



BEGINNERS GUIDE TO ASCLS

Student and New Professional Edition

A Quick Reference Guide

Revised 2008

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Every organization is only one generation away from extinction.

We must recruit members who are willing to be active participants in achieving the goals of ASCLS.

We must seek out fresh perspectives so that we can grow and continue to be relevant in the changing world of laboratory science.

We must invest in the idea of an institutional legacy in order to survive.

We must make sure that everyone who joins ASCLS can easily get answers to their questions and find ways to become active.

ASCLS Student Forum

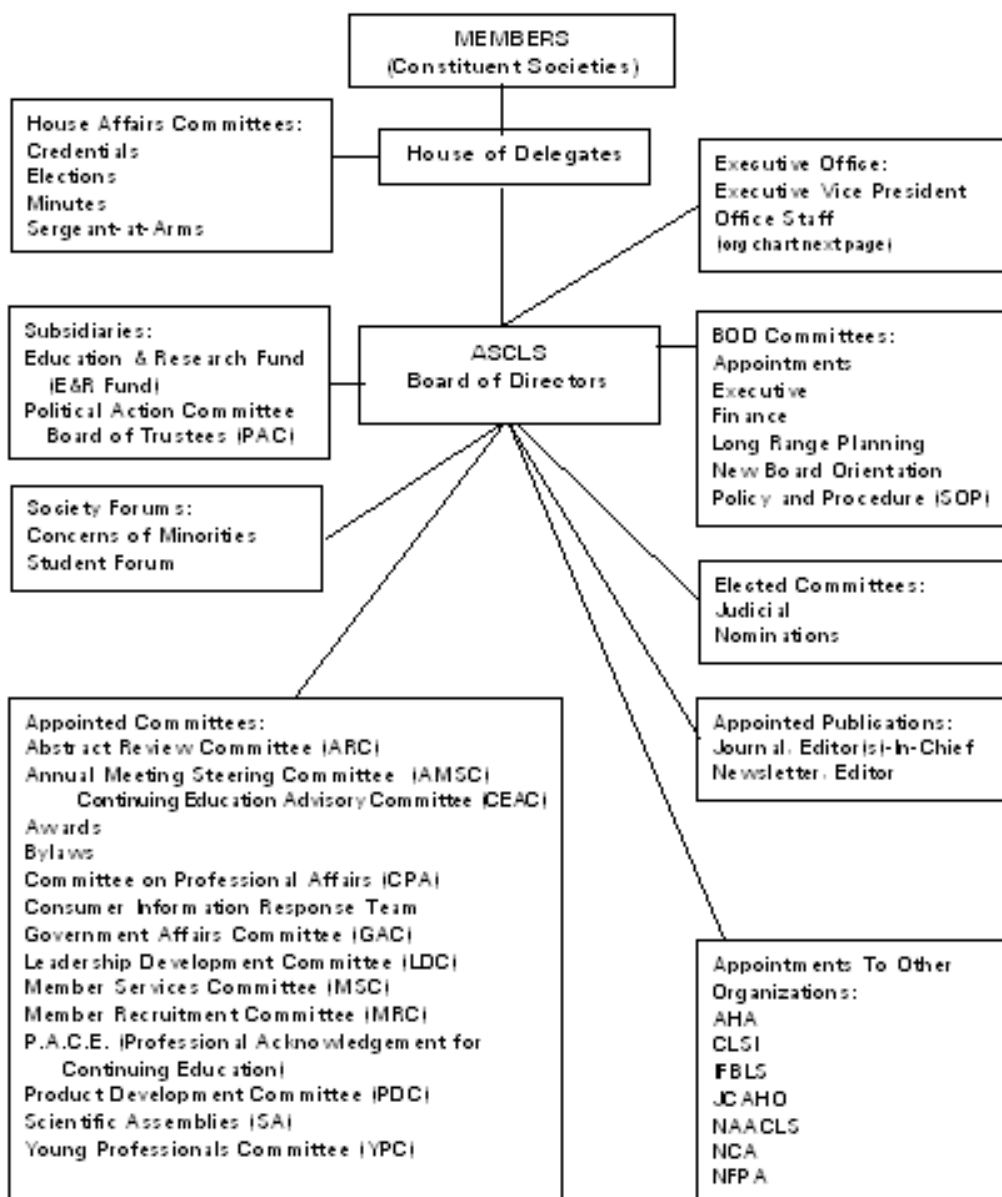
ASCLS New Professionals Committee

Disclaimer: This guide is intended to be quick reference only and should not take the place of ASCLS Standard Operating Procedures or Bylaws that can be found on the web along with any other complete information at www.ascls.org.

How is ASCLS organized?

The members of ASCLS ultimately control the direction and activities of the organization. Members elect their representatives to the annual House of Delegates where all major decisions are made.

ASCLS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



