



e-LABorate is the official quarterly electronic newsletter of the
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Minnesota

November 5, 2010



"A Message from Your New President"

~ *Kristi Enerson, ASCLS-MN President*

Hello. My name is Kristi Enerson. Effective August 1st, I have the pleasure of being your ASCLS-MN President. You have seen several e-mails from me over the past few months, but I want to take a little time to talk to you about two... Issues...

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Minnesota Laboratory Licensure – Next Steps

~ *Kathy Hansen, Co-Chair MN Laboratory Licensure*

With only a few days to go before election day as this is written, the licensure coalition is busy preparing for the 2011 legislative session and re-introduction of the laboratory licensure bill.

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"The ASCLS National Meeting – Diving Right In!"

~ *Charlotte Romain, Metro Area Jr. Director Leadership Academy Member*

In July I had the opportunity to attend my first National Meeting. The meeting was in Anaheim (much to my children's chagrin) and I had anticipated a hot and steamy southern California week in July, but...

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2010 ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium – Rochester, Minnesota

~ *JoAnn Nickles, Region V Symposium planning committee*

WOW! Great start for the new format! The first Region V Symposium with the new format was held at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester October 7th and 8th.

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A Student's Perspective on the 78th ASCLS Annual Meeting

~ *KauChee Vang, ASCLS-MN Student Forum Chair*

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Student Forum Update – Students "friend" Facebook....

~ *KauChee Vang, ASCLS-MN Student Forum Chair*

Before I begin, I want to thank all students who have renewed or became new members of ASCLS-Minnesota. Fall has already arrived and I want to highlight **two great events** directed towards MLT/ MLS students.

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FYI – Scholarship Deadlines

~ *Carol McCoy, ASCLS-MN Scholarship Committee*

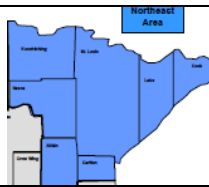
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Southeast Area Update ~ *Laurie Bjerklie; SE Area Sr. Director*

As a new Senior Director for the region, I am excited to enter into this role. I am currently a Program Coordinator for a Medical Laboratory Technician program. As a result, I am going to first plan a **student event**...

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Northeast Area Update ~ Linda Perry; NE Area Sr. Director

Greetings from northern Minnesota. The laboratorians in **Duluth** and the surrounding communities are **all abuzz** with activities pertaining to the **Clinical Laboratory Collaborative** which will take place ... [More...page: 9](#)



Central Area Update ~ Karen Renaud, Central Area Sr. Director & Eric Grahek, Central Area Jr. Director

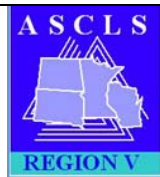
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Metro Area Update – “Mission Possible: PACE”

~ Claudine Fasching; ASCLS-MN Metro Area Sr. Director

- Do you want to fill out your PACE credits for certification maintenance?
- Do you want to stay informed regarding current laboratory practices?
- Do you want to stretch your general medical knowledge? [More...page: 9](#)



“Region V Members Are a Dedicated Group” - Recognition

~ Deb Rodahl, ASCLS Region V Director

I have just completed my first year as the Region V Director representing Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. In this year I have had the opportunity to attend meetings in all 4 states ... [More....page: 10](#)



Mark Your Calendars – 2011 Legislative Symposium

~ Sharon Pendergrass, ASCLS-MN Government Affairs Chair

Although the agenda for the Symposium has not been set yet, you can be sure some of the issues listed below will be discussed as they pertain to our laboratory profession... [More....page: 12](#)



The CLC is Coming to Duluth!

~ Steve Mattson – ASCLS-MN Co-chair of CLC 2011

The city of Duluth is proud to welcome the 2011 Clinical Laboratory Collaborative to the DECC April 25-27. [More....page: 12](#)



The Final Word – “The Fun Bus...What a Trip!”

