



ASCLS-ND

The Connection

May 2011

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President's Message



Leola Olson
ASCLS-ND President

VOICE - VALUE - VISION

If you went to the ASCLS- ND meeting this April, you know that the team in Minot certainly delivered all three. I am so appreciative of the hard work and enthusiasm that host cities provide for our annual meetings, because for many of us these meetings are the heart of the ASCLS experience. Although we can get continuing education from many sources, there is something unique about the face to face experience of attending meetings, asking the speakers questions in person, and getting the input and questions from our colleagues. I also enjoy getting together with our colleagues from across the state and talking during breaks about what is going on in the profession, comparing notes about how our workplaces handle the challenges of our jobs, and most importantly just visiting with friends – old and new.

ASCLS is committed to providing continuing education to its members, and ASCLS-ND carries this commitment through to the local level. Next October, the Region V annual meeting will be in Fargo, and in 2012, 2013, and 2014 the Region V annual meetings will be in Alexandria, MN. Plans are already in progress for the 2012 ASCLS-ND meeting in Bismarck. We have enthusiastic groups planning the meetings who are guaranteed to provide quality education with some fun on the side. The ASCLS-ND executive committee is also investigating the possibilities of providing one or two half-day workshops possibly in Dickinson and/or Jamestown.

You are reading *The Connection* so I know that I am preaching to the choir, but I feel strongly about the benefits of membership in ASCLS and I want to see ASCLS remain a strong and vital organization. That can only happen if we increase our membership. Mary Nagel wrote an excellent article for *ASCLS Today* with some advice for approaching prospective members. Please consider approaching that colleague that is not a member, letting ASCLS inform them of all the benefits of joining a laboratory professional society that has strong grassroots and many opportunities to expand their professional development. Let them know of the online resources, the networking opportunities, and education opportunities.

ASCLS also provides a support system. All ASCLS members can become part of a scientific assembly that provides an avenue for communicating with your colleagues online to be a source of answers and solutions when you are facing a challenging situation in your laboratory. Having a support network behind you can boost your confidence when problems arise. ASCLS gives its members political clout. The ASCLS Government Affairs Committee track federal legislative developments that had an impact on laboratories.

The theme for the 2012 ASCLS meeting is "Laboratory Professionals, Stepping up to the Plate." I would like to thank all of you who are members and who step up to the plate to make our profession strong.

Region V Report



Deb Rodahl
ASCLS Region V Director

What's New in ASCLS?

Life is Change, Growth is Optional! ASCLS is there for you!

"Life is Change, Growth is Optional" was the title of my last newsletter article and this month takes another twist on this theme. There are many exciting changes going on in ASCLS! At the March 2011 Interim Board meeting Cathy Otto, ASCLS President-Elect moderated a planning day to discuss two important topics for ASCLS; Collaboration and Membership recruitment and retention.

The morning was spent exploring collaboration opportunities with CLMA (Clinical Laboratory Managers Association). Time was spent understanding the strengths of each organization as well as where there might be risk. This work will be the foundation for our discussions with CLMA representatives. We should have an update on these discussions at the ASCLS National Meeting in Atlanta. ASCLS Task Force members consist of:

- Marcia Armstrong, ASCLS President
- Scott Aikey, Chair of ASCLS Futures Task Force
- JR Constance, ASCLS Board Member
- Judy Davis,
- Glenda Price

The afternoon was spent exploring how ASCLS is relevant for the various types of laboratory professionals and ASCLS members. We started off with a presentation on what does and does not typically work for membership recruitment with healthcare professionals. Healthcare professionals want to know the value of their membership and are less about fancy cover letters. Testimonials from current members and electronic connections are more meaningful than glitzy add campaigns. Personal (face to face) recruitment is more effective than other approaches.

Following the presentation we were split in groups to represent Students/New Professionals, Educators/Managers, Current Practitioners, and Retirees (nearing retirement). Each group explored the needs and motivators related to professional organization membership for their assigned category. This work was collected and will be utilized by the ASCLS Membership Committee for their ongoing work. In addition the Membership Recruitment and Membership Services committee will be merged under one umbrella this summer, retaining regional representation but will have more at-large members representing each membership category and with representatives from committees where a shared goal is to increase membership totals. ASCLS has budgeted \$13,000 for a recruitment/marketing campaign in the next fiscal year. If you have a strong interest in Membership Recruitment or Retention, please join the committee meeting at the national meeting this summer.

