



The Pennsylvania Newsletter

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"Your Professional Organization for over Sixty Years"

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Message from the President

Eric Evans, M.Ed., MLS(ASCP)^{CM}
ASCLS-PA President



I feel very humbled to be writing to all of you today as President of ASCLS-PA. I have been active in ASCLS for a relatively short period of time- about 6 years- compared to most of our other active members. In that short period of time I have had many wonderful experiences and opportunities. Taking advantage of those opportunities has led me to the current position of President. There have been many rewarding experiences throughout my time with ASCLS and it would be impossible to name a single best experience. But ranking up at the top would have to be serving as President and having a central role in directing the State's activities.

I believe a major reason I was able to be elected President in a relatively short period of time is due to the limited number of members that take an active role in ASCLS-PA. We have a very strong group

of dedicated members that take on leadership roles year after year. At times, this can be very taxing on individuals. And even though our leadership enthusiastically steps up time and time again we are always looking to find new members to take on active roles.

Because of this shortage of new faces in leadership I can guarantee you that many opportunities in ASCLS-PA are abound. I encourage you to look into taking an active role, as the future strength of our organization and profession literally depends on it. If you would like more information on getting involved please contact myself or anybody else on the leadership team. You can find the leadership roster and contact information on our website (www.ascls-pa.org). The single best way to meet other active members is to attend a Board of Directors meeting to introduce

yourself to others and see how things work on the business side of ASCLS-PA. Board meetings are open to all ASCLS-PA members and I highly encourage you to attend if you are even the slightest bit interested in learning more about how you can get involved.

We have been very fortunate in the past couple of years to have several new individuals now in leadership roles. We have three newly active members on the Board of Directors- Laura Merritt, Laurie Taraborelli, and Mike Osborne. We also have a new Webmaster, John Lawless, who is working hard to revamp our website. I would like to thank all four of these individuals for stepping up and taking on leading roles. They have already been very influential in the short time that they have been actively involved.

Continued on page 4

ASCLS-PA 2013 Spring Meeting

Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, Harrisburg, PA on May 13-14, 2013

ASCLS-PA 2013 Winter Board Meeting

February- Conference Call; To be announced
ASCLS-PA 2013 Board of Directors/House of Delegates
The BOD/HOD meeting will be held Sunday May 12 at 7pm
Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, Harrisburg, PA.

ASCLS-PA 2013 Student Review Session

This year's student review will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting- May 13-14, 2013
18 hours of Continuing Education plus a full day student/working professional review session.



2012 ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting

Laurie Taraborrelli, MBA
ASCLS-PA President-Elect-Elect

Laboratory professionals were treated to a two-day multi-disciplinary continuing education seminar and exhibit held at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia on Monday, May 7th and Tuesday, May 8th. This event was held by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania State Society of American Medical Technologists, and the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Clinical Laboratory Managers Association.

A total of 47 educational information sessions were presented by local and nationally known speakers including 12 hematology seminars, 12 microbiology/ molecular sessions, 9 chemistry presentations, 9 blood

bank seminars, 3 education sessions and 2 management seminars. Hematology topics ranged from anemia to tick borne illness to body fluid cell counts and differentials. Microbiology topics included updates from the Department of Health and CAP inspections. Molecular topics covered DNA testing. Chemistry sessions included Vitamin D, MI, Cystic Fibrosis, and drug testing. Blood Bank topics included information about platelets, cryo, assessment readiness, and other topics in transfusion medicine. Education topics involved teaching the "Millennial Generation," evidence-based methods of Laboratory Medicine QI, and Learning-Centered teaching. Management seminars were held about CLIA, FDA, CDC and Health Care Reform and the appropriate use of lab services.



More than a dozen exhibitors were on hand to display their latest equipment, supplies, and services. Exhibitors included representatives from Quest Diagnostics, ARUP Laboratories, Immucor, Beckman-Coulter, Phadia, Meridian Bioscience, Bio-Rad, BD Diagnostics, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Remel, Miller-Keystone Blood Center, PSSAMT, Media Lab Inc, Roche and Siemens.

The event provided a unique opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and a chance to make some new connections during a continental breakfast or a delicious lunch provided on the campus of the University.

Important Info: ASCLS-PA Members Listserv

A couple of years ago we set up an email Listserv for ASCLS-PA (ascls-pa-members@ascls-lists.org). Anybody can send an email to this address and all members of ASCLS-PA will receive it. We try to limit these emails to only those that are relevant at the time to the entire membership. Sometimes the business aspect of ASCLS-PA slips out and some members do not want to be bothered with such email so this is why we try to limit what goes out on the listserv.

HOWEVER

.....I would like to point out to you another powerful function of the listserv. Anytime you have a question regarding anything in the lab, you have at your disposal the entire laboratory community throughout the State. If no answers can be found we will send out questions nationally to individuals that can help. Whether your question is related to education, technical issues, management, instrumentation etc., somebody will be able to get back to you.

