



# The Connection

January 2015



Alice Hawley  
President

## ASCLS—A Family Reunion

### Inside this issue:

ASCLS A Family Reunion 1

ASCLS Membership Package Information 2

Membership Updates 3

Grassroots 5

ASCLS-ND State Meeting 6

Election Results 7

ASCLS State Meeting from a Students 8

### Special points of interest:

- ◆ ASCLS-ND Board of Directors.....3
- ◆ ASCLS Past Presidents.....4
- ◆ ASCLS State Meeting Chairs.....6
- ◆ ASCLS-ND State Omicron Sigma Award Winners.....8
- ◆ ASCLS—ND Scholarship Winners.....9
- ◆ Auto Renewal Info.....10
- ◆ ASCLS-ND Opportunities.....11

Don't know if you come from a close knit family that gets together every summer or if you are a family that has that awesome every 10 year extended family reunion. You know, that celebration of family that brings the cousins, aunts and uncles together that you don't get to see very often. Either reunion is so special because there is something so important about reaching back to your roots to help keep you grounded and realizing how wonderful you really have it in a world that can treat you pretty harshly at times. These are people who want only the best for you and are willing to do all they can to help, assist and support you.

Well, we just got back from the ASCLS state meeting in Minot and it really does seem at times that you are coming back from a family reunion.

One of the benefits that we talk about for being an ASCLS member is the net-working that can be yours by getting involved and reaching out to other members and joining in the activities and options that are available to members. I have only been an ASCLS member for 11 years even though I have been in this profession for almost 35 years. So what was I doing for the first 25?? Well, not being a member of ASCLS - because at first I didn't see how I would benefit from doing that. I was busy in the lab, learning my job, starting to specialize in chemistry and eventually being a part of AACC – the American Association for Clinical Chemistry. I enjoyed my time in AACC, but the members were typically clinical chemists with PhD's and I just never felt like I really fit in. I learned a lot at the AACC national meetings but the sessions didn't seem to totally pertain and seemed to be much more research based and not applicable to the tasks and skills that I needed for my chosen profession – that of being a Medical Technologist.

It wasn't until we had an ASCLS state meeting in Fargo about 15 years ago that I was approached by the ASCLS Fargo members who were planning the meeting. They asked if I might be interested in helping. I was already assisting in education in our own lab, so I came on board as the PACE coordinator for the meeting. Wow, was that a great place to really see what a meeting entailed. I got to see not only how hard those ASCLS members worked/volunteered their time to make the meeting a success but also how much they loved our profession. They were willing to do whatever it took to ensure that the profession and its professionals were recognized and that the state's laboratory professionals had an option for the best of education opportunities.

I would like to say that I joined that very same year, but it actually wasn't until about 5 years later (after working on another ASCLS meeting) that it finally hit me that the goals and education provided by ASCLS was a much better fit than AACC and I made the switch. I am so glad to say that it has been a great fit and I haven't regretted that decision, EVER!!

ASCLS is like a great big family of laboratory professionals. Even if you don't see them often, they are willing to do all they can to help, assist and support you. So what is the dictionary's definition

Continued on page 11

## ASCLS-ND MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE INFORMATION

ASCLS now offers two different membership packages: a Laboratory Managers Package that offers reduced rates for your entire lab and an Educators Package that offers reduced rates for students and faculty.

### LABORATORY MANAGERS PACKAGE RATES AND INFO:

ASCLS wants to make taking care of your employees' professional and continuing education need easier! As one of our valued members in laboratory administration, we are offering a special discounted dues package that would give all of your scientific staff Professional 1 status as new or renewing ASCLS members if joining on a group of 10 or more (see rates below).\*

**RATES:** (Payment must be received in one check-personal or institutional checks are accepted)

- 10-24 employees \$750 (one free registration to an ASCLS national meeting)
- 25-74 employees \$2,250 (two free registrations to an ASCLS national meeting)
- 75-150 employees \$5,000 (three free registrations to an ASCLS national meeting)
- 151-250 employees \$8,750 (four free registrations to an ASCLS national meeting)
- 251-500 employees \$16,500 (five free registrations to an ASCLS national meeting)
- 500+ employees \$22,000 (six free registrations to an ASCLS national meeting)

### EDUCATORS PACKAGE RATES AND INFO:

As one of our valued members in clinical laboratory science education, we are offering a special discount dues package that would give all of your facility Professional 1 status as new or renewing ASCLS members and all of your students ASCLS membership if joining in a group (see rates below).\*

**FOR HOSPITAL BASED PROGRAMS:** Take advantage of this offer and extend the rates to your clinical instructors and your academic affiliates' liaison.

