

The Connection

ASCLS-ND

The Connection
Summer 2006

2006 Annual Spring Meeting



The Spring Meeting, held in Fargo this year was another great success. The program was packed with many great speakers, and there were more than 40 companies displaying their products and services at the vendor exhibit. A big thanks goes out to the planning committee for all their hard work. More meeting details inside this edition of The Connection.

President's Message

CLS: The Key to Solving Medical Mysteries

It was our pleasure to host the Spring ASCLS-ND meeting this year in Fargo. As always it is nice to see some familiar faces of the those we have become acquainted with through the years.

I think we all agree that things have changed since we started in this profession. The increase in technology and how we do testing has drastically changed. To think at one time we would have to draw 20 cc's of blood from a patient to do some very routine chemistry testing and now we can do much more with just a few drops of blood from a finger stick! Meetings are a great way to stay abreast of what is new as well as what is on the horizon. My thanks to the awesome group that helped plan the meeting and all those who volunteered their time and energy. It was well worth the effort and I appreciate all of you.

I want to thank all of the members who helped mentor me the last two years and guide me with their experiences and support. Special thanks to Sue Hollister for all her patience and constantly answering



President Kathy Jones

Table Of Contents

Presidents Message	1-2
Region V Report	3-4
Legislative News	5
Treasurer's Report	6
Spring Board Meeting	7-8
Spring Business Meeting	9-10
Spring Meeting Highlights	11
Student Rep Report	12

President's Message continued from page 1.....

of questions along the way. I wish Stacy a great year ahead and know that you have a great team behind you to support you in your term. Congratulations to Dawn Michelson as the President-Elect as you team with Stacy for the next several years. I know you will both do your best and move ASCLS-ND forward.

This past year I have realized how great it is to have our website up and growing. It is a wealth of information and the links have been great. We truly realized it's benefits when we were able to post our meeting registration and schedule there for anyone to access. The technology available to us is so amazing and really can make us more efficient – or at least that is how we feel!

ASCLS is really about the members and what we represent. We are always looking for ways to improve how we do things and how to appeal to others in our profession to join us. Please feel free to bring any of us suggestions. Lastly, share your enthusiasm. Be proud to be a Clinical Laboratory Scientist and spread the news! Word of mouth is always the best mode of communication and thanks to CSI, our profession is being recognized as a vital part of the medical team. It has been my pleasure to be your president for the past two years and I have appreciated getting to know and work with this great group of people. Mark your calendars now for our Spring ASCLS-ND Meeting on April 25, 2007 in Jamestown and the Region V Meeting in Fargo on October 1-3, 2007. Have a great summer!

Kathy Jones
President ASCLS-ND



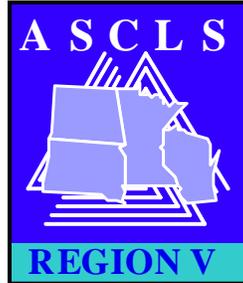
Brain Teaser...

Albert is a keen dog admirer, and over the years has had a number of dogs. He has had an Alsatian, a Dalmatian, a Poodle and a Great Dane, but not necessarily in that order. Albert had Jamie first. The Dalmatian was an adored pet before the Great Dane. Sammy, the Alsatian, was the second dog Albert loved. Whitney was housed before the Poodle and Jimmy was not a Great Dane. Can you tell each of the dogs' name and the order in which Albert had them??

See page 8 for the answer

News from Region V

*Minnesota * North Dakota * South Dakota * Wisconsin*



“ASCLS: Our Roots are Strong and Healthy”

Although I am no expert on lawns, other than cutting the grass every week, I am aware that a lawn with a strong, deep root system is better able to thrive and survive through the many weather changes we experience. Of course it is easy to have a nice green lawn when you fertilize and there is regular rainfall, the sign of a healthy lawn is when it is able to survive those periods when the precipitation is low and less predictable.



