



The Pennsylvania Newsletter

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

Vol 20 no.3

Fall 2008

President's Message

By Mary Gourley,
ASCLS-PA President



As I "hobble" into the new year, I would like to begin by reflecting back upon the ASCLS 2008 Annual Meeting held in Washington, DC this past July. There are memories, both good and bad. Pennsylvania was well represented in the honors department.

At the awards Ceremony held on Wednesday of the meeting, the *PENNSYLVANIA NEWSLETTER* received the 2nd place award for printed state publications. Congratulations and many thank to Ruth Negley for the wonderful job she does as editor. Charles Wilson was presented with a plaque as a nominee for ASCLS Member of the Year; the honor went to Lynn Ingram of Tennessee.

Things were a little different this year, as there was no President's Council, first House of Delegates. Business which would have been conducted at this session was dispersed between the ASCLS Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday and the Issues and Update session. The ASCLS Candidates were introduced at the Board of Directors meeting at which time nominations from the floor were entertained. The President-Elect's presentation was held during the Issues and Update session. There was no election on Friday, as no position was contested. Instead, the House of Delegates voted to elect the slate of candidates as presented by acclamation at the House of Delegates session on Saturday.

Yours truly, who was to chair Saturday, was not able to fulfill this assignment. On a lighter note, Scott Aikey was installed as President of ASCLS, Mary Ann McLane as President-elect, and Barbara Snyderman as Region II Director. Michele Lachance graduated from the first class of the Leadership Academy. Quite a showing for Pennsylvania. Congratulations to everyone.

The second class of the Leadership Academy began their year long studies at this meeting. Once again, Pennsylvania is represented this year by ASCLS-PA President-elect Katie Franz. Good luck for a successful year.

(President's Message cont. on page 3)

Mark Your Calendar!!!

ASCLS-PA Board of Director's Meeting Dates:

Sat, Oct 25, 2008 at HACC (Harrisburg Campus)
Sat, Jan 24, 2009 at RACC (Reading, PA)
(snow date is Jan 31)
Mon, May 11, 2009 at HACC (Harrisburg)

ASCLS Region II Meeting Date:

Sat, Nov 8th (conference call)

ASCLS-PA 2009 Annual Spring Meeting:

May 12-13, 2009
Harrisburg Area Community College
C Ted Lick Conference Center.
Harrisburg, PA
May 12, 2009 Networking Dinner

If you would like to get involved with **ASCLS-PA leadership**, contact Mary Gourley, ASCLS-PA President at m.gourley@verizon.net for more information.

Have you seen this Website?

www.labtestsonline.org

It's a great resource to refer patients and health care professionals for information regarding laboratory tests!

Check out our Website for updates..

www.ascls-pa.org

Check out what's inside:

- ◆ 2008 ASCLS-PA election results
- ◆ 2008 ASCLS-PA Annual Meeting report
- ◆ NCA and ASCP Certifications unite
- ◆ 2008 ASCLS-PA Scholarship winner
- ◆ Take-Action suggestions for helping with the shortage of Laboratory professionals
- ◆ 2008 ASCLS-PA Award winners



Nominations and Elections 2008 Results

Submitted by Barbara Snyderman, Chair



The 2008 ASCLS House of Delegates elected the following individuals to office for the 2008-2009 year:



Above, Past-President, Sharon Strauss (left) is inducting current President, Mary Gourley (right).



Katie Franz (left) was inducted as President-Elect by Sharon Strauss (right).



Above is Ruth Negley (left) and Sandy Neiman (right), newly inducted as Board of Director Members.

Current Vacant Positions:

- Secretary**
- Board of Directors Member**
- Bylaws Committee (2)**
- Membership Development**

Please contact Mary Gourley if you are interested in serving....
m.gourley@verizon.net



The photo above shows Linda Semler as a newly inducted Bylaws Committee Member.



Barbara Snyderman (above, left) is our new ASCLS Region II Director.



Scott Aikey (above, center) is the current ASCLS President!



Mary Ann McLane is the ASCLS President-Elect.



Fun in Washington DC! The Segway Tour...

