



# The Pennsylvania Newsletter

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

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## Message from the President

**Sharon Strauss**  
ASCLS-PA President

I have always been a fan of the "Successories" posters and their items with motivational sayings. The ones that speak to me most are the ones that talk about taking a risk or meeting a challenge. One of my favorites is "Risk – You cannot discover new oceans unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore". I have a large poster of this one hanging in my study at home. Two other favorites are "Accept the challenges so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory" and "Opportunity – Don't wait for your ship to come in...Swim out to it". I thought about these even more after attending my youngest nephew's high school graduation and hearing one of the commencement speakers.

Although this advice is great for young people starting out their post-high school life, it also applies to anyone, regardless of their age or position in life. Most opportunities in life do not just drop into your lap. You need to look for those opportunities. If you are not happy in your current position, look for another one. If you see a position that you feel you can fulfill but are lacking one of the posted criteria, apply anyway. If you get an interview, explain how you can accomplish that job in spite of not meeting that criteria. And if you find that you need additional education or certifications, go out and get them. Many people remain in a position for many years, dissatisfied with it, but not motivated to change their situation. Although they are not satisfied, it is safe because it is "known" compared to the "unknown" of looking for something else. Attempting something new and succeeding, will give you a great sense of pride

and accomplishment. And even if you fail, you will have learned something from that failure for future challenges. Growth comes from those failures. You will never know how much you can accomplish without trying.

One of the graduation speakers talked about graduates meeting challenges head on. Many times, when you find that you have a challenge, the easy thing is to say that you can't do it and not even try, but you need to have the courage to make the attempt. You will never know what you could have done without trying. It makes me think back to my own situation quite a few years ago. I have never liked to speak in public, but soon after I began my career, I was asked to give the Immunology lectures to our Medical Technology students. I could have easily said "No," but deep down I felt that this was my opportunity to overcome one of my fears. I can't say that I was ever comfortable in lecturing, but much of the fear was gone since I was doing it for a small group of students. And getting involved in a professional organization like ASCLS-PA and my local chapter, participating in committees, running for office and having to speak at board meetings, helped me to overcome most of that discomfort in speaking. Even years later, I might get a little twinge when I know it is time for me to speak. Thank goodness I did not decide to go into public speaking as a career because I would be in the poor house today. I will always need to have extensive notes as to what I want to say so that I don't forget something when the nerves take over.

Remember that you can control your destiny. It reminds me of another Successories quote, "If it is to be, it is up to me."

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

*President: Sharon Strauss*

*President-elect: Joshua Cannon*

*Past President: Barbara Snyderman*

*Editor: Joshua Cannon*

*Editorial Staff: The ASCLS-PA Board of Directors*

*Website: [www.ascls-pa.org](http://www.ascls-pa.org)*



## Recap of the 2019 ASCLS-PA MLS/MLT Review Session

**Jonathan Meyer**  
ASCLS-PA Ascending Professional

As medical laboratory science programs all over the state come to their final stretch, students are preparing to take their ASCP Board of Certification exam. It is well known that much preparation is needed to achieve a passing score, and the ASCLS-PA stepped in to help up-and-coming test takers accomplish that goal.

The 2019 MLS/MLT Review Session was held Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. Just around 40 students showed up to review material in all the major subject areas that may be seen on the exam.

Lectures kicked off with a comprehensive review in clinical microbiology from Dr. Alan Evangelista (Ph.D.), the Director of Microbiology/Virology at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children and a diplomat of The American Board of Medical Microbiology. His review consisted of many informative tables, tricks, and pictures to help easily speciate bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. Following him was Joy Gould (MS, SBB), the supervisor of transfusion medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, who went into the just the right amount of detail for all the major blood group systems and common laboratory procedures. Melody Botterbusch (BS, MT (ASCP)), a coordinator of Point of Care and a Clinical Chemistry and Immunology instructor at York Hospital, continued the day with a fast-paced question and answer style session, making sure the students understand the importance of major topics such as hepatitis markers, antinuclear antibody patterns, hypersensitivity reactions, and more. After a short break, Derick Lim (MS, MLS(ASCP)), a Clinical Chemistry supervisor at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Clinical Chemistry instructor at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, continued with an intense analysis on the pathophysiology of many diseases/chemical imbalances and how to evaluate them. Joshua Cannon (MS, MLS (ASCP)), President-elect of ASCLS-PA and Instructor at Thomas Jefferson University, showed up to give students the opportunity to test their knowledge on the correlation between hematological malignancies and their presentation under the microscope. Ending the day was a brief overview on computer adaptive testing, study techniques, and the importance of certification, presented by Tierra White (BS, MLS (ASCP)), the current Ascending Professional

and future leader of the Political Action committee of ASCLS-PA.