Rick Panning, Region V Director

I am happy to report that one of the identities of ASCLS, its grass roots, is extremely strong and healthy. I make this claim after completing my third year as Region V Director and having just completed by springtime tour of the Region V spring meetings. It is the opportunity for the rank and file laboratory professionals to access high quality continuing education, network with their professional peers, participate in the governance of their profession, interact with their vendor partners and socialize that sets ASCLS apart on a local level. While many organizations have strong national leadership and education, ASCLS specifically concentrates on making sure there are resources and membership benefits available locally, in the state, regionally and nationally. It allows the organization be more accessible. It also allows members to “get their feet wet” in terms of participation at a smaller scale, local level. Since not everyone is able to be involved at a national level or attend a national meeting, it is the local and state structures that set ASCLS apart.

This year my travels took me to Fargo, Eau Claire, Sioux Falls and Prior Lake for the North Dakota, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Minnesota meetings. In addition, in order to fulfill a speaking request, I was able to attend a state meeting in Oregon. These meetings have much in common – strong, diverse continuing education program; state board and membership meetings and vendor exhibits. However, I also recognize the fact that local strengths to each of these meetings and state societies.

In late April my spring travels started in Fargo North Dakota. I was impressed by the strong attendance of members, non-members and students.

Region V report continued from page 3...

In addition, an exhibit of more than 40 vendor partners was the highlight of the second day of the meeting. The society has strong active base of participation and this year had a strong, competitive election for state board positions and delegates. I had to leave the meeting after the second day of the 3-day meeting.

I continued, in the same week, by attending the Wisconsin state meeting in Eau Claire. Because of travel, I had to miss the student bowl on Tuesday evening. This year there were 11 CLS and 4 CLT teams that competed in the two divisions of the competition. This event is one hallmark of Wisconsin's meetings. The next two days were filled with strong continuing education (again) and the level of student attendance and participation was once again evident. There were more than 90 students in attendance and 76 student posters in the poster competition. There is also a silent auction to raise funds for student scholarship. Their state membership meeting is evidence of a diverse, deep level of activity in this state. Again, a busy exhibit hall showed the strong level of support by vendor partners.

This year, South Dakota is trying something different. They had a one day educational and business meeting in early May and will be holding a 3-day meeting in early October, both in Sioux Falls. Over 75 members were in attendance at the one-day meeting. Topics included learning about our "colors", regulatory issues, quality management and much more. This very active state society also was evidenced during their business meeting. I have seen this society have a significant rebirth and the level of activity and participation is palpable. Our candidate for Region V Director, Lezlee Koch, comes from South Dakota and has been responsible for the development of a great e-newsletter and a very active website.

I finished my travels back at home in mid-May. The Minnesota State Collaborative Laboratory meeting returned to Mystic Lake Casino and had record attendance (over 700 individual registrants with over 1000 registration days) and exhibitors (76 – with 15 or more turned away due to lack of space). Again a strong continuing education program with a daily keynote and 4 simultaneous breakout sessions were in evidence. Other strong points include the annual silent auction for the Children's Miracle Network, a Thursday evening Mystery Dinner Theater attended by 90 people and business meetings for each of the 8 professional organizations that participate in the meeting.

We have much to be proud of in ASCLS – at all levels – local, regional and national. It is our strength at the local and state level that gives the organization its strength and ability to thrive over the long run. I have been fortunate to experience this strength the last three years as Regional Director for Region V. I look forward to the opportunity continue to serve ASCLS as I run for President-elect. I know that I will be representing an organization with strong grass roots participation and strength.

Submitted by Rick Panning,
Region V Director

ASCLS/CLMA Legislative Symposium

Legislative Symposium Update,
Stacy Askvig, President Elect

Shannon Jongeward and I were privileged to attend the Legislative Symposium in Washington, DC; March 27 & 28, 2006. The Legislative Symposium is set up to cover issues the ASCLS would like our legislators to know about and hopefully support our positions when voting for various legislation in congress.

The issues covered this year were Personnel Shortages (asking to have HR-1175 funded to provide scholarship and loan forgiveness for laboratory professionals); Competitive Bidding (asking the Competitive Bidding not be used to control laboratory costs); and Laboratory Reimbursement (asking that no further cuts in laboratory reimbursement be made). Each issue was covered and information was presented on a sheet that you could use to give to your legislator to explain ASCLS's position. The sessions held March 27 were very informative and ASCLS's positions were explained. They even explained how to present the information to your legislator.