More Changes – or ASCLS Office Updates: The ASCLS Board of Directors has been working on a 5-year plan for when Elissa Passiment plans to retire. The challenge is that Elissa performs the function of at least 3 people in other organizations, which translated means that we have the "leanest" office of any out there. In today's world most professional organizations utilize a "professional organization management company" to provide the support needed. Therefore the ASCLS board entertained bids from Professional Association Management companies and made a decision to contract with Smith-Bucklin to provide Organization Management for ASCLS. This was implemented in January of this year with Elissa becoming an employee of Smith-Bucklin and Sherry Miner and Joan Polancic remaining as employees of ASCLS. The Smith-Bucklin management fees allow us to retain Elissa until she retires with additional office support as well as professional services support including marketing, finance, IT, etc. This was a budget neutral decision for ASCLS and helps move us into the future. There has been an amazing amount of work accomplished in the last few months including a transition to a new website look and functionality. Check it out!

It is truly an honor to be representing Region V in ASCLS. I enjoy hearing from our members (or non-members) and can be reached at drodahl@earthlink.net

Sincerely,
Deb Rodahl
ASCLS Region V Director
651-779-8906



Leadership and Perseverance



Mary Nagel
ASCLS-ND Past President

As I finish my fifth year as a Board member of ASCLS-ND and as Leadership Chair, I have had seen some of our younger members come forward to take on leadership roles. I am proud of you to tackle new challenges and want to encourage you to continue to make a difference in our profession. I want to thank ASCLS and ASCLS-ND once again for giving me the opportunity to become a leader under the guidance of so many of my colleagues.

Several years ago, I was given an article that really talks about perseverance and I see this article as a fitting way to end my term as Leadership Chair in ASCLS-ND. I would like to share this article with all of our members both new to the profession and those that have been in our profession for some time. I do not recall the author of the article but I received this at a time in my career when I needed to take on more leadership responsibilities, both in my career and in my personal life. The challenges and obstacles were overwhelming at times. I have always kept this article handy and I would read it often when I struggled or failed at what I was doing. I hope you enjoy the article and know that the virtue of perseverance will make a great leader.

Perseverance

Once a beaten man went to see a counselor for advice. "Help me," he cried. "I'm so tired of failing. At least half of the time, whatever I try doesn't seem to work. What should I do?"

"I'll tell you what to do," the counselor answered "Go look on page 720 of the World Almanac."

The man went to the library, turned to the right page, and found a listing of the lifetime batting averages of the greatest baseball players. At the top was Ty Cobb, the greatest slugger of all time. His average was .367.

The man went back to the counselor. "I don't understand," he said. "What batting averages have to do with my failures?"

"His average was .367," the counselor said. "One out of every three times he stood at the plate, he got a hit. But two out of every three times, he did not. And he was the greatest."

Life isn't about winning. Much of life is about losing. It's something we do, over and over again. That's where the virtue of perseverance comes in. We fail and we fail and we fail until, finally, we succeed. There are always going to be discouraging times when we want to walk away from a task. But perseverance is that voice inside your head that says, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again" Listening to that voice is an important part of growing up.

Perseverance may be one of the most underrated virtues. That's because when people who have "made it," whether they are famous sports figures or actresses or businessmen, we tend to credit their success to how much talent they have, or how smart they are, or even how lucky they are. We don't think of all the false starts, all the humiliating rejections, all the lonely hours they suffered before finally succeeding. We remember Thomas Edison as the brilliant inventor of the electric light bulb and phonograph and many other modern-day wonders. We never really think about all of his ideas that didn't work out. But, then, neither did Edison. Once, when a friend was consoling him after many unsuccessful attempts to make a storage battery work, Edison said, "I have not failed. I've just found a thousand ways that don't work."

Edison knew what most successful people know. Talent and skills and even luck can take you a long way. But perseverance can take you further. Those who learn to stick to their tasks usually end up doing very well in life.

Of course, persevering is no guarantee you'll get the prize you're after. You may do all the drills and still not win the championship game. You may do all the homework assignments and still not get an A on the test. But you'll be a better, stronger person. And you'll be all the more ready to go after the next prize, the next goal.

