



ASCLS-Minnesota
Winter Board Meeting
Saturday, February 7, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
HealthEast Woodwinds Hospital, Woodbury, MN

Present: Jessica Peters, Renee Burke, Dan Olson, Tom Massman, Sharon Pendergrass, Kathy Hanson, Rick Panning, Carol McCoy, Paula Snippes, Deb Rodahl, Bobbi Kochevar, Jo Ann Nickles, Vicki Larson, and Kristi Enerson

Conferenced: Lois Anderson, Nancy Barns, Trish Roehrl, Cindy Johnson, Denise Miller, and Steve Mattson

Call to Order and Introductions: Meeting called to order by Jo Ann Nickles, ASCLS-MN President, at 9:00 am. Members present introduced themselves.

Clarification of Voting Membership/Privileges: JoAnn Nickles

- Voting members include: President, Past President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Area Senior Directors. Area Junior Directors will be granted voting privileges in the absence of the Senior Director
- Non-Voting members include the Area Junior Directors, Chairs of all committees including Scientific Assembly

Secretary's Report: Kristi Enerson

- Minutes from the October Board Meeting were reviewed. Two changes to the minutes include a title change for the Technical II Task Force to Levels of Practice Task Force and correction that Carol McCoy is the chair of the Education Committee.
- Motion to accept the minutes with these changes was made and seconded.

Treasurer report – Vicki Larson

- Copies of the current budget were handed out. Checking balance \$19,046.43. Savings balance \$12,700.43.
- A CD for \$30,000 that matures on 8/27/10 and another for \$20,000 that matures on 3/22/09.
- \$1,000 under board expense is the donation of books for Galveston.
- Annual \$75 dollar expense for the CE organizer will be allocated as Collaborative Meeting expense.
- Vicki has requested that the CLC expense vouchers be submitted to her by June 1st.
- Carol McCoy stated that we will probably not be seeing any Scholarship funds from the Claussen fund.
- Discussion that we no longer have a bulk mail permit. This has been handled through the printers over the last several years.
- A motion to approve the finance report was made and seconded. Motion passed.

President's report: Jo Ann Nickles

- Region V Meeting: Tom and Jo Ann reported that we are looking at restructuring the Region V meeting. Starting in 2010 they are looking at having an annual meeting that would rotate between Rochester and Fargo with event planning participation from all states in region V. The plan would be to have 1 ½ day event. The region V meeting in October 14-16, 2009 is currently planned to be held in Watertown, SD. Profit
- Other Region V Updates:
 - Operations manual being drafted.

- Leg. Symposium in March
- Spring membership recruitment programs
- ASCLS guide is being revised.
- High School Programs – Arlington High School is focusing on science and healthcare and may be an opportunity to connect with students. The group discussed many schools that have health science classes that may or may not be touring through the laboratory currently.
- Strategic Plan – A group (Jo Ann N., Trish R., Rick P., Lois G., Bobbi K., Paula S.) met to discuss and revise the strategic plan. Jo Ann reviewed the revised strategic plan. Modifications are listed below.
 - Membership: The group would like to focus specifically on student retention as members. Rick will work on the rewording of this section to be more specific to meet this goal. The group also felt that a committee should be working on this.
 - Leadership: Modify the actions to include nominating and supporting a member to the Leadership Academy. Include the budget committee in the responsible party section.
 - Revenue: Modify responsible parties to be only Education Committee and Scholarship Committee.
 - Communications: Modify to develop a process to maintain current e-mail address list. Credit card payment removed from strategic plan. Add a comment to include developing a process to identify membership without e-mail access. Kathy Hanson volunteered to mail out paper copies to members who do not have e-mail access.
 - Charity: Modify issue to be: “increase the visibility of the profession” and move charitable donations into the action section. Add HOSA to the list. The group discussed the need for a committee to focus on area school education/tours. The group also discussed the idea of tracking efforts on our website. Dan O. agreed to initiate these efforts. Participate in and develop and develop a process to document community activities
 - Advocacy: change legislative effort to licensure effort.
 - Education: Modify to be “provide and promote educational opportunities for all clinical laboratory science professionals and students.”

