

The Filter

Summer 2003

Newsletter of the Nebraska Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

NSCLS 2003 – 2004 BOARD

President	Roxanne Alter
President-elect	Holly Weiner
Past President	Courtney Olson
Treasurer	Karen Keller
Secretary	Martin Steinbeck
Senior Board Member	Sandy Latshaw
Junior Board Member	Amy Stanley

The roster of officers and committee chairs has not been completed. That information, along with addresses, phone numbers, and e-mails will be published when available.

If you are interested in any committee positions or in an office for next year, please contact Roxanne ralter@unmc.edu .

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your ASCLS renewal notice should have arrived. If you haven't seen it, contact ASCLS by phone, mail, or e-mail. Membership applications are due July 31. You may use a credit card to renew and you may request automatic renewal with a credit card. You may also renew on line at www.ascls.org/membership/renewform.htm . Members are encouraged to send in their renewals before July 31 to avoid reminder notices.

If you joined ASCLS at the Iowa/Nebraska Spring Meeting in Council Bluffs, your membership will not be up for renewal until July 2004. Students who joined this past spring will not receive renewals until July 2004. At that time you are encouraged to join at the First Year Professional membership rate.

NSCLS WEB SITE

The Filter will be posted to the NSCLS web site. You can view it there or send it on to a co-worker or friend. At some point, it may be possible to distribute the Filter to members who wish to get it electronically OR send a notice electronically to say that the next issue has been put on the web site. The web site can be reached by www.asclsregionvi.org/nscls/index.html .

FILTER DISTRIBUTION

The best way to ensure that you get The Filter is to be a NSCLS member. It is also sent to lapsed members for a period of time and hospital, clinic, and referral laboratories across the state. If you want a copy to be sent to a particular address that currently is not receiving the Filter, please contact Shirley Noble – snoble@alltel.net OR 402-423-3050.

Please submit information for The Filter. You can let us know of activities in your area, new occurrences in your laboratory, or an unusual event or case. The following dates indicate the deadlines for the 2003 – 2004 issues:

Fall Filter	Deadline October 3, 2003
Winter Filter	Deadline January 2, 2004
Spring Filter	Deadline March 26, 2004

CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

The Nebraska Society for Clinical Laboratory Science raised over \$300.00 for the Children's Miracle Network. CMN is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping hospitalized children by raising funds and awareness for 170 children's hospitals. NSCLS members raised the funds by selling Panera Bread certificates. Thanks to Marci Giesing who has organized the fund raising for the past few years.

Student Forum

We had a great year with the 2002-2003 NSCLS Student Forum. The students participated in several fund raisers including selling lollipops, Village Inn pies and T-shirts. The class raised about \$1600 this year! This money was used to have a Fall bowling party in Lincoln, a joint party with the Iowa students at the state meeting, and for registration fees for the students to attend the Spring meeting. The Student Forum members also created a “wheel of fortune” game for the attendees of the Spring meeting to play.

We have two students, Tracy Gray and Robbe Peetz, that the Student Forum will be supporting in their trip to the National meeting in Philadelphia. Both students will have airfare, hotel and registration fees paid! Have a great time!

I recently met the new class of 2003-2004. It is a larger class than last year and I’m excited to get them all participating in NSCLS. Robbe Peetz has volunteered to help with the Student Forum this year. Welcome aboard Robbe!

-Submitted by Mellissa Helligso

www.asclsregionvi.org/nscls/index.html

To keep current in what is happening in our organization, please visit our website. It is a place where you can find important information about upcoming events, who the officers, board members and committee chairs are, what our bylaws state, how to nominate someone for an award, and an archive of the Filter (starting with this issue). Future ideas may include posting of board meeting minutes and minutes from the annual meeting. If you have additional ideas on how this website can better serve you and our organization, please let Carol Larson MSED, MT(ASCP) know (larsonc@unk.edu) and she can put your ideas into place. It is also important to keep this website current, so if you see any information on the website that is outdated, please contact Carol so she can update it.

Submitted by Carol Larson (308)–865–1524

NSCLS 2004 Spring Meeting

Make plans now to attend the 2004 Spring Meeting, held in conjunction with CLMA and ASCP April 14 – 16, 2004. The Hilton Omaha hotel is attached to the new Omaha convention center at 1001 Cass Street. A block of rooms has been reserved and may go quickly. The deadline for hotel reservations is early so don't forget to make those reservations. The conference rate is \$99.00 + tax per night.

