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# GAC/PAC Update

## Health Care Reform

The Government Affairs Committee (GAC) has been busy staying on top of health care reform issues and developing our ASCLS positions.

One of the ground rules of health care reform is that it does not add cost to the federal government. Therefore many segments of health care, such as the laboratory, are being called upon to finance the cost. For the laboratory, that will happen through adjustments (i.e. decreases) in the clinical laboratory fee schedule.

**At this time the impact for the clinical laboratory industry in the two reform bills is as follows:**

- The **Senate version of the bill** will include a productivity adjustment starting in 2011. The productivity adjustment would never reduce the update below zero (currently for 2010 we will receive a cut of 1.9% with the current fee schedule annual adjustments). The Senate bill makes an additional cut of 1.75% to the annual fee schedule adjustment for 2011-2015. This will reduce the update to below zero in each of those years.

- The **House version of the bill** would apply a productivity adjustment with no protection that the adjustment could be less than zero. We are hopeful that during the conference committee process with the Senate, that the Senate language on not having the productivity adjustment fall below zero will be adopted.

On December 21, the GAC voted to support having ASCLS sign on to a Clinical Laboratory Coalition letter to House congressional members supporting their efforts in passing health care reform. We are committed to ensuring access to affordable high quality health care for all Americans and seek to work with the Congress toward final passage of comprehensive health care reform legislation. We understand that the entire health care industry needs to play their part in financing this important legislation. The productivity adjustments assessed on the clinical laboratory community in the House legislation will achieve a balance that provides significant funding for health reform while ensuring that appropriate laboratory services can continue to be accessed by Medicare beneficiaries. **We feel strongly that the clinical laboratory community cannot sustain any additional cuts beyond those outlined in the H.R. 3962 without negatively impacting access to care for the most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries.**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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We will continue to follow Congressional action on healthcare reform after the holidays when the House and Senate versions of the bill will need to be reconciled in conference committee. We are likely to be asking for your advocacy support with your Representatives and Senators at that point. We will be utilizing the *CapWiz* software to connect with our members and for them to contact their legislators.

### 2010 ASCLS/CLMA/ASCP/AMT Legislative Symposium

This event is jointly sponsored by ASCLS, CLMA, ASCP and AMT. This is an opportunity for each of us to “provide the face” of our profession with our elected senators and representatives. As in years past, there will many legislative issues impacting our profession, including the impacts of health care reform, reimbursement changes, and workforce funding, just to name a few. This is the opportunity to have your voice and those of your colleagues heard on Capitol Hill. We have made a difference before and we can make a difference again.

The registration form for the symposium along with the hotel information is available on the ASCLS website at the following link: <http://www.ascls.org/conferences/2010LegDay/Flyer%20LEGDAY%202010.doc>

**Thanks to you – we defeated Competitive Bidding!**

**Concerned about Healthcare? Donate to the ASCLS PAC**

<p><b>VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS</b></p> <p>ASCLS/PAC is supported by donations solicited solely from ASCLS members. Federal law requires that these contributions be voluntary. Your support of ASCLS/PAC demonstrates your support of the hard-working, serious and responsible candidates for national office. Your decision will in no way affect your membership in ASCLS.</p> <p>Please clip this coupon and send it, with your PERSONAL check or credit card information (please do not send cash) to:</p> <p>ASCLS/PAC 6701 Democracy Boulevard, Suite 300 Bethesda, Maryland 20817</p>	<p>I would like to support ASCLS/PAC. Enclosed is my personal check for:  <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p>Federal Election Law requires you provide us with the following information:</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip _____</p> <p>Employer: _____</p> <p>Signature _____ Date _____</p> <p>Region _____ (for ASCLS Awards)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VISA   MC   AMEX</p> <p>Credit Card Number _____</p> <p>Expiration Date MM/YY _____</p>
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# President's Page. . .

NICOLE MEIER



What a year 2009 was! I hope that 2010 finds everyone in good health and warm at that. There are some dates that you need to mark down on your calendar for 2010.

Coming March 15-16 ASCLS representatives will be taking on Washington, DC to fight for our place in the new healthcare bill. ASCLS has taken a stand in saying that we want all Americans to have access to quality healthcare performed by qualified laboratory professionals with an appropriate reimbursement for services. If you would like to attend this event, please check out [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org) or e-mail me at [nmeier01@hotmail.com](mailto:nmeier01@hotmail.com). Financial assistance may be available.