~ Linda Perry; NE Area Sr. Director

May 24th, 2010 was a foggy day in Duluth MN. At 5:20 a.m. bodies started to sluggishly materialize from the morning haze toward the promise of a good time. When they reached the large motor coach... [More....page: 13](#)

President’s Message



“A Message from Your New President”

Submitted by: Kristi Enerson, ASCLS-MN President

Hello. My name is Kristi Enerson. Effective August 1st, I have the pleasure of being your ASCLS-MN President. You have seen several e-mails from me over the past few months, but I want to take a little time to talk to you about two issues we have in store for us over the course of this year.

FIRST ISSUE: The national ASCLS Futures Task Force has proposed a **revision to our Beliefs, Values and Mission**. The goal is to more accurately and precisely set a course for the future of ASCLS as an important and vital association. The task force presented a draft at the 2010 national meeting in Anaheim and has been seeking feedback from members as they work toward finalizing its work. I have included the draft for your review. Please don’t hesitate to forward any suggestions to me and I will forward them to the task force for consideration.



The final revisions will go to the House of Delegates at the national meeting in Atlanta (July 2011).

ASCLS Beliefs, Values, and Mission Draft – July, 2010 Revised Draft – August, 2010

ASCLS Believes:

1. Quality laboratory service is essential to quality health care.
2. Competent, credentialed, laboratory professionals are central to quality laboratory medicine.
3. Everyone deserves access to cost effective, safe health care that is appropriate to their needs, and
4. Advancing the laboratory profession advances health care.

Core Values:

1. Ensuring safe, accurate, efficient, appropriate and cost effective laboratory services is a component of quality
2. Defining the characteristics of competent personnel within the profession and providing professional development opportunities so that practitioners can maintain competency are essential roles of a professional association
3. Enabling laboratory professionals to function at their highest level of competence will contribute to cost effective health care
4. Promoting diversity supports the delivery of quality laboratory service
5. Taking a leadership role in standard and policy setting is a core professional responsibility
6. Advocating for quality within the laboratory is essential to the assurance of quality health care delivery

ASCLS Mission

The mission of ASCLS is to demonstrate leadership by the assurance of excellent laboratory medicine, and therefore high quality health care, for all.

SECOND ISSUE: As with almost every organization and family these days, **financial concerns** and deep consideration into ones priorities must occur. ASCLS-MN is not exempt from these concerns and issues. A major focus for ASCLS-MN this year must be its financial stability and ability to provide solid services for our members and the laboratory professionals throughout the state. We have had the good fortune to be in a financial place to advocate and support the state licensure effort as well as to provide scholarships for students through savings and CDs over the past few years. Due to the length of the licensure effort and the increased difficulty maintaining a consistent revenue stream, we are in a different place today.

I believe that **we as an organization are passionate about moving forward with licensure and supporting scholarships**, but it is time for us to get creative in finding new revenue sources. I am looking for your help. Please forward any ideas or suggestions that you may have so that we may continue to support these issues that are important to our profession.

You will also notice something new this year. We will be having donation jars for licensure or scholarships during the ASCLS sponsored events as well as including opportunities for donating as part of your registration at some of these events as well. If we set a goal to raise \$1,000 for scholarships, for example, it would take each current member of ASCLS-MN (as of 10/16/10) a donation of \$2.01 to meet that goal. Together, we can make a difference!



Please feel free to contact me with any questions. If I don't know the answer, I will get your questions directed appropriately.

I am excited about what we can do together. I have always known the ASCLS-MN family to be very caring, supportive, and proactive in its efforts.

The future depends on what we do in the present. - Mahatma Gandhi

Minnesota Laboratory Licensure – Update

Submitted by: Kathy Hansen, Licensure Coalition Co-Chair

With only a few days to go before election day as this is written, the licensure coalition is busy preparing for the 2011 legislative session and re-introduction of the laboratory licensure bill.

The MN legislature operates in two-year biennial sessions. January 2011 will be the beginning of the next two-year session, which means that we must reintroduce the bill and start the committee process all over, including going back to the 3 Senate committees that previously approved the bill in 2009.

The Licensure Coalition met by conference call on October 20 with Vic Moore, our lobbyist. The organizations that have been part of the coalition have been asked to reaffirm their support and give an indication of what financial support they can provide. ASCLS-MN will be asking for donations from members and interested laboratorians at continuing education sessions and other venues.