The Executive Office of ASCLS is the 'hired' staff. These people are employed by ASCLS to take care of the business of the organization and their duties and responsibilities are directed by the ASCLS members through the Board of Directors.

ASCLS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Elissa Passiment

Meetings Consultants
Meetings for Management

Government Affairs Consultant
Don Lavanty

Financial Consultants and Webmaster
ICentric Marketing

Director of Education and Project Planning
Joan Polancic

Coordinator of Membership and P.A.C.E.®
Sherry Miner

Constituent Societies and Responsibilities

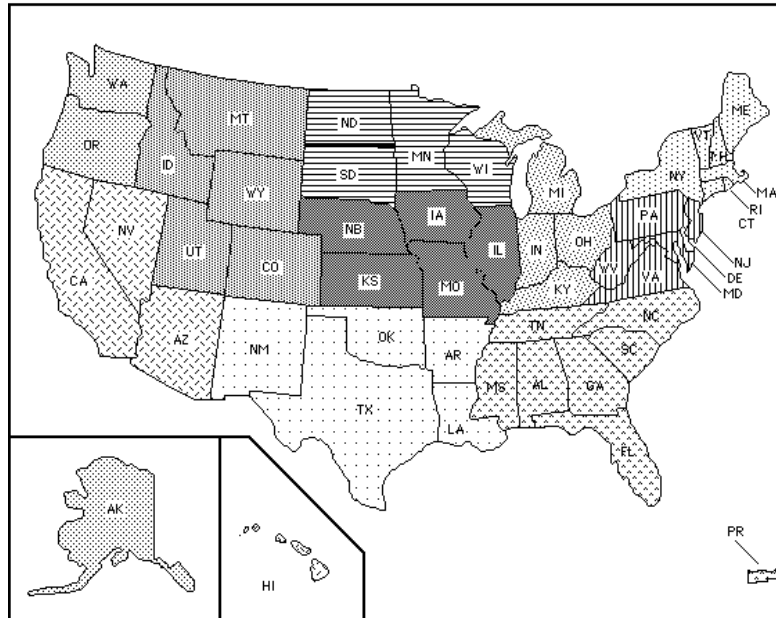
What region am I in?











Within ASCLS there are constituent societies, which serve as local representatives for ASCLS. The constituent society members address local and statewide issues and encourage interest in ASCLS through local and regional channels of the laboratory profession. A constituent society produces their own newsletters or publications for their members and holds annual meetings sponsoring workshops and seminars.

ASCLS has a very organized structure and all members of ASCLS must hold membership at the state and national levels, in accordance to the Bylaws. This requirement helps information get to the national levels from the constituent societies so feedback is generated. There are ten regions in ASCLS and within these regions are over forty constituent societies, which represent ASCLS.

Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV	Region V
Connecticut Maine Vermont New York Central New England: New Hampshire Massachusetts Rhode Island	Delaware District of Columbia Maryland New Jersey Pennsylvania Virginia West Virginia	Alabama Florida Georgia Mississippi North Carolina Puerto Rico South Carolina Tennessee	Indiana Michigan Kentucky Ohio	Minnesota North Dakota South Dakota Wisconsin
Region VI	Region VII	Region VIII	Region IX	Region X
Illinois Iowa Kansas Missouri Nebraska	Arkansas Louisiana New Mexico Oklahoma Texas	Colorado Idaho Montana Utah Wyoming	Alaska Oregon Washington	Arizona/Nevada California Hawaii

ASCLS Regions



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
|  = Region I |  = Region IV |  = Region VII |
|  = Region II |  = Region V |  = Region VIII |
|  = Region III |  = Region VI |  = Region IX |
| | |  = Region X |

MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

Student members are entitled to serve as voting members of the House of Delegates when serving as official delegates from a constituent society, and to have all other rights and privileges of the Society with the exception of holding elective positions.

Professional members, including First Year Professionals, are entitled to all rights and privileges to include voting, holding office and serving in any formal capacity recognized by the Society.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

A commitment to learning is a crucial element of being a professional. It is especially important that all professionals take advantage of CE opportunities to fulfill requirements to prove continued competence for recertification. Membership in ASCLS gives you access to a wide variety of quality educational opportunities at reduced registration fees and allows you to receive CE credits through the P.A.C.E. ® program. P.A.C.E. ® (Professional Acknowledgement for Continuing Education) serves as a quality assurance program for continuing education programs that are available to clinical laboratory professionals. ASCLS sponsors many P.A.C.E. ®-approved programs, audio-conferences, workshops, and online course offerings to its members. CE credit for recertification, licensure renewal or in your workplace can also be found through FOCUS articles, which are convenient mail-in examinations published in every issue (4 times/year) of the ASCLS journal, *Clinical Laboratory Science (ClinLabSci)*. Members can read and study articles on selected topics, correctly answer follow-up questions, and earn 1.5 to 5 contact hours per FOCUS section.

ANNUAL MEETING and EXPOSITION

ASCLS hosts an Annual Meeting in July, which is held concurrently with AACC (American Association of Clinical Chemistry). The Clinical Laboratory Exposition brings hundreds of vendors, cutting edge technology, technical workshops and symposiums to a single site for ASCLS and AACC members. This meeting is held in a different city each year and is a great opportunity to network and meet other clinical laboratory professionals like you. ASCLS members can receive discounts on fees for registration for this meeting.

There are also state and regional meetings held throughout the United States that provide continuing education, exhibits, and leadership opportunities. Visit the ASCLS website for state information.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Professionals and professional associations must be aware of the legislative and regulatory environment that controls how we perform our duties. ASCLS is committed to inform clinical laboratory professionals of these issues and is poised to respond to any concerns.

ASCLS has a Legislative Consultant who is part of the Executive Office staff. This person basically keeps track of things happening in Washington, DC that affect ASCLS. They also go up on Capitol Hill and present ASCLS's point of view on these topics.

PUBLICATIONS

ASCLS has two publications, *Clinical Laboratory Science* and *ASCLS Today*. *Clinical Laboratory Science* is an award winning bimonthly journal that discusses the latest in research, education and government affairs in the clinical laboratory profession. *ASCLS Today* is a newsletter that is published once a month and keeps readers updated on the profession and activities of the state, regional and national organization.

PERSONAL SERVICES

ASCLS members can save on credit card, hotel room and car rental purchases. Members can also participate in ASCLS insurance programs and take advantage of group rates on health, professional liability, life, disability and Geico automobile insurance.

Do I get any special discount?

Yes! If you are currently a student you may join ASCLS as a Student Member for a base fee of \$25. State dues vary but all are \$5 or less.

A First Year Professional membership (FYP) special dues rate is offered to any student member, or individual eligible for student membership, during their first year as a laboratory professional. The FYP member only pays 50% of Professional I dues!

MEETINGS

Annual National Meeting

All meetings at the ASCLS Annual Meeting are open to any member who chooses to attend, unless specified in the Annual Meeting Program. The Board of Directors meetings, committee meetings, and forums/scientific assemblies invite all members to attend any meeting that they have an interest in or would like to know more about.