Mary Gourley, President



(Presidents Message cont. from p. 1)

To digress a moment – my opening statement above has a reference to the Saturday prior to the meeting. Segways are a wonderful personal mode of transportation and a great way to see the sights of DC. When taking a tour on the Segway, you are given a brief overview of safety and operation of the device. One of the most important safety rules is to remain conscious while riding. Unfortunately, I broke that rule and passed out from the heat and humidity. Putting a lighter spin on the predicament, I took my very first ambulance ride ever, compliments of the DC Fire Department and made an unannounced inspection of the emergency room at George Washington Hospital.

After what seemed to be an eternity on a very uncomfortable back board, it was determined that I was dehydrated. After spending 5 hours in the ER, including infusion of a liter of saline and finally an x-ray of my swollen ankle, I was released with a bruised knee and an air cast on my sprained ankle, resulting in a week of curtailed activity. I didn't get to dance the Cotton Eye Joe at the TNT bash. My deepest gratitude to Mary Ann McLane who remained at my side during the 5 hours in the ER and to Scott Aikey who got up at 2 AM to drive me back to the hotel.

Looking forward to the coming year, there are several initiatives we need to address. Once again we will have a bylaws change. Most of the changes are minor housekeeping; however, to stay compliant with ASCLS, we need to split the Membership Development Committee into Membership Services and Membership Recruitment which will require a bylaws change. Also, the Regulations will need to be changed to reflect the title "Standard Operating Procedures" as recommended by the national Bylaws Committee.

Some exciting news while we were in DC: NCA and ASCP-BOR have reached an agreement on the formation of a unified credentialing agency. A Letter of Intent has been signed by the respective agencies and has been ratified by the sponsoring agencies, namely ASCLS, ASCP, and AGT (Association of Genetic Technologists). Please refer to the news lease printed in this issue of the newsletter.

On a final note, the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors will be meeting on October 25, 2008 at HACC in Harrisburg and January 24, 2009 at RACC. The Annual Meeting will be held in Harrisburg in May 2009, exact dates to be announced.

To the former members of the State Leadership, don't be a stranger. You are always welcome and encouraged to come to the meetings. Your input is a vital portion of our society.



Pictured above is Mary Gourley BEFORE the Segway accident! Left to right are Mary Gourley, Scott Aikey, Charlie Francen, Elaine Willis, and Mary Ann McLane.

Below is a picture of the Expo at the 2009 ASCLS Meeting.





ASCLS-PA ANNUAL SPRING MEETING 2008

King of Prussia, PA

Final Report



The meeting was a success, providing 45 continuing education sessions to 269 registrants! There were sessions offered in all areas of the laboratory for 2 consecutive days. The meeting was profitable for ASCLS-PA, netting approximately \$13,600!

New this year was the networking dinner, attended by 41 people. The food was excellent as always!

We had 10 table exhibits each day of vendors. Also, 3 mobile laboratories were on-site in the parking lot with exhibits. A virtual job fair was also held, advertizing for positions in 12 facilities.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2009 ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting, slated to be held at the C. Ted Lick Conference Center at HACC's Harrisburg Campus.

Dates for next year's Meeting are Tuesday, May 12 and Wednesday May 13, 2009.

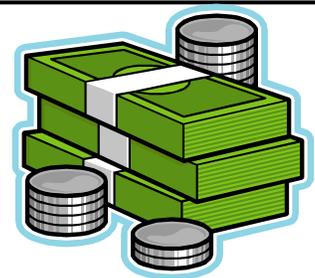
We are looking for volunteers to participate in the committee for this meeting. If interested, please contact Ruth Negley, ranegley@hacc.edu or Mary Beth Miele, mmiele@hmc.psu.edu. Suggestions of topics or speakers for presentations are appreciated!



Student News

2009 ASCLS-PA Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Winner!

Laurie Yerck



Shown in the photo is **Laurie Yerck** (left) receiving the **ASCLS-PA Scholarship Award** from Past-President, Sharon Strauss (right).

Congratulations to Laurie Yerck, recent winner of the ASCLS-PA Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Winner!

The scholarship fund was created in memory of Past Presidents Sandra Keener and Mercedes T. Cole to honor their unique spirits, determination and dedication to the profession of clinical laboratory science and ASCLS-PA. Both Ms. Keener and Ms. Cole were interested in the education of laboratory scientists and students. ASCLS-PA has chosen to award a scholarship to a student currently attending or officially accepted into clinical training in the laboratory field. The scholarship recipient will exhibit the qualities of academic achievement, professionalism, and moral character that defined the careers and lives of Sandy and Mercedes.