All members of the Senate and the House of Representatives are up for election. With the political climate uncertain, it is likely that there will be many changes in the Minnesota legislature. This means that we will not know until after the November elections which of our sponsors and supporters will still be in office and who the committee members and chairs will be for the new session. It may take several weeks after the election before the committee memberships are announced.

In the meantime, we have made a few small revisions to the bill language, which will be submitted to the reviser's office to be put in the appropriate format and assigned a bill number. Vic Moore has already approached potential authors and co-sponsors contingent upon election results.

Rick Panning, Kathy Hansen, and Vic Moore have met with key stakeholders at the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Hospital Association. They plan to meet with policy makers at the hospital systems that have opposed the bill: Fairview, Health East, and Mayo. We also plan to strategize with the Minnesota Society for Pathology, where some leaders want to support the bill more actively.

Members will be hearing from us in late November or December with requests to contact legislators who are named to the relevant committees to request their support of the bill. We want to hit the ground running on Tuesday, January 4, 2011!

Please contact us with any questions you might have:

Kathy Hansen: khansen3@fairview.org or Rick Panning: rick.panning@allina.com



July 2010 – ASCLS National Meeting – “...a fantastic experience!”



“The ASCLS National Meeting – Diving Right In!”

~ Charlotte Romain, Metro Area Jr. Director Leadership Academy Member

In July I had the opportunity to attend my first National Meeting. The meeting was in Anaheim (much to my children’s chagrin) and I had anticipated a hot and steamy southern California week in July, but was pleasantly surprised by the temperatures in the low 70’s.

I have been a member of ASCLS for a long time, but have been a passive member, paying my dues each year and reading my newsletters, but never getting involved beyond that. I am the type that posts inspirational quotes on my office door and one of my all time favorites is, “**I wondered why somebody didn’t do something, and then I realized that I am somebody.**” There are so many things going on within our profession and I decided it was time to step up and be one of the “somebody’s” getting something done. Not having been involved, I wasn’t really sure where to start, so I went to the website. What I found there was a plethora of things to be done, committees to join and be chaired, meetings to be organized and any other kind of activity that one could possibly think of to volunteer for at the local, state and national level. It was a little bit overwhelming. In the Member Center drop-down menu there was a section for the **Leadership Academy**. This seemed like the perfect way to figure out what would be the best place for me, so I applied and was accepted. I also put myself on the ballot for the Area 5 Junior Director and volunteered for the Molecular/Genetics Scientific Assembly Chair. No toes in the water for me, I’m the type to dive right in.

Part of the obligation of the Leadership Academy is to attend 2 National Meetings and the Legislative Day in Washington D.C., so it was off to Anaheim. It was a whirlwind week with meetings all day, every day and lots of evening activities. I did NOT catch up on my beauty sleep. It was also an amazing week. I met so many people from all over the country, all dedicated to the betterment of our profession. One of the amazing people who came and spoke to the Leadership Academy group was Elissa Passiment, and she summed it all up for me when she said, “**These are my people.**” There were so many great talks and workshops and more opportunities to get involved (I’m now the vice chair for the National Molecular and Genetics Scientific Assembly). It was a wonderful way to get about 20 of my CE credits out of the way, but it was so much more than that. It was a **networking opportunity extraordinaire** and the vendor show was a great place to see all the latest and greatest for the clinical lab and beyond. My favorite find was the wireless temperature monitoring system. Can you imagine never having to take temps again, and having all of the trending done for you? Wow! All in all it was a fantastic experience. I can’t wait to see everyone in Atlanta in 2011!

2010 ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium – Rochester, Minnesota

Submitted by: JoAnn Nickles, Region V Symposium planning committee

WOW! Great start for the new format! The first Region V Symposium with the new format was held at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester October 7th and 8th. **ASCLS Region V includes South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin.** Previous Region V symposiums were held over a 3-day period every other year. The event rotated between South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota. The decision was made 2 years ago to **change the format** to a shorter time period and a different rotation schedule. The new format selected





Save-the-Date: Next Region V Symposium will be held in Fargo, ND on October 13 and 14, 2011

was to hold the conference every year on Thursday evening with a full day on Friday and to alternate between two locations - Rochester and Fargo. All 4 states would participate in the planning process.