With that said...

You have to be aware of how you **reply to the listserv**.....

If somebody sends a message out to the membership using the listserv, you have **two options for responding**:

- 1.) **Reply to the entire membership**- simply hit "reply." You do not have to hit "reply all" to send to the entire group.
NOTE: the message will tell you that "Joe" sent it, but hitting "reply" will still send your response to the entire group.

- 2.) Reply to just Joe- hit "forward." Then copy and paste Joe's email in the "to" box and send your response.

If you are not on the listserv or not sure if you are and would like to be to keep up-to-date with society news and laboratory questions, email **Eric Evans**, ejevans80@yahoo.com. You must be a member of ASCLS to be added to the listserv.

ASCLS 2012 Annual Meeting Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles

Bill Hunt, MT(ASCP) ^{CMSH}



The 2012 ASCLS Annual Meeting and Laboratory Exposition was held July 17 -21, 2012 in Los Angeles, California. The meeting theme was "Celebrating 80 Years!" in celebration of the 80th anniversary of ASCLS. The host hotel was the historic Millennium Biltmore the site of the first Academy Awards. (The ASCLS House of Delegates was held in the same ballroom.) This historic hotel has welcomed celebrities, presidents and dignitaries for nearly 90 years, offering unrivaled historic grandeur in the heart of downtown Los Angeles. The Biltmore was only steps away from major attractions including L.A. Live, Staples Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Dodger Stadium and the Museum of Contemporary Art. This hotel was built in the day when guests arrived with steamer trunks and some rooms had walk in closets that were huge. It was the most beautiful hotel we have had in years.

The laboratory exposition was held at the Los Angeles Convention Center and remains the largest laboratory exposition in the world. There were so many vendors that there were two exhibit halls. This year a mobile app was available for the meeting that allowed participants to rate sessions and receive alerts regarding events throughout the meeting.

The education provided was timely and up to date. The Opening Keynote was given by Dr. Michael Laposata on the "MLS Contribution After the Generation of the Test Result: A New Role for Medical Laboratory Scientists on the Diagnostic Management Team." In addition, the ASCLS Leadership Academy

graduated another class and started a new class. 2012 graduates presented a session on their project which addressed different strategies for communicating with and recruiting laboratory professionals, students, and administrators.

There were a number of wonderful social events including the ASCLS President's reception and Education & research Fund Silent Auction. The ASCLS-PA delegation dinner were joined by members from ASCLS-DE and ASCLS-MD.

The 2012 House of Delegates reviewed and discussed the following:

- Position Paper on the Value of Clinical Laboratory Services in Health Care
- Scope of Practice Position
- Health Care Reform Position Paper
- Independent Practice Statement of Philosophy

A great deal of the time during the house was an update and continued support of the proposed merger of ASCLS and CLMA. Although CLMA has withdrawn from the merger, the discussion centered on the makeup of the board especially the elimination of the New Professional position on the Board, the non-voting Student member and a laboratory management member.

It was a great meeting! Please begin planning for the 2013 Annual Meeting July 30th, 2013 in Houston Texas!





Message from the President cont.

Eric Evans, M.Ed., MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

There is an enthusiasm brought in by new faces and ideas that is contagious. It allows us, and inspires us, to do more. And it challenges us in our beliefs on how things have always been done and ways that they may be improved upon to move forward in the future. This new enthusiasm is not tagged to people of a certain age. It comes along with people of any age who step into a new arena and experience things for the first time. They see new experiences and opportunities ahead and it is exciting. I believe that the continuous flow of new ideas and energy is necessary to keeping any organization active and progressive. And why does involvement in ASCLS generate so much enthusiasm and excitement among newly active members? There are many reasons to be sure, but I know for myself one of the big ones- when I realized that I alone could have a direct impact on the direction of our entire profession.

That may sound awful boastful- one person impacting the profession. But it is not. The simple fact is that ASCLS is a tight and closely connected community and often any efforts you put in, concerns you have or any contributions you make are heard throughout the National community. At the National level we have people work-

ing with the U.S. Congress on a regular basis. ASCLS has our own lobbyist in D.C. working to lobby for the laboratory's values and vision for the future every day. In fact, every spring since 1989 ASCLS joins up with other professional laboratory organizations for the Legislative Symposium. During this day, Capitol Hill is bombarded with an onslaught of laboratory professionals. Laboratory professionals from each State meet with their respective Representatives and Senators on Capitol Hill to let our concerns be known. So we truly do give voice to each individual that impacts the direction of our profession.

