



The Pennsylvania Newsletter

Official Publication of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Pennsylvania
"Your Professional Organization for over Seventy Years"

Vol. 28 No. 1

Fall 2014

If you have renewed your membership, we thank you! If you have not, this may be your last issue. Go to www.ascls.org and renew your membership today!



Message from the President

Michael Osborne
ASCLS-PA President

2015 ASCLS-PA – Will You Help as We Celebrate 80 Years

Since 1935, ASCLS-PA has been your advocate for education and professional issues. We are here to enhance our standing in the medical community. As the US Healthcare system moves from volume to value, our efforts as Laboratory, Medical Technologist and Pathology Medicine Professionals is and will be even more important in the future. You have heard over the years a lab test result comes into play in up to 70% of diagnostic and prognostic medical decisions. Our work is done almost entirely behind the scenes as support. Your mother or grandfather may have been a member of our ASCLS-PA organization and we cannot thank our past members enough for their contributions to our Society, but In 2015 -we are **your organization dedicated to improving your professional lives.**

I pledge to bring our Society to you in terms of local meetings, online learning and increased membership from Community Medical Centers, Academic and Industry members across the State of Pennsylvania. We are more than just a group that represents the Metro Philadelphia Laboratory Community. We want and need more members from across our great Keystone State especially from Northeast, Central, Northwest and Southwestern Pennsylvania. Please contact me if you can help expand membership and bring our ASCLS-PA to those areas of our State.

ASCLS-PA now has a Facebook page please visit us at: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/ASCLSPennsylvania>

So how can you help? **Here is my ask of you.** Please share this newsletter with others in your laboratory by taking and leaving a copy in your lunch/break room. Please recruit other members from your hospital and/or independent laboratory to get involved with our ASCLS-PA by joining the National ASCLS and become a PA member at the same time. In 2014-2015 we are hoping to add new members such as phlebotomists, medical lab assistants and pathologists.

As **your** medical lab society we are here to help you with continuing education and network opportunities to where you want your career to go.

Joining ASCLS PA is a great way to reconnect with fellow students and co-workers from other times in your life.

Please contact me (cell 267-273-6415 or email michael.r.osborne@questdiagnostics.com) if you would like to lead a chapter in the Pittsburgh, Erie or Scranton areas. We will do everything we can to support you. Thank you for considering this important volunteer work. Like any volunteer work you will get more out of it than you put in.



Message from the President-Elect

Barbara Snyderman
ASCLS-PA President-Elect

A Special Thank You

Some of you have known me since I joined as a student member in the (gasp) late 1970s. It is hard to believe almost 4 decades has passed since that time! I have always loved ASMT/ASCLS and the members on the local and national level who have become dear friends.

I owe a huge "THANK YOU" to the members of ASCLS-PA for their support over the years and during the national election process in Chicago. It is very humbling to have

been elected to lead ASCLS and I know the support of our members and delegates played a part in my election.

My virtual office--the email box--will always be open to all of you! Please let me know if you have any suggestions or concerns about ASCLS. I will do my best to address those comments and bring them to the Board of Directors. My email address is barbarasnyderman@gmail.com.



Scholarships: Financing Your Future

Stephanie Noblit
New Professional Representative

The transition from student to new professional can be a nerve-racking experience. We say goodbye to tests, textbooks and studying and say hello to big responsibilities, workplace politics, and those two words that can make any person shudder in fear, student loans. While becoming a new professional can be scary at times, the thing to remember is that you can actually do something to lessen the anxiety.

For me the biggest challenge about becoming a new professional was figuring out how I was going to pay back my loans. Instead of sitting back and worrying about it, I decided to take initiative and try and do something about it. With the help of the ASCLS website and my program director, I was able to find several scholarships that would help me pay for my education. I was even lucky enough to win some of them! Being awarded the ASCLS-PA Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship and an Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity Scholarship showed me that my hard work really did pay off.

Scholarships are out there for the taking; the key is to know where to look and taking the initiative to apply. For

medical laboratory science students/new professionals the best places to look for scholarships are the ASCLS and ASCP websites and the Student Forum & First Year Professional's Forum Facebook page. Check these sites regularly to check for updates and deadlines. And don't forget about the ASCLS-PA website and Facebook page as well! Your program director, advisors, and professors are also great resources for scholarship opportunities.

