



FOCUS

ASCLS-Idaho Newsletter ● Fall 2011

Calendar of Events

- [IMSS](#)
Sept. 7-10
Jackson Hole
- Board Meeting
Oct. 8th
Twin Falls
- Don't forget to renew your [ASCLS membership](#)

“I am excited about the year ahead. We have a full Leadership roster and I think this will be a great group of Medical Laboratory Scientists working on your behalf. Let me introduce you to your new leaders for the coming year.”



A New Year

Message From Our President

The National meeting in Atlanta, Georgia is behind us and the [new officers](#) have been installed for ASCLS. With their installation, begins a new year for the Idaho Society.

I am honored and excited to serve this year as your President. I would like to extend a huge “Thank You” to our now Past President, Karen Dixon Hoskins, for leading our Society with graciousness and enthusiasm over the past year. Karen embodies the values of ASCLS and cares deeply about our profession

and our professional organization. We are very fortunate that Karen has offered to serve as our State Mem-



**ASCLS-Idaho President
Holly Weinberg**

bership chair for the coming year so she can continue the great work she did while

serving as our President.

I'm pleased that our new board is composed of a good cross-section of geographical locations as well as experience. It is so exciting to see newly active members step up and serve the society. Volunteering as an Office or a Committee Chair can be a scary thought at first but you won't know what it's all about until you try it. [The Board meets about every other month](#), a mixture of conference calls and face-to-face meetings. After each

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Meet The New Board

- | | |
|--|---|
| President: Holly Weinberg, Boise | Government Affairs: Debbie Shell, Pocatello |
| President-Elect: Liz Neighbor, Boise | IMSS Rep (elected): Christy Posio, IF |
| Past President: Karen Dixon-Hoskins, IF | IMSS Rep (appointed): Karen Dixon-Hoskins, IF |
| Secretary: Jennifer Thomsen, IF | Leadership: Becky Hawley, Boise |
| Treasurer: Amy Huse, Boise | Membership: Karen Dixon-Hoskins, IF |
| Editor: Diane Stumpf, Rexburg | New Professional: Chris DeAngelo, Boise |
| 1st yr Board Member: Diane Schweitzer, Boise | Nominations & Elections: Sandi Oldenberg, Boise |
| 2nd yr Board Member: Melissa Dumoulin, Boise | PAC: Mary Lay, Boise |
| Admin. Secretary: Debbie Shell, Pocatello | P.A.C.E.: Holly Weinberg, Boise |
| Awards/Scholarship: Lorena Roberts, Boise | Professional Affairs: Debbie Russell, American Falls |
| Bylaws: Mary Carver, Boise | Scientific Assembly: Laura Brattain, Driggs |
| Convention Chairs: Michele Harris, Twin Falls & DeAnna McMahon, Boise | Webmaster: Brian Anderson, Boise |

Georgia World Congress Center, site of 2011 ASCLS Annual Meeting.



"Participation in ASCLS is an opportunity for career advancement. The society has all the tools needed to find personal and professional success."

Idaho's Delegates enjoying some southern hospitality



How do you spell **ADVANCEMENT**?

Report from Liz Neighbor

A=ASCLS

Traveling to Atlanta for the ASCLS/AACC Clinical Lab

Expo was an awe inspiring experience. I was surrounded by accomplished individuals, educators and students. We all attended with a common goal: information and participation.

D=Dedication

Where there is dedication there is success. ASCLS embodies the empowered lab professional. A very devoted group of scientists and educators shared their ideas and time and boy did they deliver!

V=Vendors

The vast exposition hall was filled to capacity with experts, instruments, and state of the art displays. A visit to the Georgia World Congress Center was en vogue and proved to be a valuable experience. The vendors made the conference valid.

A=Academic

Atlanta attracted learned and experienced individuals. Much was accom-

plished at the various committee meetings adding to the academic knowledge of all who participated.

N=National

It was an honor to represent Idaho nationally. Idaho is notorious for having had two national ASCLS Presidents: Keila Poulsen and Susan Morris.

C=Clinical ASCLS/AACC/ASCP merged to conduct a conference of superior acclaim. The CASA Taskforce outlined the benefits and concerns of an ASCLS-CLMA combined organization.

Workshops included current clinical topics such as Hemoglobinopathies, Bacterial Biofilms and Serious Transfusion Reactions.