The revised strategic plan will be distributed to the committees identified as responsible parties to use. A recommendation was made to put the plan on the website and write an article highlighting the plan in the newsletter.

- Jo Ann asked that the committee chairs update their committee list and submit changes to Julie Friedhoff to be posted on the website.

Leadership Development: Deb Rodahl

- Accepting applications now for the Leadership Academy. There are 10 applicants accepted each year. The intent is for each state to evaluate leadership within the state. Students are not encouraged to apply due to the need for experience both within the profession and ASCLS. The question would be how ASCLS assists with funding for this person. ASCLS can budget it for it next fiscal year. This year’s national meeting will be the only event that is not currently budgeted for. Jo Ann will make an announcement to the membership with a link to the website with more information.
- Mentorship Training Program: There are three PowerPoint presentation modules being completed to review and take a quiz and will be made available on the website. They would like to reintroduce the mentoring program nationally that includes an application process for people who would like to be mentored.

Licensure Update: Rick Panning reported.

- Coalition has worked to update the bill for introduction in the 2009 legislative session
 - Certification for CMAs required
 - Licensure or CMA certification required for moderately complex testing

- Continue to work with Lobbyist Vic Moore to meet with legislative sponsors/potential sponsors
- December 22, 2009: CAP changed their position regarding personnel licensure of laboratory personnel.
 - 10 criteria published that a state bill must meet for CAP to support/not oppose a bill
 - Minnesota bill reviewed and changes made to match the criteria
 - Met with MSP to make appropriate bill changes
 - Coalition voted to exclude cytology and histology from bill
- Licensure survey developed to circulate to laboratory professionals to gauge level of support (see PowerPoint presentation). 1074 responses received (out of a total of 3000-6000 practitioners in Minnesota).
- Have worked with Curt Hanson from Mayo Clinic to make changes in the bill to gain Mayo support. We have a meeting on Tuesday, February 10 to hopefully finalize the language.
- MSP will officially be neutral “without any opposition to the bill”. We will continue to work toward a level of support.
- Met with MHA in January. They hope to be able to not oppose our bill (similar to official position in 2008). The hospitals main concern is about anything that could raise costs. Told us they need to hear from hospitals in support. All need to be heard from, but especially Fairview, Mayo, Allina, and HealthEast.
 - HealthEast: met with on February 4
 - Allina: will not oppose bill (a lab issue)
 - Mayo: In process
 - Fairview: In process
- Hope to finalize language and send to the Reviser in the House of Representatives this week.
- Will need to develop an advocacy effort. ASCP has offered us to use their CapWiz, web-based subscription to contact Senators and Representatives.
- Once bill is introduced and we know committee timing, we will schedule a Legislative Day at the Capitol.

Student Forum: No update:

Board Member Reports:

- South East: Lois Anderson reported that they had a student mixer in November with 12 students that showed up. Working on a formal seminar in March or April.
- Southwest: No update.
- West Central: No update.
- Northwest: No update.
- Northeast: Nancy/Steve reported that the Northeast area along with SMDC Health System and Mayo Medical Laboratories hosted a continuing education program, January 8, presented by Ravinder J. Shigh, Ph.D., Consultant, Laboratory Medicine, Division of Endocrine Laboratory, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, on Vitamin D: Analytical and Clinical Conundrums. Discussed were the various methodologies for vitamin D testing and their limitations; Vitamin D deficiency in the context of recent recommendations; and clinical cases highlighting rickets in the western world. P.A.C.E. credit was offered for the program. There was an excellent turnout of healthcare professionals; not only laboratory professionals, but also pharmacists, and physicians as well. A program is being planned on Platelet Function Analysis to be presented by Colleen Butler, Hemostasis Specialist, Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, at Virginia Regional Medical Center, Virginia, MN. We are looking at the week of March 16 to host the program and specifics will follow.