If you are a delegate to the Annual Meeting, you **must** attend the House of Delegates, and vote in the elections for society officers, directors, and elected committees. You should also attend the "Meet the Candidates" and the ASCLS Issues Update so that you can become more informed about the issues that you will be addressing in the House of Delegates.

Legislative Symposium

Each year since 1989, ASCLS has hosted a Legislative Symposium in Washington, DC where our members have taken issues to members of Congress to discuss and to advocate for the profession.

Legislative Day is an annual conference held in Washington in March of each year and is now hosted collaboratively by ASCLS, CLMA, and ASCP. For three days prior to the event, various meetings are held, such as the Board of Directors Interim meeting. On Monday, everyone in attendance meets to discuss the current issues facing the profession. This is a great time for debate and discussion. This is also the time when issues are broken down and made clearer for those of us who are not legislators. Presentations are made that discuss the position of ASCLS on certain topics, and why we have this position.

Role-playing is used to teach you how to present the position to your state Senators and Representatives. On Tuesday morning, everyone goes up 'on the Hill' to talk to the Congressmen and women from their respective states. Usually you deal with each Senator or Representative's Health Care Liaison. This is the person that deals only with health care issues. You will have been provided with 'leave-behinds'. These are short, succinct summaries of the position of ASCLS on specific issues. These are especially helpful if you cannot see a particular person—you just 'leave behind' your information for them to look at later!

What is the House of Delegates at the Annual National Meeting?

The House of Delegates has the ultimate authority within the society regarding the election of officers, board members, directors, and elective committees, and adoption/amendments to bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. The House of Delegates approves professional standards for the society and position papers on topics of interest to members. During the House of Delegates, newly elected officers are inducted and awards from the ASCLS Board of Directors are given, commendations to members are given from the floor, and a preview of the next year's meeting location is presented. This meeting is very similar to the political conventions that are held every four years to decide on party positions and candidates for national office. The meeting can be contentious, very exciting, and thought-provoking. **All society members should attend.** Privilege of the floor can be granted to non-delegates by consent of the House of Delegates.

The voting members of the House of Delegates are the President and President-Elect of each constituent society (or their alternates), delegates designated by each constituent society, and the members of the Board of Directors of ASCLS. The Bylaws indicate that each state is allowed one delegate for every 50 active and emeritus members (or major fraction thereof) plus one student delegate.

What is the procedure for speaking to the House?

The House of Delegates follows Parliamentary Procedures, so all motions to the Board of Directors must be in writing. All motions must be signed by the maker and given to the chair of the house who gives them to the secretary after presentation.

In order to be granted the privilege of the floor, a member must stand, address the chair of the house, and give his/her name and constituent society affiliation. A member may speak not more than twice and for no more than three (3) minutes each time on the same subject on the same day.

CURRENT ISSUES IMPACTING THE PROFESSION

If you are wondering about the position that ASCLS takes on the many issues that are facing laboratory professionals today, you can find the ASCLS Position Papers on the ASCLS website, www.ascls.org. They include papers on topics such as

- Personnel Licensure
- Value of Clinical Laboratory Services
- Advanced Practice: Doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Science
- Direct Access Testing
- Phlebotomy
- Model Career Ladder
- Healthcare Reform
- Independent Practice
- Leukoreduced Blood Products
- Managed Care
- Medical Errors and Patient Safety
- Personnel
- Point of Care
- Scope of Practice
- Expanding Geriatric Population
- Bioterrorism Preparedness

Issues that are also impacting our profession, but may not be able to find position papers on are; Competitive Bidding, Medically Unbelievable Edits (M.U.E.s), Levels of practice and Title VII Funding. New issues are cropping up and ASCLS is defending your rights as laboratory professionals.

Want to get involved and help make a difference in ASCLS and your Profession? Join a Committee!!!!!!