On March 28, we went to the "Hill" to meet with our legislators or their assistant. Shannon had set up times for our meetings by calling their offices before we left for DC. In some ways we were lucky because we only had three to meet with. In Senator Conrad's office we meet with Lindsey Henjem a legislative assistant that covers health care issues. At Senator Dorgan's office we were lucky to meet with Dorgan himself. In Representative Pomeroy's office we met with his legislative assistant. All were very cordial and seemed genuinely interested in listening to our positions and promised support.

The thought of going to DC to meet with our legislators was scary but it really was an informative and worthwhile experience.



Shannon Jongeward, Senator Byron Dorgan
and Stacy Askvig.



United States Capitol Building

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer report 10-28-05-4-22-06

Expenses

- Office supplies for The Connection-\$146.32
- Airfare-Legislative Days-\$1,339.30
- Website maintenance-\$150.00
- Gifts,awards-\$142.00
- Name change fee-Secretary of State ND-\$30.00
- Trade name registration fee (ASCLS-ND)-Secretary of State ND-\$25.00
- PACE Providership-\$250.00
- Registration-Legislative Days-\$360.00
- Food-Fall Board Meeting 2005-\$155.00
- Meals-Legislative Days-\$448.00
- Hotel-Legislative Days-\$877.09

Total expenses-\$3,922.71

Income

- Interest-\$10.98
- 2005 State Meeting-Grand Forks-\$11,165.55
- State dues-\$240.00

Total income-\$11,416.53

Balances as of 4-22-06

- Checking-\$1,418.68 (0.25%)
- 12M CD-\$7,969.47 (4.0%)-matures 12-7-06
- Money Market-\$16,668.92 (3.45%)
- 182D CD-\$4,652.62 (3.08%)-matures 5-16-06 (I will go in sometime between 5-16-06 and 5-25-06 and possibly roll this over to a 9M CD which will have an interest rate of approximately 4.50% if the Board agrees)

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Michelson-Secretary/Treasurer

Spring Board Meeting



ASCLS-ND Spring Board Meeting 4-25-06

Present: Kathy Jones, Sue Hollister, Shannon Jongeward, Terri Hintz, Kari Kempel, Stacy Askvig, Kim Peterson, Dawn Michelson, Rick Panning

Kathy called the meeting to order.

Secretary's report-Dawn handed out the minutes from the 2006 Fall Board Meeting. She stated that she did get the check for the 2005 meeting in Grand Forks and it has been deposited in the Money Market account.

Treasurer's report-Dawn handed out the Treasurer's report. The Board approved rolling over the 182D CD which matures 5-16-06 into a 9M CD, which will have approximately a 1% higher yield.

Region V report-Rick Panning-At the National Meeting in Chicago in July 2006, Lezlee Koch is running for Region V Director, Rick Panning is running for ASCLS President, John Koenig is running for Region VI Director and there is a contested race for Region IV Director. After the National Meeting, Rick wants ideas for nominees for the various national committees-he wants good Region V involvement.

CLEC and Legislative Days had record attendance.

Membership numbers are stable.

The Model Licensure Bill was updated. ASCLS and ASCP are continuing to collaborate. ASCP will officially attend the ASCLS National Meeting in 2007.

At the CLEC Meeting two topics were discussed-scope of practice and the Clinical Doctorate degree in which a CLS with two years experience can attend two more years of school and earn their doctorate. This person would be an important information resource and would collaborate with doctors, assisting them with test ordering and interpretation.

Membership Development-Stacy-There are 93 members. It was brought up how the average CLS doesn't know what ASCLS does for them. The best way to change that is word of mouth-even showing how much money is saved in meeting registration fees by being a member.

Student Representative-Kari-There were three applicants for the scholarship, none for Student Delegate. The Board voted to award them the scholarship of \$500 each and their 1YP membership will be paid. Kari will approach the three applicants to see if any are interested in the Student Delegate position. If more than one of them is interested, the Board will take a vote.

Spring Board Meeting Continued from page 7...

Leadership Development-Sue stated that there is still not much support on the national level.

