



The Pennsylvania Newsletter

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

Vol. 35 No. 3

Spring 2022



Message from the President

Travis Bicher
ASCLS-PA President

**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!**

Greetings to all the ASCLS-PA members out there! Spring is finally here, and that not only means an end to dreary weather, but also the return of the state's annual continuing education event, the Spring Meeting!

This conference will be held Monday May 16th, at the DoubleTree Suites in Plymouth Meeting just outside of Philadelphia, and we have a line-up of 20 hours of PACE-approved continuing education credits. Join us to enjoy breakfast and lunch, network with your fellow laboratorians, learn about the latest in tests, platforms, and employment opportunities from our industry partners, and most importantly, hear talks on a variety of subjects, from implementing high-sensitivity troponin assays to legal cases of interest to the lab to (of course) testing and treatment for COVID-19. Check out the full program and sign up here: <https://www.ascls-pa.org/2022-spring-meeting.html>

I also urge you to participate in the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) the day before on Sunday May 15th at 3pm. Registration to the Spring Meeting isn't necessary to attend, and if you can't make it in person, please keep an eye on your email for information about joining

via Zoom.

As our primary grassroots governing body, the ABM allows any Professional, Ascending, or Emeritus member of the ASCLS-PA to voice their opinion and vote on matters concerning the state society, such as election of officers and changes to the bylaws. Up for grabs this year are the positions of President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Board Member. If you're an Ascending or Developing Professional interested in seeing how the Board operates, let me know (at travisbicher@gmail.com) and I'll pass this along to the incoming President, who makes that selection.

If you're looking to travel somewhere slightly more glamorous for your medical laboratory professional needs, then check out the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) on June 26th to 30th in Grand Rapids, Michigan. There will be CE presentations, research posters from those in the lab, a Demo Pavilion for industry engagement, and plenty of events to socialize and network with your fellow laboratorians.

The JAM also features the House of Delegates (HOD),

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

President: Travis Bicher

President-elect: TBA

Past President: Marianne Downes

Editor: Jonathan Myer

Editorial Staff: The ASCLS-PA Board of Directors

Website: www.ascls-pa.org

the governing body of the ASCLS. The organization has continued to increase engagement with membership by holding the HOD twice yearly, and I attended the meeting on January 16th.

One of the primary topics currently on the table is a change in the structure of ASCLS's governance. Presently, the state constituent societies are grouped into 10 regions, and each has to have a Director on the Board. ASCLS is moving to have instead 10 at-large Directors from anywhere in the nation.

There are two main reasons for this, one being that the regions are not equal in terms of either share of the membership nor number of lab professionals nationwide, and a few regions over-represent, having a percentage of members greater than their percentage of professionals (see the marked map). This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but it could be skewing the perspectives and decisions of the Board. The second is that with the change, a Director's responsibility will be not to their own constituent states but to the organization as a whole, allowing them to better uphold the typical non-profit fiduciary duties of care, loyalty, and obedience. It was suggested that there be minimum requirements and testing competency as part of the nomination process.

The Board of Directors is asking for feedback on how to keep constituent societies and national connected with this change, but they feel that the representative nature of the House of Delegates and the direct communication afforded by the online, freely accessible Connect Communities allow states to have their say. ASCLS wants to offer opportunity to its members, not a waiting list, and hierarchy can get in the way of that.

All that said, a solid plan beyond removing the region requirement was not presented. I'll be representing PA at the next HOD, so please let me know your thoughts

on this situation.

Regarding the PAMA cuts I discussed in my last message, CMS has issued statements indicating that it doesn't intend to verify data received from laboratories on Medicare payments for lab testing, which continues to be heavily weighted in the favor of large independent laboratories that spend less per test and have the resources to meet reporting requirements (they're 91.5% of the data received!). A June 2021 report from MedPAC recommended sampling random laboratories to get more accurate results and reduce the burden of reporting on smaller labs.