The theme for the combined organizations is "Back to the River". Exhibits will be held on Wednesday evening. There will be at least two sessions that evening as well. Thursday will end with a dinner at the Upstream restaurant for an additional charge. Hope to see you there.

Information provided by Roxanne Alter

Upcoming Conference

ASCLS Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference February 24 – 28, 2004
Held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin Contact Linda Milson with questions
Linda.milson@marquette.edu

ASCLS Legislative Symposium

ASCLS and CLMA conducted a legislative symposium in collaboration with the Clinical Laboratory Coalition March 17 + 18, 2003. Three issues were brought to the legislators attention. Kathy Leinenkugel attended to represent Nebraska. Topics discussed included the personnel shortage, the specimen collection reimbursement fee set by Medicare, and the first consumer price index update from Medicare in six years. There is more information on these topics in ASCLS Today, May 2003 and the Clinical Laboratory Science, Summer 2003 issue. If you no longer have your copy of these publications, they are on the ASCLS web site – www.ascls.org . If you are interested in the legislative efforts of ASCLS, please plan to attend next March's Legislative Days.

Clinical Laboratory Science

Summer 2003 issue

Check out these articles in the journal or at the ASCLS web site.

HIPPA – Are we Over-reacting
Continuing discussion of the entry level Masters degree for clinical laboratory
professionals
Abstracts and submitted papers and posters for the ASCLS 2003 Annual Meeting
FOCUS section: The Emerging Roles of BNP and Accelerated Cardiac Protocols in
Emergency Laboratory Medicine

ASCLS Position Paper

The 2003 House of Delegates will discuss the position paper: Role of the Clinical Laboratory in Response to an Expanding Geriatric Population. You can find this paper at www.ascls.org.

THANK YOU !

Thank you to all the officers and committee chairs that served NSCLS during the past year. Many of you have contributed for several years. We are looking forward to an exciting new year as new officers serve, and committee chairs are appointed. A special thank you goes to Courtney as her President's year ends. She worked on several projects and coordinated the spring meeting planning and prepared all those reports for Region and National.

Laurie Walrod leaves the NSCLS Board. She served as Award's chair for the 2003 spring meeting and spearheaded the NSCLS letter to the governors of Mid-Plains Community College to encourage their continued support of the medical laboratory technician program.

Julie Richards ends her two year assignment as Secretary. Her input and ideas were invaluable at Board meetings.

Thank you again – your efforts are appreciated!

Schools of Clinical Laboratory Science in Nebraska

Mid-Plains Community College

Medical Laboratory Technician Program

McDonald-Belton Campus
601 West State Farm Road
North Platte, NE 69101

Phone: 308.532.8980 or 800.658.4308 (ext. 254)

Medical Advisors: Dr. Byron Barksdale and Dr. Lyle Barksdale

Program Director: Martin Steinbeck, M.Ed., MT(ASCP)

Email: steinbeckm@mpcca.cc.ne.us

Nebraska Methodist Hospital

Clinical Laboratory Science Program

8303 Dodge St.

Omaha, NE 68114

Phone: 402.354.4563

Medical Director: Christine Reyes, MD

Program Director: Julie Richards, MPA

Email: jrichard@nmhs.org

Southeast Community College

Medical Laboratory Technician Program

Lincoln Campus Admissions
8800 O Street

Lincoln, NE 68520-9989

Phone: 402.437.2760 or 800.642.4075

Medical Director: Aina I. Silenieks, M.D.

Program Director: Janis Bible MT(ASCP)

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Clinical Laboratory Science Program

983135 Nebraska Medical Center

Omaha, NE 68198-3135

Phone: 402.559.8366

Medical Director: James Wisecarver, MD

Program Director: Phyllis Muellenberg, M.A.

Education Coordinator: Linda Fell, M.S.

Email: bkouba@unmc.edu

**NSCLS
3120 Jasper Court
Lincoln, Nebraska 68516**

Additional School Information

Central Community College has started a program for medical laboratory technicians. Information on that program as well as changes to the current programs should be sent to snoble@alltel.net.

Letter Campaign

Thanks to those members who contacted their congressmen concerning the recent insertion of a 20 % co-pay for laboratory services on the Medicare Fee Schedule. It now appears that that will not be a part of the final Medicare proposal, but the two versions of the bill still need to be reconciled.