- Central: Trish reported on the Oct. 28th Differential Review and Subcutaneous Bilirubin event with more than 40 in attendance. March 23rd speaker Advances of Cardiac Markers. They will have a focus on how to increase membership in our area and are interested in student events.
- Metro: The season was started with a very successful “Student Night” which was held at Argosy University back in October. Students from a number of CLT/CLS schools joined us, not only for an evening of pizza, but also to hear Carol McCoy discuss the scholarships which are available to them, Diane Peterson about ASCLS student membership and Mike McDonald from Abbott Diagnostics share “Labs are Vital”. Jill Romann, from Regina Medical Center finished the evening out with a presentation on “Medicolegal Death Investigation 101”. The ASCLS “Kickoff” in November was held at the VA Medical Center. It was very exciting to see the number of participants come to hear Dr. Brian Berg from the VA Medical Center and Mary Shagral from Cellestis talk about HPV and QuantiFERON TB GOLD. The next event will be the “Back to Basics” Workshop which will be held on Saturday, January 31 at Allina Commons-Midtown, Minneapolis in the Minnesota Room from 7:45-12:00. The workshop will begin with Dr. Johns McClure giving a presentation titled “Really, Really, Scary Hematology Problems – How to Stay out of Trouble in the Middle of the Night”. Tina Scott will then give a presentation on the “Superbug” also known as MRSA. Nikki Jacobs will finish the morning with a presentation on “Quality Control – The Big Picture”. March and April sessions are also planned. The March session will be at HealthEast – Midway in St. Paul. There will be two presentations that evening on Coagulation and Vitamin D. The April session will be held at Argosy University. The speakers for this program are yet to be determined. A thank you goes out to the Metro planning committee as well as our many sponsors.

Scientific Assembly Committee

- Jo Ann has requested this committee to get together to discuss opportunities for increased communication and direction. The committee is designed to be resources for the Senior and Junior Area Directors for speakers. The Committee Chairs are also to be resources for professional questions from the membership and to provide articles for the newsletter. Cindy Johnson volunteered to assist with this committee in anyway possible. Cindy will call together a conference call of that group to assist them.

Communication committee: Paula presented.

- eLABorate – It is time again to get another newsletter out. Paula will be sending out an e-mail shortly to solicit articles including region updates. A call to nominations needs to go out prior to the CLC meeting.
- They continue to work on website updates.

Clinical Laboratory Collaborative Updates

- Spring 2009, Rochester – May 4-6, 2009. “Up and Away, CLC Moving to New Heights” Tom reported that the committee is looking at moving forward with on-line registration and credit card payments. The fee per transaction for credit card payments will be rolled into the meeting registration fee. A group will get together to discuss the options for both the on-line registration and credit card payment software. The spring board meeting will be held on Sunday, May 3rd at 5:00 p.m. The membership meeting will be on Tuesday, May 5th at noon.
- Spring 2010, Twin Cities – Three sites are currently being evaluated by Jillene.

Membership Committee: Jo Ann presented for Diane Peterson.

- Board members were asked to contact lapsed members in fall of 2008.
- Membership sent out lapsed member reminder letters in the fall of 2008.
- A new list of lapsed members was e-mailed to the board last week.
- Currently we are down 15 members from our previously stable membership numbers in the 440’s.
- Concerns exists nation wide about the impact of the economy and the aging laboratorians and their willingness to renew in the fall.

- I ask that the state leadership promote membership at all opportunities with co-workers and students.
- Minnesota has a current membership of 430 as of 1/27/09.
- National efforts include that on Thursday, January 29, 2009 regional Membership Services Committee will meet via conference call to discuss membership strategies as they apply to the member survey conducted two years ago. Norma Bivona National chair is tasked with implementing these strategies for this current membership year.
- The group discussed opportunities for Emeritus membership for some. The state society has to nominate individuals to the emeritus status. Kathy Hanson will research qualification criteria.
- Recruitment materials are available on the website.

Government Affairs: Sharon Pendergrass, Denise Miller and Cindy Johnson reported.