There are a number of committees that a new member can consider becoming a part of. Most committees are by appointment; however, elections are held in some cases or new committees may be formed. For example, a Membership Recruitment Committee, **new in 2006**, has been formed as the needs of our organization and profession evolve. Volunteering to help existing committees is a good way to be recognized and eventually appointed to positions on a particular committee.

Here are committees for which a member is appointed:

Minutes - Assist the secretary/treasurer in recording the proceedings of various meetings held within ASCLS, including the House of Delegates (HOD) sessions.

Credentials - HOD affairs; appointed by the President for each annual meeting; responsible for certifying and tallying delegates and alternates at the meeting.

Elections - HOD affairs; appointed for each annual meeting; conducts all elections of the HOD.

Sergeant-at-Arms - Responsible for logistical support of ALL major meetings held at the annual meeting, liaison among all committees for traffic flow, security, and seating.

Annual Meeting Steering (big job!) - A new member would need to work alongside existing society members for several years, since this committee plans the scientific sessions and workshops, and coordinates these activities with the Continuing Education Advisory Council (CEAC), and the BOD and staff.

Awards -Coordinates all activities related to publication, description, nomination and selection for ASCLS awards; also involved in presentation of these awards.

Bylaws -Another big job for which a new member would need to become active early as a volunteer and commit time to the society; receives all proposed changes to the ASCLS bylaws and articles of incorporation and prepares these amendments for consideration at the HOD. This committee ALSO examines, considers, and approves appropriate proposed changes for our constituent societies.

Continuing Education Advisory Council (CEAC) -Works directly with the Annual Meeting Steering Committee by recommending topics and speakers for the annual meeting; this committee also requires a more steady commitment in that it recommends continuing education activities for ASCLS members and nonmembers.

Government Affairs - This committee **DOES** include newer professionals and generalist CLS personnel; two members of the current Young Professionals Committee were appointed in 2006 to this committee because of their early commitment as students to ASCLS. This committee assists ASCLS in achieving our objectives of putting important governmental policies into effect that will benefit healthcare and our profession. Meetings are not frequent; however, attendance at the Legislative Symposium and the GAC meeting at the beginning of each annual meeting are very important for members of this committee to attend.

Leadership Development - Involved in helping others who show an interest and potential to become leaders. For this committee, the Region Director appoints one representative from their respective region at the END of that director's first year.

Membership Recruitment- recruits new members and produces materials to attract those already in the profession to the ASCLS organization.

Membership Services (Formerly Membership Development now broken into 2 parts; Recruitment and Services) -Maintain new and current members while continuing to contact lapsed members by reiterating the Voice, Value and Vision that the member has gained access to. This committee is composed of members who are appointed by Region Directors in the same way that Leadership Development committee members are appointed.

Professional Acknowledgment for Continuing Education (P.A.C.E®)
Very important and a good idea for anyone starting out who is interested in watching our professional development grow and strengthen. This committee works with Sherry Miner, full-time coordinator, to create provider approval and documentation for education programs.

Professional Affairs - Another great committee if you value promoting our professional image and **securing the future** of our profession and organization. This committee is involved in a range of activities from membership services to employment security and professional development. Members of this committee also work with other health care professionals.

Product Development -A more steady commitment is required for this committee as well; members coordinate the development and maintenance of current publications and products, but duties involve creating new publications, such as the new Case Study Continuing Education program and other CD-ROM and written materials. Again, if you are interested in education as a career or would like to **bolster our image and professional standing**, this committee is extremely important and worthwhile to become involved in.

Scientific Assembly -Get involved as a student in one or more of the Assemblies! Members are able to designate up to two professional assemblies according to area of interest. **Students are encouraged to join, and new professionals and members are always needed for projects.** Example: the newest Scientific Assembly, Molecular Biology, is currently chaired by a *new* member, Cheryl James, PhD. Cheryl has been in the fields of Molecular biology and Cytogenetics for years; she joined ASCLS just a few years ago. One of the Young Professional Committee members is currently the vice chair. From there, a member may work his or her way into the committee positions.

Student Forum -Each member coordinates the involvement of students in the organization. Provides mentoring for students and those entering the profession after graduation.