Laurie has demonstrated these leading qualities! She is a recent graduate of Reading Area Community College's MLT program. Laurie has also been awarded the ASCP Scholarship for MLT students!

If you know of any MLT/CLT or MT/CLS students who are interested in this scholarship, please ask them to visit our Website at www.ascls-pa.org for application details. The next deadline is in February, 2009!



Leadership Academy

The photo shows Michele Lachance (back row, 4th from left), Academy participant.

Submitted by: Ruth Negley

The ASCLS Leadership Academy is designed to prepare ASCLS members for current and future leadership roles in the organization by providing a structured program of study of critical leadership topics.

Goals include:

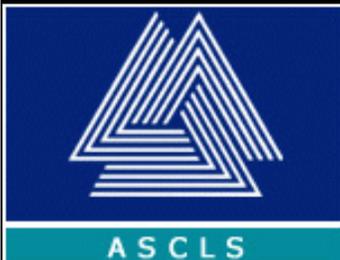
1. Identify members with potential to become leaders in ASCLS and invest in their growth and development.
2. Provide these high-potential leaders with skills required to step into leadership positions within ASCLS.
3. Energize and grow ASCLS through strong leadership at all levels of the organization.

Completion of the Academy will benefit both the participant and ASCLS in many ways.

In Michele's own words, she describes her experience: I applied for the Leadership Academy because I felt that it would be a terrific way to become more involved in the ASCLS at the national level, while at the same time providing myself with a unique education and some necessary leadership skills.

One of my goals within the next couple of years is to be able to lead my state constituent as president. My society has "recycled" presidents for years now. I believe I would bring new perspective and energy to our Board. I also hope that my new found experiences and knowledge would give me the courage to participate in more ASCLS activities at the regional and national levels. My involvement with the ASCLS will continue to grow because of my involvement with the Leadership Academy.

Outside of the ASCLS, this Academy will help me in my professional growth and development within the workplace. I hope to one day be a CLS/MT or CLT/MLT program director. I know that I currently do not possess the skills or the mentality necessary to accomplish this goal. With more education, and through participation in this Academy, I am sure that I will have the background necessary to occupy such a position. Lastly, no matter what happens in my career, participation in the Leadership Academy will help to make me a better leader and a better person. I will be able to take the knowledge and skills I have learned and apply them in all aspects of my life. I, as well as those around me, can only grow and develop from my participation in the Academy



Announcement from ASCLS

NCA and ASCP Certification Agencies Reach Agreement to Unite!



CHICAGO – Aug. 28, 2008 - The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Registry (ASCP-BOR) and The National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA) have reached an agreement on the formation of a unified credentialing agency.

The respective agencies have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) that has also been ratified by the sponsoring organizations, namely, the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) and the Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT).

Execution of the LOI indicates that the organizations have reached a mutual agreement in principle on the formation of a unified certification organization that embodies a shared vision for peer credentialing.

Unification will simplify processes for educational program directors, student applicants from accredited institutions (NAACLS and CAAHEP) as well as all other eligible individuals who receive on-the-job laboratory training.

In addition, this union is intended to increase credibility and respect from other healthcare professionals and employers, and focus on critical issues for the future of the profession.

Construction of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is currently underway between these organizations detailing the governance, the impact of the single certification agency on the credentials of currently certified individuals, as well as the impact on policies related to re-certification and new applicants.

In the interim, both agencies (ASCP-BOR and the NCA) will continue business as usual as the transition unfolds.



Stop the Shortage in the Laboratory Profession

Take Action!

Submitted by **Christine Hostetter,**
Johns Hopkins Hospital.



Ensure appropriate salaries and benefits:

- Level 1:** Equitable benefits (such as CE opportunities) among all allied health professionals, including nurses.
- Level 2:** Appropriate compensation at each level of the career ladder.
- Level 3:** Align salaries to reflect value of the service/work, technology used, job growth, supply and demand, promotion opportunities, research and development.

