

The Filter

Spring 2004

Newsletter of the Nebraska Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

NSCLS 2003 – 2004 BOARD

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

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, check the leadership directory at www.ascls.org and click on member societies – Nebraska.

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

FILTER DISTRIBUTION

The best way to ensure that you get The Filter is to be a NSCLS member. 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.

2004 ASCLS ANNUAL MEETING

The theme for this year's annual meeting is "Clinical Science Investigation: Los Angeles." You should have received a flyer with the ASCLS newsletter. It will be July 27 – 31, 2004. If you plan to go, please contact Roxanne Alter at ralter@unmc.edu. She will be looking for people to attend the House and to represent Nebraska.

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.

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

To see the schedule and the list of speakers, visit the web site: www.ascls.org Click on the member societies box and choose Nebraska or contact Roxanne Alter.

National Medical Laboratory Week

April 18 – 24, 2004

INTERESTING WEB SITE

CMS has developed an educational article on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)x12 837 Health Care Claim Implementation Guide (IG) Edits. You may view this Medlearn Matters article at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/MM3031.pdf>

Submitted by Kathy Leinenkugel

NSCLS Board Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2004

Board Members Attending: Roxanne Alter, President; Karen Keller, Treasurer; Sandy Latshaw, Board member; Amy Stanley, Board member

Board Members Absent: Martin Steinbeck, Secretary.

Others present: Mellissa Helligso, Kathy Leinenkugel, Shirley Noble, Cindy Page, Anita Smith, Brian Lenz.

Meeting was convened at 11:00 at University of Nebraska Medical Center

There was a vote to accept the October 17, 2003 NSCLS Board Meeting Minutes

Karen Keller motioned to accept and Amy Stanley seconded.

President's Report:

2004 Spring Meeting – Roxanne reported that there have been a few speakers who cancelled for the state meeting. The committee paid for the work on the programs in the interest of time. Some work was donated by the UNMC MT program. The Hilton seemed to recruit our business, and yet, Roxanne felt that at some point, the hotel became less cooperative. She suspects that the hotel wanted to use our meeting rooms for some other group. March 20 is the deadline for rooms. The committee committed to 60 rooms the first night, 60 rooms on Thursday, and 15 rooms on Friday night. Since some people will arrive on Tuesday, the hotel will spread the rooms over that night too. The committee had to purchase a liability insurance policy. There are currently 11 vendors. The meeting participants suggested that that number be increased. There will be no fee for parking (at a later date, we received notice that there will be a charge for parking SN) and the hotel will reserve slots in the parking garage. Roxanne needs moderators to help with the sessions at the state meeting. The visitor's bureau will supply some equipment and personnel to staff the registration area.

Treasurer's Report

Karen e-mailed the latest report to Board members and officers. The current funds available was given as \$33,226. She received a thank you from Children's Miracle Network for our donation. Karen mentioned that the spring meeting account was being charged a service fee due to low funds. Since that account is being used now, there shouldn't be a fee for a few months.

Spring Meeting Account:

Kathy has received \$5,625 from vendors. The spring meeting program has been printed. There was a discussion of various topics concerning the spring meeting.

Membership Report

This committee is without a chair. Because there is no chair, lapsed members were not contacted this year. Karen had some ideas for this position since she has served as membership chair before.

Filter Report

March 26 is the next deadline for Filter material. Cheryl Caskey (a past ASCLS President) sent an e-mail to Shirley after she received the Winter Filter. She mentioned that there is a brochure for recruitment of members.

Children's Miracle Network

There is no chair for this committee.

Student Forum

Students are selling T-shirts and polo shirts. Mellissa had order forms and order information will be included in the spring Filter and on the web site. Students are currently gathering registration forms and money for the spring meeting. There are 5 to 6 students interested in attending the ASCLS National meeting. Students must participate in fund raising to get the \$25.00 student registration fee at the state meeting, if they want student forum to cover that cost. There was a discussion of student forum money and the NSCLS reimbursement of spring meeting registration fees.

Scholarship and Loan Report

Cindy reported that Amber Gillham was awarded the MT scholarship and Lacey Dokken received the MLT scholarship. Cindy informed the board that she will not chair this committee next year. There was discussion about ASCLS National Office, use of funds at the national level, and member benefits.

Awards Committee

Sandy discussed the various awards. She mentioned the Award of Excellence and the Award of Technical Support. The reward amount for each of these awards was increased to \$100.00 each. The recipient of the Exhibitor Award receives a plaque and the Key to the Future receives a pin and a plaque. There was discussion of the awards and certificates offered. The Board met to discuss the Filter Award. The recipient receives a traveling plaque and silver tray. Marty Fattig will present the award. There was a discussion about nominees, nominators, certificates, and complementary lunch. Sandy will plan and conduct the award's luncheon. CLMA and ASCP may have awards to offer too. There will be a student poster award of \$100.