**FOR UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE BASED PROGRAMS:** Thank your clinical affiliates with this access to free CE for the professionals who teach your students.

**RATES:** (names must be submitted on a special form and payment must be received in one check-personal or institutional checks accepted):

- For programs with 2-15 students: \$5 per student and \$48 per faculty/clinical preceptor and one free registration to an ASCLS national meeting
- For programs with 16-50 students: \$5 per student and \$48 per faculty/clinical preceptor and two free registrations to an ASCLS national meeting
- For programs with 51 or more students \$5 per student and \$48 per faculty/clinical preceptor and three free registrations to an ASCLS national meeting

**\* State dues will be invoiced with your membership at a rate of \$5 per person for both packages. This will allow you to take advantage of local continuing education and networking opportunities at member rates!**

### **BENEFITS:**

These membership packages entitle you and your institution to :

- **FREE** registration(s) to an ASCLS national meeting-the Annual Meeting and Clinical Lab Expo, Legislative Symposium or the Clinical laboratory Educators' Conference (CLEC)-to use as you wish (number of **FREE** registrations varies by number of employees). This is a potential savings of \$1,200 or more!
- **FREE** downloads of your employees' completed continuing education (CE) to the Board of Certification (BOC). ASCLS will keep track of any CE earned by your staff with CE Organizer. We will send the information to BOC for the member's certification maintenance.
- A 15% discount on all Medical laboratory Professions Week items.

**For one fee, every staff member will have:**

- Electronic access to the journal and newsletter; one hard copy would be mailed to a designated person for posting/sharing.
- Access to all ASCLS continuing education offerings and programs for FREE or deep discounts.



Nicole Lemieux  
President elect

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

Membership continues to rise in our state and throughout the country in ASCLS. As of the April 9<sup>th</sup> membership roster, North Dakota has 104 members with 44 being Student members and 5 First Year Professional members. I would like to thank those Students and FYP for being members. You are going to be our future leaders and we couldn't be more excited to have you as our members!

We have a couple members I'd like to congratulate.

Wanda Gottus – for winning a half off state meeting registration for renewing her ASCLS membership

Mary Dhuyvetter – for winning a free state meeting registration for renewing her ASCLS membership

Tom Mickelson – for winning a free ASCLS membership at the ASCLS-ND State Meeting. Welcome, Tom!

Pat Halvorson – for becoming a new member and jumping into our Point of Care Scientific Assembly opening

Margie Vossler – who has retired and thus opened the POC SA for Pat. Enjoy your retirement, Margie!



Nicole Lemieux  
President elect



Around table from left to right

Liane Anderson—Nominations

Stacy Askvig—Member at Large

Alice Hawley—President

Shannon Jongeward—Past President

Nicole Lemieux—President Elect

Amanda Schenk—Secretary/Treasurer

Brooke Solberg—Member at Large

Elaine Ramstad—Website manager

Jozey Keith—Student Representative

## ASCLS-ND BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Back row:

Jeanette Festvog  
Stacy Askvig,  
Shannon Jongeward  
Alice Hawley

Front row:

Elaine Ramstad  
Tom Braaten  
Mary Nagel  
John Festvog  
Mary Coleman

ASCLS-ND past presidents met for dinner and conversation

2015 ANNUAL MEETING



& CLIN LAB EXPO

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Atlanta, GA | July 28 – Aug 1

## Grassroots

ASCLS loves to tout that they are a grassroots organization. But you know what, they truly are. This is no more evident than at the annual Legislative Symposium. Members from throughout the country all converge on Washington D.C. and take to Capitol Hill to lobby on behalf of all laboratory professionals.

Now I have been to the Symposium before. I was freshly graduated from college and not seasoned in the least. I was extremely excited to be in D.C. and representing the lab, but I didn't know much about the politics involved nor was I passionate about the topics. But this year! This year was different.

ASCLS asked us to lobby for a new education grant under the Public Health Service Act, Title VII. This grant would give government money to just *lab* programs. Not allied health or healthcare in general, just to the *laboratory*. Money for online programs or scholarships or clinical sites or whatever we need! Doesn't that sound amazing?!?! And ASCLS had already drafted the legislature so all that is needed is a sponsor.

An education grant? I knew that was definitely something I could get passionate about! And it was definitely evident when I went to our congressional meetings. Not only did all three of our representative's offices want to see the legislation, Representative Cramer's office wanted to be kept in the loop in the case someone else sponsored the legislation!