Even when you do reach that goal, the time for trying isn't over. Living well isn't a destination but a journey. It's a journey of striving, of seeking, of learning from mistakes and failures, and trying to better ourselves from each one. So you set a new, higher goal, and the perseverance begins again.

Legislative Symposium



Alice Hawley
ASCLS President-Elect

Washington – WOW! What a blast! I didn't realize that it would impact me as much as it did. To think that the discussions I was having might possibly impact the voting and interests of our senators and representatives – and in turn impact what happens within our laboratories in ND was heady stuff. (Of course I might just be dreaming, but whoever said that big dreams couldn't come true?!) Therefore it was a great honor to be able to be representing not only the ASCLS-ND members but also every laboratorian in the state of North Dakota.

We discussed four main issues which are as follows:

1) CMS Physician Signature Requirement – At this point in time we are able to track an order back to the physician by what they have written in an order or EMR, but CMS (Medicare) decided that all paper req's were now required to have the MD's signature – not a nurse, not a stamper, etc. So what's the big deal with this – well think of how many req's we receive from rural Outreach clients and how many nursing home clients have standing orders? Physicians don't routinely come to the nursing home whenever someone needs lab work. My mother is an example – she has a standing order for a UA when she starts having neurological symptoms because she gets no obvious clinical symptoms. We would have to get an MD signature on a req every time she needed a UA. Because of lab involvement with this regulation, CMS delayed the start of this requirement from January 1 to April 1. Because of ASCLS involvement on the National front, Rep Burgess from Texas wrote a letter which was signed by >120 legislators asking CMS to totally rescind this decision. CMS verbally said they would but as of March 22 there had been nothing in writing. Therefore, in discussion with our ND Legislative offices, I was able to impart to them the impact this would have on our ND labs and they all stated they would be looking into this for us and getting into contact with Rep Burgess for more info to ensure that the April 1 deadline will not take place! (Yea!! They did repeal this in writing so our time and the work of our legislators was successful!)

2) Modernizing the Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Fee Schedule – CMS set up guidelines in 1984 for reimbursement for laboratory testing and it basically had not had a total update since then. **1984 is 27 years ago!!!** Can you imagine if you were still getting the same salary as you got in 1984!!!! OK, so I realize some of you were just babies then, but you get the picture. In fact, the Consumer Price Index update for clinical laboratory fees has been frozen or reduced in all but three out of the last 15 years. We were able to talk with our legislative offices to ask them for their help to get legislation passed that would readdress the reimbursement schedule and to allow for “negotiated rule-making” which means that laboratory people would actually be part of the process. The bill would also address the need for scheduled updates so that this doesn't happen again.

3) Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act – Monies that were once set aside for the development and implementation of health care training programs is up for renewal. We were able to pass along data about the shortages in health care, especially in laboratory positions – and especially in a rural state like ND. If the one tech in Wishek, ND leaves then who replaces her and what happens to the hospital if there is no availability for laboratory testing?? Data stated that 40% of the laboratory workforce is within 10 years of retirement age. We asked the Legislative offices to renew the funding for this act.

4) Laboratory Developed Tests/Personalized Medicine – Several months ago a genetics company made a deal with Walgreen's to sell a genetic kit directly to consumers. The government stepped in because even physicians have difficulty with interpreting genetic results, much less someone in the general public. The consumer might think something is drastically wrong with them and take drastic measures or they might put off seeing their physician because they think nothing is wrong. SO...this opened up a can of worms. The FDA has now drafted regulations that allow them to oversee all “lab developed tests”. Sounds like a good thing especially when it applies to something like the above, but what about all the tests that we have “tinkered” with in the lab?? A manufacturer states that they have only tested a method using serum and we now use plasma because we have documented the results in the lab – that's a lab developed test. The Jaffe reaction for creatinine has never been FDA approved, so is that a “lab developed test”? There are pockets of populations within our country that have specific needs in regards to testing because of their race, predisposition, etc that large companies would not address because there is no money in it, so labs have developed tests. It just goes on and on and does the FDA really get it?? Do they understand the scope of what they think they will be doing and is not all the regulation that we already have in place not enough? It is kind of like possibly opening a Pandora's box. There is no legislation yet addressing this because the FDA has not published their regulations, therefore, only time will tell. But at least our legislators have heard the “buzz” words and know to take a look before just passing it by. We are asking as a laboratory community to be allowed some interactive communication before something gets put into place.