Last but not least, remember that not all scholarships are just about the money. ASCLS offers several travel scholarships to Legislative Days in March and the National Meeting in late July. While these scholarships won't help pay your bills, they will provide you with amazing professional, networking, and educational experiences. I won this past year's scholarship to Legislative Days and it was such a great opportunity.

So what are you waiting for? Start searching for scholarships today. You have nothing to lose, and everything to gain. Good luck and remember you can't win if you don't apply!

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ASCLS Pennsylvania



Reflections from the 2014 ASCLS Meeting

Michele Lachance

A Point of Care Coordinator at the ASCLS National Meeting
ASCLS-PA Board of Directors and Delegate to the ASCLS Meeting

Going to an ASCLS National Meeting is always invigorating and a lot of fun, and this year's trip to Chicago was no exception. I attended the meeting not only as a Board member of ASCLS-PA, but as a Point of Care Coordinator for the Medical Center. I arrived on a Tuesday afternoon at O'Hare International Airport, and had to figure out how to use the "El". I try to take public transportation as much as possible when I travel to meetings. Not only does it save money, but it allows me to see a lot more of the area I am visiting. Once I found the train system and bought my ticket, it was a 40 minute ride to Downtown and then a short walk over to our hotel. The hotel was located on Chicago's "Magnificent Mile". It's a beautiful strip of shops, restaurants and hotels that is located only a few blocks from the Lake and Navy Pier. After checking in and acquainting myself with the immediate downtown area, I spent some time in the ASCLS Presidential Suite. The president, J.R. Constance, invited all past Leadership Academy graduates up to his suite for hors d'oeuvres and drinks. If you remember previous posts from me, I was in the very first Leadership Academy class eight years ago! It was really great being able to catch up with my classmates and to meet other graduates from subsequent years.

Wednesday was my official start to the National Meeting, as it is for most attendees, and it started off with an opening keynote speaker from Boston. He spoke about the lab's involvement in the Boston Marathon bombings of 2013. It was really interesting information. Then it was over to the McCormick Convention Center for a day of CE and time spent at the Clinical Laboratory Expo. I was fortunate enough to have been invited to attend a CE held by the vendor "Instrumentation Laboratories". Our laboratory uses the GEM4000, a blood gas instrument from IL, and they were doing a seminar on Point of Care testing and Individualized Quality Control Plans (IQCP). IQCP is a big deal in my point of care world, so I was attending and visiting anyone who had anything to do with this topic! Then I had an afternoon filled with CE sessions, such as "The Female and Male Microbiome" and "Standardization in Clinical Chemistry". The evening was spent at the President's Reception, where I caught up with my friends from all over the country whom I haven't seen since the last annual meeting I attended. The fun went long into the evening!

Thursday was a bit unique for me. Usually I spent time visiting many of the vendors on the Expo floor and then attending morning session continuing education classes. But this time I started my day by attending a three hour

long Point of Care seminar that focused specifically on IQCP. Unfortunately, I did not feel that it provided me with any new information on the subject, and I was disappointed not to walk away with a better idea of how to begin our IQCP project. I followed up this seminar with a VIP meeting with Abbott Diabetes Care, who is our vendor for Point of Care glucose meters. The big vendors (as ADC is), have private "rooms" set up outside of the Expo floor. I was taken back to their room and met with their Network Integration Specialist and their Manager of Technical Support- just two of the six "bigwigs" that were there all for me! They fed me lunch while providing a customized (for HMC) power point of the relationship between HMC and ADC and highlighting all of the new and enhanced features that will be offered to us in the near future. I was the first to hear about the new partnership between ADC and Conworx Smart Diagnostics Networks, and then I was walked over to the Conworx vendor booth to meet the US Director of Sales and Marketing as well as the Sales Engineer Informatics. Because I spent so much time with these companies, I actually missed a CE class!! But talking with the vendors and being at the Expo is a big part of the meeting and was beneficial for me as a point of care coordinator. After I was through talking with them, I was able to spend the rest of the afternoon attending classes such as "Human Necromicrobiome and its Utility in Forensics and Medicine" and "NK and Regulatory T Cells-Potential for Clinical Application". That evening I joined all of my ASCLS Region II colleagues, and all 32 of us headed out to a fantastic Italian restaurant for dinner. It took a while for all of us to be served, but the food was delicious! You always have to experience some of the local food when you are traveling! This was a very long day, as they all are when you go to conferences, and I went to sleep exhausted!