E=Education

The 79th Annual Meeting of the ASCLS offered 57 continuing education units. The AMSC and CEAC planned an enriching program of presentations with an emphasis on best practices to enhance our knowledge in multiple disciplines.

M=Mentors

Veteran members maintain roles to mentor the new professionals, officers and committee chairs. There was a mainstay of Profession Development Sessions including

Leadership Academy, Promotion of the Profession and Membership Recruitment. The conference enabled the new and old to mesh.

E=Entertainment Traveling with Debbie, Holly, Karen, Laura and Mary was enlightening and entertaining. They exude confidence due to their expertise. Atlanta offered plenty of Southern hospitality. I took the opportunity to visit the world's largest aquarium, World of Coca Cola and the Atlanta Botanical Gardens among other entertainments.

N=Network

I had the opportunity to reflect on the mission and vision of the society with my Idaho colleagues and those of states as distant as New York and Texas. Several receptions offered opportunities to network while raising money for the Education and Research Fund.

T=Technology

Six hundred companies were represented at the world's largest clinical laboratory exhibition. I visited well designed booths demonstrating the latest technology and special presentations. All sessions were delivered by highly qualified scientists and academics. It was truly a high tech event.

IMSS In Full Swing

Jackson Hole is the place to be this week with [IMSS](#) in full swing from September 7-10.

It's not too late to get in on the action so head on up to Jackson and join in the fun.

There is a full line-up of workshops available, a bevy of social events to attend and oodles of time with the vendors. Friday night there will be a "[Black Tie & Blue Jeans BBQ](#)" with entertainment by [Judd Grossman](#). [Saturday morning](#) will be filled with workshops and networking.



A full report on the events of IMSS will be available in the next issue of the newsletter.

Every Conversation

Report From Mary Lay

The [ASCLS Annual Meeting](#) in Atlanta was a fun-filled, educational, and collaborative week. We were encouraged to start every conversation we have with the phrase, "As a Medical Laboratory Scientist..." as a way to emphasize our professional contribution to healthcare. It was agreed to use this statement so that others would recognize our education and knowledge. At nearly every session I attended, someone used that preamble: "As a Medical Laboratory Scientist I wish to" What began as a joke took root and caught on!

As one of St. Luke's Point of Care Coordinators, the vendor visits were a great way to gather important information from Siemens, J&J, Abbott, Telcor, Helena, Roche, and Radiometer. There always seems to be one vendor that tops the chart in innovation: this year I felt it was the Point of Care kits currently sold in Europe which test for Dengue Fever and Tuberculosis!

From the *Point of Care Scientific Assembly* to *Preparing for an Announced Inspection*, the workshops and sessions were beneficial and top-notch.

Every conversation we have about our profession should begin with, "As a Medical Laboratory Scientist..."

Hearing Scott Aikey's brief talk when he accepted the [National Member of the Year Award](#) was inspiring and I was very proud of Idaho for capturing third place with our Focus Newsletter.

The Education & Research Silent Auction was a hoot! I had a good laugh with Holly Weinberg who diligently carried two beautifully made cutting boards to Atlanta for the fundraiser. She couldn't believe that I out-

bid everyone and chortled as she watched me lug both of the cutting boards **back** to Idaho in **my** carrying case!

I came home with a rich understanding of how our Society functions. I am grateful for the vibrant ASCLS staff who strive to promote our profession and guide our Society at a national level. I was proud of the Idaho Delegation. Being in Atlanta reminded me how glad I am to be an active member of a Society which is in the forefront of American healthcare.

I ask you to renew your membership and use every conversation to encourage others to join our Society. Perhaps next year you will consent to nomination as a delegate to the 2012 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. As a Medical Laboratory Scientist, I guarantee you'll have the time of your life!

The Winds of Change Spring Convention 2011

Diana Ernest mixing it up with the Polynesian dancers at the Awards Banquet.



Change was the name of the game this year for the 2011 Spring Convention. With the powerful symbol of the wind turbine as the backdrop, we explored potential changes to our profession and learned how to positively respond to the challenges and opportunities that such changes bring. Barb Frankovich and her committee pulled together a fantastic program filled with educational and social opportunities. A variety of topics

were covered in the workshops while vendors wowed us with their displays. We were pleased that [Marcia Armstrong, ASCLS National President](#), attended our convention and joined in the fun.

