



The Pennsylvania Newsletter

Official Publication of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Pennsylvania

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June/July 2005

President's Message by Barbara Snyderman

Another year has flown by— seems as though it happened in a blink of an eye. Oh, to be young again and have the years drag on!



PSCLS has enjoyed a particularly active year, despite the fact that the society is “doing more with less”, just like many of your laboratories. Just as you struggle to provide the same level of service to your patients and health care providers, so does PSCLS struggle to meet the visibility, activity and service expectations of its loyal members.

I am happy to report that the society has just hosted a successful spring continuing education meeting in Harrisburg. This meeting had the smallest committee in society history, yet that was invisible to the attendees. My gratitude, and that of the attendees, goes to General Chair Judy Hoover, Program Chair Carolyn Snyder, and Registration Chair Sharon Strauss. There were volunteers behind the scenes— on the program committee, moderators and runners. Thanks to all of you!

The speakers featured on the program were top-notch, and are too numerous to mention. We were honored to have ASCLS Executive Vice-President Elissa Passiment on the program and at our board meeting, as well as Region II Director Mary Ann McLane. Both provided important updates on the society business and helped prepare our delegation for the annual meeting in Orlando in July.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers and board members. Ruth Negley was installed as President, Sandy Neiman as President-elect, Secretary Katie Franz and Board Members Jaime Zeiders, Kim

Leib and Brooke Speidel. These individuals, along with others on committees, committed to serving the society for the coming years, and their service is greatly appreciated.

I cannot complete my last message to you without thanking a few other individuals who made me and the society look really great this year. Carolyn Snyder became editor of this publication last fall, and I want to congratulate her on a superb job. It is a time consuming and difficult task! Sharon Strauss became our new webmaster, and already has updated the site to reflect the society's name change. Please visit www.ascls-pa.org to see the new look for our website.

Thank you, too, to all who have supported me in my third term as President. You all know who you are! The visible and “invisible” support team of the President made me and the society look great this year, and I truly appreciate every hour you invested in PSCLS.

Reader Opinion POLL #4

Why did you become a member of ASCLS-PA?

1. Continuing Education
2. Professional involvement
3. Government representation
4. Networking
5. Other.....if so, why?

Email your response with “Membership” in the subject line to cj1020@aol.com or mail to:

Carolyn Snyder, Newsletter Editor
351 Mulberry Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

ASCLS -PA Member Profile



by **Judy Hoover**

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, well okay, maybe not that far. It was really only Harrisburg. At that time I worked at Harrisburg Hospital and my boss, Mary Yelito, asked me if I wanted to go with her to a PSMT Board Meeting. She wanted to get me involved. I wanted to see what this organization was all about, so I said, sure, I'll go. (Little did I know then what I was getting into!) And besides, if you knew Mary, you didn't really tell her no. I don't remember exactly what time that meeting started, but I do remember when it was over - 2 am! And here it is...32 years later (Yikes, did I really put that in print!) and I'm still an active member of ASCLS and PSCLS.

During those 32 years, I've held many different positions in the state society, everything from Chair of National Medical Lab Week, to Government Affairs Chair, Board Member (several times) and to President in 1986 and I am currently serving as Treasurer. At the National level I have served on the Nominations Committee and was Chair of Membership Development. I also served for three years on the ASCLS Board of Directors in my position as Region II Director. What a difference that made in my life! It was a wonderful experience that I'll never forget.

I've attended all the state meetings since I became a member and I've attended all the national meetings, with the exception of 1986. I have met many wonderful people at both the state and national meetings. I look forward to going to these meetings each year, not just for the continuing education, but for the opportunity to visit with those who have become dear friends.

Many times during my career, I've heard people ask, why should I join ASCLS and PSCLS? What's in it for me? My answer is - you get what you put into it. If you join and don't do anything else, you're probably not getting much. However, if you join and become active by participating at your local, state and/or national level, you will find a wealth of benefits. I have found over the years that in addition to continuing education, I have enriched my life many times over by the friends I have made. These are the same people I reach out to for information when I run into a situation where I want to know how other places handle it. Being active and involved means learning what's happening in Congress and at CMS before most other people. And it also means you can be a part of what happens. Each year ASCLS has a Legislative Day in March where members gather to learn about the issues facing us. Then we all go to the Hill to visit our individual legislators and yes, we lobby them to support legislation favorable to us. It's an awesome experience to walk the halls of Congress and sit in your Senator or Congressman's office and discuss the issues of the day. YOU are making a direct impact on your profession. It is activities like this and many other experiences I've had that have helped me develop both professionally and personally.