Friday began with some ASCLS-PA responsibilities. I attended my regional caucus meeting, and then we had national elections. When these were through, the afternoon was once again filled with CE classes. Since I have a MLT and an M ASCP certification with continuing maintenance, it is important for me to acquire as many CE credits as I can when I attend meetings. So after three more sessions on Friday (the most interesting being "Using Endocrinology to Conserve Wildlife"- given by a scientist from the Chicago Zoo), I finished up with a total of 13 CE credits to use towards my ASCP-BOC continuing maintenance program. That's a year's worth

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Motions from the Most Recent ASCLS-PA Board Meeting

William Hunt
ASCLS-PA Secretary

ASCLS-PA Board of Directors Meeting May 5, 2014 Plymouth Meeting, PA

MOTION 1: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Osborne that the ASCLS BOD approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

MOTION 2: Moved by Franz, seconded by Aikey that the ASCLS-PA BOD approve the minutes of the Board Meeting/Conference call on January 11, 2014 as presented. Motion passed.

ASCLS-PA House of Delegates Meeting May 5, 2014 Plymouth Meeting, PA

MOTION 1: Moved by Strauss, seconded by Franz that the ASCLS-PA House of Delegates approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

MOTION 2: Moved by Franz, seconded by Strauss that the ASCLS-PA House of Delegates approve the minutes of the 2013 ASCLS-PA House of Delegates dated May 12, 2013 as presented. Motion passed.

Motion 3: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Franz that the ASCLS-PA House of Delegates accept the ASCLS-PA Treasurer report dated 4/30/14 as presented and file for audit. Motion passed.

Motion 4: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Strauss that the ASCLS-PA House of Delegates accept the ASCLS-PA Treasurer scholarship report dated 4/30/14 as presented and file for audit. Motion passed

Motion 5: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Falsone that the ASCLS-PA House of Delegates direct the treasurer to purchase 2 \$10,000 CD at best rate possible. Be it noted one from the operating fund and one from the scholarship fund. Motion passed

Motion 6: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Taraborrelli that the ASCLS-PA House of Delegates elect the slate of candidates by acclimation:

President Elect: Jean Buchenhorst
Secretary: Bill Hunt
BOD: Sharon Strauss
BOD: Vacancy (To be filled by President)

Motion 7: Moved by Aikey, seconded by Strauss that the ASCLS-PA House of Delegates approve the funding of the Student Forum Director to attend the ASCLS Chicago meeting to include airfare, 50% of hotel and registration. Motion Passed

Motion 8: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Aikey that the ASCLS-PA House of Delegates direct the President to purchase two gifts for the ASCLS Silent Auction not to exceed \$150 total. Motion Passed.

Motion 9: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Strauss that the ASCLS-PA House of Delegates approve the 2014-2015 budget as presented. Motion Passed.

Motion 10: Moved by Strauss, seconded by Aikey that the ASCLS-PA House of Delegates adjourn sine die at 9:00 pm. Motion passed.



ASCLS-PA Bylaws Changes Coming

Mary M. Gourley
ASCLS-PA Bylaws Chair

A task force is in the process of reviewing the ASCLS-PA Bylaws, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's), and Handbook. Changes to the Bylaws and SOP's may be forthcoming for action by the ASCLS-PA House of Delegates in May 2015.

The process for amending these documents is as follows: changes are submitted to the Bylaws committee which will put the changes into an amendment(s). The amendment(s) are then submitted to the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors for approval. After approval, the Bylaws Committee will submit the amendment(s) to the ASCLS Bylaws Committee for review to verify compliance with

the ASCLS Bylaws and SOP's. Once the amendment(s) have been approved by the ASCLS Bylaws Committee, they will be published in the ASCLS-PA Newsletter at least 30 days prior to vote. If approved by 2/3 of the ASCLS-PA House of Delegates, the amended Bylaws will be sent to the ASCLS National office and Bylaws Committee.

The task force will submit changes to the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors for the Fall Board meeting in October. The Bylaws and SOP's were last amended in 2013 and are posted on the ASCLS-PA website. If you have any suggestions for changes, please send these suggestions to ASCLS-PA President Michael Osborne.