The planning committee for the 2010 Symposium started meeting October 2009. Each month a dedicated group of volunteers from all 4 states participated in conference calls to plan the entire event. Each state supplied a Chair and Vice Chair for 2 areas of planning. Minnesota had 4 representatives on the planning committee. **Rose Currie** served as Chair of the Program, PACE, Audi-visual and Moderator Committee with help from **JoAnn Nickles**. **Tom Massmann** served as Vice Chair of the Registration, Publicity and Treasury Liaison Committee. **Deb Rodahl** is the Region V Director and also participated in the planning.

Registration started at 4 PM Thursday with Exhibits from 5-7 pm. ASCLS Region V and ASCLS MN member **Deb Rodahl** presented the **keynote address on 'Professional Visibility'** outlining the 12 Steps for promoting increased visibility of laboratorians as professionals to the public and coworkers within hospitals and clinics. Social and Exhibit Time followed the keynote with snacks, beverages and door prizes provided by the exhibitors in the Exhibit Hall from 8-10 pm. There were 25 exhibitors present. Great time to talk with vendors and network with colleagues.

Friday Morning started out with a continental breakfast in the Exhibit Hall until 8:30am. ASCLS MN member **Rick Panning** presented a keynote address **'What Happens in Washington DC Does NOT Stay in DC'**. This was an excellent update on current national legislative and regulatory issues which have the potential to impact the clinical laboratory and the professionals who are working in the field. At this point in the day, attendees had the choice to pick from leadership or technical topics with only 2 sessions occurring at the same time. Keynote speaker over lunch was **Sandra Matthey**, sponsored by Sanford Health in Fargo. Her topic of **'Balancing Priorities in Laboratory Leadership'** discussed the paradoxes and polarities that exist in healthcare with a focus on laboratory issues. She emphasized how **issues may not be problems to solve but rather paradoxes to balance**. Once again attendees had the option of leadership or technical topics for 2 hours finishing the day at 4 pm. ASCLS MN members **Bobbi Kochevar** and **Cindy Johnson** also presented.

The committee was very pleased with the **turnout of 126** members and nonmembers attending the symposium. The committee appreciated the participation of the exhibitors and all those who attended this year. The **next Region V Symposium will be held in Fargo, ND on October 13 and 14, 2011**. **Trish Roehrl** from Melrose has agreed to serve as Vice Chair for the Overall Meeting which includes facility, food and social events. A volunteer is needed to Chair the Registration, Publicity and Treasury Liaison Committee. If anyone is interested in filling a position on the planning committee or working with the planning committee for 2011, contact Kristi Enerson or Trish Roehrl.



A Student’s Perspective on the 78th ASCLS Annual Meeting

Submitted by: KauChee Vang, ASCLS-MN Student Forum Chair

Temperature in the 70s with sunshine and no humidity was the weather for Anaheim, California during the 78th ASCLS annual meeting at the Hyatt Regency Orange County Hotel and Anaheim Convention Center. The opportunity to attend the national annual meeting introduced me to an entire laboratory community from across the nation. It may sound like the society is very big and as a student I may not find a place to fit in but **there is definitely room for me** as I learned at the national meeting.

I had set **two goals** for myself on my way to the annual meeting: first, to **represent my fellow peers from MN** and second, to **find out how “real” ASCLS is when it comes to students**. As I stepped foot into the registration area, I really did not know what to expect because I had never been to an ASCLS meeting. I was given a schedule to follow and that was what I did.

My first stop was at a committee meeting called Promotion of the Profession. At this meeting, I learned that there are MLT/MLS volunteer members working to expose the field of medical laboratory science. The committee coordinates service projects such as the Helping Other People Event (HOPE) which is a food drive, and writes articles and public service announcements to the media.

The rest of my schedule consisted of presentations given by guest speakers about medical laboratory subjects such as tuberculosis (TB), healthcare forum, and HbA1c testing. I believe one of the best talks was the keynote speaker on the last day of the meeting called “Wanted: Medical Laboratory Scientists- Now More than Ever” by Dr. Valerie Ng. The speaker emphasized the importance of the work that MLT/MLS do as medical laboratory professionals. The speaker was very motivating because I was convinced that there was a need for us, MLT/MLS students, especially in this economy.

