



The Pennsylvania Newsletter

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"Your Professional Organization for over Sixty Years"

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Message from the President

The Positive Value of Networking Bill Hunt, MT(ASCP)^{CM}SH, ASCLS-PA President



The Positive Value of Networking
As the final leaves fall here in the Delaware Valley, it is a great time to take stock on where ASCLS-PA is moving this year. My involvement in ASCLS-PA is now nearly 30 years, but members are decreasing, and we now have a concern regarding the number of members assisting in our professional endeavors.

The turnover of membership can't continue without significant consequences. At the fall Board meeting the lapsed member list was divided among the leadership and we are reaching out to members to renew their membership. As you look around your place of employment the probability is very high that no more than 5% of laboratory staffs are members of any professional organization.

The value of our educational opportunities, (national, state and chapter), personal services, publications, grass roots activities and governmental affairs easily justify our membership dues. As we call our lapsed members to renew their membership many of them cite the economy. ASCLS membership is less than \$2 per week! If you are feeling financial stress what better way to network with others outside your place of employment...which may lead to better opportunities in the future!

ASCLS-PA had a very successful fall Board Meeting and a one-day education meeting in State College

this September. This followed a successful meeting in Wilkes-Barre, fall 2010, and a state meeting in Harrisburg in the spring of 2011.

The format of a one day meeting holds a great deal of promise in reaching areas where ASCLS does not have a large concentration of members. If you are interested in a one day education meeting in your area contact your local state board member. Although the one day meeting is "less work" than a large multi room/day meeting, we still need volunteers to help plan and organize all these meetings.

Meanwhile we continue to plan for a State Meeting on the campus of the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia on Monday, May 7th and Tuesday, May 8th. This meeting is being hosted by the Delaware Valley Chapter of ASCLS-PA. If you are a member and interested in assisting in this endeavor please contact me at william.hunt@uphs.upenn.edu

Our state organization is strong. Unfortunately, six of our state chapters are inactive. The two current active chapters in Pennsylvania are the Northwest (Erie) and Delaware Valley (Philadelphia). Organizing and restarting a chapter requires 2-3 people who are dedicated to holding educational meetings, promoting the laboratory profession in your geographic area and recruiting their colleagues to help.

It is a great way to network and learn what the other institutions in your area are doing to meet the SAME challenges that you meet every day. Do not be surprised if you receive a call from me to ask you to organize your chapter!

Are you ever asked what the benefits of volunteering may be? The contacts that you make will always benefit you in your professional life. I was a post box member and not involved in the society until 1987 when I went to hear Mary Ann McLane (now a former President of ASCLS) who was my instructor in clinical chemistry in 1982 give a local chapter presentation on the measuring and difference between Precision and Specificity. Within a few months I was working on the state meeting and have never looked back. ASCLS has always given individuals the opportunity to lead with a built-in mentoring network.

I probably wouldn't have volunteered to be President of ASCLS-PA if I had known we would be building a new laboratory at work, but then I know that I can count on all of you for help to get through this year. But the opportunity presented itself and we should always give back to the profession that has served us so well. It is an honor to be your State President and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call 215-829-6911.



Atlanta: A National Meeting of Education and Some Fun!

Michele E. Lachance, CHT(ABHI)
ASCLS-PA Past President

This year's national meeting was the 5th one I have attended, and it was just as fun and exciting as the first! Since I had fewer obligations this year than in the past, I arrived in Atlanta on Tuesday, the day before the start of the continuing education sessions. I went to an afternoon meeting for outgoing state-presidents, and I have to say that it was a bit sad to know that my year of working with you was just about complete.

I then attended a meeting of the Awards Committee, of which I have been a member for five years. We planned our strategy for organizing the awards ceremony, and then worked on details and awards for next year. My professional obligations accomplished, I headed out to Olympic Park, which was just across the street from the hotel, and strolled around the grounds reliving 1996 Olympic memories.

Later, I joined a bunch of my Leadership Academy friends for dinner at this hopping pizza joint called Max's, that was conveniently located right down the road from the hotel. We spent the evening reminiscing and catching up with each other's lives since we only see each other once a year. It was a great way to finish up my first day in Atlanta.

The second day, and the start of continuing education sessions, is what this annual meeting is all about. The day was filled from top to bottom with CE opportunities and I took advantage of every single one that I could.

I went to sessions titled "Right Diagnosis, Right Lab Test, Right on Time"; "Clinical Urine Drug Testing"; "Serious Transfusion Reactions"; "Alzheimers: Discovery to Diagnosis"; "Bacterial Biofilms-

What are they and how are they important?" and maybe even more!

It was a long but very informative day. I capped it off by attending a talk and dinner at the reference laboratory of Quest Diagnostics. A colleague and I were fortunate enough to be invited to this event, which included a tour of Quest's new 6 Sigma Lean facility. This was the highlight of the day, as it was thrilling to see how a reference laboratory of this caliber operates. It was impressive!!!

We arrived back at the hotel in time to enjoy a bit of socialization at the President's reception, and then called it a day!

