

ASCLS-NE NEWSLETTER
www.ascls-ne.org

Past President

Where has the time gone? 2016 is quickly upon us as ASCLS-NE prepares for a busy Spring. The Nebraska Spring Meeting (April 27-29) will be a great opportunity to earn continuing education credits, network with other laboratory professionals, see the latest and greatest laboratory equipment, and have some fun. The meeting also falls during the middle of Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (April 24-30). This week provides laboratory professionals a unique opportunity to increase public understanding of and appreciation for clinical laboratory personnel. I challenge everyone to make an effort to educate others about what we do as laboratory professionals and why it is so important. This education is also important in the recruitment of future laboratory professionals. Many students do not know this field even exists. With the growing shortage of laboratory professionals, it is essential that each of us does our part to promote this great profession. If you would like some recruitment materials, please contact me. As always, thank you for being a valuable member of our profession.

Kevin McGuire

president-elect@ascls-ne.org



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SPRING MEETING 2016!!!

2016 Spring Laboratory Meeting

By: Chelsea Dockins Reischl

Mark your calendars! The Annual Spring Laboratory Meeting will be held at the Embassy La Vista Hotel and Conference Center April 27th - 29th.

A registration site will be set up soon - please check <http://www.ascls-ne.org/> for more details.

You can book your hotel reservations by calling the Embassy at 402.331.7400 and requesting the **ASCLS NE** block. The group code is **AS3**. You can also use this link:

http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/O/OMAESES-AS3-20160426/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Make your reservations by 4/11/16 to receive the discounted room rate!

We have a fun social planned for the evening of the 28th at Werner Park! It will include dinner and a baseball game. It's also Thirsty Thursday! More information will be available on the registration site.

If you have any suggestions, would like to help with the meeting, or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cdockinsmgm@aol.com.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!



Take Me Out to the Ballgame!!!



2016 Nebraska Laboratory Spring Meeting Social

Thursday April 28th at Werner Park (12356
Ballpark Way, Papillion, NE 68046)

Food available from 6:00-7:30 PM

Game starts at 6:35 PM

Omaha Storm Chasers versus Oklahoma City Dodgers

Prices (includes ticket to game and dinner):

Registered Attendee: \$15.00

Non-Registered Adult Guest: \$25.00

Non-Registered Child (ages 3-10) Guest: \$15.00

Non-Registered Child (ages 2 and under): Free

To register for this event, visit:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=ik4Iwidab&oeidk=a07ec988200a0ed20a7>

ASCLS-NE AWARDS LUNCHEON

APRIL 29TH

Do you know someone who is passionate about their work in the medical laboratory field?

The ASCLS-NE Awards Luncheon is a great way for you to recognize them. Please consider nominating individuals you believe are worthy of these awards.

Recipients will be announced at the Awards Luncheon at the Embassy Suites in La Vista, Nebraska.

Nomination forms can be found on the ASCLS-NE website:

<http://ascls-ne.org/awards.html>



Nominations must be received by Friday, March 25th

Please email nomination forms to Lynnett Paneitz at:

awards@ascls-ne.org

All nominees will receive a complimentary lunch during the awards ceremony!

See page 5 for descriptions of all the awards!

Nominations due soon....March 25th!

Award of Excellence

This award was established to recognize a Medical Technologist/Clinical Laboratory Scientist or Medical Laboratory Technician/Clinical Laboratory Technician who has made a significant contribution to that person's profession, institution and community. The nominee does not need to be a member of ASCLS-NE. A laboratory may nominate only one individual, who must have been employed at that facility for at least one year and must be certified by a national certifying agency. Notify your lab manager/administrator if you would like to nominate an individual.

Technical Support Award of Excellence

This award was established to recognize a person who supports the laboratory profession (i.e. phlebotomist, lab assistant, secretary, client services rep, etc.) and has made a significant contribution to that person's profession, institution and community. The nominee does not need to be a member of ASCLS-NE. An institution may nominate only one individual, who must have been employed at that facility for at least one year. Notify your institution if you would like to nominate an individual.

Filter Award

This award goes to an outstanding ASCLS-NE member who has made a significant contribution to our society. Nominations are based on the member's activities during the current year, as well as a summary of that person's contributions to the Clinical Laboratory Science profession. Officers of ASCLS-NE are not eligible.