Besides all of the talks, my schedule also included student activities and governance meetings. At the **First-Timers/Student Reception**, I met students and first-timers from across the nation. Somehow I have a feeling the people I met at the reception will be **life long friends** through ASCLS. There was also a **student forum meeting**, where I voted for the new student forum chair, vice-chair, and secretary. At the governance meetings, I attended a region caucus forum to converse about updates and subjects related to my region (V) and I served as a student delegate on the floor in the House of Delegates.

In addition to the meeting, I made an interesting discovery and found a forum named “Concerns for Minorities”, by listening to a presentation called “Diversifying the Professional Portfolio.” I am excited for the forum because as an under-represented minority I believe the forum is a voice and resource for and about under-represented professionals of and patients in medical laboratory.

As I review the end of my experience, I am glad to say that **I met my goals** of: one, to **represent ASCLS-MN MLT/MLS students** and two, to **discover that ASCLS is “real” for students**. As a student and professional in medical laboratory science, **ASCLS is the place to network and volunteer** in order to “Provide the Face” of our profession. I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to attend the meeting and I am delighted to share my story and future opportunities within ASCLS to my peers and the society.



Student Forum Update – Students “friend” Facebook....

Submitted by: KauChee Vang, ASCLS-MN Student Forum Chair

Before I begin, I want to thank all students who have renewed or became new members of ASCLS-Minnesota. Fall has already arrived and I want to highlight **two great events** directed towards MLT/ MLS students. The first event was the **October campaign for ASCLS-MN Student Forum on Facebook**, and the second event was the **Student Night** hosted by the Metro Area planning committee.

On October 1st, the **campaign for ASCLS-MN Student Forum on Facebook** began. At that time, there were only 15 friends, so the goal of the campaign is to obtain at least ½ of the student members from ASCLS-MN as friends on Facebook. This November, I will be inviting all student members to add the forum as a friend to their Facebook. The goal of the forum on Facebook is to post current events from ASCLS in Minnesota, Region V, or national forum. I believe it is a great way to also network with other MLT/MLS students in Minnesota. I encourage all ASCLS-MN student members to become involved in ASCLS through Facebook.

On October 4th about 50 students from Minnesota attended the **Student Night at Argosy University** in Eagan, MN. The event was welcomed by my video to all students and then followed with presentations and a job panel. In the mixer activity, 10 students won free gift cards and a **free student membership was given to** one student named **Arthur Bogdanove**, an MLT student at Argosy University. At the end of the event, at least **15 students signed up as members**. I believe that everyone at the event had an opportunity to collect a lot of good information and meet new people. If you have missed the Student Night, don't worry. The Metro planning committee is hosting the Scientific Assembly Kickoff on Wednesday, November 10th at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. It is worth two hours of continuing education (PACE credit).

In the winter, my plan for ASCLS-MN student forum is to create some volunteer opportunities for all student members to become actively involved. The idea is very much open for input. I am eager to hear from everyone about their thoughts and questions about ASCLS-MN student forum for the winter. Please **check your emails and Facebook for updates** on planning dates. Have a great fall and see you all in the winter.

Provide input for
Student Forum
Activities....

Scholarship
Information



FYI – Scholarship Deadlines

~ Carol McCoy, ASCLS-MN Scholarship Committee

November 15:

Siemens Scholarship
ASCP Scholarships: check ASCP web site

March 15:

ASCLS-MN CLS Scholarship

April 1:

Alpha Mu Tau and Education and Research Fund for MLT and CLS
check ASCLS web site: www.ascls.org

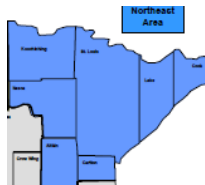
June 15:

ASCLS-MN MLT Scholarship

Contact Carol McCoy with any questions you may have: cmccoy1@fairview.org



Northeast Area –
Preparing for the
next CLC, Spring
2011



Central Area –
“...entertaining
presentations...”



