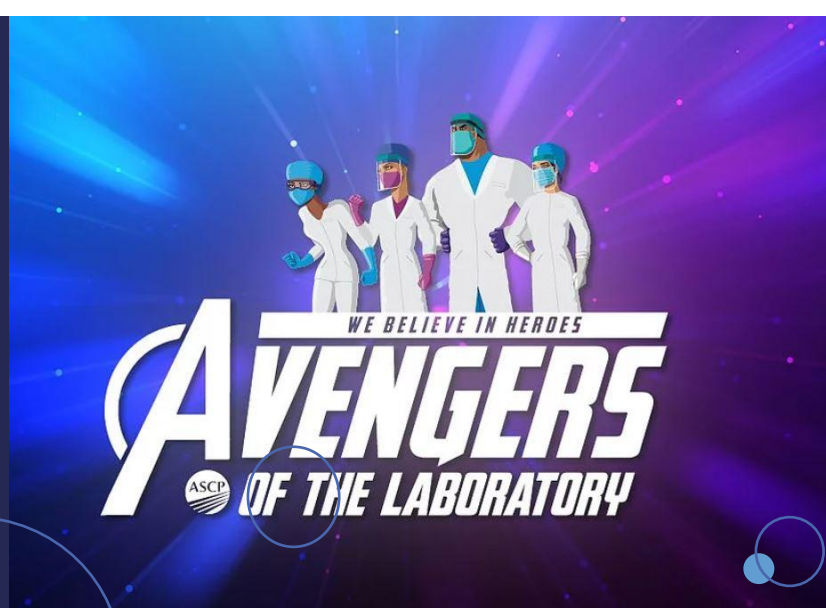




# e – LABorate

MN Newsletter

August 2021



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## Thank you!

~ Dani Ashcroft, ASCLS MN Newsletter Editor

As we begin wrapping up the year, take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments. Shoutout to the entire lab community for all your hard work through these challenging times. Huge thank you to everyone who made our virtual events happen and contributed their time and knowledge. CLC 2021 was a success among other events. Thank you to those who were able to attend the few in-person events we had.

## CONGRADULATIONS!

### Positions Accepted:

President- Elect: Donna Spannaus-Martin

SE Area Junior Director: Rachel Siddell

Metro Area Junior Director: Austin Korczak

## Check it Out!

The ASCLS Off the Bench lab podcast now has a Facebook group. Join to continue the discussions and share your feedback. Check out the new episodes. Available on Audible, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Stitcher.

Check out MemberCentric, a community connection app for ASCLS. Look up other members in the directory, send and respond to messages, and monitor community discussions in real time.



## Upcoming Events

- **Membership Renewal** - Membership year is August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022  
Visit <https://members.ascls.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=151>

- **Leadership Academy application deadline**  
August 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

- **Region V Symposium**  
October 7-8, 2021 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Sioux Falls, SD

In person vendors, continuing education, networking, and entertainment.  
Visit <http://www.regionvascls.online/> to register online.

- **Legislative Symposium**  
October 25-26, 2021 at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town in Alexandria, VA

The education portion of the meeting will be available in person or virtual.  
Meetings with legislators and/or their staff on capitol hill will only be available in person.

Through this ASCLS tradition that originated in 1989, members of CLMA, ASCP, AGT, AMT, NSH, and PAMET-USA meet with their representatives and senators on Capitol Hill as a unified front on behalf of our profession. Each year these leading organizations urge their members and leaders to come to Washington to provide a visible and informed voice, and make our concerns known inside Congress. Topics that were proposed this year during Legislative days included The Laboratory workforce bill, PAMA (Protecting Access to Medicare Act, and Laboratory developed testing.

- **Emerging Laboratory Managers Collaborative Conference**  
January 2022 held virtually

- **Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC)**  
March 14-16, 2022 in Denver, CO

CLEC is the most impactful annual gathering for faculty, administrators, directors, advisers, and all those in medical laboratory education. Content experts will present a wide range of timely topics, providing you with the knowledge and skills to navigate the evolving landscape for the clinical laboratory education community.