This April is our annual State education meeting. This year the theme is Managers, Teachers and Scientists. The Committee has made sure that there will be a wide variety of educational sessions that appeal to all disciplines. Mark the dates: April 7-9, 2010 at the LaVista Conference Center in Omaha. Plan on attending a fun social on Thursday night and the NSCLS business meeting Friday morning. Registration details will appear on the NSCLS website ([www.nscls.net](http://www.nscls.net)) and be sent via e-mail. April is also the month that National Medical Laboratory Week is held: April 18-24<sup>th</sup>.

I want to thank everyone for their dedicated service to our profession this past year. So often times we go unrecognized, just take a moment to pat yourself on the back. There are so many things happening within healthcare these days that will affect our profession. Please realize that we have the power to have a say in all of this through your connection in NSCLS, however, power comes in numbers. Keep passing the word on of what NSCLS does for you and for your colleagues. Continue to recruit new members so that they can share in the joy and we can make a difference together.

If you are interested in becoming more active in NSCLS, please contact myself via e-mail at [nmeier01@hotmail.com](mailto:nmeier01@hotmail.com). We have available positions in leadership and I'm sure I could find the right fit for you.

**Best Wishes and see you at the  
State Meeting!**

**NATIONAL MEDICAL LABORATORY  
PROFESSIONALS WEEK  
April 18-24, 2010**



Laboratory Professionals  
**Get Results**

# NSCLS Fall Business Meeting Minutes

submitted by Joyce Colombe, NSCLS Secretary

Present: Tracey Vrba, Anita Smith, Karen Keller, Joyce Colombe, Shirley Noble, Nicole Meier, Shana Jensen and Roxanne Alter

1. Nicole Meier called the meeting to order. The Past-president, President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Senior Board member and Junior Board member make up the board for NSCLS. Prior to this meeting via email, Lucas Christiansen made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2009 NSCLS Annual Business Meeting and Linsey Donner seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a majority of the board members electronically.

2. Past President's Report: Tracy Vrba is helping with mentoring the new professionals. Tracey reported that the following are working in leadership positions. Chelsea Dockins and Alicia Eisenmenger are New-professionals, Chelsea Dockins is the Student forum adviser, Whitney Gatz is the First Year Professional, and the student forum president will be voted on by the students. Chelsea and Alicia will be doing something for the students at the state meeting. Tracey reported that the people from Nebraska had a great time at the National Meeting. Four students from Nebraska went to the meeting. The students went to at least one committee meeting as well as other meetings.

2. President's Report: Nicole Meier asked all committee members to submit reports to her. Some were submitted in docx. Nicole will ask to resubmit in a different format because she can not get them to open. She reported that Nebraska had good representation at the National meeting: Shana Jensen, Nicole Meier, Tracey Vrba, Roxanne Alter, Linda Fell, Ricki Otten, and four students-Whitney Gatz, Erin Flagle, Amy Bohmont, Genna Kiser. Tracey went to the by-laws meeting. Nicole said we have a lot to do at the state level. We need to provide leadership and contact members. Our profession needs representation for legislation. We need numbers for support. Our membership has dropped throughout the country. Some feel it may be due to the merger of NCA and ASCP's BOR. We need to recruit new members, accept the merger, and move on. Nicole will have a President's message in the Filter. Membership is key and we need to work on leadership succession.

3. Secretary's Report: Joyce Colombe reported that the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting were approved by email.

4. Treasurer's Report: Linsey Donner sent a report. Karen Keller gave the report at the meeting. In last year's budget, no students attended the national meeting and 3 people went from Nebraska. This year to save money and paper the Filter will be sent electronically. It was suggested to send members a post card as a reminder to look for the Filter on the web. Money was saved in some areas and extra was spent in some areas. Money that is listed as ASCP - \$9000 could possibly be used for speakers for ASCP workshops. Some additional ways to make money were discussed such as a fund drive, silent auction, garage sales, and cookbooks. Continuing education activities such as half-day mini meeting or traveling workshops were discussed. Tracey talked about Education Saturday that is broadcast from a community college. Roxanne discussed the Antibiotic Sensitivity workshop that she worked on that utilized Black-board, a pretest and post-test. Shirley reported that Lancaster Society for Clinical Laboratory Science is doing a Saturday morning continuing education seminar with 3 speakers for \$40.

5. Committee Reports:

A. Membership Chair: No report at this time. Lynett Kastens may need someone to help her find the

membership information for the State.