Be involved with elementary, middle, and high schools:

- Level 1:** Offer tours.
- Level 2:** Go to career day fairs.
- Level 3:** Adopt a class.
- Level 4:** Partner with science teachers.

Value Medical Laboratory Professionals (MLP)s.

- Level 1:** Publically acknowledge National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (NMLPW)
- Level 2:** Showcase MLPs in institutional promotional materials.
- Level 3:** Include MLPs at events, such as cancer survivor, NICU grads celebrations and other community events.
- Level 4:** Include MLPs on Institution committees such as CQI, PI, Patient Safety, and Capital Projects.

“Grow your own” employees:

- Level 1:** Provide College MT/MLT Program info.
- Level 2:** Provide tuition assistance.
- Level 3:** Provide work-release with full salary and benefits.

Reward Medical Laboratory Professionals:

- Level 1:** Increase motivational activities.
- Level 2:** Provide a career ladder based on education and experience.
- Level 3:** Hire credentialed employees.

Be involved with MT/MLT Programs:

- Level 1:** Provide clinical rotations.
- Level 2:** Provide scholarships with service pay back.
- Level 3:** Partner with them for recruitment into the career.

Trust Medical Laboratory Professionals to represent your institution:

- Level 1:** Send staff to college career/job fairs.
- Level 2:** Allow staff to be spokespersons at civic and medical events.
- Level 3:** Allow lab open houses for patients and families.
- Level 4:** Create a lab test consulting program.

Promote Interdepartmental/discipline understanding:

- Level 1:** Open house tours.
- Level 2:** Reciprocal shadow days between departments.
- Level 3:** Include Medical Laboratory Professionals on institutional task forces.



Award Announcements:

Each year, at the ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting, awards are given to members, recognizing their contributions and dedication to the organization.



Winner of the 2008 Edward P. Dolbey Award for ASCLS-PA Member of the Year is Ruth Negley. The award is given annually to the outstanding Clinical Laboratory Science Professional in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Negley is shown (left) receiving the award from President, Sharon Strauss (right).



Shown above are past Dolbey Award winners. Left to right are Mary Ann McLane, Charles Wilson, Judy Hoover, Sharon Strauss, Bill Hunt, Ruth Negley, Sandy Neiman, Scott Aikey, Linda Semler, Mary Gourley, and Barbara Snyderman.



The 2008 ASCLS-PA Corporate Award was given to Roche Diagnostics. Charles Wilson (4th from left) is shown giving the award.



Above are some of the ASCLS-PA members attending the Spring 2008 Board of Directors Meeting.

Did you know?.....ASCLS now has over 10,000 members



ASCLS-PA 2008 Award Announcements



Mary Beth Miele is the recipient of the 2008 Keener Service Award. The [ASCLS-PA](#) Keener Memorial Service Award is presented to members of [ASCLS-PA](#) who have shown extraordinary service and or dedication to the society in the current fiscal year. The award is named in memory of Sandra Keener, a dedicated member of this Society's Board of Directors and a Past President, who through her life in the profession gave tremendous effort to [ASCLS-PA](#).



Randi Bright is the recipient of the 2008 Key to the Future Award. This award is given to recognize and reward newly active members who have demonstrated their leadership potential by contributions to the organization.



This photo shows the **PA Delegates at the 2008 Annual ASCLS Meeting in Washington, DC.** Shown right to left are Sharon Strauss, Katie Franz, Mary Beth Miele, Michele Lachance, and Charles Wilson.



Janet Devine is the recipient of the 2008 Estolle Gross Award. The Estolle Gross Award is presented annually by ASCLS-PA in recognition of the contributions of Estolle Gross to the advancement of the profession and growth of ASCLS-PA. It is presented to members who have demonstrated that same dedication and commitment to the profession and this Society as has been inspired by Estolle.



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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

2008 ASCLS-PA Fall Board Meeting	Oct 25, 2008
2009 ASCLS-PA Winter Board Meeting	Jan 24, 2008
2009 ASCLS-PA Spring Board Meeting	Mon, May 11, 2009
2009 ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting	May 12-13, 2009

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Mary Gourley	President
Katie Franz	President-Elect
Sharon Strauss	Past-President
Ruth Negley	Editor
Editorial Staff	Board Members of ASCLS-PA