Thursday started off with a quick trip to the Atlanta aquarium. The aquarium houses the world's largest tank (6.3 million gallons!), and I could not miss the opportunity to visit, especially since it was a 5 minute walk from the hotel! I was there only a few short hours, but was able to take in all of the exhibits. My favorite was the Ocean Voyager exhibit, which houses whale sharks and the only manta rays in a US aquarium.

It was a sight to behold and I could barely tear myself away to get back to the meeting! But back I went, and enjoyed sessions such as: "POCT and Molecular Diagnostics" and "Understanding the Forensic Science Lab".

Following the sessions was the Awards Ceremony for which I had prepared earlier. It is a great way to celebrate together all the accomplishments of our members! Another way the PA attendees celebrated was to go out to dinner as a group. This is a tradition for many of the states, and PA is no exception. We walked to a modern restaurant called "Thrive". We had great food, great service and great conversation! I had my very first fried green tomatoes and they

taste just like green tomatoes that are fried! Can I say it's not quite what I expected? It is always so much fun to hang out with the PA delegation in a relaxed atmosphere. We always enjoy ourselves immensely.

Friday always begins with a Region Caucus Meeting. PA belongs to Region II, so the delegates from PA, MD, NJ, DC, VA, and WV were all together. Here we discuss what is going on at a regional level, as well as prepare for topics that we may discuss at the next day's House of Delegates. This is followed by another full day of continuing education sessions.

Can you believe that I obtained 13 PACE credits!? Another benefit of being an ASCLS member!

The meeting always ends on Saturday with the big HOD meeting. The big discussion was the potential "merger" between ASCLS and CLMA. I'm sure you've been reading all about it in the national newsletter. If not, make sure you do!

Another topic was discussion and vote on a new mission statement. It's on the website, so take a look! It really embodies the essence of ASCLS.

The meeting ended in the late morning and I headed back home. It was a short but action packed few days. As always, I recommend that everyone try to attend a national meeting. It's an experience you'll never forget!

Free Online Educational Opportunity

Nancy Anderson, M.M.Sc.

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to announce that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Laboratory Science and Standards is now offering a free online laboratory training module entitled "READY? SET? TEST! Patient Testing is Important. Get the right results."

This training was developed to supplement other free educational materials already available from CDC to promote good laboratory practices and assure the quality of patient testing, especially in physician office laboratories and other sites that perform testing waived under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA). It includes practice exercises, job aids, and real-life testing scenarios to reinforce the learning process.

After completing the module, participants may print out a Certificate of Completion and obtain continuing education credits offered to physicians, nurses, pharmacists, laboratory professionals, and others.

We encourage you to share this information broadly with colleagues who are concerned with promoting good laboratory practices, especially in waived testing sites. In addition, if possible, we would appreciate your organization or facility's inclusion of an electronic link to the training and other educational materials at the following CDC website locations.

Available through the CDC's website at:
<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/dls/waivedtests/>

If you have any questions about the training or CDC's materials to promote good laboratory practices for waived testing, please feel free to contact me. We appreciate your support of this initiative.

Nancy Anderson, M.M.Sc.
 Chief, Laboratory Practice Standards Branch
 Division of Laboratory Science and Standards

LSPPPO/OSELS/CDC
 Phone: 404-498-2741
nla0@cdc.gov

ASCLS-PA Board Meeting Saturday, January 7, 2012

This Board Meeting will be a conference call that will begin at 9 AM.
 Please e-mail Bill Hunt at William.hunt@uphs.upenn.edu for the 800 phone line and conference line number.

ASCLS-PA Board Meeting Sunday, May 6, 2012

The Sunday prior to the ASCLS-PA Spring Meeting at the University of the Sciences, Philadelphia
 Starting at 1 PM, Building and Room to follow

Tips! ASCLS-PA Members Listserv

The new ASCLS-PA members listserv is a way to send an email out to all members of PA by using a single email address. If you have a question or comment you would like to send to the entire PA membership, simply send to ASCLS-PA-Members@ascls-lists.org.

Responding 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 as it develops, email Eric Evans, ejevans80@yahoo.com.

In Memoriam of Henry (Hank) Kormanski

Submitted by Estolle Gross

In Memoriam

It is with regret that we inform the ASCLS-PA membership of the death of Henry (Hank) Kormanski in Hawaii, March 29, 2011. Hank worked with for the Dolbey company, Upper Darby, PA as an office manager for many years.

Who was the Dolbey Company? They were a Philadelphia based pharmaceutical, medical and lab supply wholesale company. In "olden times," they were the company that saved our lives many times with a bulb for the spectrophotometer, some antigens needed for a test, when our supply was depleted. Hank often answered the phone, and could tell what size test tube you needed for a test. Also, they repaired equipment, microscopes, and in case of an emergency, they would send someone out to help repair your equipment.