- B. Senior Board Member and Spring Meeting Chair: Lucas Christiansen was not able to attend today. The assignments for the committee are Lucas: overall planning and coordinating of the meeting and awards. Shirley Noble: speakers. Beth Sargent: Vendors. Patty Eschlimann: CLMA management speakers and functions. Jillian Christensen: Assist with site planning. Linsey Donner: Treasurer. Karen Keller: PACE. The meeting will be 3 full days from April 7 –April 9 in the La Vista Conference Center in La Vista/Omaha. The tentative schedule is Wednesday general speakers from 8 AM – 5 PM. Thursday 8 AM – 12 noon management speakers, 12 noon – 2 PM, Vendor lunch, 2 PM – 5 PM, general speakers and 5 PM – 7 PM Vendors and Friday 8 AM – 4:30 PM general speakers to include microbiology, blood bank and student interest topics. Each session is planned to be 1 hour with 15 minutes for questions and answers. Fifteen minute breaks are planned between speakers. Lunch will be served everyday. The hotel choices are the Embassy Suites and the Courtyard that are attached to the conference center. Vendor prices will be \$450 for one booth and \$800 for two booths. We still need a theme for the meeting. It was suggested to make it a contest among the students. Shirley Noble reported on the list of speakers and possible topics. Patty Eschlimann will need help with registration and moderator packets.
- C. PACE Report: Karen Keller had several emails from various groups wanting PACE credit for in house sessions. She advised them PACE is for NSCLS sponsored continuing education programs only. Groups wanting to provide PACE credit for non-NSCLS sponsored events can pay a one-time fee. Complete information is available at the ASCLS website. For NSCLS sponsored events, a flyer with a description of the program and session objectives are required. At the completion of the session, attendees are able to print out the PACE certificate online from the ASCLS website.
- D. GAC/PAC Report: Andrea Shank reported that NSCLS needs to fund raise for PAC. At the National meeting, there was a health care resolution that stated:
1. ASCLS supports reimbursement at appropriate levels for quality service
  2. ASCLS supports access to accurate and reliable lab testing
  3. ASCLS supports efficient and cost effective delivery of lab services.
- ASCLS is developing letters that the members can send to Congress against the 20% co-pay.
- E. Website: Martin Steinbeck – no report
- F. By-laws Report: Anita reported that she, Nicole, Shirley and Tracey met regarding changing the by-laws and the name change of NSCLS to ASCLS-NE. A formal motion needs to be made by the board to change the name. Tracey Vrba made a motion to change the name from NSCLS to ASCLS-NE. The motion was seconded by Shana Jensen. All were in favor. No opposition. Motion passed. Anita will send an electronic copy of the by-laws to the National by-laws committee. The board needs to look at it and approve it. Then it needs to go to the membership with a private ballot with 2 weeks advance notice. There was also a discussion of adding the First Year Professional and a student representative to the board.
- G. Historian: Shirley Noble reported that Caroline McShane in Grand Island had 5 file drawers of material for NSCLS from 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1973. Joyce Colombe also has a box of old secretary records. Tracy has the policy from ASCLS regarding record retention. Shirley said she could have a meeting that everyone can bring old NSCLS records and we can sort through them. She said the historical society may be able to store them for us.

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- H. Webmaster and Publications: The Filter and other information will be on the website. Postcards need to go out to members to remind them to check the website.
6. Open Issues:
- A. Development of a list-serve: Nicole and Tracey reported that contacting members by email can be difficult with the numbers of emails. A list-serv could be set up for members. It was decided to go ahead with a list-serv.
- B. National Meeting: Some people have reported problems with keying in the continuing education sessions. The Leadership Academy was discussed and sending people from Nebraska. NSCLS needs to budget for it.
7. New Business:
- A. Roberts Rule of Order: We need to follow Roberts Rule of Order and have discussion and motions.
- B. Development of Leadership and Succession: Find people to go to the Leadership Academy. There is a Training Manual that the leadership academy developed. It is available in a notebook, CD and on the web.
- C. Member recruitment: Member recruitment was discussed. We need new members, more members and active members. Continuing education and other activities may help
- D. Treasurer reimbursement discussion: The budget may need to be adjusted to accommodate such things as baggage fees, flight cost increases, driving to an airport to save on flights.

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## **A FEW GOOD MEN...OR WOMEN**

One of the major complaints with medical personnel is a lack of recognition. Please take a moment or two to nominate a fellow laboratorian for an award. Visit [www.nscls.net](http://www.nscls.net) and click on Awards to see descriptions and to get the nominations form. All awards posted are open for nominations. Winners will be announced at the Awards Luncheon on Friday, April 9th at the Annual NSCLS Spring Meeting.