- **Joint Annual Meeting**  
June 26 – 30 in Grand Rapids, MI

**\*Event dates subject to change. Events may update to be held virtually.**



## AWARDS, AWARDS, AWARDS!

### **Omicron Sigma**

First awarded in 1977, Omicron Sigma is the ASCLS President's Honor Roll for Outstanding Service. It provides lasting recognition of those dedicated members who volunteer their personal resources, time and energy to the ASCLS. Recognition is at 3 levels: National, Regional and State.

At the Region V level, we congratulate:

Wendy Parpart, Donna Spannaus-Martin, Susan Iddings, Crystal Paul, Jenna Amundson, Debra Rodahl, Josh Pulido, Kathleen Hansen, Rick Panning, Alexander Shaw, Galina Dronova, Jeremy Angell, Cynthia Johnson

At the State level, we congratulate:

Galina Dronova, Jenna Amundson, Susan Iddings, Charlotte Romaine, Austin Korczak, Donna Spannaus-Martin, Danielle Ashcroft

### **Keys to the Future – Congrats Dani Ashcroft**

This award serves to recognize and reward ASCLS members who have demonstrated their leadership potential to the organization and to provide these members with structured mentoring.

### **Society Website – Congrats Jenna Amundson**

This award is to recognize excellence in our society's website. This is judged on overall appearance, content, creativity, photos and graphics.

### **Longevity Awards: Recognition for Years of Service**

45 Years: Mary Jane Eaves-Reich, Joyce Jordahl

40 Years: Jane Schnabel, Teresa Black, Patrick Dyer, Jean Bauer

30 Years: Andrew Yue, Marian O'keefe, Joanna George

25 Years: Jeffrey Radle

20 Years: Mary Luehne, Patti Smith

### **Recognition of out-going board members**

Galina Dronova: Metro Area Senior Director

Brenda Tomanek: SE Area Senior Director

Eykka Gundlach: Ascending Professional

### **2021 Service Award – Congrats Wendy Parpart**

The ASCLS-MN Service Award is given to a member of ASCLS-MN who has contributed significantly to the field of clinical laboratory science and to the Society and who has, by outstanding example, inspired others.

### **Voices Under 40 – Congrats Jenna Amundson**

The ASCLS Voices Under 40 Spotlight has been developed to honor ASCLS members who have shown exceptional commitment to ASCLS, the laboratory profession, and their community at large at a young age in their professional careers.

## Region V Update: PAC

~Jean Bauer, ASCLS Region V

### ASCLS Political Action Committee (PAC) fundraising award – Congrats ASCLS Region V

Region V retained the trophy for the region with the highest amount of Political Action Committee (PAC) contributions. Shout out to ASCLS-MN, your generous contributions also helped Region V to a three-peat win of the PAC Trophy. The PAC raises funds to support those legislators who support the legislation that will have a positive impact on laboratories.

## PAC Update: The Value of PAC

~ Donna Showers, Political Action (PAC) Committee

### ASCLS PAC fundraising award – Congrats ASCLS Minnesota

#### The Value of GAC/PAC and COVID-19

Unless your version of social distancing has been to move to a secluded island with no internet access, you have not escaped the endless barrage of politically charged information coming at you from every angle. To say that the political divide is at epic proportions is an understatement. With such division, can our elected officials get anything done for the American people? I believe they can, and I also believe that the opportunity to get an attentive audience with our legislators to talk about the dire needs of the clinical laboratory industry has never been better. The whole country (world, actually) is aware of, and talking about lab testing for COVID. The ASCLS 2020 Legislative Day agenda, which ironically was cancelled due to COVID, was to lobby on 3 things facing our industry: 1) PAMA, 2) Laboratory Workforce shortages, and 3) Appropriate FDA oversight of Laboratory Developed Tests. ASCLS President, Cindy Johnson, penned a powerful letter on March 21st to Leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, stating that our testing capacity for COVID would not be able to meet the demand. The very issues listed above contribute, in part, to our industry's struggle with COVID testing. So, what can we do? What can you do? Get involved!