PACE

Brain is serving as the PACE chair for the spring meeting. There were a few questions about this function.

Old Business

None

New Business

Possible name change: Anita discussed the affect of a name change on our bylaws. There would be some expense to change names. New checks would have to be printed. Anita also reported that she had cook books from a previous NSCLS fund raiser. She had been contacted by the Nebraska Hospital Association about their meeting to see if NSCLS wanted to participate.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley J. Noble

NEW MEMBERS

The Membership Development Committee will continue the Spring Membership Campaign of prior years. With this campaign, any new member who joins ASCLS at a state's spring meeting will receive an expiration date of 7/05. This means that they will receive 15-17 months of membership (depending on the month the state has their spring meeting) for the cost of a 12 month membership.

We need to expedite the processing of the new members who join at the spring meetings. We want to be able to enter them into the system as quickly as possible. Please mail the applications and payments to the office to the attention of Sherry Miner. She will "walk" the applications through the process so no one is lost. Good luck!

January Leadership Mailing
Elissa Passiment

TRY THIS WEB SITE

Committee on Education Affairs (CEA) - Lots of choices

www.ascls.org/leadership/cea/cealinks.asp

NMLW ACTIVITIES

Last year, William Peterson of CSI attended the ASCP National meeting in New Orleans. He gave a presentation and attended a couple of General Sessions. He promised to promote the Laboratory Profession and I am glad to say that he kept his promise. I received the email below from ASCP.

I am pleased to report that William (Billy) Petersen, co-producer and star of CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, has kept his promise and has taped a public service announcement (PSA) for Laboratory Week (April 18-24). CBS-TV produced the 15-second script. It reads: "It's National Medical Laboratory Week. I want to salute pathologists and laboratory professionals across the country. Every day, they use their skills and knowledge to save lives and solve crimes. Today, there is a shortage of such heroes." Mr. Petersen lobbied hard for the spot, and for CBS to produce it. The CBS Vice-President for Programming became an enthusiastic supporter. It will be aired during Lab Week, likely in conjunction with the primetime CSIs.

Submitted by Kathy Leinenkugel
Received during 2004 Legislative
Symposium

Spring 2004 Government Affairs Update – Kathy Leinenkugel

Robbe Peetz (ASCLS Board of Directors Student Forum Chair) and Kathy Leinenkugel (ASCLS GAC, Region VI liaison) represented NSCLS at the 2004 Legislative Symposium held in Washington DC March 22nd and 23rd. They visited all five Nebraska congressional offices focusing on three key issues:

- Competitive Bidding Demonstration Program for Clinical Laboratory Services - Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) – for the past few years, the ASCLS has lobbied against legislation requiring Medicare to implement a competitive bidding process for clinical laboratory testing. Last year, our members joined successfully with others to have a 20% co-pay from being included in the proposed MMA legislation. However, the final version of the bill requires a competitive bidding demonstration program to be implemented by CMS. We asked our congressmen to contact Secretary Tommy Thompson and the various appropriation committees to ask that they include a requirement for an Advisory and Oversight Committee with clinical laboratory science representation.
- Workforce shortage – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects that in the period 2000-2010, a total of 120,000 positions in clinical laboratory science will be needed in the form of creating 80,000 new jobs and filling 40,000 existing vacancies. Of the 12,000 openings per year, academic institutions are producing only 4,200 graduates annually. ASCLS has partnered with other laboratory professional groups to address this shortage in a variety of ways, including the ongoing work of the Coordinating Council on the Clinical Laboratory Workforce (CCCLW). On the Hill, we asked for sponsors of legislation to help fund Allied Health education and training, and specifically clinical laboratory professionals. Websites for statistics:
 - Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics:
<http://www.bls.gov/oco/print/ocos096.htm>
 - Note: if anyone has any stats for Nebraska shortages (or your facility) – please let us know
- Medicare Collection Fee reimbursement – once again, we asked our congressmen to sponsor or support legislation for increasing the Medicare reimbursement fee for specimen collection. This fee, set at \$3.00 in 1984, has never been increased, even by the consumer price index (CPI). Current legislation asks for the reimbursement to be raised by the CPI to \$5.42. A modest and appropriate update of the clinical laboratory drawing fee would provide a reasonable level of relief to the clinical laboratory community and help ensure laboratories' ongoing ability to provide critical services to Medicare beneficiaries, including nursing home patients.

During our day of training on current issues, we also were given an overview of the final CLIA Quality System Regulation and Guideline. This was presented by Judy Yost, Director of Laboratory Services, CMS. Of specific interest are these changes:

- A change in terminology (Quality Assurance is now Quality Assessment)
- Changes affecting the frequency of external quality control allowing Equivalent QC (EQC).

