



**ASCLS-Minnesota
Winter Board Meeting**
Saturday, January 22nd, 2011
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
CentraCare Health Plaza
Saint Cloud, MN

Present: Kristi Enerson, Bobbi Kochevar, Claudine Fasching, Cindy Johnson, Tom Massmann, Jessica Peters, Jean Bauer, Deb Rodahl, Sharon Pendergrass, Renee Burke, Christine Hinz, Robin Spencer, Vickie Larson, Trish Roerhl, Charlotte Romain, Paula Vagnone

Present via Conference Call: Carol McCoy, Sue Iddings, KauChee Vang, Karen Renuad, Dan Olson

Call to Order and Introductions: Kristi Enerson, ASCLS-MN President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and introductions of ASCLS-MN members present were made.

Secretary's Report: Renee Burke presented
Copies of the minutes from the ASCLS-MN October 2nd, 2010, Fall Board meeting were available for board members to review. The date to approve the bylaw change was changed from 2011 to 2012. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report and Budget Report, Finance Committee: Vickie Larson presented

- Checking Balance: \$1451.54
- Savings Balance: \$3889.18 interest rate 0.05%
- Wells Fargo Investment Account: \$19,956.53
 - motion made and approved to move this money to a "High Yield Savings" account at an interest rate of 0.60% providing the total remains at \$25,000 or greater.
 - If the total goes below this amount, Vickie will switch the account to a "Market Rate Savings" which will have an interest of 0.15%.
- Licensure contributions are non-taxable. A written statement needs to be given to those people donating to licensure to inform them that this is a non-taxable deduction.
- The amount of money needed to continue with the licensure bill is approximately \$7000.
- The budget was approved at this time.

Licensure Update – Rick sent a report and Cindy facilitated the discussion

- Slight changes have been made to the bill language, such as a few regulatory language changes, which do not change the intent of the bill.
- Bill has gone through the reviser's office process and is ready to be reintroduced in the new session.
- Vic has met or will meet with the following legislators:
 - Rep. Abler – supportive but declined to be an author. Vic will ask him to be a co-author.

- Rep. Gottwalt is considering being the chief author. If he declines, Rick will ask him to be a co-author. The people in St. Cloud need to contact him and urge him to be an author or at the very least support the bill.
 - Rep. Lohmer is open to the legislation.
 - Rep. Franzon is considering being our chief author
 - Rep. Fritz (Faribault) will be a co-author again
 - Rep. Erin Murphy will be a co-author instead of chief author
 - Rep. Kieffer is a new house member and is not on the Health committee. She declined to co-author.
 - Sen Fischback (Paynesville) is a strong supporter but declined to be our chief author. Rick thinks he can get her to be a co-author. The ASCLS contacts in the area should ask her directly to carry our bill.
 - Sen. Benson is open to the bill and is considering authoring it.
 - Sen. Gimse (Wilmar) declined to be an author and told Rick that the laboratory personnel from the clinics in his district (not Rice Hospital) are opposed to the bill (Junell Peterson confirmed this to Rick).
 - Sen. Newman is opposed to any more government licensing.
 - Sen Nienow is considering authoring our bill.
 - All of these legislators have received a copy of the bill.
- The biggest issue is trying to find a chief author for the bill. Rick and Kathy will be checking with coalition members to see if anyone has a personal relationship with any republican legislator which could be persuaded to be the chief officer.
 - We are paid up with the lobbyist through January 2011 and need to get through May 2011
 - Vickie said there is enough in savings support this.
 - ASCP will donate about \$2000
 - We are starting from scratch in the legislature and can probably make the same committee approval process in the Senate as we did before, however, the house is a big unknown. One change is there is one less committee to go through as the licensure subcommittee no longer exists.
 - Need people to contact their republican representatives and senators and ask for support.
 - The board moved to continue to support the licensure bill at this time and take guidance from Rick and Kathy as to when we may need to discontinue due to financial reasons. The motion was approved.

Membership Development – Bobbi Kochevar , Sue Iddings, and KauChee Vang presented

- Current membership is at 421 as of 1/16/2011
 - COL = 14
 - EM1 = 9
 - EM2 = 5
 - FYP = 25
 - PF1 = 163
 - PF2 = 132
 - STU = 73

- Retention -
 - Bobbi sent out a list of lapse members. She has asked that the board members take a look at this list and try and reach out to people who have not yet renewed.
 - Bobbie will try and get the membership group together every couple of months.
- Student Membership –
 - KauChee and Yukiko have been working on the students.
 - Yukiko has been sending a thank you to new FYP as well as an email once a month.
 - KauChee – has been sending emails to the student members once a month members to keep them updated on events. She also calls those members who do not have emails. In addition, KauChee has been using facebook as another way to inform members.
- There was a discussion about using the Scientific assembly to mentor the area directors. This conversation included the idea of putting the area director information on the website and some instructions on how to put together a SA event. Claudine is going to work with Paula on this. It as also discussed to have a group meeting with the past SA area directors to share best practices. This meeting could possibly take place at the CLC Meeting. Christine is going to head up this group. The idea is to have the scientific assembly work with area directors to get help them find speakers for their scientific assembly continuing education events.