The ASCLS Political Action Committee (PAC) is a voluntary, nonprofit organization that raises funds to financially support the campaigns of carefully selected candidates for elected office. ASCLS PAC is a Separate Segregated Fund, which means it receives donations from a limited group of individuals (ASCLS members) and then contributes to the campaigns of individuals who demonstrate a likelihood of supporting our organization's issues. It is overseen by a Board-of-Trustees, with one trustee from each of the ten ASCLS Regions, a new professional member, and a student member.

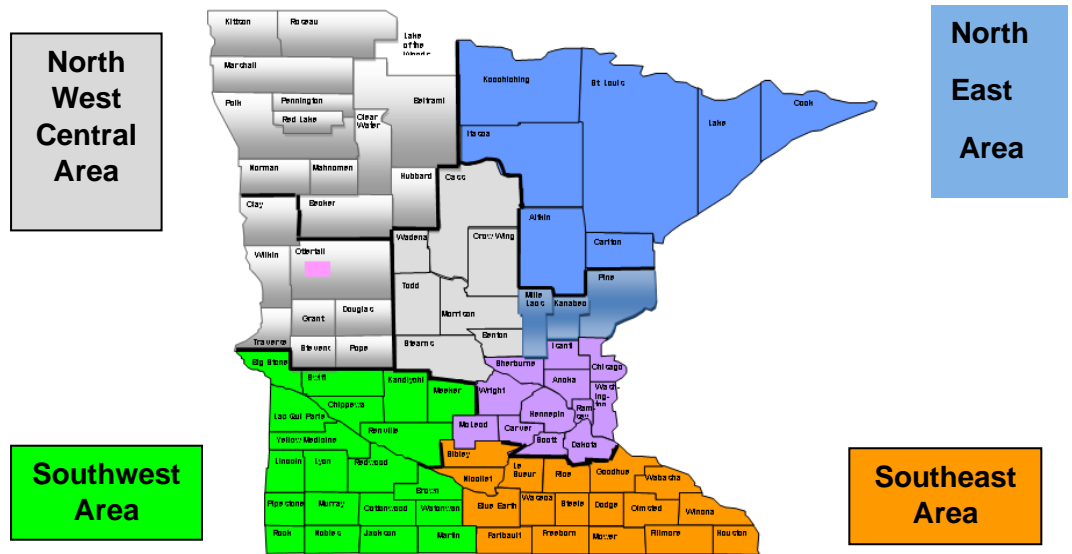
There are many volunteer opportunities to serve on ASCLS Government Affairs (GAC) or Political Action Committees (PAC). Not your thing? No worries, how about considering supporting PAC with a monetary donation? We have a goal of raising \$50K in 2020, which we believe will support 25 – 30 contributions to candidates. Donations can be made by visiting [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org). You must be signed in on the ASCLS website before you can donate, donations are NOT tax deductible, and your decision whether or not to donate does not affect your rights as an ASCLS member, in any way. Please take time to consider the tremendous opportunity we have, right now, to impact change.



# Membership Development

## OPEN POSITIONS!

We are currently looking for Area Directors for the Southwest, Northeast, and Northwest/Central Areas.



Current membership: **265**  
Emeritus – **10**  
Ascending Professional – **44**  
Developing Professional – **76**  
Professional – **133**  
Community/Honorary – **2**  
13 joined in 2021 and 32 in 2020

### For More Information Visit:

<https://www.asclsmn.org/>

<http://www.regionvascls.online/>

[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)

[facebook.com/ascls.mn](https://facebook.com/ascls.mn)

### A Word from the Editor

~ Dani Ashcroft, NW/Central Area Director

If you have any comments, suggestions, or would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, please email me at [danielle.ashcroft@centracare.com](mailto:danielle.ashcroft@centracare.com)