I feel like with a little help (maybe from our lobbyist Patrick Cooney or our ND ASCLS members) Rep. Cramer could be the sponsor of this amazing legislation. Now talk about the power grassroots members!

Yes, grassroots members like little ol' me from Jamestown, ND or a little ol' grassroots member like you. I had a ten minute conversation with a legislative aide in Washington and I made a difference. It's really that simple. And what's amazing is ASCLS empowered me, as a grassroots member, to be that difference. And ASCLS will do the same for you.

Do you want to make a difference on the national scene? Like I just said, it's simple and you will have an impact. Contact our congressional members – You can call or email; we have links on our website. If you're passionate about this grant or want to learn more about the other hot topics from the Legislative Symposium, the Leave Behinds are all on our website under the Government Affairs tab. Email our officials these links and tell them WHY these topics are important to you and how they affect everyone in North Dakota.

ASCLS is a grassroots organization. As a grassroots member You Are The Difference.

### WHY THE GRANT

Why does this grant affect North Dakotans? Well, we've already lost lab programs in the state; do we really want to lose more? I don't know about other places in the state, but we have a very hard time hiring someone that didn't graduate from a North Dakota program. Less programs = Less grads to hire.

What happens when there's no one to hire? Well, maybe you cut shifts and there's no longer any one working the night shift. That's fine, right? Until it's your dad that goes into the ER at 2 am and has to wait an extra half an hour to get his Troponin result because the lab is on call. Half an hour to a cardiac patient is a long time. Well, maybe you cut the tests offered at your lab. That's fine, too, right? Until your sister is waiting for one test result that will tell her if she has cancer or not. That extra day or two turn around on that test really makes a difference.

But with this grant we could have more programs in the state! More students graduating into our state! More workers coming straight back into our rural economy! Doesn't that sound amazing?



Nicole Lemieux  
President elect

NEW HORIZONS: THE FUTURE IS HERE  
ASCLS-ND STATE CONVENTION



Setting up for registrants at State Convention:

Pala Waswick, Kristi McDonald,  
Travis Waswick, Pat Halvorson

2015 ND STATE MEETING CHAIRS

Chairperson—Liane Anderson, Student Coordinator, Trinity Health, Minot

Vendor Chair—Pala Waswick, Chemistry Supervisor, Trinity Health, Minot

Speaker Chair—Stacy Askvig, Lab Manager, Center for Family Medicine, Minot

Moderator Chair—Jozey Keith, Generalist, Trinity Health, Minot

P.A.C.E. Chair— Tom Mickelson, Lab Manager, St. Alexis, Minot

Food Chair—Allison Waswick— Minot

Registration Chair—Pat Halvorson—Trinity Health, Minot

Helpers- Kristi McDonald, Sharon Reistad, Alice Hawley, Nicole Lemieux, Karen Peterson, Mary Coleman, Rose Barkie-Reynolds, Shelby Beyer

The ASCLS-ND state convention was held April 13-15, 2015 in Minot. 26 speakers were scheduled to deliver continuing education information for all who attended. Some of the topics covered were:

- Sue Hollister: Certification Maintenance-What is it and The In's and Outs of Thrombosis Testing
- Kari Schmidt: Patience with Patients
- Janet Maxson: Metabolic Middle, "What's in that Belly Fat?"
- Jozey Keith: Student Forum
- Alice Hawley: Is It Possible That You Are Not Abnormal Enough

This is just a sample of what was available at the convention. If you are interested in a complete listing of talks please visit the ASCLS-ND website. [www.asclsnd.org](http://www.asclsnd.org)







Jessica Rosin  
Student Representative  
Elect

### ASCLS STATE MEETING FROM A STUDENTS PROSPECTIVE

Intern, study, work, and maybe sleep has been my life in a nutshell for the past 9 months. This seemingly endless cycle on repeat makes me look forward to anything that might break the monotony. A trip home to Minot during the middle of the week sounded like a great plan! I headed home to Minot to complete a long list of pre-graduating items to get done at Minot State and of course to attend the ASCLS state meeting. Honestly, I didn't know what to expect from the meeting. I was going to attend a couple lectures and get some studying done from the piles of work I still needed to finish. Instead, I was greeted by teachers, previous coworkers, and fellow students. I had the opportunity to catch up with people I have met over the last 9 months of my life. Many of those individuals I feel like I have known a lifetime! We had a chance to talk lab stories, and I am pretty sure someone outside of the lab wouldn't have had a clue what we were talking about. It truly was a unique social event. Along with that I attended some lecture that completely changed my way of thought. I found myself in conversations that were supported by information I had learned at the meeting. These conversations ranged from military health care perspective, to defining why gram negative antibiotic resistance is such a big deal today, to making sure I exercise before I eat candy, to what kind of mindset you would need to be a laboratory professional in Haiti. I think the fact that I was able to take so much away was incredible. This meeting gave me an exciting prospective to the profession that I have chosen. I look forward to the years to come!