New Professionals - represents those who have been in the profession fewer than five (5) years. Provides a voice for not only new graduates, but also new members so that the evolving needs of this group may be met and incorporated into the framework of the ASCLS structure.

The following committees are appointed by the ASCLS President and are only open to the Board of Directors:

Appointments - Works closely with the President, the Board of Directors (BOD), and other leaders in ASCLS to identify potential candidates for appointed positions for the next year.

Long Range Planning - Coordinates the long-range planning activities to accomplish long-term goals and help steer the society's future.

New Board Orientation - Updates the BOD manual and orients new board members.

Policy and Procedure - Review all policies and procedures and position descriptions, and revise these documents as needed.

Executive -Manages ASCLS affairs in general and carries out duties assigned by the BOD.

Finance -monitors ASCLS income and expenses, and submits recommendations to the BOD regarding financial policies and budget proposals.

The following committees are elected by the HOD:

Judicial - this committee functions only on matters assigned by the bylaws or those matters referred by officers or recognized committees within ASCLS.

Nominations -This committee advertises vacant positions within the society and secures nominees for these positions. The committee also evaluates qualifications of the candidates.

SO.....how do you become involved in order to elect committee members and vote for candidates? How do you become a member of the HOD? The same way many of us as new professionals and veterans have. **VOLUNTEER!** Speak to your State ASCLS president or Student Forum officers. The President has a number of seats assigned for your state. If you cannot be a delegate your first year in the organization, attend the HOD session at the annual meeting and sit in the gallery. Observing is often the best way to start having your voice heard. Many of the new professionals, including those in the testimonial section of this publication, started as student members.

Publications

What publications are available to me as a member? I have a passion for writing and I love my career choice, how do I get involved?

ASCLS offers several publications for members. The most prominent publication is our journal, *Clinical Laboratory Science*. This journal is our official scientific journal, published quarterly. Your membership dues include your subscription to this journal. The journal is a forum for members to voice professional concerns, submit scientific articles, and to earn CE credit.

Another publication, published monthly, is the national newsletter *ASCLS Today*. Many of the new professionals have also submitted articles to this newsletter, and have been writing articles since their time as students. Other new members are always encouraged to submit case studies, opinions, and other professional pieces to this newsletter. Your membership entitles you to receive this newsletter. In addition, job advertisements and current events are published in *ASCLS Today*. Networking opportunities are abundant, just by reading, submitting to, or sharing this newsletter.

In each state, members should receive a state newsletter. This is perhaps the **easiest** place to start if you would like to become involved in ASCLS publications. Newsletter editors always welcome help and articles from the membership.

Other publications surface in the form of continuing education. The ASCLS store has various CD-ROM materials and books for sale that allow you to earn P.A.C.E. ® credit, which in turn allows you to earn credit toward recertification. Members are encouraged to submit materials they have for educational purposes and to propose new topics for education and professional interest. Many of the text and reference books you may be interested in were written or edited by our membership. Some of these books are also for sale through the ASCLS store, or at the meetings.

Student Forum

What is the student forum?

The Student Forum is part of ASCLS designed to coordinate the involvement and interest of students in the field of clinical laboratory science, to provide students with a voice in their professional society, and to educate students in the concepts of professionalism as expressed by ASCLS in its philosophies, policies and procedures. All members qualifying for student membership status are a part of the forum lead by the Forum Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. In addition, there are subsections of leadership including the 10 regional representatives and each constituent society has a student representative.

What do the leaders of the student forum do?

Student Forum Chair- is the highest ranking official of the Student Forum. He or she presides at all meetings of the ASCLS Student Forum at the National Meeting in addition to attending and serving as a voting member of the ASCLS Board of Directors. The forum chair's primary responsibility is to communicate the needs, concerns, and opinions of the student forum to the board of directors and all CLS students in the country. The Chair may also choose to maintain a periodic e-newsletter to inform students and new professionals, write bi-monthly articles for ASCLS Today, attend all national BOD meetings and conference calls, hold a regional rep meeting at legislative day, recommend students to ASCLS President for national committees, run the student forum orientation, forum, and election at the national meeting, utilize the student forum vice chair and secretary to assist in duties, and hold a student fundraiser at the national meeting.