President's Report – Kristi Enerson presented

- Science museum - Kristi was asked if there would be interest in being part of the Science Museum's Kitty Anderson Youth Science Center (KAYSC) Career Fair. They are looking for someone to present from the laboratory field. Details including the date have not yet been sent. Kristi did discuss this with the Health Force Minnesota laboratory group and they expressed interest in pursuing this.
- The following positions are open at the national level: President-Elect, Region Directors for Regions II, IX and X, Judicial Committee and 5 people for the Nominations Committee.

Nominations Committee:

Since the requirements for the Nominations Committee were revised by the organization last year there are 5 positions for the Nominations Committee

- 2 individuals for 3 year terms
- 1 individual for a 2 year term
- 2 individuals for 1 year terms.

All of the members of the Nominations Committee are at large nominations and do not have regional designations. These individuals will be eligible to serve a second term of three years. This election is designed to stagger the terms for the committee members. To serve on the Nominations Committee, an ASCLS member must have served on the ASCLS Board of Directors or been on an ASCLS national committee member such as serving on the ASCLS Bylaws, Professional Development or Nominations Committee. Any member meeting the requirements for an office may self-nominate for the positions. Members can and are encouraged to nominate candidates for all open positions. The Nominations Committee requests that all interested members consider nomination for the above open positions. We would like to have as many qualified candidates for each position on the ballot as possible. Please contact Deb Rodahl if interested.

Bylaws Update - Deb Rodahl presented

- Deb presented a bylaw change proposal of adding the position of New Professional to the delegate list representing Minnesota at the House of Delegates to Article XI which was put together by JoAnn Nickles.
 - Article XI, section G will now read: A new professional delegate will be the current First Year Professional position from the ASCLS MN board. In addition and alternate shall be chosen each year by the president from the membership.
 - A motion was approved to accept the change.
- There was also a discussion of having an official board position for the First Year Professional. It was agreed that there was no interest in this at this time. No motion was made and the subject was dropped.

Region V Symposium – Deb and Trish

- Rochester meeting had a profit of \$10,696.54. Minnesota received \$1604.48 as our share of the meeting profits.
- October 7-8, 2011 – Fargo, ND – committee members have been selected
- 2012-2014 - Arrowood Resort, Alexandria

ASCLS-MN Region V and National Update

- ASCLS will team with Advance to sell National Laboratory week items which are available for purchase
- ASCLS will offer 6 free CE as part of membership renewals
- Working on linking CE organizer with Board of Certification (BOC)
- ASCLS National finished with \$475, 000
- Looking at putting together a management symposium for next year
- A student must be a student on August 1st to qualify to be a student forum representative

Area Director's Report

- SE Area – Lori Bjerkli has ideas for speakers and locations but nothing put together yet.
- SW, WC Areas – Robin Spencer Sr. Director, Jenny Hoffman-Field, Jr. Director – First event in February 10th at Lakeland Medical Center
- NW Area – Linda Welk and Hannah Roder, Sr. Director. They are planning a CE event
- April 18th in Bemidji.
- NE Area – Linda Perry and Blake Thibodaux - no report
- Central Area – Karen Renaud and Eric Grahek – They held a CE event in October which was very successful. Planning one more event for Feb/March
- Metro Area – Claudine Fasching presenting and Charlotte Romain – Student night in October, had quite a few sign up for member ship. Kick off was well attended. Jan workshop Jan 29th at Allina. March 3rd at St. Joseph's. April 5th at Fairview Ridges in Burnsville.
- Student Forum/First Year Professional – KauChee Vang presented – up to 25 student facebook friends.

Government Affairs – ASCLS Minnesota – Sharon Pendergrass presented

- Legislative Symposium 2011 will be held in Washington D.C. on March 21-22, 2011.

- The registration form has been posted on the ASCLS website. Please contact Sharon at sharon.pendergrass@state.mn.us if there are any questions about filling it out.
- Sharon will not be able to attend the 2011 Legislative Symposium.
- Sharon will start setting up appointments so she needs to know who will be attending and what districts they live in or their representatives names. Right now, there are 8 people planning on attending.