Nominations-All nomination slots were filled. It was suggested that members try to think of nominees throughout the year and not just right before the meeting. It would be helpful to attach a job description of the post in the e-mail to potential nominees so they can make a more informed decision.

Budget-Dawn gave Stacy a copy of the expenses and income for the last two years so she can start her budget. Expenses for The Connection were down since it is now on the ASCLS-ND website.

Legislative Days-Stacy and Shannon-they met with our legislative aides who seemed very receptive. Competitive bidding was discussed. They seemed to realize how important rural healthcare is. Senator Conrad supports health information technology initiatives.

Meeting attendance-This year's attendance is very good, probably because it is a licensure year. An organizational fee scale was used for the facilities here in Fargo. It is a flat fee based on the number of FTEs. The State Meeting will be in Jamestown April 25. The 2007 Region V will either be in September at the Holiday Inn or in October at the Ramada Inn.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Michelson Secretary/Treasurer

DID YOU KNOW....

...that you can now read **The Connection** on-line? By going to our website at www.asclsnd.org and clicking on the newsletter link, you will be able to access current and past issues of **The Connection**. To be notified of upcoming issues, please send me an email at shannon@gra.midco.net with your current email address

Answer to the Brain Teaser...

Albert had Jamie the Dalmatian first. Then he had Sammy the Alsatian, Whitney the Great Dane and finally Jimmy the Poodle.

Spring Business Meeting



ASCLS-ND Spring Business Meeting 4-25-06

Present: Rick Panning, Sue Hollister, Kim Peterson, Margie Vossler, Dawn Michelson, Kari Kempel, Robin Brisky, Marie Dickey, Kimberly Larson, Leola Olson, Pam Fitzgerald, Melissa Kraft, Shannon Jongeward, Terri Hintz, Jessica Irion, Jeanette Festvog, Mary Belanus, Mary Coleman, Elaine Sommers, Stacy Askvig, Jane Voss, Liann Anderson, Linda Gylland, Jessica Schmitz, Kathy Jones, Tish Elliot

Kathy called the meeting to order.

Jane introduced the candidates and collected the ballots.

Dawn gave the Secretary and Treasurer Reports.

Budget-Stacy proposed the budget and it was approved. Kathy noted the items she is bringing for the silent auction at the National Meeting in Chicago were all donated.

Legislative and Region V update-Rick Panning-

- Legislative days had 148 attendees. Issues included competitive bidding, reimbursement and personnel shortage. It was a group effort between ASCLS, CLMA and ASCP.
- CLEC-Also had record attendance-475. There were a lot of new young educators present. The next CLEC meeting is in Lexington, KY in 2007
- The Clinical Doctorate Task Force will publish a paper stating the importance getting a Clinical Doctorate. Members from ASCLS and ASCP are on the task force. Requirements for a Clinical Doctorate-A broad education, NCA or ASCP certification, standards set by NAACLS.
- Practice levels and education needed for Clinical Lab Personnel. A 2005 task force with members from ASCLS, CLMA, ASCP and AMT met. They searched a lot of literature on what other professions do. CLEC and CLMA did a pilot focus group.
- ASCLS and ASCP collaboration-leadership has met several times. Topics discussed were the Model Licensure Bill, ASCP and the BOR/NCA having one certification exam, Clinical Doctorate Degree, career recruitment and guidelines for state meetings. ASCP will officially attend the 2007 National Meeting-all revenues will go to ASCLS.
- The Model Licensure Bill was accepted by the BOD of ASCLS and ASCP
- A Minnesota Licensure position paper was approved by the BOD 3-2006 and has been sent to the Legislature.
- Membership is stable. There has been an increase in 1YP and PF1 and decrease in PF2.

Spring Business Meeting continued from page 9...

Finances-In the black for 3rd year in a row due to the CLEC and Legislative Symposium meetings. A surplus of \$30,000 is predicted. The board approved hiring an assistant for Elissa Passiment.