Key to the Future Award

This award is given to recognize and reward newly active members of ASCLS-NE who have demonstrated leadership potential by their contributions to our organization. Directing a task force/project or chairing a committee with significant tasks, the outcome of which is considered to be outstanding, creative or of high quality may be used as a guide to determining leadership potential. Officers of ASCLS-NE are not eligible.

Shirley Noble Award

This award was established to recognize an ASCLS-NE member who actively promotes the laboratory profession. The member has acted as a positive role model and mentor to members of the society or to MLS/MLT students just as its namesake Shirley Noble did.

Exhibitor Appreciation Award

This award was established to show appreciation for an exhibitor/salesperson/technical representative who has shown outstanding support educationally and/or financially to the field of Clinical Laboratory Science and ASCLS-NE. Factors to be considered may be the number of years exhibiting at the Spring Meeting, donation of funds for an ASCLS-NE Award, contributions to continuing education, or demonstration of alternate support.

ASCLS-NE Winter Board Meeting
Agenda January 30, 2016 at 2:00 PM (CST)
Chelsea Dockins Reischl's House (6211 S 195th St, Omaha, NE 68135-3748)
Call In: 1-605-475-4262
Access Code: 5944092

1. Board Meeting:

In attendance: Brad Hays, Kevin McGuire, Lynette Paneitz, Ashley Collins, Lindsey Donner, Megan Brown, Chelsea Reischl, Donna Kruger, Nicole Smith, Karen Honeycutt, Tracey Bittner, Rachel Fink (student at Methodist), Kate Schluntz (student at Methodist), Jon Roxas, Roxanne Alter.

Started at 2:00 pm with introductions of Board Leadership members.

a. Board Leadership Reports (Concerns, Requests for Action)

i. Past-President-Kevin McGuire

No Concerns

No Requests for Action

ii. President-Brad Hays

No Concerns

No Requests for Action

iii. Treasurer-Ashley Collins

No Concerns

Request for Action:

- The Fidelity Bond still needs to be done-the deadline is past. Needs to be discussed at a later date with President.

iv. Secretary-Donna Kruger

No Concerns

Request for Action:

- Need approval of last meeting minutes
Brad moved to approve the meeting minutes.
Seconded by Lynette. Motion Passed.

v. Senior Board Member-Chelsea Dockins-Reischl

No Concerns

No Requests for Action

vi. Junior Board Member-Megan Brown

No Concerns

No Requests for Action

vii. First Year Professional-Kevin Nicholson

No Concerns

No Requests for Action

viii. Student Forum President-Molly Finn (Not present/in AZ)

No Concerns

No Requests for Action

- Ashley reported that students are designing t-shirts right now. Brad stressed that students need to make everyone aware when selling.

b. Other Leadership Reports (Concerns, Requests for Action)

i. Membership

No Concerns

No Requests for Action

ii. Leadership Development-Position not filled

iii. PAC/GAC-Roxanne Alter

No Concerns

No Requests for Action

March 14-15 is Legislative Symposium Days. Roxanne is going and one person from CLMA.

iv. Website-Ashley Collins

No Concerns

No Requests for Action

v. FILTER-Nicole Smith

Concerns:

- Fall edition was not published due to inadequate amount of material submitted.
- Now has a chart listing when submissions are due and when distributed. The next submission date is February 15, 2016 but can go to end of February. Will be published in March.

Request for Action:

- Wants everyone to email her with their best email address.

vi. Scholarship & Loans-Andrea Jones

No Concerns

No Requests for Action

- Group had discussion about Rita Altman loan. Suggestions made to make known to all students, put into Filter each time. We can't change the rules in place (Bank is executor). There is a lot of money available. Good for when student can't qualify for other loans. Board is who approves individuals. "Medical Technology higher education" is wording for acceptable candidates in the loan document.

vii. PACE-Position not filled.

No Concerns

No Requests for Action

- Group had a discussion about needing a person to fill this position. Roxanne said she would consider moving out of GAC/PAC and doing this if no one else will. Brad described this role to everyone. Linsey continued description with comment of “Quite a bit of work for about 3 months, etc.” working with speakers (their bios,etc.), and sending to Nicole Meyer again for printing to compile moderator packets. Compile stats, quarterly report sent quarterly to National. Brad asked for nominations and/or volunteer for this role. Chelsea suggested putting the need to fill this position in the Filter. Karen Honeycutt said she might be willing but won't be available for 2 weeks in March. Perhaps Karen Keller/Roxanne could fill in these 2 weeks.