On the front of improved regulation and oversight of lab-developed tests, there are two competing proposals in Congress: the Verifying Accurate, Leading-edge IVCT Development (VALID) Act (H.R.6201/S.3404) and the Verified Innovative Testing in American Laboratories (VITAL) Act (S.3512). The ASCLS supports the VALID Act as it would create a single, diagnostics-specific regulatory framework within the FDA while modernizing oversight.

Task forces are working to update position papers on Point of Care Testing, Scope of Practice, and Healthcare Reform. Presented for review was a draft of a paper combining "Practice Levels and Educational Needs for Clinical Laboratory Personnel" and "Model Career Ladder". The Levels of Practice Model has guidelines for 7 ascending categories of job responsibilities, listing technical skills that each level is expected to perform in the laboratory, starting at phlebotomy and going up to grant-funded research and clinical assessment, linked to an appropriate required level of education, certification, and previous experience.

It is suggested that this be used in combination with the Model Career Ladder, which focuses on professional

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behavior such as training new personnel, education of MLT/MLS students, taking on leadership roles, submitting articles for publication, pursuing higher education, and involvement with professional organizations like ASCLS. The Career Ladder provides guidelines for laboratorians to expand their knowledge and experience in the field and for employers to recognize and advance laboratorians within their organization. Please consider

using these guidelines in your laboratory!

As ever feel free to reach out with your opinions at travisbicher@gmail.com. Lab Week will be over by the time this goes out, but I hope it's fun and that you get the recognition you deserve. I look forward to see you somewhere soon!



American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Pennsylvania Minutes from February 5, 2022 Board Meeting via Zoom

Barbara Snyderman
ACCLS-PA Secretary

Present: Travis Bicher, President; Marianne Downes, Past President and Membership Chair; Barbara Snyderman, Secretary; Bill Hunt, Treasurer; Katie Franz, Board and PACE; Jonathan Meyer, Board and Newsletter Editor; Sharon Strauss, Webmaster and 2022 Annual Meeting Chair; Mary Gourley, Awards and Bylaws; Heather Harrington, Ascending Professional Vice Chair; Kate Dixon, Developing Professional; Madison Horowitz

The meeting was called to order at 9:41 by President Bicher after introductions.

The President called for approval of the agenda. New Business was added to the agenda.

Motion 1: Marianne Downes moved that the ASCLS-PA Board approve the agenda as amended.

Bill hunt Seconded. Motion carried.

President's report: The President highlighted areas of his report. He attended the ASCLS Legislative Symposium and met with Pennsylvania representatives. He has been recruiting exhibitors for the annual meeting. He also participated in the ASCLS Mid-Year House of Delegates and has submitted newsletter articles as requested.

Secretary's report: Barbara Snyderman presented the minutes from the Fall board meeting. There were not corrections.

Motion 2: Katie Franz moved that the ASCLS-PA Board approve the minutes of the Fall Board Meeting. Downes

seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Bill Hunt presented his report for the period ending 1.31.2022. He noted that no dues had been received from ASCLS for the period September 1 through the report date

Motion 3: Downes moved that the ASCLS-PA Board accept the treasurer's report for the period dated 9.1.2021 through 1.31.2022 and file for audit. Snyderman seconded. Motion carried.

Hunt presented his report for the Scholarship fund for the same dates as the general fund report.

Motion 4: Downes moved that the ASCLS-PA Board accept the treasurer's report for the Scholarship Fund dated 9.1.2021 through 1.31.2022. Franz seconded. Motion carried.

Awards: Mary Gourley presented her report and noted the deadline had passed but had been extended to 2.15.2022.

Bylaws: Gourley stated our bylaws are up to date and no changes are needed at this time.

Developing Professional: Student review is scheduled for the first weekend of June, 2022. If it is recorded for virtual attendance, higher registration prices will be necessary to cover the AV costs.

Career Recruitment: Jean Buchenhorst reported she is checking into the Philadelphia science fair.

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Con Ed Assistanceship: No applicants as of this date.

Ascending Professional: Heather Harrington said she is working on the “Ask me Anything” event. There will be four panelists and information will be out soon.

Education Scientific Assembly: There will be a meeting Friday, June 3 from 10am to 1pm and will be entirely virtual.

File Custodian: Hunt reported all files are safe in his basement.

