As your Student Representative, it was an honor to be able to attend the 2006 ASCLS Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. This conference was a great opportunity for me as a new Laboratory Manager in Hillsboro, North Dakota. The conference provided many hours of exemplary continuing education. The Clinical Lab Expo, where hundreds of different vendors displayed their products, was absolutely breathtaking! Not only did this conference provide excellent education and endless hours of visiting vendors from around the world, I also had the privilege of meeting and networking with other Clinical Laboratory Scientists. My experience at the 2006 ASCLS Annual Meeting was invaluable.

As your Student Representative, I hope to increase student participation in ASCLS. My plan is to visit high schools and colleges in North Dakota to promote this great profession. If you know of any schools in your area that you think would be interested in learning more about this career, please feel free to e-mail me at kimberly.larson@meritcare.com.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Larson, Student Representative

- **Remember to check our website for information and upcoming events. You can also read past issues of The Connection. www.asclsnd.org**
- **The Annual Spring meeting is being held in Jamestown on April 25th 2007.**
- **The Region V Meeting is being held in Fargo October 1-3, 2007. Mark your calendars now for these dates.**

Happy Fall!!