Continued from page 4

After being in meetings all Sunday evening and then all day Monday, we left for the "hill" early on Tuesday morning. MN had 9 ASCLS representatives – ND had just me. I was able to discuss the above with the Health Aides in both Senator Conrad's and Hoeven's offices, as well as Rep Berg's office. We were told that we typically would only have about 10-15 minutes but they all gave me 30 minutes so we did have some good discussions. With Rep Berg being on the Ways and Means Committee, he is really interested in playing a major part in health care so look for more to come from his office.

Besides these meetings and leaving info with them, I was able to see the fronts of the Capitol building, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress and the Washington monument off in the distance – but that was about all. Using the Washington metro subway was a hoot!!

Then of course the storm hit, my flight got canceled and I got to spend the night in the Chicago airport waiting...notice I did not say sleeping! They did set up cots which they told us about around 12:30am but by the time I actually nodded off they came to wake us up (at 4:00am) because they needed to get all the cots put away. All I can say is that I got my 1000 page book read in the meantime and had a Diet Coke and M&M's for breakfast. But, I would do it again in a heartbeat because it was such a wonderful experience. Thank-you ASCLS-ND for allowing be this opportunity.



2011 ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium-Fargo, ND October 13-14, 2011



For more information please visit:

<http://www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting/id51.html>

Student Report



Nicole Hager
ASCLS-ND Student Rep

I believe congratulations are in order.

First, congratulations to all the graduating Seniors out there! It's quite an accomplishment to get through college and clinicals. Have some fun and good luck in the "Real World." You'll all do fabulous!

Congratulations to Natasha Sheena Cain, Katie Gorman, and Marissa Lorenz! These three ladies are the 2011 ND ASCLS Scholarship winners!

Congratulations to Jennifer Wadeson! Jennifer is the newly appointed Student Forum Representative for 2011-2012. Jennifer is a student intern from Sanford. Congrats and I look forward to working with you!

Congratulations lastly to the lovely ladies in Minot who threw a wonderful State Meeting! I had a great time with old friends and new friends. I even had some fun at Dakota Square.

What I really enjoyed at the State Meeting was my session, the Student Bowl. I had read in ASCLS Today about other states who have a Student Bowl at their state meetings and I thought, "This is the coolest thing ever. I'm going to ask Leola if I can do this." And that's where it all started.

Now if I know my Student Bowl history, there actually use to be a national competition where teams from each state could compete at. That has sadly fallen by the wayside, but some state societies still keep it up which I think is great. Wouldn't it be so cool to get this back to a national level and have our amazingly bring North Dakota students raking up the points? Maybe someday.

I wasn't quite sure what to expect with my Student Bowl session. Instead of being a competition it ended up being a bit more casual. I didn't care either way; the only thing I wanted to students to get out of it was learning.

It was structured like a Jeopardy game (if you ever want to know how to turn a PowerPoint into a Jeopardy, I now know how!) with three participants at a time. We rotated through all the students in attendance and then decide to do the last questions for the entire audience.

The Student Bowl was meant to be a review for students going into their boards so I do hope that it was helpful. I also added in some of those questions that I like to call the you're-never-going-to-be-asked-except-on-your-boards questions. Anyone who has ever taken their boards I'm sure can attest that there are those few questions on the boards that you *never* saw coming. All in all though I feel like it was a success and that those in attendance enjoyed it. At least, I hope so!

I plan on doing the Student Bowl again next year in Bismarck. Feel free to shoot new questions my way!

Nicole Hager
Nicolehager88@hotmail.com

Board Meeting Minutes: April 18, 2011

Attendance: Leola Olson, Alice Hawley, Mary Nagel, Shannon Jongeward, Toscha Larson, Terri Hintz, Nikki Dillman, Nicole Hager

Secretary's Report – Minutes of the past board meeting in January 2011 were taken by Leola in Secretary Toscha's absence. The Minot meeting was discussed.