ASCLS-PA sends a sincere thank you to the presenters, all of which worked hard on their presentations and came to Philadelphia to share them. The material provided serves as an invaluable study tool. ASCLS-PA thanks all the students for discussing and reviewing difficult subjects for an entire eight hours throughout the day. From the knowledge displayed by not only the presenters but also the students, the future of medical laboratory science is sure to be seen with increasing stature. ASCLS-PA wishes luck to all the students not only on their exam but also in their future careers!



**ASCLS-PA President, Sharon Strauss, participated in the 2019 Medical Laboratory Professionals Week Virtual Run.**



## ASCLS-PA Bylaws Updates

**Mary M. Gourley**  
ASCLS-PA Bylaws Chair

The ASCLS House of Delegates adopted changes to the ASCLS Bylaws which changed the name of the classes of membership. During this year, the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors and the Bylaws Committee have been busy with bringing our state bylaws into compliance with ASCLS. These changes were approved by the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors and the ASCLS Bylaws Committee and were presented to the membership at the ASCLS-PA Annual Meeting in May of this year. The membership unanimously adopted the changes to our Bylaws. The changes are to the following articles:

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP:** The classes of membership are Professional, Community (formerly Collaborative),

Emeritus, Developing Professional (formerly Student), Ascending Professional (formerly First Year Professional), and Honorary.

**ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** The Developing Professional and Ascending Professional Directors replaced the Student and New Member Directors.

**ARTICLE V – HOUSE OF DELEGATES:** The Developing Professional and Ascending Professional replaced the Student and New Member representatives to the ASCLS House of Delegates.

Sharon Strauss has placed the revised Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures on the website which is now available. Please refer to this site for more information.



## Motions from Latest Board Meeting

**Travis Bicher**  
ASCLS-PA Secretary

### Board Meeting Motions

**Red Lion Hotel Harrisburg Hershey, Harrisburg, PA  
May 5th, 2019**

**MOTION 1:** Moved by Downes, seconded by Bicher, that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors approve the Board Meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**MOTION 2:** Moved by Cannon, seconded by Downes, that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors approve the Secretary’s Report of the January 26th, 2019, Board Meeting as amended. Motion carried.

**MOTION 3:** Moved by Cannon, seconded by Mourabet, that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors amend the ASCLS-PA Standard Operating Procedures, Article XII – Committees, section A.1.a.3) by adding the term “Bylaws and/or”. (The section will read as follows: “The Bylaws Committee . . . a.3) prepare suggested modifications to the Bylaws and/or the Standard Operating Procedures of the ASCLS, and with the approval of the Board of Directors of this Society, shall submit the

modifications in writing to the Board of Directors of that society.”) Motion carried.

**MOTION 4:** Moved by Cannon, seconded by Bicher, that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors approve the changes to the ASCLS-PA Handbook as follows: a. Overview – add “Ascending Professional” to voting members at Annual Business Meeting; b. Immediate Past President – add to the duties – Chair the Nominations Committee; c. Scholarship applications – change mailing address to current Treasurer; d. Annual Business Meeting – add “Ascending Professional” to voting members at Annual Business Meeting; e. Estolle Gross Award – add “except that of Developing Professional”; f. Dolbey and Lifetime Achievement Nomination forms – change “Student Forum” to “Developing Professional Forum”. Motion carried.

**MOTION 5:** Moved by Bicher, seconded by Downes, that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Submitted by Travis Bicher, ASCLS-PA Secretary.

# DELAWARE VALLEY SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE



## ASCLS-PA Delaware Valley Chapter at the Philadelphia Science Carnival

**Gabriela Peterson**

ASCLS-PA Delaware Valley President

This year, the ASCLS-PA Delaware Valley Chapter again partnered with the Philadelphia Science Festival to bring the world of medical laboratory science to life. The festival is a weeklong event that offers attendees various science-themed activities at different locations throughout the city of Philadelphia with the grand finale being the Science Carnival. This year's Science Carnival took place on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 4pm at the Benjamin Franklin Parkway with hundreds of interactive exhibits designed to highlight science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM). The day was filled with food trucks, fun activities and fanciful displays. The Carnival goes



ranged from young grade school age children to adults and all enjoyed learning about and utilizing laboratory tools and techniques at the ASCLS-PA sponsored tent. Volunteers from the Delaware Valley chapter worked the tent throughout the day teaching future technologists how to use calibrated pipettes, streak growth agar plates, and build white blood cells out of play-dough.

It was another great year at the festival and another great occasion for the ASCLS-PA Delaware Valley Chapter to spread the news about medical laboratory science,

our important work and impact on clinical diagnostics and the many opportunities this profession can provide to those interested in the field.

## ASCLS-PA Welcomes New Members

ASCLS-PA would like to welcome all of the new members who have joined ASCLS this winter. If you work with one of these new members, please welcome them to the society and encourage them to become active.