1. Miscellaneous-The Consumer webpage is getting about 150 questions/day. They are seeing an increase in calls from doctors. A new brochure compiled by the Young Professionals Committee called "ASCLS for Dummies" will be given to new ASCLS members.
2. Lezlee Koch is running for Region V Director, John Koenig is running for Region VI Director, there is a contested race for Region IV Director and Rick Panning is running for ASCLS President. Rick wants good Region V representation in the various committees.
3. Rick gave out the Region V Omicron Sigma Award to Stacy Askvig and Kathy Jones.

Membership update-There are 93 members, 2 new members were recruited. If we have over 100 members we can send a second delegate to the National Meeting.

Years of Service Awards were given out by Stacy.

The Connection-Shannon is doing a great job! It will be submitted for an award on the national level. It will continue to be published 3 times/year.

1YP-No opposition to a bylaw change wherein the Student Delegate will succeed to a 1YP director position and serve a term of 1 year.

Scholarships-There were 3 applicants-it was decided at the Board Meeting to award each applicant \$500. Kari presented the checks and the certificates.

State Omicron Sigma Award-Kathy presented to Delilah Rosecrans, Sue Hollister, Dawn Michelson, Jane Voss, Heidi Brosius, Sandra Matthey and Lori Martell.

Key to the Future Award-Kathy presented to Kari Kempel and Terri Hintz.

Member of the Year Award-Sue presented to Shannon Jongeward.

Election results-Delegate-Liann Anderson, Board Member-Shannon Jongeward, Nominations chair-Robin Brisky, Secretary/Treasurer-Sue Hollister, President-Elect-Dawn Michelson

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Michelson Secretary/Treasurer

Spring Meeting Highlights



Dr. Chris Frings, clinical professor at the University of Alabama, and speaking professional was the Keynote speaker at this year's spring meeting.



Mary Belanus and Sheila Piper pose for a picture with Dennis Ernst. Ernst is the director at the Center for Phlebotomy Education in Indiana, and was a speaker at this year's spring meeting.

Member of the Year

At this year's state meeting I was given a big surprise when I was named the member of the year for ASCLS-ND. I am very honored to be given this award. I would like to thank all of those who have helped me along the way, especially Sue Hollister and Kathy Jones. I owe them a big thanks for all of the support and inspiration they have given me. Thanks again.

Shannon Jongeward, The Connection Editor

STUDENT REP NEWS

The year has sure gone by fast! I can't believe my term as ASCLS-ND Student Representative has come to an end. It sure has been a great experience. At this time a year ago I was getting excited for my trip to Orlando, Florida to attend the National ASCLS 2005 Annual Meeting. In April I attended the ASCLS-ND Spring Meeting here in Fargo. It was a great time and there were many interesting sessions. We voted on adding the First Year Professional Director to the Board of Directors. After serving as the Student Representative for a year, he or she will succeed to the position of First Year Professional Director. This person will also represent ASCLS-ND at Legislative Days in Washington DC. So I am now going to serve as the First Year Professional Director and am looking forward to staying involved in ASCLS-ND.

We had three applicants for the ASCLS-ND scholarship this year. They include Kimberly Larson, Emily Tron, and Mindy Pulkrabek. The board voted to award the scholarship to all three applicants. We also decided to pay for the scholarship recipients ASCLS First Year Professional membership to try to keep these members interested and active in ASCLS-ND. Congratulations to these three recipients.

Since my term as ASCLS-ND Student Representative has come to an end it is time to introduce our new ASCLS-ND Student Representative, Kimberly Larson. Kimberly is from Euclid, Mn and graduated from Crookston Central High School in 1996. In 1998 she graduated from Northwest Technical College in Bemidji with a Legal Administrative Secretary AAS degree. Kimberly then worked as a legal secretary for a law firm in Fargo for 3 years. In 2001, she also worked part-time in MeritCare Client Services as a Lab Tech Assistant and decided to pursue a career in Clinical Laboratory Science. She attended college at NDSU and graduated from the MeritCare School of Clinical Laboratory Science in 2006. Kimberly is now the Laboratory Manager in Hillsboro, ND and is loving it! Kimberly will be getting married on October 7, 2006. She will represent North Dakota CLS students at the ASCLS 2006 Annual Meeting in Chicago. I know she will be a great student rep!

Submitted by Kari Kempel, ASCLS-ND Student Rep