Treasurer's Report

- Checkbook, CDs, and Money Market account balances were shared. See attached document for checking account balance and transactions.
- Dawn Michelson conducted an audit of the financial records from January 2009 to January 2010 with Treasurer, Toscha in March. All records were found to be acceptable. Refer to attached audit notes.
- There was discussion about the amount to pay for mileage reimbursement. A suggestion was made to pay for gas receipts rather than a set amount/mile for mileage. Alice motioned to pay for gas by receipt rather than mileage. Mary 2nd motion. Motion carried.

2012 Annual Meeting in Bismarck

- Nikki Dillman and Tara Bondley are co-chairs of planning committee.
- It was discussed to have handouts available on the website (with speaker consent) instead of printed by meeting planning committee. Speakers could still bring their handouts if they choose. An option for having handouts online was discussed as well. Maybe we could use a link from the Region V site and password protect?
- A Google Group was created by Terri Hintz for sharing documents for meeting planning. Terri will work with Nikki and Tara to make sure they are comfortable with using Google Group for the upcoming meeting in Bismarck.

Merging the ASCLS Membership Recruitment Committee with Membership Service Committee

- The committee structure would be Region based with the inclusion of representatives of relevant committees.
- Our state society should think about how our members could contribute to this important committee.

Website

- Elaine Ramstad, current Webmaster, would like a co-chair. Nicole Hager volunteered.
- Motion made to accept Nicole Hager for co-chair and to pay PFI membership fees for the website co-chairs. Shannon 2nd motion. Motion carried.

Call for Action

- There was a discussion about our student members who are no longer students (actually first year professionals) when they attend the national meeting and therefore have not been allowed to hold offices on the national Student Forum for the past several years. Deb Rodahl, Region V President, suggested we submit a Call for Action stating our suggestion that first year professionals be able to serve as officers for the national Student Forum. It was suggested to contact Deb Rodahl to determine what the current by-laws state concerning this and to develop the Call for Action by the end of May. Nicole Hager will come up with specific language for the Call for Action.
- It was also suggested to use social networks to find out what other states are affected by this practice which may support our call.

Fall Meeting

- The meeting held in Dickinson last Fall was discussed. There were 4 speakers, only 10 attendees, but the education was very appreciated and inexpensive.
- There was a discussion about holding a meeting again this upcoming Fall. Should the meeting be in Dickinson or maybe Jamestown (end of August) and in addition to Region V meeting in Fargo? It was decided to ask Jim Svihovec if he is interested in helping coordinate a Dickinson meeting again.
- It was suggested to look back at past survey that was given to members to find out what our members desire for education.

Region V Meetings – A decision was made by Region V to have a "destination meeting" for a few years at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, MN (2nd Thurs. and Fri. of Oct.) rather than rotating the meeting location between Fargo and Rochester.

ASCLS-ND Speakers Bureau

- Develop a flyer, business cards, and contact the CVB in each city to identify what programs our members are available to present

National Meeting

- Leola will not be attending because of a family commitment. It was discussed whether someone else should attend in her place. Mary motioned to send 2 delegates to the meeting, one in Leola's place. Alice 2nd motion. Motion carried. Meeting delegates will be selected at the Business meeting.
- It was discussed to set expense guidelines for travel to national meetings in future years due to the high expense of attending the meeting. The guidelines should be determined by the board, looking at affordable prices for travel from each city. These guidelines would need to be made prior to nominees accepting delegate nominations so they would be aware of what expenses would be covered. This will be discussed and voted on at later board meeting.

Student Rep – No one has been selected at this time.

Legislative Days – Only Alice Hawley attended this year. In the past 2 members attended. She enjoyed visiting with our representative and senators and didn't mind doing so on her own.

Next Board Meeting – July or August

Terri motioned to adjourn. Shannon 2nd motion. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Toscha Larson, ASCLS-ND Secretary/Treasurer

Business Meeting Minutes: April 19, 2011

Attendance: Terri Hintz, Shannon Jongeward, Toscha Larson, Sandra Howick, Kim Peterson, Margie Vossler, Tom Braaten, Mary Coleman, Linda Ray, Mary Nagel, Nicole Hager, Farhiya Mohamed, Laura Mastel, Ressylene Buyag, Jeanette Festvog, Tara Bondley, Nikki Dillman, Alice Hawley, Ed Liebow, Kendra Schmalz, Rebecca Ram, Samantha Silleck, Janise Pachnik, Erin Porter, Marissa Lorenz, Dan Field

Awards

- Years of Service
- Omicron Sigma national to Mary Nagel, regional to Dawn Michelson and Mary Coleman, state to Alice Hawley, Jim Svihovec, Nicole Hager, Shannon Jongeward, Toscha Larson, Terri Hintz
- Keys to the Future Sharon Reistad and ??