Lauren Bowser-Swick	Johnstown	Lekhuyen Huynh	Haltom City
Kaelah Horwath	Slatington	Spencer Strait	Corpus Christi
Jon Lauro	Philadelphia	Victoria Achatz	Richardson
Carl Benjamin	San Diego	Edwin Hochstedt	New Freedom
Emily Russell	Lock Haven	Brett Gennero	Jeffersonville
Samuel Waksmunski	Hastings	Eden Stone	Kutztown
Kenneth Faust	New Tripoli	Allison Noll	Tampa



# Motions from the 2019 Annual Business Meeting

**Travis Bicher**  
ASCLS-PA Secretary

## Annual Business Meeting Motions

**Red Lion Hotel Harrisburg Hershey, Harrisburg, PA  
May 5th, 2019**

MOTION 1: Moved by Franz, seconded by Aikey, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting approve the Board Meeting agenda as amended. Motion carried.

MOTION 2: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Cannon, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting approve the Secretary's Report of the May 6th, 2018, Annual Business Meeting as amended. Motion carried.

MOTION 3: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Beitz, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting accept the Treasurer's FY18-19 Operating Fund Statement ending May 5th, 2019, and file for audit. Motion carried.

MOTION 4: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Beitz, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting accept the Treasurer's FY18-19 Scholarships Fund Statement ending May 5th, 2019, and file for audit. Motion carried.

MOTION 5: Moved by Gourley, seconded by Hunt, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting adopt the following amendments to the ASCLS-PA Bylaws: Article V – Membership classes, sections A, B, and D; Article VIII – Annual Business Meeting (voting members); Article IX.B. – Officers (qualifications); Article X – Board of Directors, sections C.1. (composition), C.2. (terms of office), C.3. (re-election); Article XI.A. – Representation to ASCLS House of Delegates.

Be it noted: these amendments reflect changes to the Membership Categories as adopted by the 2018 ASCLS House of Delegates. Refer to the notes of the Bylaws Chair for full language of the amendments. Motion carried.

MOTION 6: Moved by Gourley, seconded by Aikey, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting close nominations for the position of President-Elect. Motion carried.

MOTION 7: Moved by Beitz, seconded by Mourabet,

that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting close nominations for the position of Secretary. Motion carried.

MOTION 8: Moved by Cannon, seconded by Franz, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting close nominations for the position of Board of Director. Motion carried.

MOTION 9: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Beitz, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting elect by acclamation the slate of nominees (Marianne Downes for President-Elect, Travis Bicher for Secretary, Katie Franz for Board Director). Motion carried.

MOTION 10: Moved by Downes, seconded by Bicher, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting recess for dinner. Motion carried.

MOTION 11: Moved by Aikey, seconded by Bicher, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting approve funding for the ASCLS-PA Developing Professional to attend the ASCLS National Meeting in Charlotte, NC, June 2019, to include registration, flight, and 50% of hotel. Motion carried.

MOTION 12: Moved by Aikey, seconded by Franz, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting approve the purchase of 3 gifts for the E&R Silent Auction at the ASCLS National Meeting in Charlotte, NC, with money to come from O&A with total expenditures not to exceed \$300. Motion carried.

MOTION 13: Moved by Aikey, seconded by Franz, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting approve the following list of delegates to the 2018 ASCLS House of Delegates:

At Large Delegates: Marianne Downes, Katie Franz, and Mary Gourley

Alternate Delegates: Nassouh Mourabet, Scott Aikey, and Bill Hunt

Be it noted: delegate funding will be revisited at the end of the year. Motion carried.

MOTION 14: Moved by Bicher, seconded by Hunt, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting adopt the FY19-20 Operating Fund Budget as amended:

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- \$300 removed from Long Range Planning, taking it to \$0.
- \$100 added to Membership Development, taking it to \$100.
- \$50 added to Education Scientific Assembly, taking it to \$50.
- \$150 added to the Student Forum, taking it to \$750.

Motion carried.

MOTION 15: Moved by Franz, seconded by Strauss, that the ASCLS-PA membership at the Annual Business Meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by Travis Bicher, ASCLS-PA Secretary.



## ASCLS and ASCLS-PA Awards

**Mary M. Gourley**  
ASCLS-PA Awards Chair

At the 2019 ASCLS-PA Annual Meeting, the following awards were presented:

**CORPORATE:** Diagnostica Stago, Inc.

**ESTOLLE GROSS:** Travis Bicher, Joshua Cannon, Sharon Strauss

**KEENER MEMORIAL:**

Travis Bicher, Joshua Cannon, Khadidja Derrouche, Marianne Downes, Mary Gourley, Nassouh Mourabet

**KEYS TO THE FUTURE:** Jonathan Meyer

At the 2018 Fall Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved the recommendations of the Task Force reviewing the Awards which included revision of the membership award. The Sustained Membership Award is to be given starting with ten years of membership and given every five years. The Board also approved awarding certificates to those members who attained more than ten but less than twenty years membership.