Reflections from the 2014 ASCLS Meeting

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in three days! Friday evening is always an "off" night in terms of social events, but I had made a new friend from Minnesota, and she and I headed out to spend the evening at Chicago's Navy Pier. We walked the pier, looked in the shops, ate dinner at Bubba Gump's Shrimp (yes, from the movie!), and took a ride on the infamous Ferris Wheel. It was an enjoyable evening and nice to be able to take in some of the local culture while visiting.

My last day at the conference was Saturday and this is a very important day from an ASCLS point of view. Saturday

is always the national House of Delegates meeting. Some years they are relatively short (lasting only 90 minutes or so), while other years they can go beyond three hours in length. This year was right in the middle. After that, I said good-bye to all of my friends until the next meeting when we can all get together again, and headed to the train station. It was another great national meeting filled with fun, food and friends, but also with education, intellectual discussion, and inspiration. I hope I can attend another one soon!

NEED A SCHOLARSHIP?

Did you know that ASCLS-PA offers a graduate and an undergraduate Scholarship every year, but most years no one applies for them?

Edward P. Dolbey Scholarship
ASCLS-PA Undergraduate Scholarship

The deadline for both scholarships is
February 15, 2015.

Check out the ASCLS-PA website for more details and for the application

<http://www.ascls-pa.org/scholarships.html>



The ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting and Expo will be held on May 5-6, 2015 at the Holiday Inn East in Harrisburg, PA. Two full days of educational sessions as well as Vendor tables are planned. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. The full program will be mailed as well as posted on the website in the Spring.



Two Jewels of ASCLS History

Barbara Snyderman
"ASCLS-PA Historian"

Members of ASCLS-PA and ASCLS-DE recently had the pleasure of having lunch with two Past Presidents of ASCLS: Nellie "Patsy" Bering and Roma Brown.

What an exciting day it was for us! Scott Aikey, Mary Ann McLane, both ASCLS Past-Presidents, Bill Hunt, ASCLS-PA Past-President, and Barbara Snyderman, then ASCLS Region II Director were honored to have the afternoon with, who we believe, are among the longest surviving ASCLS Past Presidents.

One afternoon certainly was not enough time with these wonderful ladies! Their experience in, knowledge of and memories of, our profession are endless. The two were interviewed by Barbara for this article.

Patsy was first of the two to become ASCLS President. She joined the organization, then known as the American Society of Medical Technologists in 1953! She said she became on the "fast track" for national leadership by opening her mouth on unionism. She served as recording secretary for the organization and ran for President-Elect in 1959.

It was a contested election. Patsy remembers driving to the meeting, which was in Phoenix, in a car with no air conditioning and a canvas bag filled with water hanging on the radiator of the car to cool it. A few other members joined for the ride, among them the late Anna Fagelson. The ladies stopped at a beauty parlor to "spruce up" after the long drive, and upon arriving at the convention hotel, saw Patsy's opposition in the election step out of a limo. She had flown to the meeting. Patsy was elected: not sure if the story of driving to the meeting made the difference! She was and still is the youngest President-elect in ASMT/ASCLS history.

When asked what was most memorable about her ASMT presidency, Patsy said it was the issue of unionizing the profession. Most members were against the issue, and Patsy continued to fight against it during her term.

Patsy's professional career began in the Oscar B. Hunter Memorial Laboratory, which was a private lab performing work for the Sibley and Doctors Hospital in Washington, D.C. She worked in Hematology until after her ASMT Presidential term at which time she worked in a brand new area of laboratory medicine called Radio Immuno Assay (RIA). She joined Temple University in 1970 and was Chair of the Department and Program Director there

until 1983 when the university discontinued the program. She transferred to the dean's office and retired in 1995.

Roma Brown said that around 1960 the major "drive" from the organization was to stand independently as a profession and "shake loose of the fatherhood of pathologists and be recognized as a profession". It is interesting how some things don't change much over the years! This decades-long endeavor culminated in legal action by ASMT to gain control of the profession's credentialing—certification and accreditation—and to be the primary membership organization for medical technologists.

Roma's most memorable part of her 1969-70 ASMT presidency was the lawsuit against ASCP. It had been filed the year before her term and work continued.