Government Affairs – ASCLS Region V/ National – Cindy Johnson presented

- HR 4994, Physician Payment Fix:
 - On December 9, 2010, Congress voted to approve the Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act. This act delays until January 2010 the 25% Medicare payment cut for physicians and extends several expiring hospital-related payment provisions. If the 25% Medicare payment cut had gone into effect, physicians were saying they would discontinue seeing patients on Medicare which could have a devastating outcome to our population over 65.
- Modernizing of Laboratory Fee Schedule:
 - Advocacy for the proposed negotiated rulemaking process for a revised clinical laboratory fee schedule will be pursued when the new 112th Congress convenes on January 3rd, 2011. There will be an opportunity for ASCLS members to engage their members of Congress which sit on the following three congressional committees: Senate Committee on Finance, House Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Energy and Commerce which impact this advocacy. Our goal will be to solicit sponsors for the bill prior to the 2011 Legislative Symposium.
- Laboratory Developed Tests:
 - Elissa Passiment and Rick Panning attended the FDA Open Meeting sponsored by ASCLS and other laboratory organizations held on November 22nd in Washington D.C. We are now waiting to see the FDA's proposed guidelines on this topic.
- Signature Requirements for the Test Requisitions and Laboratory Orders:
 - To simplify matters CMS proposes to require a physician's or non-physician professional's signature on requisitions for clinical laboratory tests paid on the basis of the Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule. Signatures would be required on both orders and requisitions, thus eliminating the confusion over exactly when they are required.
 - As of December 16th, 2010, CMS has agreed to delay implementation of this requirement until April 1, 2011. In a statement posted on its Web site, CMS said that because many physicians, non-physician practitioners, and clinical laboratories may not be aware of or understand the policy. It will focus in the first calendar quarter of 2011 on developing educational and outreach tools to educate those affected.
- The ASCLS Government Affairs Committee (GAC) has developed a strategic plan for 2010-2011. As part of the plan, Rick (GAC Chair) and Cindy (GAC vice-chair) will be meeting with leaders from five states to discuss the most effective ways to disseminate information about legislative and regulatory issues to our members. Christine Hinz (ASCLS-MN vice president) has volunteered to participate in this discussion that will occur sometime in February.

Clinical Laboratory Collaborative Updates - Cindy Johnson presented

- The CLC 2011 Meeting will be held in Duluth (DECC) on April 25-27.
 - The conference will start at noon and a box lunch will be provided.
 - The Board meeting will be on Monday at 10 am.
 - The Membership meeting will be on Tuesday during lunch.
 - A wide variety of Speakers have been set.
 - Deb and Bobbie will be giving keynote presentations.
 - Student Day will be on Tuesday.
 - The social will be on Tuesday night at the Great Lakes Aquarium.
 - The committee is still signing up vendors. A list of vendors who have not responded was passed out to the board members in an effort to try and contact these vendors.
 - There was a discussion about the Silent Auction at the CLC. Bobbi was going to contact the CLC committee about the Silent Auction. The Board decided it would be best to split the money from the Silent Auction between CMN and scholarships.
- The CLC 2012 Meeting will be held in the Twin Cities on April 25-27 will be at Mystic Lake. A contract has been signed. Jean Bauer will be the ASCLS co-chair (Thank you Jean).
- The CLC 2013 Meeting has been scheduled to be held at St. Cloud on April 24-26. A contract has been signed for the St. Cloud Civic Center already.

ASCLS-MN Web Site and Newsletter – Paula Vagnone presented

- Paula asked that the SA directors please make sure their events get on to the website. Email Lori Bjerklie and she will put them on the calendar.
- Next newsletter is scheduled for March.

Education Committee – Carol McCoy presented

- Scholarship awards for MLS/M and MLT students
 - She has almost \$900 and would like to have \$1000 to split into two \$500 scholarships.
 - Other sources of funds are not definite. Possibly \$500 from MN Pathologists and uncertain if there will be funds from Claussen Fund
- Student Participation in CLC
 - Request to CLC committee for Educators and Student day to be Tuesday, April 26th, 2011.
 - Posters will be on display by students.
 - Request \$5/participant to cover cost of poster and to award \$25, \$15, \$10 in each of 3 categories
- Hot Topics in Education
 - Request has been made to CLC planning committee to have a Hot Topics in Education session on Tuesday, April 26th.
- Educators breakfast at CLC
 - Annual meeting and breakfast scheduled at CLC for Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Scientific Assembly -

- Scientific Assembly Group Chair – Jeremy Angell – Area directors need to utilize SA if need speakers.
- Laboratory Administration – Craig Ward
- Microbiology – Roxanne Gavin
- Education – Carol McCoy
- Generalist/Public Health – Paula Vagnone

- Biochemistry/Urinalysis – Chris Fitzgerald
- Hematology/Coagulation – Al Quigley
- Industry – Jeremy Jensen
- Immuno/Immunoematology – Renee Burke
- POC/Phlebotomy – Jeremy Angell
- Molecular Diagnostics – Charlotte Romain
- Consultant - Vacant
- Reg Affairs/QM – Vacant

Laboratory Professional Updates:

No Updates to report

New Business

Paula received first place for editor of the e-newsletter at the national meeting

Meeting Adjourned:

A motion was approved to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Renee Burke, Secretary