

**ASCLS-Minnesota**

**Fall Board Meeting**

Thursday August 11, 2022

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Zoom Call

**MINUTES:**

* **Call to Order and Introductions:** Charlotte Romain called the meeting to order at 6:31.

President, Past President, President Elect, Secretary, Senior Area Directors, Ascending and Developing Chairs are voting Board members. A Quorum is not established, no voting will be available to approve items discussed.

Attendees: Charlotte Romain, Sue Iddings, Dean Porter, Jenna Amundson, Cindy Johnson, Rick Panning, Crystal Paul, Janelle Sennett, Andy Yue and Jean Bauer.

Charlotte asked that this be a reorganizing year, adding better communication, record keeping, reaching out to all members. Suggestions on putting all info on the Community Connect page for our state vs. Dropbox. rejuvenating the board.  When Charlotte got the list of board members and committee chairs, there were so many people that were on the list who were on the list 10 years ago, the first time that she was president.

**1) One of the tasks** in the next couple weeks is to send out a call for volunteers.  One in general and one specifically for students.  We need to find a developing professional and an ascending professional for the board.  She would like to have some new blood on the scientific assembly group as well.

**2) Communication.**  We have to future out how to get the newsletter back on track so that we can communicate to all of the membership, not just those that come to CE events.  I think we should go back to having a year calendar with assignments.  Then everyone knows when they have to submit an article and the newsletter chair doesn't have to beg every month.

3)  **Region directors.**  We only have 3 positions filled.  I really want to have some CE events in some of the other regions this year.  I want to leverage the directors and other board members that we have and get out to some of the out-state regions rather than trying to find directors for those regions.  We haven't had directors in those regions for so long and people have forgotten about us, because we have no presence.

4) **Archival of documents.**  There is a lot of historical information in the dropbox that most people don't know about and don't have access to.  We are going to form a workgroup this year and decide what we think is important and try to get it archived on the ASCLS MN Community on the national website.

* **Review previous meeting minutes:** The Spring Meeting Minutes were read.

Discussion on Delegates to National, Correction was made to reflect Donna’s decision to change the delegates, to send Cindy Johnson instead of the voted results.

* **Secretary’s Report:** Previous years secretary reports were uploaded to ASCLS MN on 8/11/22
* **Treasurer’s Report and Budget Report, Finance Committee**: Jenna Amundson
  + - CLC 2022 is not complete yet. Jenna is working on that.
    - Budget Report: Shared by Jenna & uploaded.
    - Delegates to share the $1000 at $333 each, Virtual board attendees will receive their registration costs.
    - Scholarship Awardees - Andy will share in his report
* **ASCLS-MN Web Site and Newsletter** Jenna
  + - Jenna- Web Site: Website is current, the new ASCLS MN Board has been added. A few Open spots, discussion on how to get more involved.
    - Newsletter- Dani – will not be available, welcoming a new baby in August

Charlotte would like volunteers and more involvement of SA chairs.

**Ascending Professional Board Vote** –

President chooses an ascending professional; Charlotte will reach out to current students in hopes of finding interest in both Developing and Ascending Professional members. Job Descriptions are on the Website and more Communication is needed for members, to engage them. Possible Ascending Professional – Alex Shaw, Charlotte to check with him.

**Financial Working Group** –Rick Panning – Rick needs to confirm who else still on the committee. President, Treasurer, Chair, 2 other people, Dean Porter agreed to stay on and Rick will check with Brenda Tomanek to see if she is still interested. Cindy Johnson volunteered to help out. Rick is planning a meeting in the coming months to start planning for the financials for the coming year.

**Membership Development** –Dean Porter

**5) Membership.**  Dean is planning to have a calling party again this year and we talked about getting the message out to people in the spring before their memberships lapse, so trying to have some sort of marketing campaign around the time of the state meeting.

Dean attended a meeting the ASCLS national membership committee. The meeting had some great tools to help with the lapsed membership campaign. Lowering dues was discussed and it was decided that is not the problem, looking at more communication with members.

Dean shared our current membership numbers.

* Lapsed Membership Campaign: Dean will be preparing for this in the next month.

**Leadership Development** – Karen Renaud has stepped away; Charlotte will look for new LDC.

**Region V Leadership Academy** -

Crystal shared that there are 3 candidates, 2 from North Dakota and 1 from Wisconsin, they will start their program at Region V in September.

**Region V and National Update** – Jean Bauer

Regional director will now become a director at large to assist regions with needs.

At the Region V Council meeting on Wednesday, August 17th.  we will be discussing the new function and composition of the Council.

The Region V Symposium will be held Sept. 29th and 30th at the Mayo Event Center in Mankato, MN.

CLIA has sent out a couple of proposed changes to the rules regarding personnel. The good news is that those holding a DCLS degree would now be recognized as qualified to be lab director of high complexity labs.