Oh I know ASCLS and PSCLS aren't perfect. What organization is? I do know that by being a member and attending national meetings as a delegate, I have the opportunity to have a voice and help decide the future of ASCLS and the profession.

And those 32 years of membership - I wouldn't trade them for anything!

**ASCLS-PA 2006
Annual Meeting
May 2-4
Valley Forge Scanticon &
Convention Center**

Keep the date open

ASCLS-PA Annual Meeting in Harrisburg May 10-12, 2005



Registration booth at the meeting was a busy place all day.



Elissa Passiment , ASCLS Executive Vice-President talks with attendees after her session.



Annual Meeting Committee: back left, Sharon Srrauss, Registration, right Carolyn Snyder, Program and front Judy Hoover, General Chair, Ruth Negley, Program not pictured.



Judy Hoover, Meeting Chair takes a well deserved nap.



Dr. Mary Ann McLane, Region II Director, gives an update at the House of Delegates.



ASCLS-PA House of Delegates Annual Meeting . One topic they discussed was the name change of the organization.

ASCLS-PA New Officers



Ruth Negley, left, installed as President by outgoing President, Barbara Snyderman, right.



Left, newly elected President-Elect, Sandra Neiman installed by President Barbara Snyderman, right.



Newly elected Secretary Katie Franz, left, installed by President Barbara Snyderman, right.



From left to right, newly elected Board of Directors, Jamie Zeiders, Kim Leib, Brook Speidel installed by President Barbara Snyderman, right.



Left to right, President Barbara Snyderman installs newly elected ByLaws committee members Charles Wilson, Regina Halbiger.



Newly installed Board and Committee Members: Back left to right, Charles Wilson, Bill Hunt, Katie Franz, Jamie Zeiders, Kim Leib, Regina Halbiger, front left to right, Sandy Neiman, Ruth Negley, Barbara Snyderman.

Award Recipients 2005



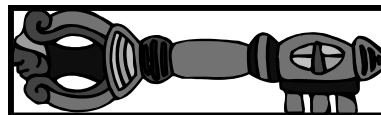
Keener Service Award Recipients

Left to right, Scott Aikey, Sharon Strauss, Judy Hoover, Carolyn Snyder



Past Dolbey Award Recipients

Back left to right Bill Hunt, Scott Aikey,
Judy Hoover, Carolyn Snyder, Mary
Gourley, Sandy Neiman
Front left to right Sharon Strauss, Mary
Ann McLane, Barbara Snyderman



Keys to the Future

Jamie Zeiders

President - Elect's Message

by Ruth Negley



As I mulled over about what to write in my first message as the new incoming president of ASCLS-PA, several issues came to mind. I could mention the dwindling membership of our organization. I could talk about the profession and the shortage, lack of recognition, insufficient pay, or a number of other negative aspects. Instead, I have decided to focus on why I chose clinical lab science as a profession and to think about the big picture.

I chose this profession because of the curriculum. I love science, especially biology and chemistry. Being a quilter, I also love working with my hands, and starting and completing a task. I also love the challenge of new technology. This profession seemed perfect for me. There is so much to learn, and I still learn something new every day. I also chose this profession because I thought that I liked working independently and also that I could avoid communicating. Boy was I wrong and am I glad! I found after spending several years training new employees in my department, that communication was one of the most important aspects of my job. I enjoyed training so much that I eventually became an educator.

I attended the 2005 ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting last month in Harrisburg, along with many other techs around the State. This was the first meeting where I had a minor role in organizing. What an eye opener it was to find out how much work is involved to pull this off! I'm thankful that there were several other more experienced committee members to anticipate and complete the details involved. The meeting was a success, but not without a lot of blood, sweat, and tears from the committee members to put it all together. I will never again underestimate the efforts involved.

Because I was on the committee, I was tied up part of the time to help, but I did have the opportunity to attend some of the sessions. I'd like to focus on one of the sessions that stands out: the one presented by Elissa Passiment on the topic of professionalism.

One comment Elissa made during the presentation was that "top performers don't have extra talent that sets them apart from others. What they have is a talent to practice and to stick with it". This is a profession that requires you to "stick with it" in order to keep up with all of the knowledge. Those

who complete their schooling and never find the time to review what they learned or to read a journal article or attend a continuing education session are shortchanging themselves and the profession. She made her point by comparing our profession to the two people working with stone. When someone asked them what they were doing, one worker said "I am working with stone". The other said "I am building a cathedral". What a thought provoking statement that is! How many times have we been the stone worker? How easy it is to lose sight of the big picture, the fact that you are a professional.