Finance: No report

Government Affairs: No report

Membership: Downes reported that we have 202 members. Early renewal campaign was a success. 17 Developing Professionals renewed.

Newsletter: Jonathan Meyer reported the final proof was sent to him 2.1.2022 and the next deadline is 4.15.2022. He is looking for general interest articles.

PACE: Franz mentioned the 2.23.2022 meeting on blood cell utilization.

Website: Strauss reported she added a t-shirt sale link and job postings.

Delaware Valley Chapter: May sell stickers as a fundraiser.

OLD BUSINESS:

T-shirt sales: Meyer reported sales are ongoing. 10

were sold via the website and quantity is about half gone.

NEW BUSINESS:

2022 Spring Meeting: Strauss reported there have been 3 committee meetings so far. Fees are set as are times for speakers. Planning program mailing 4.1.2022. Food decisions will be made next meeting.

Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship: Information was removed from the website temporarily.

Hunt will send a meeting notice for a committee to discuss moving all scholarships to non-profit status so donations are tax deductible.

ASCLS-PA magnets: Snyderman has two boxes from several years ago. Will check if they are outdated and bring them to the spring meeting.

Snyderman requested that the ASCLS fund a gift for the Education & Research Fund auction at the Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference.

Motion 6: Snyderman moved that the ASCLS-PA Board approve a \$100 gift for the CLEC Silent Auction. Money to come from O&A line item and should include postage. Franz seconded. Motion carried. Snyderman will secure the gift.

Motion 7: Franz moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 am. Hunt seconded. Motion carried.

ASCLS-PA T-Shirt

Show off your pride as a medical laboratory professional and ASCLS-PA member!



Order directly from www.ASCLS-PA.org

2022 Leadership Candidates

Listed below are the current candidates for leadership positions on the Board of Directors for the Society, to be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting in Plymouth Meeting on May 15th at 3pm. Show up and have your voice heard!

President: Presidents typically serve a 3-year term, starting as President-Elect for a year and ending as Past-President for a year. As the Elect position was vacant this past year, the candidate selected for President will take on full duties immediately and serve a 2-year term rather than the usual 3.

President: Stephanie Noblit



Stephanie has been a member of ASCLS since her student rotations at Pennsylvania Hospital. Throughout her time as an ASCLS member she has taken on numerous leadership roles and has participated in various committees on the state, regional, and national level. Stephanie helped to create the ASCLS Mentorship Program and currently serves as the special advisor to the Mentorship Committee. Additionally, she has been a part of the Government Affairs Committee for several years and mentors its ascending and developing professional members.

Stephanie is passionate about laboratory advocacy and has attended the Legislative Symposium every year since she was a student. She enjoys working together with other members of ASCLS-PA, especially those who have not attended the event before.

Stephanie is a graduate of the ASCLS Leadership Academy and has received various awards, including Key to the Future, the Board of Directors Certificate of

Achievement, and the Robin H. Mendelson Memorial Award. She has given presentations at both the state and national meetings.

President-Elect: Heather Herrington



Heather's path to the medical laboratory has been a storied one. She was first a veterinarian, then an event planner, and then a web developer before joining us in the laboratory. Her initial work was in a facility that did COVID-19 testing exclusively, and she continues to provide testing support through the pandemic in the Microbiology Department at the Core Lab for Allegheny Health Network in Pittsburgh, PA.

Heather has made a number of contributions to the Society at the national level. She assisted with planning the Joint Annual Meetings as part of the Steering Committee from 2019 to present, was the Secretary for the Developing Professionals Forum 2020-2021, and is currently the Vice Chair of the Ascending Professionals Forum, and will thus be Chair next year and BOD Representative the following year.

This year was the first time she attended the Legislative Symposium. She was an asset in setting up meetings and bringing her experiences as a relatively new laboratorian to the table, and afterward has helped Stephanie Noblit in getting the word out to membership on how they can advocate to Congress on behalf of the laboratory.