What’s Happening in
the Metro Area?



Southeast Area Update

Submitted by: Laurie Bjerklie; SE Area Sr. Director

As a new Senior Director for the region, I am excited to enter into this role. I am currently a Program Coordinator for a Medical Laboratory Technician program. As a result, I am going to first plan a **student event** for the area schools to participate in. This event will be geared towards ASCLS membership, how students can become contributors to the field, and provide a networking opportunity. Having taken students to the Clinical Laboratory Collaborative, they love being able to feel a part of the lab community and want to be involved. I would like to stress the importance of a professional membership and what it has to offer even for students just beginning their programs.

Looking ahead, I will be organizing a continuing education event for this area during an evening with guest speakers and PACE credits awarded.

Northeast Area Update

Submitted by: Linda Perry; NE Area Sr. Director

Greetings from northern Minnesota. The laboratorians in **Duluth** and the surrounding communities are **all abuzz** with activities pertaining to the **Clinical Laboratory Collaborative** which will take place in the spring of 2011 at the Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center. We are very hard at work to ensure everyone’s CLC experience is a fun and informative one. Our region is also doing our best to increase membership in our area by letting people know the **importance of belonging to a professional organization** and what it can do for the future of our careers. We are very excited to be good hosts to all of our lab friends and look forward to seeing you in the spring.

Central Area Update

Submitted by: Karen Renaud, Central Area Sr. Director & Eric Grahek, Central Area Jr. Director

The Central Region held a fall education event in St. Cloud on Thursday October 28, 2010. A **packed house** of nearly 40 enjoyed a dinner from Pacific Wok and then two very informative and entertaining presentations by Dr. Thomas Koshy from Alere. “New Paradigms in POC Quality Control”, described how QC paradigms may have to change as POCT devices become more common, and improved our understanding of QC features designed into POCT devices. The second hour presentation, “POCT and Quality Control: This Ain’t Your Father’s Lab Analyzer” described the newly proposed CLSI documents relating to quality control and provided a primer on a risk management tool - FMEA, which may become the norm for developing POC and general lab QC systems.

Door prizes were awarded between sessions. Thanks to **ASCLS-MN, CentraCare Health System, Alere, and Kanabec Hospital** for their support of this event!

Metro Area Update – “Mission Possible: PACE”

Submitted by: Claudine Fasching; ASCLS-MN Metro Area Sr. Director

- Do you want to fill out your PACE credits for certification maintenance?
- Do you want to stay informed regarding current laboratory practices?
- Do you want to stretch your general medical knowledge?

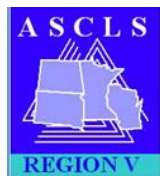
The easiest (and I mean easiest) way to achieve any of the 3 above goals is by attending one of the many planned ASCLS-MN CE events coming this year.

Come listen and learn, then apply for PACE credits on online – it’s that simple!



ASCLS-MN Metro Area Kick-off: Wednesday, November 10th

A Message from our Region V Director



The Metro Area planning committee has been working diligently to provide a year’s worth of great educational activities.

The **first event** will be our **annual Kick-Off** to be held **Wednesday, November 10th** at the VA Medical Center. Dr. Trandem will talk about **Osteopathic Medicine** with an emphasis on women’s health. Also joining us will be Stephanie Joyce from the Allina systems to talk about **body fluids**. Parking is **free** and the Kick-Off event is **free** (free to both ASCLS members and non-members).

Our **second event** will be Saturday morning, **January 29th** at the Allina Commons in Minneapolis. Our tentative schedule includes a phlebotomy refresher, a hematology refresher, and an introduction to Ayurvedic Medicine.

Come one, come all! We will love to see each and every one of you. Remember, the Metro Area sponsored events are free to ASCLS members – but ***bring your friends*** because the Kick-Off is free to non-members, and the other events are available to non-members for a registration fee.

See you at an up coming CE event!

“Region V Members Are a Dedicated Group” - Recognition

Submitted by: Deb Rodahl, ASCLS Region V Director - August, 2010

I have just completed my first year as the Region V Director representing Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. In this year I have had the opportunity to attend meetings in all 4 states and see first-hand the great work that is being done in our region. **ASCLS is a perfect example of what can be accomplished when we are all committed to the same ideals and goals.** The work that is accomplished at the State, Region, and National levels is amazing and no other professional organization can boast of this level of involvement.