Secretary's Report

- Minutes from last business meeting were published in the Newsletter and were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes by Jeanette Festvog, 2nd by Linda Ray, motion carried.

Nominations

- Candidates introduced and ballots distributed for voting

Students

- 3 student scholarships awarded – Marissa Lorenz, Katie Gorman, Natasha Scheen Cain
- Student rep not yet selected

2012 ASCLS-ND Annual Meeting – will be held in Bismarck, Nikki Dillman and Tara Bondley co-chairs, baseball theme

Treasurer's Report

- Financial Report – checking account information attached
- Proposed Budget - motion by Mary Coleman to accept, 2nd by Tom Braaten, motion carried.

Election Results

- President-Elect – Terri Hintz
- Delegates to National Meeting - Tara Bondley, Jim Svihovec
- Nominations - Linda Ray
- Board Member at Large - Brooke Solberg

Education

- Possibly holding West Region Continuing Education in Dickinson again in the Fall
- Possibly adding another site - maybe in Jamestown or Carrington in future years

Call for Action

- Submitting to the national society to suggest our student members that attend the national meeting and who are no longer students (actually first year professionals) are able to serve as officers for the national Student Forum

PAC – booth at the exhibitors if any member wants to contribute

Region V meeting

- Fargo, October 13-14, 2011
- "Destination meeting" at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, MN in October 2012

Member of the Year Award - Leola Olson

Mary Coleman motion to adjourn, 2nd by Nikki Dillman, motion carried and meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Toscha Larson, ASCLS-ND Secretary/Treasurer

ASCLS-ND Financials

ASCLS-ND Financial Report April 2010 – March 2011

Submitted by Toscha Larson

BEGINNING BALANCE		\$15,879.57
Credits		
	Annual Meeting	\$16,942.40
	West Region Meeting	\$450.00
	State Dues	\$405.00
	Region V	\$1,604.48
	Interest	\$26.06
TOTAL CREDITS		\$19,427.94
Debits		
Student Scholarships – ASCLS-ND and State Science		\$2,000.00
ASCLS-ND Spring Meeting	lodging	\$87.05
	miscellaneous	\$510.89
National Meeting	registration	\$1,470.00
	lodging	\$2,385.10
	airfare	\$2,576.40
	mileage/ cab	\$49.00
	silent auction gifts	\$49.40
Region V Meeting	registration	\$50.00
	lodging	\$99.12
	mileage	\$160.81
	silent auction gifts	\$62.45
West Region Meeting	meals	\$172.00
Secretary of State		\$25.00
Region V – 2009/10 Dues		\$207.00
Newsletter/Membership for Editor		\$350.15
PACE		\$325.00
Legislative Days	lodging	\$393.95
Web Fees/Membership for Webmaster		\$116.24
ASCLS-ND gifts/awards/memorials		\$166.64
TBG Conferencing – phone		\$99.62
Membership Development		\$85.91
TOTAL DEBITS		\$11,441.73
ENDING BALANCE		\$23,865.78

ASCLS-ND Financial Audit

Performed by Dawn Michelson, Past President. 04/04/2011

Information Reviewed:

Checkbook ledger January-December 2010

Reimbursement Forms

Interview with Toscha Larson

- Reviewed spreadsheet of credits and debits

Findings:

Financial bookkeeping and reports are accurate

Tracking systems used are appropriate

Rates of 2 existing CD's are acceptable at Gate City Bank compared to other banks

Membership payment for Webmaster was lacking a receipt or reimbursement form for 2011

Recommendations:

Discuss with other Board Members whether Money Market Savings account should be used to purchase a CD

Request members to submit reimbursement requests separately for separate events

Itemize credits in financial reports to be able to better identify nature of credits

ASCLS-ND 2011 MEMBER OF THE YEAR LEOLA OLSON

Leola is a dedicated professional and has served ASCLS in many capacities. She was elected ASCLS-ND President two times and was Region V Director from 2000-2003. She has received the National, Regional and State Omicron Sigma awards several times. She has been on many ASCLS-ND state meeting committees and has also spoken at several of them. She has also been Bylaws Chair for ASCLS-ND since 2007. I personally don't know what I would have done without her guidance throughout my presidency! She has been a member of the Consumer Response Team for many years answering chemistry questions submitted by the public. Her wisdom and commitment make her a role model ASCLS members can emulate.