### STATE OMICRON SIGMA AWARD WINNERS



Omicron Sigma is the President's Honor Roll for Recognition of Outstanding Service in the Volunteering of Personal Resources, Time, & energy to Benefit ASCLS

**Pictured (left to right)**

Shannon Jongeward, Amanda Schenk, Jozey Keith, Liane Anderson, Stacy Askvig, Sharon Reistad

Not pictured:

Rachel Engel, & Brooke Solberg

First awarded in 1977, recognition is at three levels: national, regional, and constituent society. This allows constituent society presidents, regional directors, and the ASCLS President to recognize members for outstanding service.

Each of the ASCLS constituent society presidents may nominate eight members. All nominees receive a sticker at the ASCLS Annual Meeting. The Awards Committee processes nominations by March 31 to allow for recognition at spring meetings of constituent societies.





**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 ASCLS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

**JESSICA ROSIN CHELSEA OLENID EMILY JOHANNES JOHN EISENBEIS**

**NOT PICTURED - ELIZABETH KRUEGER**

ASCLS member package continued from page 2.....

This includes:

- FOCUS articles in the journal-FREE
- All online CE that ASCLS offers-FREE
- CE offered by ASCLS collaborating partners like MediaLab, DNA MedCafe, etc.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact:

<http://ascls.org/component/content/article/2-uncategorised/218-membership-packages>

By phone: 571-748-3770

By e-mail: [ascls@ascls.org](mailto:ascls@ascls.org)



Continued from page 1

of “net-working”? Networking is defined as “the act of making contact and exchanging information with other people, groups and institutions to develop mutually beneficial relationships”. And that is what being an ASCLS member can do for you. Instead of just having the input from your own lab, you can have the input from professionals across your state and even nationally.

As you participate in state meetings, conferences, etc you get to meet other laboratory professionals that have the same goals and skills as you do. You get to meet professionals that are in the same stage of life and family that you are, and can help you to figure out this work/life balance. You get to know those who have the same instrumentation that you do and have an immediate resource when you are having issues with yours.

As you work within the ASCLS network of members it finally hits you how much ASCLS is putting all laboratory professionals in the forefront of lobbying and governmental decisions that could impact our profession. That this organization is truly a “grass-roots” organization which is not only led by, but also decisions made by, its members. That all monies go back to its members to support, empower and enrich its members.

Therefore, is networking a benefit? You bet it is!! And it is a powerful benefit that might not be evident until you become a member and become engaged in the organization.

So, what have you got to lose? Think about what a tight-knit team you have in your own laboratory and now multiply that by hundreds who are just waiting to get to know you and bring you into our professional team of laboratorians throughout the country. The saying is so true - there really is strength in numbers. Won't you join and be counted in that number?!

Alice Hawley, ASCLS-ND State President

**Are you an ASCLS member who has always wondered how you could do more for ASCLS, how you could do more for your fellow professionals?? We have some great opportunities that will not take much time but would be very helpful and could make a great impact.**

- 1) Someone to help choose the food selections for the Region V Tri-State Fall Symposium**
- 2) Someone who might be willing to be a part of the Leadership Academy in either a student role or committee membership role for the 2015-2016 year which begins in October 2015**
- 3) Someone who would like to be a ND contact for ND professionals in the areas of Consultation, Industry, Generalist and/or Public Health**

**If any of these peak your interest, please contact Alice Hawley at [pianowoman88@yahoo.com](mailto:pianowoman88@yahoo.com) or call 701-793-5056. We would love to have you as a part of our team!!**

#### **GET PUBLISHED IN:**

#### **THE CONNECTION**

Have an article you would like to publish? Have information you would like to get out to other MLS professionals?

Send it to me and I can get it into the next issue of The Connection. Newsletters are sent out January, April, July, October.

Send all information to: Sharon Reistad at [sharon.reistad@med.und.edu](mailto:sharon.reistad@med.und.edu)