Locally: The work of ASCLS is most visible in our local conferences and meetings. These meetings showcase the many talents of our members starting with the Students who put together some pretty fantastic poster sessions and remind us of the potential we all have inside us. In addition many of our members speak at the local and national levels. To those of you who shudder at the thought of standing in front of a group of people to speak – it’s easy when you speak about something you do on a daily basis or about a project you have been actively involved with. To see first-hand what professional activity is all about – attend – or better yet, get involved in your state and local meetings!

Regionally: A very dedicated group of Region V Members were busy over the last 12 months putting together our **first annual** Region V Symposium, which was held in Rochester, MN October 7th and 8th. The program show-cased many of our member's talents and offered 2 education tracks (scientific and management) for attendees.

We are recruiting committee members to help put together the **second annual** Region V Symposium to be held in Fargo, North Dakota in October 2011. It does not matter where you live, as the planning meetings are held via conference call! Please contact me at drodahl@earthlink.net if you are interested in participating.

Nationally: The 2010 national meeting was held in Anaheim California in July



and was jam-packed with activities for all the attendees. First-timers to the meeting were invited to a reception to get a chance to meet members of the ASCLS Board and Staff and to meet each other. The week was filled with education and governance activities. Governance activities include sessions to see what the various ASCLS Committees have been doing over the year and gives them a chance to hear from members outside of the committees. It's a great opportunity to connect activities at the state level with the national level.

Many sessions were available to update us on the future of ASCLS (Futures Task Force), providing the Face of the Profession, Licensure Activities, etc. Most importantly, the members who attend as "Delegates" to the meeting vote on important activities and help provide input on topics such as the re-write of our "Beliefs, Values, and Mission" statements. All ASCLS members have an opportunity to help plan the future of our organization and our profession.

I'm sure the following information has been published – but how **awesome** and **awe-inspiring** to see the recognition for the **Region V** activities this past year!

2010 Region V Recognition

Leadership Academy:

Christine Hinz (MN)
Kristin Burmann (WI)

New Leadership Academy Students:

Jessica Peters (MN)
Charlotte Romain (MN)

ASCLS Member of the Year Nominees: (Note: Region V had 4 of the 17 nominees)

Cindy Johnson (MN) Andrea Schwab (SD)
Leola Olson (ND) Stacy Walz (WI)

New Professional Nominees:

Alex Shepard (ND) Nichole Taylor (SD)

Promotion of the Profession - Fundraising efforts: Minnesota – 1st place

Publications:

Minnesota – 1st place for a "Paper" version
South Dakota – 1st place for a "Web" version

Membership:

North Dakota – 1st place for Greatest Percent Increase
North Dakota – 2nd place for Greatest Percent Increase - non-student members
Wisconsin – 3rd place for Greatest Percent Retention

Scholarship Recipients:

Grant-in-Aid award – April Harkins (WI)
Ida & May Reilly Memorial Undergraduate Scholarships – KauChee Vang (MN)
Beckman Coulter Student Travel Grant – Phyu Thwe (WI)

ASCLS Poster Competition: Undergraduate Category - Phyu Thwe (WI)

Omicron Sigma

476 total members recognized - 35 came from Region V

Board of Director Awards:

Rick Panning (MN) – Work on the Government Affairs Committee
Jean Bauer (MN) – Chair of the CEAC (National meeting planning committee)

It is truly an honor to be representing Region V in ASCLS. I enjoy hearing from our members (or non-members) and can be reached at drodahl@earthlink.net 651-779-8906



Mark Your Calendars – 2011 Legislative Symposium

Submitted by: Sharon Pendergrass, ASCLS-MN Government Affairs Chair

2011 Legislative Symposium in Washington DC - March 21-22nd, 2011

Save-the-Date:
March 21-22, 2011

Although the agenda for the Symposium has not been set yet, you can be sure some of the issues listed below will be discussed as they pertain to our laboratory profession:

Modernizing of Laboratory Fee Schedule: The Laboratory Fee Schedule sets the amount of reimbursement for each laboratory test. The Fee Schedule has not been updated since 1983 and is *longgggg* overdue. We need to let our Senators and Representatives know that we advocate the proposed negotiated rulemaking process for a **revised clinical laboratory fee schedule**. They will most likely take up this issue in the November to December timeframe. Look for more information on the web site as to how you can engage your members of Congress to help support us in this effort.