Submitted by Dawn Michelson

Congratulations Leola!



ASCLS PAC
Working for You and the Future of Clinical Laboratory Science

PAC: Positive Action and Commitment The acronym PAC stands for “Political Action Committee,” a voluntary non-profit organization created to provide financial & educational support for the election campaigns of responsible candidates for Congress. All PAC’s are legal, ethical, and strictly regulated by federal law, which limits the amount of individual contributions and requires full and regular disclosure. ASCLS/PAC offers members a simple, convenient way to influence the elections process and actively participate in the federal decision-making process. Through the PAC, ASCLS members are able to unite together to gain the attention of candidates for national political office. In another sense, your support and generous contributions to the ASCLS/PAC represents your P-ositive A-ction and C-ommitment.

Now More Than Ever... Our Profession Needs A Voice in Government Our system of government depends on the wisdom and integrity of elected officials. They, in turn, represent us best when they are exposed to and held accountable by an informed and active public. *Now more than ever*, laboratory professionals must take an active role to see that congressional reforms of American health care support cost-effective, high-quality clinical laboratory services. You can help by supporting ASCLS/PAC. Each dollar you give improves the chances that informed and capable people will be elected to Congress to enact responsible reforms in America’s health service delivery system.

Access and Attention: A Key to Political Success Healthcare in America has unfortunately evolved into a complex and intricate network of legislation and regulation. Legislation approved today can vastly change the future course of a profession... *our profession*. It is the responsibility of the profession itself and its members to keep lawmakers fully informed and cognizant of the key issues that may directly impact on us. To provide the needed information to our lawmakers, it is necessary to gain *access and attention*. ASCLS/PAC is designed to do just that...to gain access to and obtain attention of lawmakers. By providing campaign contributions to a carefully selected number of candidates, ASCLS/PAC helps ensure the re-election of lawmakers who have been sensitive to the needs of the clinical laboratory profession. Our support for these candidates guarantees that ASCLS is well-represented in Congress.

ASCLS/PAC: Working for Your Best Interests Established in 1976, the ASCLS/PAC is administered by its own Board of Trustees. Campaign contributions must be approved by the Chair or by the full Board of Trustees. Recommendations for contributions are made by both ASCLS staff and members; decisions are based on a candidate’s past record of performance, understanding of health care issues and likelihood of future support for clinical laboratory science. Any solicitation for contributions to ASCLS/PAC is intended solely for members of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, an individual membership organization, for the purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1976, as amended. Nothing contained in this brochure should be considered as a solicitation for contributions from those who are not members of ASCLS. ASCLS/PAC is supported solely by donations from ASCLS members. Under federal law, these donations must be voluntary, and cannot be listed as a charitable contribution for tax purposes. The PAC files financial reports with the Federal Election Commission on a quarterly basis. Your support of ASCLS/PAC demonstrates your support of hard-working and responsible candidates for public office. Your contribution decision will in no way affect your rights as a member of ASCLS.

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Laboratory Professionals



Stepping Up to the Plate

2012 ASCLS ND State Meeting

Monday, April 23rd – Wednesday, April 25th

Radisson Hotel, Bismarck, ND
(701) 255-6000

2012 Meeting Theme: Baseball

For more information contact:

- ◆ **Nikki at nidillmann@primecare.org**
- ◆ **Tara at tabondley@primecare.org**
- ◆ **Sarah at sjhatzenbuhler@primecare.org**



Publication Submission Deadline

The publication submission deadline for articles for the next issue of *The Connection* is **Monday August 29, 2011**. Submit any articles to:

Shannon Jongeward
shannon@gra.midco.net

The following article was published in the Grand Forks Herald on April 12, 2011

Author: *Paulette Tobin, Herald Staff Writer*

Jean Dean Holland, who helped build the pathology department at UND, who loved art and the opera, and whose contributions sustained the North Dakota Museum of Art during the lean years after the 1997 flood, died Sunday in Grand Forks. She was 87.