**SUSTAINED MEMBERSHIP:**

**35-yr** – Lynelle Spitzer

**30-yr** – Mary Jane Horenzy, Marylee Klunk, Cathy Napiorski-Harris

**25-yr** – Richard Bennethum, Coleen Siefring

**20-yr** – Cheryl Wambold

**15-yr** – Lynn Schaff

Also receiving 15-yr certificates: Marianne Downes (16 years) and Joann Grant (19 years)

**10-yr** – Marie Wood, Maryann Gerhart



**Congratulations to Jonathan Meyer, ASCLS-PA Key to the Future recipient**

Also receiving 10-yr certificates:

Edwin Beitz, Valerie Jalicke, Gwen Whisler (11 years each); Kim Jones, Amy Voytek (12 years each); Steven Dimit, Gene Gulati (13 years each); Rebecca Blankenship, Gloria Bringas, Alayne Fessler (14 years each)

Also recognized were:

**Omicron Sigma nominees from Pennsylvania:**

**National Level:** Scott Aikey, Katie Franz, Mary Gourley, William Hunt, Barbara Snyderman

**Regional Level:** Joshua Cannon, Stephanie Noblit, Sharon Strauss

**State:** Scott Aikey, Travis Bicher, Edwin Beitz, Jean Buchenhorst, Joshua Cannon, Khadidja Derrouche, Marianne Downes, Katie Franz, Mary Gourley, William Hunt, Jonathan Meyer, Nassouh Mourabet, Stephanie Noblit, Gabriela Peterson, Barbara Snyderman, Tierra White

**Pi Alpha Recipients:**

Scott Aikey, Edwin Beitz, Travis Bicher, Jean Buchenhorst, Joshua Cannon, Khadidja Derrouche, Marianne Downes, Katie Franz, Mary Gourley, William Hunt, Jonathan Meyer, Nassouh Mourabet, Stephanie Noblit, Gabriela Peterson, Barbara Snyderman, Tierra White

The ASCLS Annual Meeting was held in Charlotte, NC June 23 through 27, 2019. Scott Aikey was the emcee for ASCLS Awards ceremonies. To be nominated by your

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peers is indeed a great honor. The following ASCLS-PA members were recognized at the ceremony:

**ASCLS Board of Directors Awards:** William Hunt (completion of term on the NAACLS Board of Directors)

**Key to the Future:** Jonathan Meyer

**Omicron Sigma:** This year, members could be nominated at various levels:

Those members receiving recognition at both the **National and State** levels were: Scott Aikey, Katie Franz, Mary Gourley, William Hunt, and Barbara Snyderman.

Those members receiving recognition at both the **Regional and State** levels were: Joshua Cannon, Stephanie Noblit and Sharon Strauss. Those members receiving recognition at the State level were: Edwin Beitz, Travis Bicher, Jean Buchenhorst, Khadidja Derrouche, Marianne Downes, Jonathan Meyer, Nassouh Mourabet, Gabriela Peterson, and Tierra White.

**Ascending Professional Leadership Award:**

Joshua Cannon

**Voices Under 40 Award:** Joshua Cannon

**Constituent Society Members of the Year Recognition:**

Stephanie Noblit

The recipient of the **ASCLS Lifetime Achievement Award** was Cheryl Caskey of Louisiana.

Constituent Societies within Region II were also recipients of various awards:

**Constituent Society Membership Awards:**

Greatest % increase – Maryland, 3<sup>rd</sup> place

Greatest % retention – West Virginia, 2<sup>nd</sup> place (87.1%); Maryland, 3<sup>rd</sup> place (86%)

**Constituent Society Publication Award:**

New Jersey, 2<sup>nd</sup> place

**Promotion of the Profession Award:** Delaware, 1<sup>st</sup> place

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE AWARD RECIPIENTS!**

## A Call for Newsletter Names

The ASCLS-PA Board of Directors is accepting potential names for the ASCLS-PA Newsletter. Names should be related to the field of medical laboratory science or science in general. Get creative! The winner will be highlighted in the first edition of the newsletter with the new name.

Please submit names to Joshua Cannon at [joshua.cannon@jefferson.edu](mailto:joshua.cannon@jefferson.edu).



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**Philadelphia, PA 19107**  
**to insure uninterrupted service**

## Coming Events

### **ASCLS-PA Board Meeting**

October 5, 2019 (Philadelphia, PA)

### **ASCLS National Meeting**

June 28–July 2, 2020 (Louisville, KY)

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

## Stay in Touch with us on our Website

Make sure you bookmark [www.ascls-pa.org](http://www.ascls-pa.org) to stay in touch with us. You can find numerous updates and information on the web site about upcoming meetings