Laboratory Developed Tests: On July 19-20 the FDA held a public hearing to discuss the oversight of Laboratory Developed Tests (LDTs). The FDA is considering all LDTs be submitted to them for approval before testing can be implemented similar to the concept that manufacturers submit new testing assays for FDA approval. This would **impact all in-house developed assays** as well as FDA-approved assays that are modified and are then considered high complexity under CLIA. Elissa Passiment, Executive Vice President, ASCLS, attended this meeting in Rockville, MD and developed a position statement on behalf of the members of ASCLS. The position statement supported FDA oversight of LDTs.

Signature Requirements for Test Requisitions and Laboratory Orders: Over the past several years, CMS has issued a number of "clarifications" regarding the requirement for a physician's signature on laboratory requisitions, and the difference between a test requisition and an order for diagnostic services. To simplify matters, CMS proposes, starting in 2011, signatures will be required on all orders and requisitions for diagnostic tests, including clinical laboratory procedures. A letter was sent on behalf of ASCLS stating the **concerns regarding this policy**. The letter focused on the impact this proposed rule could have on patient care due to the delay in laboratory testing and the burden this will place on physicians and the clinical laboratory.

CLC in Duluth –
April 25-27, 2011



“Bridging Technology and Quality Healthcare Delivery
Everyday” – The CLC is Coming to Duluth!

~ Steve Mattson – ASCLS-MN Co-chair of CLC 2011 - smattson3@smdc.org

The city of Duluth is proud to welcome the 2011 Clinical Laboratory Collaborative to the DECC April 25-27.





The "FUN BUS"

"...we all made new friends."

*PALs = Pretty
Awesome
Laboratorians*

Newsletter Editor



The Final Word – "The Fun Bus...What a Trip!"

Submitted by: Linda Perry; NE Area Sr. Director

May 24th, 2010 was a foggy day in Duluth MN. At 5:20 a.m. bodies started to sluggishly materialize from the morning haze toward the promise of a good time. When they reached the large motor coach dubbed the "**FUN BUS**" they slowly climbed the stairs where they were greeted with smiling faces and gift bags to start the day off right. Once everyone was aboard, Matt the bus driver took off as fast as construction would allow, away from the cold drizzle of Duluth. The further south we traveled, the more the fog let up and the clouds parted letting the sun shine in freely. LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

On our way down we played games such as "lab bingo", "name the animal" and "it's all about the slogan". Lots of prizes were won, much sugar was consumed, many laughs were had and **we all made a few new friends**. The trip went great. The temperature reached around 100 degrees, and sucked the air straight from your lungs. Alas, at 8:00 p.m. when we returned to Duluth, the temperature was a balmy 59 degrees and damp. I wish that I could tell you more about our great trip, but it was made very clear by one of the fun bus patrons that "**what happens on the fun bus, stays on the fun bus!**" Hope to see you all there next time.

Postlude: This year, in the spirit of making new friends and having a great quick drive up north to Duluth to attend the CLC in April, we are encouraging people to put a "Fun Bus" together. When we came from the north to the Crown Plaza last May, we traveled on a "Fun Bus". **What's a "Fun Bus" you ask?** A "Fun Bus" is a large vehicle of your choice that you fill up with a bunch of **PAL's (Pretty Awesome Laboratorians)** and head to a choice destination. Along the way you play lots of games, win lots of prizes and have an all around good time. We will have a link available to you in the near future, located on the ASCLS MN website that will give you a step by step guide to putting together your own "Fun Bus". www.ascls.org

Editor of ASCLS-MN e-Laborate Newsletter is Paula (Snippes) Vagnone. If you have any comments or questions, please contact her at:
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