All applications must be received by March 31st, 2010 to be considered. The NSCLS Officers will determine the winners of each award based on the application information.

Please send nominations and questions to:

Lucas Christensen

415 S 25th Ave

Omaha, Nebraska 68131

[lucas.christensen@alegent.org](mailto:lucas.christensen@alegent.org)

# Should NSCLS become **ASCLS-NE** ??

## Your Vote Counts!!

In fall of 2009, Bylaws Chair Anita Smith, Historian Shirley Noble, President Nicole Meier, and Past-President Tracey Vrba met to hold a review of the NSCLS Bylaws and Society Regulations. Their proposed changes were approved by the NSCLS Board and are currently under review by the ASCLS National Bylaws Committee. If approved by the National Bylaws Committee, the members of NSCLS will vote on the proposed changes during the 2010 Spring Meeting at the La Vista Conference Center.

A few of the most significant proposals are as follows:

\*Change the current name The Nebraska Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (NSCLS) to The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science - Nebraska (ASCLS-NE). The ASCLS National Bylaws Committee recommended the change. The effort is being made to create a more unified brand. Several state societies have already made the change.

\*Change the term "Society Regulations" to "Standard Operating Procedures," as suggested by the National Bylaws Committee.

\*Add the Student Forum Chair and First Year Professional Chair to the NSCLS Board of Directors. These two people will have voting rights on the Board. The proposal was made to allow the state board to resemble that of the national board.

Once approved by the National Bylaws Committee, all changes will be available for your review on the NSCLS website [www.nscls.net](http://www.nscls.net). Please watch the website for a copy of the proposed changes, as well as, information regarding voting dates, times, location, and procedure.

## 2010 SPRING MEETING

*MANAGERS, TEACHERS & SCIENTISTS*



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<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/omalv-courtyard-omaha-lavista/>

# NSCLS Board Elections

During the 2010 Spring Meeting, elections will be held for the 2010-2011 NSCLS Board. Four positions are currently open for nominations. They are as follows:

## **President-elect:**

**No Nominations at this time**

Duties:

Year 1: As President-elect, assist the President and familiarize themselves with the duties of the office of President.

Year 2: As President, appoint all appointive committees and with the approval of the Board of Directors, such special committees as are needed. The president or their alternate shall represent NSCLS on the President's Council of ASCLS. Propose and carry out goals with the help of the Board of Directors and committees. Ensure communication with and among National, Regional, and State leaders, as well as, the members of NSCLS. Initiate and hold up to three Board of Director meetings including an Annual Business Meeting. Mentor President-elect.

Year 3: As Past-President, chair the Nominations Committee. Mentor President.

## **Treasurer Nomination:**

**Linsey Donner**

Education: BS in Medical Technology from UNMC, currently working on a Master of Public Health at UNMC.

Employment: University of Nebraska Medical Center, Clinical Lab Science Program, Microbiology Coordinator.

ASCLS Membership: 6 years, started as a student member

ASCLS Leadership: NSCLS Student Forum Director (2 years) & NSCLS Treasurer (2 years)

## **Senior Board Member:**

**No Nominations at this time**

Duties: Chair the Spring Meeting Planning Committee. Mentor Junior Board Member.

## **Junior Board Member Nomination:**

**Chelsea Dockins**

Education: BS in Clinical Laboratory Science from The University of Nebraska Medical Center

Employment: Medical Laboratory Scientist at Westroads Medical Group in Omaha

ASCLS Membership: 3 years, started as a student member

ASCLS Leadership: First Year Professional (1 year) & New Professional Committee Advisor (1 year)

If you yourself or someone you know are interested in one of the positions above, please email me with your nomination at [tracey\\_vrba@hotmail.com](mailto:tracey_vrba@hotmail.com). Please watch the NSCLS website [www.nscls.net](http://www.nscls.net) for more election and voting information.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements 1 July 2009 – 31 December 2009

SUBMITTED BY LINSEY DONNER, MT (ASCP)