- Medicare Physician Fees to Rise 1.1% in 2009: Congress authorized the fee hike schedule through 2009. Had lawmakers not intervened, physician payments were due to be cut by 15.1% under the statutory update formula. Pathologists and others paid under the fee schedule also can receive an incentive payment of 2 % of total allowed charges for successfully participating in the 2009 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). The PQRI quality measures included pathology protocols for breast and colorectal cancer. The final rule implements new financial incentives Congress authorized for physicians who adopt e-prescribing. Those who use qualified electronic prescribing systems to send prescriptions to pharmacies can earn an incentive payment of 2% of their total Medicare allowed charges during 2009. Further, the rule implements the congressionally mandated 1% increase in the ESRD (end-stage renal disease) composite rate and establishes a site-neutral base composite rate for both hospital and independent dialysis.
- CAP Reconsiders Opposition of State Licensing Legislation: The College of American Pathologists has announced that it will no longer automatically oppose laboratory personnel licensure legislation introduced at the state level. The organization also outlined model criteria that will guide its decisions on whether to support or oppose such legislation. One of the most powerful lobbying forces on Capital Hill in the pathology and laboratory medicine field, CAP has been critical of the legislative language in many state licensure bills, stating they would exacerbate workforce shortages by eliminating on-the-job training as a pathway to employment, create conflict within the laboratory over scope of work between physicians and non-physicians, and create an overly complex and regimented personnel classification scheme that would potentially undermine the authority of the laboratory director to select the most appropriate staffing for their laboratory. While CAP is concerned that overly stringent licensure requirement will exacerbate the critical shortage of qualified laboratory personnel, licensure proponents are concerned that laboratories will fail to attract high quality professionals if the requirements for employment are not stringent enough. “Ultimately, licensure may have little to do with the personnel shortage issue, so we shouldn’t let it distract us from working together to find a solution,” said a CAP statement.
- New Advance Beneficiary Notice of Non-coverage (ABN): The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Sept. 5 issued final instructions on the new single ABN that clinical laboratories and other providers billing Part B must use by no later than March 1, 2009. The ABN alerts beneficiaries that Medicare is not likely to cover a particular item or service and that they are financially liable if the claim is denied. Without a validly executed ABN, the provider cannot bill the beneficiary when a claim is denied. CMS had intended to make use of the new ABN mandatory as of Sept. 1 of this year, but final instructions were not completed in time.
- Legislative Symposium 2009: March 23-24, 2009 in Washington, D.C. Issue briefings and seminars include Medicare Reimbursement, Personnel Shortage, Fee Schedule Changes, and Title VII and Title VIII funding. Current known attendees will include: Bobbi K., Sharon P., Deb R., Rick P., Cindy J., Carol M.

Education Committee: Carol McCoy

- Educator's breakfast will be at 7:00 on May 4th, 2009 at the CLC in Rochester. May 4th will also be designated Student Day. In addition, to the scientific sessions, the students will have specific activities designed for them. There will be a Jeopardy contest and Student Poster competition.
- The poster competition is being established to obtain more student participation at the meeting. Students can submit abstracts for posters in the areas of research, case studies or literature review. Each participant will receive \$5 to defray the cost of the 3-fold poster. Winners in each category will be awarded \$25 for first place, \$20 for second, and \$15 for third place. For the first year, a large number of posters are not anticipated.
- Information has been sent out for scholarships CLS applications are due by March 15th and CLT applications are due May 15th.
- Request for Action – Discussion from the Board as to the source of funding. The contest is open to NAACLS accredited CLS and CLT programs, should ASCLS-MN fund the contest or should it be included in the CLC costs. The board decided that it should go into the CLC costs.

Political Action Committee (PAC): No Update.

Other Business:

- Nominations Committee - Jillene Collins heads the committee to seek nominations.
 1. President Elect
 2. Secretary
 3. Treasurer
 4. Junior Directors
 5. Delegates (8 – dependant on membership numbers)
 6. Student Forum – this is an appointed position vs. an elected position
 7. First Year Professional - the Student forum position moves into the FYP or is appointed.
- Deb Rodahl is a candidate for region V President Elect.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5th, 2009 at the CLC in Rochester.

Adjournment: Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, motion was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristi Enerson, Secretary