Hank was blind, and Mr. Edward Dolbey had polio as a child. Both worked, attended concerts, and traveled the country together. Mr. Dolbey started the "MT of the year" award to honor outstanding MT's many years

ago. It was presented at the Spring PSMT meeting. After Mr. Dolbey became unable to attend the meetings in person, Hank would come and present the award.

Hank graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, spoke several languages, and was very witty! Hank's blindness never stopped him from accomplishing many things. Mr. Dolbey and Hank moved to Hawaii where they enjoyed the warm climate and the islands. It was not unusual to see Hank pushing a wheel chair, with Mr. Dolbey riding and giving directions. Mr. Dolbey died several years ago, and Hank moved to an Assisted Living Facility, still enjoying Hawaii to his end.

"His gracious character, and enjoyment of life, was an inspiration to those who were his friends. We all loved you Hank, and you will never be forgotten."

2011 ASCLS-PA.-P.A.C.E. Activity

Sandy Toloczko MLS,(ASCP)^{CM}
ASCLS-PA. P.A.C.E. Administrator

March 30 th 2011	ASCLS-PA Delaware Valley Chapter Session Meeting in Philadelphia, Pa.
April 4 th 2011	ASCLS-PA/PSSAMT Cont. ed. day: Participation in the Industry exhibit in Harrisburg, PA.
April 28 th 2011	ASCLS-PA LAB WEEK 2011 Educational Seminar in Erie, Pa.
May 4 th 2011	ASCLS-PA Delaware Valley Chapter Session Meeting in Philadelphia, Pa.
June 3 rd 2011	ASCLS Education Scientific Assembly Joint Meeting in Philadelphia, Pa.
June 4 th 2011	ASCLS-PACLS/CLT Student Review Session in Harrisburg, Pa.
Sept. 12 th 2011	ASCLS-PA/PSSAMT Cont. ed day- participation in the Industry Exhibit Quiz in State College, Pa.
Oct. 20 th 2011	ASCLS-PA- Delaware Valley Chapter Session Meeting in Philadelphia, Pa.
Nov 30 th 2011	ASCLS-PA- Delaware Valley Chapter Session Meeting in Philadelphia, Pa.

As one can see, it has been another busy and successful year with providing outstanding/highly professional Cont. ed. sessions to all. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of the ASCLS- PA PACE Organizer to obtain a personalized sharp- looking computerized P.A.C.E. Certificate of Attendance.

News from the President-Elect

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



Successful CE Event in State College

In keeping with ASCLS-PA's strategic initiative to broaden our reach to Central and Western PA, ASCLS-PA and PSSAMT sponsored a CE event in State College on September 12. After a warm reception in DuBois, PA in 2010 with an afternoon CE event we decided to have a full day of CE in State College.

The State College meeting was very successful with 6 speakers and 65 attendees. We also had 5 vendors onsite, including a Siemens trailer. The presentations covered all major disciplines in clinical laboratory science that could be applied to the BOC Certification Maintenance Program. Additionally, a 1 credit vendor CE quiz was available for attendees.

The State College meeting showed significant growth from the 2 speakers and 20 attendees in DuBois last year. There was much enthusiasm for the continuation of CE events in Central PA and we hope to continue providing such networking and CE opportunities in Central PA.

We have also had many requests for providing a student review session in this region. If the support continues, we would very much like to offer such an opportunity for a student review.

We are always looking for help. If you would like to get involved or know any colleagues that would like to get involved, please contact me. For student review sessions, we could really use some help and insight from students. Many opportunities are available for motivated MLS/MLT students that want to be involved in developing our profession.

New ASCLS Certification Maintenance Membership

As most of you are now aware, all MT (MLS) and MLT students graduating after 2004 are required to complete 36 hours of CE every three years to keep their ASCP BOC certification. ASCLS now has a special membership for individuals who are either required to maintain their certification or for those that wish to voluntarily maintain their certification designated as MLS^{cm} or MLT(ASCP)^{cm}.

With an ASCLS membership, you get 12 online CE credits per year for \$55 through LabCE.com. This discounted price through LabCE.com is only available to ASCLS members. The 12 credits will cover all disciplines that are required by the ASCP BOC. After 3 years the required 36 credits will have been obtained for certification maintenance.

As all of the courses are offered online, this is a great option for those who are unable to attend enough educational events throughout the year to meet the necessary CE requirements. And ASCLS's online CE organizer makes keeping track of your transcripts easy.

For more information, go to www.ascls.org, click on "join," then "certification maintenance membership." Be sure to share with your colleagues, especially those who are now required to maintain their certification!

Hold the Date!

ASCLS-PA Spring Meeting 2012

Monday, May 7th and Tuesday, May 8th, 2012

University of the Sciences

Located in the University City section of Philadelphia

48 hours of continuing education offered over 2 days

Choose from 4 Concurrent Meetings

See the latest products in our Vendor Hall



The Pennsylvania Newsletter
8 Lakeview Court
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

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

Jan 7, 2012	ASCLS-PA Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call
May 6, 2012	ASCLS-PA Board of Directors Meeting at University of the Sciences Philadelphia

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American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Pennsylvania**

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