Attention Students!!

Applications are being accepted for personal loans from the Frieda Oltmanns trust. Ms. Oltmanns very generously donated the remainder of her estate to establish a trust for Nebraska MLS students. If you need a personal loan, please contact Andrea Jones for an application at scholarships@ascls-ne.org.

Also, scholarship applications are now being accepted. Visit the ASCLS-NE Website at www.ascls-ne.org for more information and for submission requirements.

A Sea of Faces

Author: Brianna Lehr

Medical Laboratory Technology Student
Southeast Community College, Lincoln Nebraska

The health care field is undoubtedly one of the most critical and relevant fields of our day. Ever-evolving, this dynamic division of the workforce world has come leaps and bounds from the barbaric remedies fasted out of little more than lore and superstition that our ancestors instituted. Research soon followed, gaining sophisticated momentum as it traveled throughout the years. As we have practiced, we have learned; no lesson is more important than that of proper patient identification.

On any given day, clinics and hospitals will handle a plethora of patients; a sea of faces all seeking treatment and relief from whatever ailments they may be burdened by. It is our responsibility as caregivers to make sure we are being vigilant in assuring that the patient to whom we are speaking and performing clinical intervention upon, is, in fact, who we believe them to be. Many problems could arise if any discrepancy were to come about due to incorrect identification.

It all starts with the phlebotomist. While they are making their daily rounds, it may be tempting to cut corners or skimp on the identity interrogation when they're down a phlebotomist and their pager is going off unrelentingly, and they are falling behind due to some tough draws, and their stack of requisitions is piling up higher and higher. Failure to collect from the correct patient leads to erroneous lab results, delayed treatment, and possibly worse outcomes.

The lab team needs to be up on their toes and very aware in order to catch mistakes made by others, and prevent their own mistakes. This is perhaps most important

in the Immunohematology department, where these mistakes could be deadly. A unit of packed red cells matched to a spurious sample of blood collected earlier that day has a high likelihood of being incompatible, and I for one would not like to be involved in, or responsible for, an acute hemolytic transfusion reaction resulting in the death of someone's grandmother or child, parent or spouse.

Misidentification causes approximately 160,900 adverse events in U.S. hospitals annually, and one in 18 sample identification errors directly leads to an adverse event (Statistics: Patient Safety Facts & Figures (Zebra Technologies), n.d.). It is my duty as a future health care professional to practice diligence and integrity, starting right now, in student lab. It has been said that errors occurring in student lab will, unfortunately, be repeated out in the "real world" of patient care; I believe that to be true. This is the most avoidable and costly human error seen in health care and I hope I never make it again.

Works Cited

Statistics: Patient Safety Facts & Figures (Zebra Technologies). (n.d.). Retrieved from Data Ray Patient Safety Technologies: <http://www.datarayusa.com/resources/stats/>

We make a difference

Thus far in my brief 12 year career in laboratory medicine I have been fortunate to experience almost every aspect of Clinical Laboratory Science: Phlebotomy, processing, histology, cytology, gross dissection, autopsy, and currently as a Medical Laboratory Scientist: hematology, clinical chemistry, microbiology, hemostasis, urinalysis, and immunohematology. Whew! I will never forget the words of wisdom my first supervisor gave me when I started my career as a phlebotomist:

“Every department in the laboratory plays a vital role in patient care. Every test we collect for can have a major impact on how the clinician determines a treatment plan. So always try to have your hand in everything in the lab. Never turn down an opportunity to learn something new because it’s amazing to see how it all fits together.”

Looking back over the 12 years I must have taken her advice to heart. The medical laboratory has always been the behind the scenes heroes of the health industry. With the exception of our phlebotomists, we as medical laboratorians rarely interact with anyone outside of our department. That being said; it is time for a change. Healthcare is making crucial changes in the way treatment for patients is given moving towards a team/collaborative approach versus specialization. We all play a part in a patients’ treatment plan. Whether they are an outpatient, inpatient or clinic patient, what we do in our professions as laboratorians has an impact on their outcome of care. Many parts make up the whole and each cannot work with 100% efficiency without the other. Take pride in what you do for the lab and for the patients we serve. “What do you do in the lab?” A common question we have all experienced at least once in our careers. Phlebotomists: “I aid in the collection of quality blood samples for analysis in our lab.” Medical Laboratory Scientists: “I ensure that our complex medical equipment is maintained and patient lab results correlate with their conditions. This way the providers can treat their patients with the most reliable results available.” Just a few examples of what could be said to the general public and other departments within the health system. It sure sounds a lot better than “I stick people with needles” or “I push buttons on the machine and get results.” C’mon, we’re all highly trained and highly intelligent individuals that provide the best diagnostic information to clinicians who would otherwise be in the dark on their patients’ conditions. Medical Laboratory Professionals Week is arriving once again April 24-30 and it is our week to show how proud we are of the laboratory profession! Get involved with your lab and with ASCLS-NE! Listed below are a few events that could use your time and talents. Remember to be proud of what we do, not for a pay raise or for a promotion, but because what we do gets results!