Student Forum Vice Chair- is the second highest ranking official of the Student Forum. The Vice Chair needs to become familiar with the duties of the Office of Chair and assumes those duties in the absence of the Chair. He or she serves as a member of the Student Board of Representatives and as a voting member of the Student Forum at its Annual Business Meeting.

Student Forum Secretary- is in charge of recording the proceedings of all meetings of the Student Forum Board of Representatives and the Student Forum. He or she also works closely with the forum officers to assist in their duties.

I'd like to become a student forum officer, how does the election process work?

The Student Forum elections take place at the annual meeting. Any student who has been a member of ASCLS for at least 4 months and shows a vested interest can run for a position. Only specific students can vote in the election: 1 credentialed student delegate per constituent society, plus the 10 regional student representatives. If the region rep is also the credentialed constituent society student rep, then the student will vote as the region rep, and the constituent society student rep proxy shall be chosen by the constituent society. Applications for students who would like to run are taken 1 month before the national meeting up until the day after the student forum orientation. Students running are asked to be part of Meet the Candidate for questions in addition to giving a speech at the student forum election period prior to the vote. A set discussion time before the elections will be held for all students at the forum to express their opinion of the candidates to those students credentialed to vote prior to the designated voting time.

I was designated a student delegate from my state, what is that and what do I need to do?

A student delegate is a student member who is selected from each state to attend the Annual Meeting as the voice of all student members in the state. The student delegate has a dual role: As a delegate to the Student Forum, the student delegate attends all Student Forum meetings, discusses Student Forum business and elects Student Forum Officers. At these meetings, the student delegate can increase the visibility of the Student Forum through suggestions, opinions and active participation. In addition to these activities, the student delegate has the responsibility to attend the House of Delegates representing the students from the delegate's home state as a voting member of the state delegation. This role affords the student delegate the opportunity to voice student opinions of Society issues and activities.

I'm just a student member but still want to be involved, what can I do?

There are many different projects that students can get involved in. The best thing to do is contact the Student Forum Chair. Student members can do many things in the society from working on the student E-Newsletter, to sitting on a national committee, join in recruiting efforts, the possibilities are endless. All you need to do is consult the student forum manual or ask!

How can YOU contribute to ASCLS?

1. Find a mentor
 - Someone you respect
 - Someone you are comfortable with
 - Someone who can develop you into the person you want to be
 - Someone who can guide you
 - Someone who can provide you with opportunities

How?

Check the ASCLS website (Member's Section under Leadership) for the latest Leadership Directory. It will have contact information for all persons in leadership positions- Staff, Board of Directors, Regional Leadership, State Leadership, Committee Leadership, Forums, and Boards. Then make the first move- call someone!
2. Speak up! Ask questions!

Remember the old saying- the only stupid question is one that isn't asked? Let others know what you are thinking so that ASCLS can really be a reflection of its members. ASCLS can't 'read your minds'!
3. Get involved
 - Volunteer! Start with the small obligations until you become more confident to take on larger tasks. Be sure to follow through with whatever you have agreed to do.
 - Encourage your friends and colleagues to join you.

4. Get informed

Ask questions

Attend continuing education sessions

Read articles and periodicals

Find out about legislative/regulatory issues

Go to committee meetings

5. Have fun

ASCLS is a wonderful resource for fun and friends. Take advantage of the many opportunities to participate in social events and to meet laboratory professionals from all over the United States. It is an effort you will not regret!