Money Market balance - 1 July 2009		\$19,106.31
Cash receipts		
Money Market Interest Income	\$34.47	
ASCLS membership	\$650.00	
Quad State Meeting 2009	<u>\$11,853.89</u>	
Total Money Market cash receipts	\$12,538.36	
Disbursements		
Transfers to Spring Meeting account	\$500.00	
Transfers to checking account	<u>\$6,716.00</u>	
Total Money Market disbursements	\$7,216.00	
Money Market account balance 31 December 2009		<u>\$24,428.67</u>
Checking account balance - 1 July 2009		\$535.59
Cash Receipts		
Transfers from Money Market	\$6,716.00	
Bank service charge reversal	<u>\$30.00</u>	
Total checking account cash receipts	\$6,746.00	
Disbursements		
ASCLS meeting - President	\$534.28	
ASCLS meeting - members	\$2,642.57	
ASCLS meeting- students	\$1,664.40	
Bank Service Charge	\$30.00	
ASCLS PACE Providership 2010	\$325.00	
Membership	\$113.41	
Carryover from 2009--Awards	\$280.60	
Treasurer and President	<u>\$92.00</u>	
TOTAL checking account disbursements	\$5,682.26	
Checking account balance 31 December 2009		<u>\$1,599.33</u>
<b>NSCLS SUMMARY OF ASSETS:</b>		
Money Market balance 31 December 2009		\$24,428.67
Checking account balance 31 December 2009		\$1,599.33
Scholarship CD balance 31 December 2009		\$14,800.49
Legislative CD balance 31 December 2009		\$5,190.08
Savings CD balance 31 December 2009		<u>\$11,373.16</u>
NSCLS TOTAL ASSETS - 31 December 2009		<u>\$57,391.73</u>

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH ASCLS, CLMA, ASCP & AMT!**  
**Legislative Symposium 2010**  
 March 15 - 16, 2010  
 Washington, D.C.

ASCLS IS PROUD TO WORK WITH CLMA, ASCP, and AMT on the 2010 Legislative Symposium. Joining an ASCLS tradition since 1989, CLMA, ASCP and AMT members will meet with their Representatives and Senators on Capitol Hill as a unified front on behalf of our profession. We need you!! – committed laboratory professionals and leaders – to come to Washington to provide a visible and informed voice and make our concerns known inside Congress!

***Issue Briefings and Seminars***

- Medicare Reimbursement
- Personnel Shortage
- Health Care Reform
- DOL/HRSA Allied Health Initiatives

***Education, Experience, Leadership***

A key component of the Legislative Symposium is a guided education in the "how-to's" of lobbying. Our sessions will familiarize you with the organizational structure of Congressional offices, committees and staff. You will be coached on presentation techniques specifically tailored for the political environment. Newcomers will know what to expect and what to do when they arrive on Capitol Hill for appointments on day two. Everyone will return home from Washington with first-hand knowledge of the political system in action and confidence knowing you can make a difference.

**REGISTRATION FEE**

Postmarked by February 15: \$195  
 Postmarked after February 15: \$250

**SCHEDULE**

Monday, March 15: Registration/Continental Breakfast 7:30am, Sessions 8:00am-5:00pm, Wine Reception 6:00pm  
 Tuesday, March 16: Social Breakfast 7:00am, Capitol Hill Appointments 9:00am-12:00pm, Departure 12:30pm

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

All attendees will be housed at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, located in stylish Crystal City, VA; convenient to shopping, Regan National Airport and Airport Metro subway (Blue and Yellow Lines). A block of rooms has been set aside for Legislative Symposium attendees and will be held until February 19<sup>th</sup>. Accommodations are \$199 for single or double rooms, plus any additional applicable taxes. To make reservations, please call the Hyatt Regency directly at 703-418-1234 or 800-233-1234.

**MAIL, FAX or EMAIL THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO:**

ASCLS, 6701 Democracy Boulevard, Suite 300, Bethesda, MD 20817

If you are paying by credit card, you may FAX the form to 301/657-2909 OR email to [elissap@ascls.org](mailto:elissap@ascls.org)

**LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM 2010 REGISTRATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ASCLS/CLMA/ASCP/AMT Member # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ FAX# \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make check payable to ASCLS)

Paying by credit card? Please complete the following:  Visa  MasterCard  Am Ex

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER FEB. 15TH; THEREFORE PLEASE PLAN TO SEND A REPLACEMENT IF YOU MUST CANCEL. THANK YOU

# AMA APPROVED CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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EDUCATION COORDINATOR: LORI VANBOENING, MT(ASCP)  
EMAIL: [LVANBOENING@CCCNEB.EDU](mailto:LVANBOENING@CCCNEB.EDU)

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PHONE: 308.535.3754 OR 800.658.4308 (EXT. 3754)

MEDICAL ADVISORS: DR. BYRON BARKSDALE AND DR. LYLE BARKSDALE  
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MEDICAL DIRECTOR: AINA I. SILENIEKS, M.D.  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: JANIS BIBLE MT(ASCP)

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WINTER EDITION—2010

2009 – 2010 NSCLS OFFICERS

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