Jon Roxas, MLS (ASCP)^{cm}, PBT (ASCP)^{cm}
Chair, Promotion of the Profession

Upcoming events:

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (MLPW): Be sure to promote the laboratory wherever you are!

2016 ASCLS Spring Meeting at the La Vista conference Center April 27 - 29

I am looking for a couple of volunteers to be with me on Friday April 22, 2016 from 0845-1400 (doesn't have to be the whole day) at the Durham Museum in Omaha for the 2016 Nebraska Science Festival. There will be a booth for ASCLS-NE and students from grades 1-4 (along with some adults) will be at the festival. More information can be found at <http://www.nescifest.com>. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in helping at all (roxas_15@hotmail.com, (402)880-7136).

In support of the clinical laboratory professionals that provided patient care as a result of the November Paris terror attacks, the UNMC CLS Faculty and Students participated in the 'Adopt a Parisian Lab' program. Holiday wishes and thanks for the laboratory professional's dedication to quality patient care were sent to 14 clinical laboratories in Paris and Beirut. The faculty and students wanted those that provided care during that challenging time to know their work as part of the healthcare team is very much recognized, appreciated and commended. The program has heard back from two of the laboratories thanking us for the well wishes. One sent a picturesque rendition of their facility.



The New State Biosafety Officer - Roxanne Alter, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{cm}

I would like to introduce myself; many may already know or recognize me. I want to take time to tell you a little bit about my past and what I plan to accomplish in my new position as the Nebraska State Biosafety Officer.

I grew up in Kansas City but my parents were native Nebraskans. Consequently our family always had a Nebraska connection. We grew up with Nebraska Huskers and Go Big Red. I am the oldest child of 6 children with a father that was a salesman and a mother that was a stay at home mom. She was a devote Irish Catholic but added a crazy Irish lifestyle. My father added the OCD structure.

I went to school at St. Catherine's grade school and Bishop O'Hara High School and I dreamed of being a scientist. I went to college and graduated at the University of Missouri at Kansas City with bachelors of Science in Biology. It did not take me too long to figure out that I could not work in a clinical laboratory without additional training. I ended up at Research Medical Center in a hospital based Medical Technology program. During my training I met Maureen Hunter, who eventually worked in Wayne at Providence hospital and Tammy Walker who ended up working in Albion, NE.

My first job in Omaha was at Internal Medicine and Associates at a doctor's office at in the Clarkson Tower on 5th floor. I worked there two years performing hematology and chemistry assays. Next I went to Lutheran Hospital (no longer there) and worked in Blood Bank. Occasionally I would cover the night shift performing a variety of tests. I perfected my phlebotomy skills at this institution as most patients were elderly. This experience served me well when I began teaching.

I joined the Pathology and Microbiology department in 1983 working in the Bone Marrow Culture Laboratory. This laboratory was a startup support laboratory for the Autologous Bone Marrow Transplant program. Phyllis Muellenberg, the Program director, recruited me as an instructor for the Medical Technology Program. I was part of the education program for 20 years. I impacted the profession by providing education for both clinical laboratory students, mid-level practitioners and medical students.

For the next five years I worked for Dr. Paul Fey, The Director of the Microbiology Department for Nebraska Medicine. I provided and used my clinical laboratory skills for special projects. I helped validate the GI panel for BioFire. I worked on several antibiotic resistance studies, including the evaluation of resistance across the state of Nebraska. I looked for Biofilm in orthopedic explanted knees and hips. Two project that I worked on that involved international trips included one in Nigeria and one in Haiti. I was asked to evaluate the ability of their clinical laboratories to identify and characterize antibiotic resistance in specimens from patients. These visits were incredibly rewarding because I had the opportunity to provide training and suggestion for improvement in laboratory processes.