Secretary: 3-year term - *OPEN*

Board Director: 3-year term - *OPEN*



Bylaws

Mary M. Gourley
ASCLS-PA Awards Chair

Delegates to the 2022 ASCLS House of Delegates will be voting on amendments to the ASCLS Bylaws, Article IV – Board of Directors, Article IX – Regional Councils, and Article X – Society Forums.

The amendments are:

Amendment #1:

Article IV – Board of Directors

B. Composition

The number of voting directors shall be sixteen (16) – the President, President-elect, Secretary/Treasurer, Past President, and ten (10) Regional Directors elected by the House of Delegates in a manner prescribed by the Board of Directors of the Society. There shall be one (1) voting Developing Professional Director elected by the Developing Professional Forum of the Society and one (1) Ascending Professional Director.

Article IX – Regional Councils

A. Regional Councils

There shall be at least ten (10) Regional Councils composed of constituent societies.

B. Functions

The Regional Council shall function to coordinate within geographical boundaries activities, which support the principles and further the goals of the Society, and to provide for the constituent societies of a region greater access to and utilization of the resources of the Society.

C. Composition

A Regional Council shall consist of officers of constituent societies as defined in regional guidelines.

Amendment #2:

Add Section D to Article X – Society Forums

D. Clinical Laboratory Educators Forum

1. The Clinical Laboratory Educators Forum shall engage and facilitate the involvement and interest of Clinical Laboratory Educator members in this Society.
2. The Clinical Laboratory Educators Forum shall be governed by guidelines, which shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

Welcome New Members!

ASCLS-Pennsylvania would like to welcome the new members who have joined over the past few months! If you work with any of these new members, please reach out to greet our new members and show them the faces of the organization they just joined. Welcome aboard!

NAME	CITY	STATE
Emily Wolfe	Williamsport	PA
Karyssaann Costagliola	Wescosville	PA
Tracey Collier	Venango	PA

Did you know that you can actually renew at any time? I like to renew my membership when I get my tax refund. That's the first thing I do with those funds. This way I'm renewed early and I don't have to try and remember in the summer when your membership expires. While the membership year runs from August 1 through July 31st. You can renew and pay the same rate for the next year's membership at any time, so go ahead and renew today!

Has your membership/contact/professional information changed? You can always check your membership status at members.ascls.org, and update your profile information there which will update our mailing list instantly.



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE
OF PENNSYLVANIA HOSTS:

ANNUAL MLT/MLS STUDENT REVIEW

This student review consists of comprehensive lectures covering major subjects in the medical laboratory field(s). This event is catered to students currently in MLT/MLS programs in order to prepare them for their MLT/MLS Board of Certification exam.



Chemistry
Microbiology
Immunology
Hematology
Blood Bank
and
Test Taking Tips!

JUNE 4, 2022 FROM 7:30 AM TO 5:30 PM
VIRTUAL ZOOM EVENT

Fees:

Student ASCLS Member - \$10
Student ASCLS Non-Member - \$20
Non-Student ASCLS Member - \$30
Non-Student ASCLS Non-Member - \$40
Late Fee - \$10

Registration Deadline: May 6, 2022

For the registration form and schedule,
visit <https://www.ascls-pa.org/>
For questions, email Kate Dixon at
dixonk2112@gmail.com



The Pennsylvania Newsletter
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ASCLS Pennsylvania

Moving? Remember you can update all your membership information online at www.ascls-pa.org
Or send your attached label and your corrected address to:
ASCLS-PA
130 South 9th Street
Edison Building, Suite 2211
Philadelphia, PA 19107
to insure uninterrupted service

Upcoming Events

2022 ASCLS-PA/PASSAMT Joint Spring Meeting

May 15-16, 2022
Doubletree Suites by Hilton
Philadelphia West
Plymouth Meeting, PA

Annual MLT/MLS Student Review

June 4, 2022
Zoom Meeting Available via Registration
7:30 am to 5:30 pm

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

To get involved, email Travis Bicher at travisbicher@gmail.com

Stay in Touch with us on our Website

Make sure you bookmark www.ascls-pa.org to stay in touch with us. You can find numerous updates and information on the web site about upcoming meetings. Information is also available earlier on the Pennsylvania State Society ASCLS Connect Community forum.