The other change is, per CLIA, "As testing practices and technologies have evolved, point of care testing has become a standard of practice in many health care systems, allowing laboratory results to be delivered to the treating health care provider as rapidly as possible. We recognize that in many health care systems, nurses perform the majority of the point of care testing in many different scenarios (for example, bedside, surgery centers, end-stage renal disease facilities). We do not have any reason to believe that nurses would be unable to accurately and reliably perform moderate and high complexity testing with appropriate training and demonstration of competency."  A comment period on these changes is open until August 25th.  Jim Flanigan will be sending out information through the Open Forum on how to submit your comments to CLIA regarding these changes.

**Area Director’s Report**

* SE Area – Rachel – Charlotte to Mentor
* SW Area – OPEN
* NW /Central Area – OPEN
* NE Area – OPEN
* Metro Area- Tori Nemitz(Contreras)/Austin Korczak - Sue will check with Austin on his interest
  + Scientific Assembly
  + Zoom meetings “Take the SA on the Road”??

* Developing Professional Chair-
* Ascending Professional-

**Government Affairs – ASCLS Minnesota/ASCLS Region V/ National** – Rick

Government Affairs Update

1. **ASCLS/ASCP/CLMA/AGT/AMT/NSH/PAMET-USA Legislative Symposium** is September 26-27, 2022 in Alexandria, Virginia

**2.** **Saving Access to Laboratory Services Act (SALSA)**:  This legislation is the laboratory industry’s effort to combat the strict reimbursement declines that have occurred as a result of CMS’s implementation for PAMA (Preserving Access to Medicare Act).  The aspects of SALSA, which has bipartisan support in the Senate and House, to moderate reimbursement declines are as follows:

* CMS would use a statistically representative sample of rates from the laboratory market to determine updates for The Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule
* Increase time between reporting periods and updates from three years to four years. Limits the increase in test reimbursement rate changes to 5% (versus the current 15%)

This legislation will likely become part of a larger Medicare bill that will be considered in the lame duck congressional session after the November elections.

**3**.  **VALID Act** (Verifying Accurate Leading-edge IVCT Development Act):  This bill concerns FDA oversight of Laboratory Developed Tests (LDTs)

* Included in a bill to update FDA user fees and was passed by the Senate on June 14, 2022.  The user fees must be passed in this congressional session
* Will go to the House where VALID was previously passed but not attached to the FDA user fee updates.
* Supported by ASCLS, CAP, ACLA and a number of patient safety support groups.
* Opposed by AACC, ASCP, ASM and molecular lab organizations
* The issue becomes a debate between patient safety and ability for labs to innovate.
* The bill is likely to pass, but the issue to be decided is if it will be separated from the FDA user fee updates

**4.**  **CMS CLIA updates:**  These were published as part of proposed rulemaking on July 26 with a 30-day comment period.  Specific changes include

* CLIA fee updates
* CLIA fine updates
* Personnel regulation changes.  The two that are of importance to ASCLS are as follows.
  + Approving the DCLS as being qualified to be a laboratory director for high complexity laboratories.  This is opposed by AACC and AAB.
  + Adding the bachelor’s degree in nursing as being qualified to perform high complexity testing.  Could be a supervisor after two years’ experience.  ASCP VoterVoice has been available to be able to send comments in opposition to this aspect.  ASCL will have a draft of comments that our members can use to send to CMS.  We will also have our version of Voter Voice by the end of the week of August 15

**Clinical Laboratory Collaborative Updates** –

* CLC 2023: Jean Bauer

Mayo Civic Event Center, Mankato April 12 and 13, 2023.

Region V Symposium will be held there in September 2022. This will make it easier for the CLC group, as we are familiar with the Mayo team. Jean will check on contracts and expedite the future sites and societies that will be Co-chairs.

**Scholarship Committee** – Andy Yue - we have 9 MLS at $1000 and 2 MLT at $500. Allina raised their contribution from $2000 to $3000. Path group gave monies also. Andy and Jenna will work on disbursements to recipients.

**Scientific Assembly** –

Looking for new chairs and more involvement from all (Newsletter)

* Scientific Assembly Group Chair – Jeremy Angell
* Laboratory Admin/Consulting/QA/Accreditation/Industry – Sue Iddings
* Microbiology/Public Health – Kristy Connors
* Education –
* Chemistry/Urinalysis – Kenneth Buesgens
* Hematology/Coagulation –
* Immuno/Immunohematology –
* Phlebotomy – Jeremy Angell
* Molecular Diagnostics – Charlotte Romain

**New Business:**

ASCLS MN will donate $150.00 to U of M Scholarship in Karen Karni’s name

**Meeting Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Iddings

ASCLS-MN Secretary