There are many pressing issues facing the laboratory profession today. And here is what I see as a major crux to our problems in the lab- many of us get into the lab profession because we like science, healthcare, lab work, etc. But many of us do not want to be in the forefront. Then we get into the profession and many of us find ourselves frustrated with the conditions, exposure, appreciation and of course pay. We suddenly need people that are willing to get in the forefront to speak for us and our concerns. These people are hard to come by in our profession. Be-

ing actively involved with ASCLS for a number of years now, I can honestly say that most of the members that are now raising their voices for our profession are individuals who never would have seen themselves in such a role. They started with a quiet role and as their confidence grew, so did their voice.

You will notice that I did not go on about what ASCLS can do for you, the benefits, etc. This information is out there if that is what you are looking for and I would be glad to provide that to you as well if you are interested. But I will say this- ASCLS truly gives you the platform to have your voice heard. We are an active grass roots organization. We try to provide the best services possible to our membership. However, I believe our single best service is the platform ASCLS provides for all of us to have our voices heard and promote our profession.

Just last week I spoke with a non-laboratory health care professional, Mary. We were discussing the profession of laboratory science and she said we have a Public Relations problem because nobody even knows about the profession. So very true, Mary. So true. Let's change that.

New ASCLS-PA Website

Our new Webmaster, John Lawless, has been working hard to update the ASCLS-PA website (<http://www.ascls-pa.org/>). I encourage all of you to check it out. John is eager to receive feedback on suggestions for the site and new ideas. We want to maintain features previously available on the site but in a new format. There are also several new features, one of these being the "History" section under "About Us." Stay tuned for new updates still to come.

News from the President-Elect-Elect

Laurie Taraborrelli, MBA
ASCLS-PA President-Elect-Elect



I would like to introduce myself as President-elect of ASCLS-PA. My name is Laurie Taraborrelli. I reside in the Philadelphia area. My professional background includes ten years of laboratory management and fifteen years of clinical laboratory experience. As President, I would like to increase awareness and recognition of current ASCLS-PA members and encourage them to accept more active roles within the organization. There are opportunities as students or new professionals that include writing articles for the newsletter, offering continuing education at your facility, serving as a state and federal government liaison, contributing to the website, serving as a board member, or simply attending regular chapter meetings.

During my short tenure as a board member, I have had the unique

opportunity to meet a diversely talented group of dedicated individuals whose experience as active ASCLS-PA members has garnered my utmost respect and gratitude. They have not deterred volunteers like me who have made the commitment to step up and accept active leadership roles but have welcomed us with full support and appreciation.

My short rise to the position of President-elect is a tribute to the confidence the current leadership has placed in me combined with the deficit of active members to serve in leadership positions. I feel confident of their support and I implore other members who feel compelled to be a voice or contribute their experience to become more involved and active, either in their own chapters or in the state organizations. Becoming active is also a

great way to re-connect with colleagues and make new connections.

Becoming active in ASCLS-PA is also an excellent chance to interact with other professionals for support and networking opportunities. The best outcome of my recent experience with ASCLS-PA has been to expand and enhance my leadership skills and abilities. This opportunity has challenged me to step up and accept a leadership role with the support and appreciation of the current active leaders. I would encourage any members who feel they have a voice to add, or an experience to contribute to become more active, as current leadership is very supportive and cooperative. There is only support and appreciation and a chance for new opportunities and experiences.

Transition from Student to Professional

Neema Chandel, recent student

This article is a personal inspiration based on essays written for applications to Medical Laboratory Science schools. My anticipations were of having a career working in a structured, yet enriching environment where I would be encouraged to grow professionally. It would be a challenging environment where I could contribute to improve healthcare with a unique opportunity to serve others. It would be an opportunity to work in a variety of specialties with the hope to have a job to look forward to every day for years to come while still loving what I do and always learning new things. I am looking forward to being involved with the constant evolution of automation in the clinical laboratory.

My expectations were to enter the field with the knowledge, skills, and aptitude needed for clinical competency. I expected to have the proficiency to

operate laboratory equipment and instruments with the ability to function in a variety of scientific environments and the flexibility to adapt to a changing profession.

The hardest part of the transition from being a student to working as a professional would be the shift change since I work on second shift, working late into the night and not having evenings free. Work is going pretty much as expected. Everyone is friendly and willing to help. I ask a lot of questions as it is just my nature and someone will help me or find someone who can. You can't learn everything in your year of school and you can't learn every situation when you are training, so you continue learning on the job. Situations come up. Instruments break down and you just learn by experience and ask for help when you are unsure.



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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, 8 Lakeview Court Sinking Spring, PA 19608 , to insure uninterrupted service

Coming Events

Feb 2013 (Date TBA)	ASCLS-PA Winter Board Meeting
May 13-14, 2013	ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting
May 12, 2013	ASCLS-PA Spring Board Meeting
May 13-14, 2013	ASCLS-PA 2013 Student Review Session

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