In October, 2015, I took another giant leap into the unknown. I accepted a position in the Nebraska Public Health Laboratories as the new State Biosafety

Officer. This position is newly funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. My charge is evaluate the laboratories across the state to give an overall picture of the condition and or safety of our clinical laboratory facilities in Nebraska. Provide a risk assessment of each individual laboratory for their ability to handle high consequence pathogens in an emergency. Determine if there are specific needs of our clinical laboratories and seek funds to help cover the cost. I am not a regulatory body and will never disclose specific laboratories in this process. I am your advocate for Safety and will help to provide a Culture of Safety for all people that practice in this profession. I believe that I am in a unique position to help shine a spotlight on the wonderful work that our clinical laboratory practitioners do every day when they provide vital data to manage the care of patients. Let me know if there is something you need. I am really here to help you and laboratory staff. I cannot wait to come to your laboratory. Contact me at ralter@unmc.edu.



REPORT OF: Political Action Committee
REPORT TO: Region VI Council
SUBMITTED FOR: ASCLS VI Interim Council Meeting
PREPARED BY: Theresa R. Fruehling
DATE: February 23, 2016



PURPOSE:

A voluntary non-profit organization created to provide financial and educational support for the election campaigns of responsible candidates for Congress.

ACTIVITIES:Committee goals:

- Raise funds for allocation to members of Government who support the betterment of Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- Raise awareness among members of ASCLS about the importance of using their voice
- Help fund Legislative Days and other member activities which voice our professional concerns to our Congressmen and Senators

Activities towards goals:

- Established SOP for PAC Pin Request and sent to State Presidents, State PAC Chairs and Regional Directors
- Updated PAC Pin Request form
- National PAC conference call this Thursday night at 7:30 pm CST
- Donation given to Representative Slaughter (D-NY), former Microbiologist
 - Working with her office to have her come and speak at the Legislative Symposium
- Continuing to create new SOPs for PAC
- Legislative Symposium: provide 'teasers' for National meeting and the launch of PAC revamped.

CONCERNS:**REQUESTS FOR ACTION**



American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Voice, Value, Vision

**Government Affairs Committee
November 16, 2015
Conference Call**

Present: Elissa Passiment (ASCLS Staff Liaison), Patrick Cooney (Legislative Consultant), Jennifer Alvarez (AGT), Annette Bednar, Annette Billings, Helen Bixenman (AGT), Gretchen Brocksmith, Judy Davis (Advisory), Theresa Fruehling, Linda Goossen (Chair), Kathy Hansen (Advisory), Cindy Johnson (BOD Liaison), Joan Longberry (Advisory), Stephanie Noblit, Letycia Catalina Nunez-Argote, Rick Panning (Advisory), Kim Przekop, Josh Pulido, Debbie Shell (Vice Chair), Shellie Smith

Excused Absence: John Bandura, James Gardner, John Koenig, Lori Murray, Kathy Sudduth (AGT)

Absent: Luke Caruso, Dana Duzan (Advisory), Paula Garrott (Advisory), Jim Griffith (Advisory), Becky See

Guests: Sue Meyers (AK), Tony O'Connor (WA)

1. Meeting called to order 8:01 pm (ET).
2. Minutes from October 19, 2015 were accepted as written.
3. **Legislative Update – Patrick Cooney, Legislative Consultant**
 - Speaker Boehner has been replaced by Paul Ryan (WI). Speaker Boehner cleared out several issues before leaving: 1) Budget deal was completed and signed by the President. Some Medicare cuts were included (extended cuts for healthcare professionals, including 2% to CLFS; increases in Medicare premiums) 2) Agreement on capping the federal debt; 3) Set \$80 million as amounts for defense and discretionary spending.
 - Congress is trying to set appropriations for FY2016 before a December 11 deadline. They are currently operating under a continuing resolution.
 - The House has moved a budget reconciliation deal, which will now go to the Senate. It was largely ceremonial and the President is not likely to sign it as it is presently written, with impacts on Medicare, Medicaid and the ACA.
 - An appropriation bill will be included in a large omnibus bill, with tax extender provisions; Patrick will watch for any healthcare provisions.
 - With Rep. Ryan's move to Speaker, there is a new chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