I remember starting in my first bench tech position as a new graduate. After working a few years, I noticed that it was very easy to slip into a groove of coming to work and going through the motions of getting results out, doing QC and maintenance, and all of the other tasks that keep us busy in the lab. In a short time it seems you can almost do it in your sleep. How time slips by quickly. Before you know it, you've been out of school for 5 yrs, then 10 yrs, then 20. What sets some apart from others are the ones who maintain the knowledge they learned in school. Techs who are reading journals and articles and attending continuing education sessions on a regular basis in order to stay current in the field. I read somewhere once that you only retain approximately 25% of what you learned during your clinical experience, and only if you are using it on a regular basis. It takes much work and diligence to maintain that body of knowledge we once learned. That is what makes the distinction between a worker and a professional.

I have been building my cathedral by being involved in ASLCS-PA. I feel strongly committed to giving something back to this profession. I think the part I like the most about being a member of ASCLS-PA is working with student members and getting them involved. I love to witness their excitement and enthusiasm as they begin their careers! There are not a lot of techs in our State organization who volunteer their time and become involved in leadership. So there is not a lot we can accomplish with so few hands available. But one aspect we are strongly committed with is providing continuing education opportunities to our fellow techs in Pennsylvania. So next time you hear that we are providing a workshop, support our own organization and attend. Become a member, and if you are able, consider giving us a call to see how you can help. What a great opportunity you have right in your own back yard to make a contribution. In fact, when you take a look at all of the patients that have been affected by what you do, you will find that you have been building the cathedral all along.

ASCLS Region II Report



**by Mary Ann McLane, PhD
Region II Director**

The ASCLS annual meeting will be held in Orlando FL from July 26 - 30. Anyone who is listed as being a delegate for ASCLS-PA must register for the meeting through ASCLS, not AACC. In actuality, why anyone would want to register through AACC is beyond me! The rates through ASCLS are significantly less expensive than through AACC. Anyone who registers through ASCLS can access all of the AACC edutrack and plenary sessions as well as all of the ASCLS sessions and the exhibitor area. The only things an ASCLS cannot access are the AACC workshops for which an extra fee is required. Sounds like a great deal to me!

There are a large number of position papers about which the House of Delegates will be voting this year. Each society member needs to review these and provide feedback to your delegates, so these delegates can best represent you at the meeting. The position papers should be available in the Members' Section of the ASCLS website, <http://www.ascls.org>, under the "leadership" link, before the end of June. In fact, all of the Reports to the House of Delegates from around the country, and the Issues Update, should be available there. I will send a broadcast e-mail to you when I see these have been posted online.

One piece of information shared at the March Interim Board meeting, and which will be discussed at the Open Forum session on Thursday in Orlando, is the desire by the ASCP board of directors and their staff to increase collaborations with ASCLS. Discussions are at the beginning stages, and we may soon see a major document coming from ASCP about their strong support of personnel licensure. Much

needs to be worked out, but Elissa Passiment, President Susan Morris and President-Elect Bernie Bekken provided strong words of encouragement in March about the process which has already taken place... enough to convince yours truly that we need to seriously look at the possibilities.

I have gone to each society's board meetings in our Region II during April and May, and am awed at the commitment our members have for our profession and this society. I thank you, in ASCLS-PA, for all you do for the patients and colleagues whom you serve. I once again make the offer, especially to those who will be attending the ASCLS national meeting, to write a letter to your employer/CEO/CFO/whomever, describing why it is so critically important that you were at the meeting. I'll remind those colleagues at the meeting, but you can begin to think of to whom you'd like that letter to go! I'll see you all in Orlando!

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

**2005 ASCLS Annual Meeting
July 26-30
Orlando, Florida
Hilton in Walt Disney World Resort**

**Clinical Laboratory Expo
July 26-28, 2005
Orange County Convention Center**

Register online at

www.ascls.org

Great Continuing Education

Make new friends

Enjoy the sun and fun

2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Motions

May 10

Motion 1

Made by Bill Hunt seconded by Brooke Speidel and axxwrtd by BOD:

I Move to approve the Winter Board Meeting minutes as amended.

Motion 2

Made by Ruth Negley seconded by Bill Hunt and accepted by the Board.

I move that the Spring 2005 PSCLS Board Meeting be adjourned.

2005 HOUSE OF DELEGATES

MOTIONS:

May 10

Motion 1

Made by Katie Franz, seconded by Barbara Snyderman and accepted by the House:

I move that the agenda for the 2005 HOD be approved as written.