Holland gave the museum \$315,000 after the flood, a gift that really saved it, said Laurel Reuter, the museum's executive director. "She'd gone to see her attorney looking for advice about something and he said, 'You have too much cash. You should spend it,'" Reuter said. "And she said, 'What am I going to do? Buy a boat?'" When the attorney called the museum to say he had a client who wanted to give money, Reuter said, it took her a while to realize he was talking about **Holland**, who volunteered at the museum's front desk.

Holland was born Oct. 19, 1923, in Omaha, Neb., and graduated from University of Nebraska-Omaha. She earned a master's degree in medical technology at Wayne State University in Detroit and trained as a medical technologist at the Henry Ford Hospital. She worked for a time in Louisiana, but found the climate too hot. So, in 1949 at the age of 25, she accepted a position in the UND School of Medicine in Grand Forks as an instructor in the fledgling medical technology program and helped establish the pathology department. She retired as an associate professor of pathology in 1985. Among her many professional distinctions was the Charles D. De Bruyn Kops Faculty Award for Outstanding Teaching and Service in 1975 and Emeritus status.

Holland was married for 30 years to Bill Saumur, a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. Although they divorced, they were friends, said Pat Larson, **Holland's** sister-in-law (and Saumur's sister). For one thing, Saumur had taught **Holland** how to make good investments. "She always said he made her a rich woman," Larson said.

Holland was well-read, well-traveled and loved the arts, Larson said. She was proud of her English heritage and after retiring traveled extensively in the U.S., Europe, Russia and the Holy Land. In her last years, **Holland** lived in a retirement home. "I often teased her at Valley Memorial Home," Larson said. "I called her 'The Queen' because she would sit there in her wheel chair, in her cashmere sweater - she had six cashmere sweaters. She had orchids on her windowsill. And she had her Bose radio tuned to Minnesota Public Radio, listening to Beethoven. She was quite a person."

Eileen Nelson was **Holland's** student at UND before becoming her colleague and friend for more than 50 years. Together, they edited the North Dakota Society of Medical Technology newsletter for more than 25 years and attended many professional meetings together. **Holland** was a president of NDSMT and held other offices, as well. "She was such an inspiration to the students because she had such a wonderful work ethic," Nelson said. "She encouraged students to be the best they could be and was an excellent teacher in hematology."

Holland was an adviser for freshman and master's program students and supervised the pathology department's hematology and cytogenetics laboratory. She was the Hematology Problem Editor for the American Journal of Medical Technology, received a Golden Service award from the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science in 2001, authored a number of papers and frequently presented at professional gatherings.

Holland painted watercolors and loved classical music and the opera, an interest that Nelson shared. She had an infectious laugh and was a good and loyal friend, Nelson said.

Dr. Marv Cooley, medical director of the lab at Altru Health System and at Dak-Minn Blood Bank, knew **Holland** as both as her student and colleague. Her disposition, knowledge and perspective was a joy, he said. "She came to work every day upbeat, and it rubbed off on everybody else, too," Cooley said. "Everyone enjoyed being in that section of the laboratory, and it made it a pleasure to learn from her as well."

Holland taught at UND, but she was a student, too, enrolling in art classes, music, history, English and social studies. After retiring, she greeted the public as the volunteer information desk attendant at North Dakota Museum of Art for more than 17 years. She was on its board of trustees and a major sponsor for the Summer Music Series. In 2003, one of the museum galleries was named in her honor. But her relationship with the North Dakota Museum of Art and its staff went far beyond honors and service. "The museum was her family," her sister-in-law said. "They were very good to her."

Holland was honored in 2008 with an Individual Support of the Arts award, one of four major awards the North Valley Arts Council bestows annually. **Holland** also contributed to the Greater Grand Forks Community Theatre, UND Burtness Theatre, Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra and UND Chester Fritz Auditorium.

In 2010, it was announced that **Holland** had designated her estate to the North Dakota Museum of Art. **Holland** was a big admirer of the Chiara String Quartet, and the ensemble played at a gala in her honor when the endowment was announced.

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