- Committees are now starting to do more work; for example, the Energy and Commerce Committee is looking at Medicare issues, and had a hearing schedule for Nov. 17 to look at lab services, with representatives from FDA and CMS scheduled to testify. A 180-page bill looks at a new way of categorizing lab tests. ASCLS will comment on this draft legislation. This has occurred in response to the FDA's published LDT guidance. The Senate Labor and Pensions Committee is watching this bill.
- The Senate Health Committee continues to work on the 21st Century Cures Bill, which has been previously passed by the House. Lab services will be in this bill, which we do not expect to see by the end of the year.
- The workforce bill is still being discussed with the House Energy and Commerce Committee, but there has been no progress to date. Patrick has been talking with Rep. Harper (R-MS); Rep. Ellmers (R-NC) and Rep. Clark (D-NY) may still be interested in helping with this bill. Patrick is looking to ensure we have bipartisan support.

4. Regulatory Update – Elissa Passiment (ASCLS Staff Liaison)

Elissa will be attending the CLIAC meeting on Wednesday and Thursday of this week (November 18 and 19). LDT and waived tests are on the agenda, and this will be an opportunity to talk with representatives from agencies. CLIAC is concerned about the rapid growth of waived tests, but has no strategy in mind to address this. Nothing additional has come from FDA re: LDT. One topic notably not on the agenda is proficiency testing changes.

PAMA Rules

Elissa is developing talking points for ASCLS to use in the organization's comments, and those will also be available to members to use when submitting comments.

- 1) We do not agree with the definition of applicable labs (excludes hospital labs, hospital outreach, and hospital OP services)
- 2) Organizations' tax ID numbers will be used, instead of the preferred CLIA number
- 3) Excludes 90-95% of physician office labs
- 4) Excludes most small reference labs
- 5) Most of data will come from large reference labs, so prices will, in essence, be "fixed" rather than calculated
- 6) We believe that they are not following the law, either with what Congress intended, or with late publication of rules
- 7) The format to report data has not been released, so it will be difficult to submit data by the deadline
- 8) CMS is asking for a quarter's data for which many labs may not have been paid.
- 9) The Advanced Diagnostic Lab Test (ADLT) definition excludes all protein tests, while the legislation says that ADLTs are to include protein tests

10) We are concerned about the decreases in reimbursement from 2017 to 2019

ACLA has many of the same concerns and has submitted similar comments to ASCLS. Many other lab organizations will submit similar comments, and it will be helpful that many organizations are consistent in their comments.

ACLA may consider suing CMS re:

- 1) Applicable lab definition
- 2) Missing the deadlines of the legislation
- 3) Time frame for submission of data; the rules were not published by June 30, which was the CMS deadline, leaving too little time for labs to get the data submitted

Comments can be submitted on the CMS webpage through November 24. There have been 193 comments posted thus far. Elissa will send out a letter from ASCLS that we should all post to the CMS website.

5. Publications:

- *ASCLS Today*:
 - Jan 2016 issue (December 1, 2015 deadline) – Judy Davis will write an article about the PAMA
 - Mar 2016 issue (February 1, 2016 deadline) – We will discuss who will write this article next month; possibly this could be a follow-up on what happens with the PAMA rules, if anything has occurred by then
- E-newsletter: Elissa will put together bullet points for the PAMA rules and email the membership a link to the template letter on the ASCLS website for members to use to send comments to CMS

6. Region Updates:

- Region I: A Bednar – The ASCLS-CNE president will testify at the legislature on November 17 for clinical laboratory personnel licensure for Massachusetts
- Region II: K Przekop – No report
- Region III: J Bandura – No report
- Region IV: L Goossen – No report
- Region V: L Murray – Minnesota held an abbreviated version of the ASCLS Legislative Symposium last spring. It was presented live and also was streamed and recorded. The recorded version is available at

<https://umn.webex.com/umn/ldr.php?RCID=2ddd360de227ab0e6500e4bd0b7e5d22>

A student management course required students to watch the recorded symposium and write a letter to one of their legislators, which they were encouraged, but not required, to mail.

ASCLS-SD solicited PAC donations at a recent state meeting, collecting \$370.