For the complete guidance manual, available for download as a PDF file, go to www.cms.hhs.gov/clia/.

If you would like additional information regarding any of these issues, consider attending the issues update by Region VI Director John Koenig at the April NSCLS Spring Meeting, or contact Robbe turby10cj@yahoo.com or Kathy kvleinen@cox.net .

GRADUATING?

Click on the “Graduating?” box at www.ascls.org. There is information for new laboratory professionals.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Nebraska Society for Clinical Laboratory Science is pleased to announce that Amber D. Gillham and Lacey Dokken are the recipients of the 2004 NSCLS Scholarship. Amber is a medical technology student in the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Lacey is a medical laboratory technician student at Southeast Community College.

All the judges said it was very difficult decision. They felt that all applicants were excellent.

Please join me in congratulating Amber and Lacey.

Thank you to all that applied.

Cindy J. Page

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FUND, INC

Research Grants and Awards

Grant-in-Aid funding is available to support members of ASCLS who are conducting scientific investigation in the field of clinical laboratory science. Three grants for up to \$5000 may be awarded annually. Also, the Allegiance Graduate Student Award for research in the amount of \$3000 is available. Applications are due June 1, 2004 and are available on the website (www.ascls.org) in the Education section under Additional ASCLS Scholarship and Awards Information.

Vicki was associated with the University of Nebraska Medical Center Medical Technology program for a number of years.

Vicki S. Freeman to Receive ASCP Associate Excellence in Education Award

Vicki S. Freeman, PhD, MT(ASCP)SC will be honored with the ASCP Associate Excellence in Education Award during General Session III of the 2004 CLMA/ASCP Conference & Exhibition in Atlanta, March 27-30. The award was established to recognize an ASCP Associate who is actively involved in a medical laboratory education program and has demonstrated outstanding performance in teaching through work in the classroom or clinic, or through development of effective teaching methods and instructional materials. Freeman is currently the professor and chair in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston, TX. She has held various professor positions there and at the University of Nebraska for more than 10 years. At UTMB, she has taught topics such as clinical laboratory methods, research in laboratory sciences, method development and assessment, management skills for clinical laboratories, legal and ethical issues in health care, clinical chemistry, advanced health assessment for NP, and specialist in blood banking certificate program. She also presents programs nationally on various subjects including "Developing a Laboratory Continuing Education Program," "Development of Web-based Clinical Laboratory Science Curriculum," and "Collaboration and Management in the Development of an Online Degree Program."

Freeman has been an active member and volunteer for the ASCP. Over the years, she has served on the ASCP's Internet Advisory Committee, the ASCP Board of Registry Joint Generalist Examination Review Committee, the ASCP Associate Member Section Consensus Conference Committee, and the ASCP Research and Development Committee. Freeman currently serves on the ASCP's Electronic Education Committee.

Submitted by Kathy Leinenkugel

Prevention Magazine Recommends Lab Tests Online

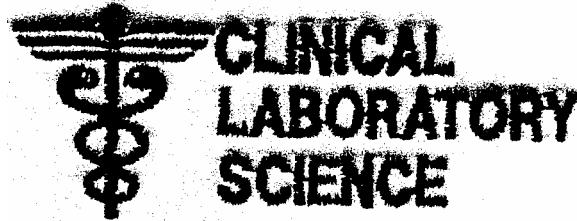
February 10, 2004 – In its March 2004 issue, *Prevention* magazine lists Lab Tests Online under the title “Smartest health sites on the Web.” The article recommends Lab Tests Online as one of four web sites “used by *Prevention* editors [that] provide independent expert advice we trust.”

Go to <http://www.labtestsonline.org> to see this site sponsored by so many laboratory professional organizations: ASCLS, ASCP, AACC, CLMA, CAP, and others.

Submitted by Kathy Leinenkugel

NSCLS STUDENT FORUM FUNDRAISER

EMBROIDERED POLO SHIRTS



Logo on Left Chest

Optional Personalization for an addition fee

Available in Variety of Colors

\$23

T-SHIRTS



Logo in Black and Dark Maroon

Across the Back of the T-shirt and on the front left chest.

White or Gray Shirts

Short Sleeve \$12.50

Long Sleeve \$15.00

Students Taking Orders

Or

Contact jhaggard@unmc.edu

If you would like to order a T-shirt or polo shirt, please order by April 14. Send orders to

Mellissa Helligso

2151 N. 162nd Avenue

Omaha, NE 68116

Please include an additional \$2 for shipping charges.

SEE YOU AT THE 2004 SPRING MEETING APRIL 14 – 16,
2004. The conference is in conjunction with ASCP and CLMA
and will be at the Omaha Hilton Hotel.

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Lincoln, Nebraska 68516