Motion 2

Made by Bill Hunt, seconded by Barbara Snyderman and accepted by the House:

I move to approve the April 13, 2004 House of Delegates meeting minutes.

Motion 3

Made by Bill Hunt, seconded by Katie Franz and accepted by the House:

I move that we accept the PSCLS Treasurer's report dated 4/30/05 and file for audit.

Motion 4

Made by Scott Aikey, seconded by Bill Hunt and accepted by the House:

I move that the PSCLS HOD direct the PSCLS Treasurer to invest up to \$5000 from the Scholarship Award and fund into a short term CD not to exceed 2 years.

Motion 5

Made by Bill Hunt, seconded by Sandy Neiman and accepted by the House:

I move that we accept the PSCLS Scholarship Award Report dated 3/31/05 and file for audit as reported.

Motion 6

Made by Scott Aikey, seconded by Bill Hunt and Mary Gourley and accepted by the House:

I move that the PSCLS HOD approve the funding of up to 2 student delegates to attend ASCLS 2005 Annual Meeting in Orlando to include airfare, hotel and registration. Money to come from Student Forum line item and O&A with total expenses not to exceed \$2000.

Motion 7

Made by Barbara Snyderman, seconded by Scott Aikey and accepted by the House:

I move that the nominations for President-Elect be closed.

Motion 8

Made by Barbara Snyderman, seconded by sandy Neiman and accepted by the House:

I move that the nominations for Board of Directors be closed.

Motion 9

Made by Mary Gourley, seconded by Sharon Strauss and accepted by the House:

I move that the nominations for the office of Secretary of PSCLS be closed.

Motion 10

Made by Bill Hunt, seconded by Mary Gourley and accepted by the House:

I move to destroy all ballots in the election.

Motion 11

Made by Carolyn Snyder, seconded by Mary Gourley and accepted by the House:

I move that the 2005 PSCLS House of Delegates approve the name change of PSCLS to ASCLS-PA.

Motion 12

Made by Bill Hunt, seconded by Katie Franz and accepted by the House:

I move that the PSCLS HOD move \$5690.03 income from 2005-2006 year to the reserve fund for 2006-2007.

Motion 13

Made by Scott Aikey, seconded by Mary Gourley and accepted by the House:

I move that the ASCLS-PA HOD approve the budget for FY 05-06 as presented and amended.

Motion 14

Made by Bill Hunt, seconded by Regina Halbiger and accepted by the House:

I move that the PSCLS HOD support the ASCLS Auction at the 2005 Orlando meeting with two gifts which value \$50 each to come from O&A.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

Motion 15

Made by Mary Courley, seconded by sandy Neiman and accepted by the House:

I move that the 2005 House of Delegates meeting be adjourned.

Meeting minutes will be available when they are approved by the Board of Directors.



Redesigned ASCLS-PA Website



**by Sharon Strauss
Webmaster**

The ASCLS-PA website has been newly designed. Visit www.ascls-pa.org and check it out! E-mail me at SStra610@aol.com if there is anything else that you would like to see on the website. I am always looking for new information to add. Visit the site often for updated information. If you notice anything that is out of date, please let me know. As we add more and more things to the site, it will become increasingly difficult to keep track of outdated information. Hope you enjoy the newly designed site.



Every laboratory professional deserves the opportunities of the

VOICE-VALUE-VISION

of ASCLS membership!

That's why we are inviting you to participate in the ASCLS Member-Get-A-Member (M-G-M) Campaign. The goal of the M-G-M Campaign is to increase our membership by asking each of you to share how much ASCLS membership means to you both professionally and personally with at least one laboratory professional. Every member receives the benefits that you enjoy as an ASCLS member-

- ▶ *CLS Journal*
- ▶ *ASCLS Today*
- ▶ *Members-only discounts on publications*
- ▶ *Savings on conference registrations*
- ▶ *Membership in state and regional organizations*
- ▶ *Current information about legislative/regulatory issues*
- ▶ *An instant network of laboratory professionals*

So, spread the VOICE-VALUE-VISION of ASCLS to your friends and colleagues- They should be included, too!

**We all benefit when
ASCLS grows!**



The Pennsylvania Newsletter
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Moving? Remember you can update all your membership information online at www.ascls.org

or send your attached label and your corrected address to: PSCLS, 521 Mackin Drive, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 to insure uninterrupted service.

Coming Events

Aug 20 HACCC, Harrisburg, PA

Board Meeting

Nov 12 RACC, Reading, PA (location pending)

Board Meeting

Jan 28 HACCC, Harrisburg, PA

Board Meeting

The Pennsylvania Newsletter

The official publication of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Pennsylvania

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