6. Become the **ASCLS VOICE**:

-as a spokesman for the entire profession

-on Capitol Hill on regulatory issues that affect our practice

-as an advocate for the individuals who make up our profession

Show others the **ASCLS VALUE**:

-as an integral part of the healthcare team

-as a knowledgeable source of information for other professionals, our patients, and the public

- as a source of continuing education for the practitioner

Define the **ASCLS VISION**:

-by defining the changing role of the laboratory in the future

-by fostering collaboration among laboratory professional organizations

-by educating and preparing professionals for exciting new roles in the future

Where do YOU fit into ASCLS?

Anywhere you want to!!!

Member Testimonials

The most influential factor for success in my CLS career has been active membership in ASCLS. Most significant events in my career are somehow linked to membership in this organization. ASCLS has had a dramatic affect on my job advancement at the University of Texas Health Science Center.

My activities and leadership in ASCLS were important factors in being promoted to distinguished teaching professor with tenure, developing my leadership skills and building a highly respected and renowned Department of Clinical Laboratory Science. When I first joined ASCLS decades ago, I took advantage of the great state and national meetings where I rubbed elbows with leaders in our profession that I held in high esteem. Gradually my network of friends grew and I was mentored into some of those leadership positions. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be President of ASCLS but others had confidence in my abilities and encouraged me to step up to the plate. It is my aim to do the same for our new members so they will realize the benefits of belonging to their professional organization where they have a voice, can follow their vision and are valued for who they are and what they can become. With ASCLS you will find your network of friends will encompass the world. It is a guarantee for success.

Shirlyn B. McKenzie, Ph.D., CLS (NCA)
2006-07 ASCLS President

ASCLS has positively influenced my professional experience. ASCLS not only provides the many continuing education opportunities needed for certification maintenance, but a network of dedicated members of both young and seasoned professionals to answer any questions you might have about the organization or profession as a whole.

Sharon Bobryk
2005-2006 National Student Forum Chair

I got involved with ASCLS when I joined my University CLS society and my state society. After holding office there, I decided I wanted to be more involved and tried to become more active on a national level. ASCLS has given me not only a great group of friends and peers to exchange ideas with, but also an outlet to make a difference in my profession. MY PROFESSION IS MY PASSION!! ASCLS allows me to directly impact my profession and

the direction it is headed by attending major meetings and events such as Legislative day and the National Meeting. I believe that you get what you give, and when I give of my time and efforts to ASCLS I get it back 10 fold!! If we do not stick up for ourselves and our profession, then who will? I feel lucky to be a part of such a wonderful organization!!

Crystal Powell-Smith, CLS(NCA), MT(ASCP)
Region VII

Being a part of ASCLS has been an amazing experience. I have met students from all around the country, learned about new research and technologies at the conferences and talked with professionals who have been working in the field for over 30 years. ASCLS is interested in the ideas and concerns of students and actually allows us to be involved, which is very rare for a professional society. I had never heard of ASCLS before starting the MT program at OHSU, but am very glad I decided to get involved.

Teresa Miller MT (ASCP)
Student Representative OACLS

ASCLS has played a major role in my life since I have become a member four years ago. Pursuing a degree in clinical laboratory science can be a difficult endeavor due to the fact that our profession is laced with intricate and complicated information that the student must master. Being a member of ASCLS can make this difficult road a smoother one by introducing you to new people who are either in your shoes or say that they have been in your shoes and understand how tough it all is. This networking also builds friendship opportunities that make you feel connected to your field and causes you to perform better and become a top clinical laboratory scientist as you enter your first year as a professional. Once the daunting challenge of student life is over, ASCLS helps recent grads by having a first year professional membership category that grants the new grad all the CE credits they now need to keep up their certification and/or licensure. ASCLS has created many great professional opportunities and has introduced me to some amazing people.

Kyle Riding
New Professionals Committee Chair

Special Thanks to all the contributors of 2006 to this project:

Karine Dunn

Lynn Ingram

Angela Wallace

Jeanette Etro

Jeane Otter

Aimee Russell

Tracey Vrba

Sharon Bobryk

Linda Whaley

Mellissa Helligso

Maribeth Flaws and LDC

Robbe Schweitzer

Rebecca Rogers

Student Forum Committee

New Professionals Committee