Rick's hospital recently hosted Rep. Eric Paulsen (R-MN) for a CAP event and lab tour; Rick had the opportunity to speak with him about PAMA issues

- Region VI: J Koenig – No report
- Region VII: Annette – No report
- Region VIII: D Shell – Idaho is drafting a letter from ASCLS-Idaho to all legislators to explain the importance of licensure; a Save-the-Date notice will also be sent to all legislators, inviting them to a reception and lab tour on February 2. A mission/vision statement for the lab personnel licensure board was developed by the Idaho representative assisting with the licensure bill. It is modeled after the nursing board mission/vision statement.
- Region IX: S Smith – Alaska has started to work on state licensure, and is currently looking for a sponsor; Sue Meyers will discuss licensure at their spring conference Shellie met with attendees at the recent Northwest Symposium to enlist more support for ASCLS PAC
- Region X: J Pulido – No report
- Student and New Professional Liaison: T Fruehling – A conference call for student and new professional members was held last week to present billing/coding information. A new date will be set to present “Government Affairs 101”. Conference calls for this group will continue as needed.

7. Adjournment 8:50 pm (ET)

Next Meeting: December 21, 2015 8 p.m. ET

“Don’t Ya Know” Mary Nagel, MLS(ASCP)cm by Roxanne Alter, M.S.

MLS(ASCP)cm

I am a member of ASCLS and ASCLS-NE because of people like Mary Nagel. I met Mary at an ASCLS Educator’s Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi, February of 2009. I would not have met her had I not been a member of ASCLS or been at that conference. Mary has been active in ASCLS for over 25 years. When I met her she was working as an Educator at South Dakota State University, teaching Chemistry. If you meet Mary (and she is always at the national ASCLS meetings) you can tell that she is not from the mid-west. She is from Bismarck, North Dakota, where she grew up with 6 brothers and 2 sisters. She uses the word “Jeepers!” frequently and I am proud to be her friend. Once a year for the last five years we have connected at the national ASCLS meeting. She has worked tirelessly on several national committees but her stint on the National Membership committee is the one she talks about a lot. Membership in ASCLS-NE as with some other states has been waning. The value and benefit of joining a professional organization is not a priority for some. For me it is all about meeting the people like Mary Nagel.

For the last five years, Mary Nagel has worked in Port-A-Prince, Haiti. She is contracted out by the American Society of Clinical Pathology as a medical laboratory consultant at the National Health Laboratory in Port-A-Prince. She is working in Haiti providing quality management systems for the laboratories. An example of one of her huge projects was to provide written procedures for laboratory tests in government hospitals. No small task, given that the native language is French Creole or Haitian. She has also worked to help these laboratories with quality controls. These are processes that in the US are taken for granted. Imagine doing a test without a procedure, limitations or controls to tell whether a test was performed correctly. Jeepers!

They say we are all connect by six degrees of separation and I believe it. So as usual, at the 2015 national ASCLS meeting in Atlanta, I saw Mary Nagel. We met up for drinks and I talked about going to Haiti. I told Mary that she was on my bucket list. According to her she is on many people’s bucket lists. As luck or fate would have it I ended up getting asked to go to Haiti in October, 2015 by Dr. Shirley Delair. Dr. Delair, (native Haitian), a pediatric infectious disease doctor wanted me to go with her to Haiti to evaluate a clinical microbiology laboratory.

I met up with Mary after working with Dr. Delair. The highlight of my trip was the weekend spent with Mary. She shared with me the beauty of this small, island country. There is a lot of poverty in Port-A-Prince. The devastation caused by the earth quake in 2009 is still apparent. Mary volunteers every Saturday morning with the Missionaries of Charity at their clinic. These nuns that run the clinic belong to the order that Mother Teresa started in India. Mary is the leader of the group and I tagged along. She is the calm in their storm. She is the sunshine for these sisters who work with the poorest of the poor. Mary is in the thick of things. At this clinic she is the wound care specialist. She has worked under the direction of Father Rick, MD (Medical Director) and learned how to care for wounds. He has taught her many medical

procedures. During the week she is Medical Laboratorian extraordinaire. Saturdays she is transformed into Medical Mary. Mary is the wound care expert and lactation specialist. She can bandage, irrigate and repack a wound. She administers hugs to the aged and comfort to the crying baby. She provides love and support in the French Creole that she has picked up over the last five years.

That day there were many nurse volunteers from the United States. They all wanted to know where Mary got her nurse practitioner training or medical school training. I watch in awe at my friend Mary Nagel and all I could say was “Jeepers!” She is the most amazing medical technologist or medical laboratory scientist that I have ever seen. I am proud to be in the same profession as Mary because she knows that as a laboratorian we can do anything. Don’t ya Know!