Roma's professional career began in Omaha, Nebraska in a small one-person laboratory. She performed the folin wu glucose test, along with BMR, manual RBC, WBC and hemoglobin tests. She also did EKG tests "until I was bored and begged for time off". She volunteered—as in "not paid"—to prepare tissue slides for a research laboratory for a few years. Roma followed that with a career in hematology at Clarkson Hospital where she rose from technologist to supervisor and eventually lab coordinator. At the conclusion of her ASMT Presidency, she served as Program Director for ASAHP, the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, to convene a conference on Certification in Allied Health Professions. At the conclusion of that project, she went to Temple University for a graduate degree—a Master's in Clinical laboratory Science.

Roma became chair of the Medical Technology department at the University of Pennsylvania until that program was closed in 1980. Roma served as the acting director of the ASMT Education and Research Fund for two years as professional service.

Both agreed that we needed our own certification to be identified as a profession, which has been "our story from the beginning", Roma said. "The 'seeds' for our own certification sprouted in the early 1950s. The efforts intensified over the years until finally a lawsuit was filed to gain control of our certification board came to a head in 1969". The National Certification Agency was formed

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Two Jewels of ASCLS History

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in the early 1970s. Roma and Patsy, along with the other lunch attendees were strong supporters of NCA and were all certified by that body.

Over lunch, the group also discussed their “six degrees” of knowing or meeting Patsy and Roma. Mary Ann McLane’s first publication was updating an article written by Patsy on RIA. Bill Hunt was a student at Temple University when Patsy was Program Director. Barbara met many of the Temple faculty when she was the Pennsylvania Student Chair and the Temple team competed in and won the Student Bowl competition in the late 1970s.

It is often said that we must forget the past. This member will argue with that statement: the joy of learning about the earlier days of our organization and profession from these two “jewels” was both memorable and priceless. We all agreed that we cannot wait until our next “lunch” and chance to learn more!



From Left to Right:

Barbara Snyderman, ASCLS President-Elect; Patsy Bering, Scott Aikey, Mary McLane, Roma Brown, all four past ASCLS Presidents; William Hunt, ASCLS Nominations Committee.



ASCLS-PA Presents Members with Awards

Mary M. Gourley
ASCLS-PA Awards Chair

At the 2014 ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting, the following awards were presented:

DOLBEY MEMBER OF THE YEAR: William Hunt
(Bill also received this prestigious award in 2002)

KEENER MEMORIAL: Michael Osborne

CORPORATE RECOGNITION: Holigic, Inc.

KEYS TO THE FUTURE: Brittany Bell, Nicolle Monzon, Stephanie Noblit

NEW PROFESSIONAL: Stephanie Noblit

20-YEAR MEMBERSHIP: Richard Bennethun, Terra Lynn Damico, Anne Scherer, Coleen Sieftring

SUSTAINED MEMBERSHIP:

65-yr – Adaline Dogon

55-yr – Jane Wilson

40-yr – Linda Burke, Harriet Nadler

30-yr – Lynelle Spitzer

In addition, at the 2014 ASCLS Annual Meeting and EXPO in July in Chicago, IL, the following ASCLS-PA members were recognized:

Constituent Society Member of the Year:
Mary Beth Miele

**ASCLS Poster Competition –
Professional Category Winner:** Katie Franz

Student Forum Leadership Award Nominee:
Stephanie Noblit

ASCLS Student Travel Award: Stephanie Noblit

Alpha Mu Tau Scholarship: Stephanie Noblit

The ASCLS Member of the Year award has been redefined. It has been replaced by the ASCLS Lifetime Achievement Award. Shirlyn McKenzie of Texas was the recipient this year.

Congratulations to all the award winners. Nominations are now being accepted for the Dolbey Member of the Year, the Estolle Gross, and the Corporate awards to be presented at the Annual Meeting in May 2015. Please contact President Michael Osborne or Mary Gourley for nomination forms. All nominations are welcome and anyone can nominate. Let’s have a banner year for awards next year.



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Coming Events

Board of Directors Meeting: October 18, 2014 (Philadelphia area)

Board of Directors Meeting: February 9, 2015 (Location tbd)

Board of Directors Meeting and House of Delegates: May 4, 2015 (Harrisburg area)

ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting and Expo: May 5-6, 2015 (Harrisburg area)

All members of ASCLS-PA are welcome and encouraged to attend
any meeting of the Board of Directors

To get involved, simply email Michael Osborne at
Michael.R.Osborne@questdiagnostics.com

**The Pennsylvania Newsletter is the official publication of
The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science – Pennsylvania**

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