The Awards Banquet, arranged by Liz Neighbor and emceed by Diane Stumpf,

The wind turbine symbolizes the presence of change in our profession.



was a lot of fun. Polynesian dancers entertained as Karen Dixon-Hoskins presented the awards.

With all the changes in the air, there is one thing you can always count on....ASCLS-Idaho puts on a great show!

What A Wonderful Time

Report from Karen Dixon-Hoskins

What a wonderful time was had by all at the 79th Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. I was honored to lead the ASCLS-ID delegation this year which consisted of Holly

a great experience. It helps members to see and understand the process of the Board meetings. In the afternoon the delegates attended various committee meetings and seminars, providing state societies with excellent resources and tools to help them throughout the year.

The meeting was filled with outstanding educational seminars and sessions presented by wonderful speakers.

I enjoyed the Issues Update meeting and the President's Reception. Idaho donated two beautiful homemade cutting boards made by Roger Weinberg (Holly's wonderful

husband) and a 50 lb box of Idaho russet potatoes for the Education & Research Silent Auction. Everyone had such a wonderful time.

The [House of Delegates](#) met Saturday morning. The revised [mission statement](#) was approved. Also it was voted and approved to continue further exploration of the merger between CLMA and ASCLS.

I had a wonderful time at the Annual Meeting and was honored to lead the wonderful Idaho delegation. I have appreciated the opportunity that you have given me this year to serve as your president.

The Idaho delegation enjoys some southern sun.



Weinberg, President-Elect; Liz Neighbor, President Elect-Elect; Mary Lay; Laura Brattain and myself.

The first day of the convention was very busy. We attended the ASCLS Board of Directors meeting which was

12 Choices

Hagerman Leadership Retreat

Do you want to be successful both in business and life? Well, Laura Brattain seems to know the secret. She presented an inspiring message at the Leadership Retreat based on the lecture and book titled, "12 Choices

That Lead To Your Success" by David Cottrell. He outlines three types of choices we make in life: Character choices that shape the kind of person we become; Action choices that move us toward success; and Investment choices that allow us to profit from our success. David Cottrell says, "...success is ultimately realized by people who make

more right choices and recover quickly from their wrong choices."

As part of the retreat, Debbie Shell also presented an informative lecture on Government Affairs, followed by a lovely luncheon.

Make the choice to be successful and join us next June for another inspiring Leadership Retreat!



Leadership Retreat attendees in beautiful Hagerman, Idaho.

"You are free to choose, but the choices you make today will determine what you will have, be and do in the tomorrow of your life."

-Zig Ziglar

A Legacy To Follow

Anna Watts Memorial Award

As a way of honoring the contribution made to our profession by the late Anna Watts, the ASCLS-Idaho Board is pleased to announce the establishment of the **Anna Watts Memorial Award**.

This award will be bestowed upon a deserving Clinical Laboratory Sciences student each year who has demonstrated a unique commitment to carrying on the legacy left by this dedicated educator

and professional. The first annual award was given to Yukari Nishizawa-Brennen, April 2011 at the Awards Banquet.

Thank you, Anna for your life of dedication.

"And The Winner Is..."

Debbie Russell pulled together a great raffle for the fundraiser at the Spring Convention. There was a broad array of prizes, with a little something for just about everyone. Competition was fierce for the grand prize, a beautiful new Traeger Grill. But whether you were the big winner, or a big fat loser, it was all for a good cause, raising \$285 for the Children's Miracle Network. Thanks for your donations!

- MOVIE BASKETLIZ NEIGHBOR
- COFFEE BASKETSTEPHANIE COMBS
- PURSE/WALLET/JEWELRY...CHRIS DUNNING
- QUILTED TOTESANDI OLDENBERG
- GARDENING BUCKETSAM LORTA
- BEAUTY BASKETSUSAN BOWER
- TRAEGER GRILLBARB FRANKOVICH



The coveted prize....a Traeger Grill

Questions, Comments & Submissions

Please Contact:

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The mission of
ASCLS is to



make a positive impact in health care
through leadership that will assure
excellence in the practice of
laboratory medicine.



check us out @

www.asclsidaho.org

goals

- Actively recruit and retain new and old members including students and new professionals
- Investigate and, if feasible, implement electronic balloting for the Nominations and Elections process
- Increase awareness of the laboratory profession across the state of Idaho
- Mentor ASCLS-Idaho members in leadership roles, continuing the strong level of commitment currently exhibited by our members.

President's Message (continued)

meeting, I am always energized to continue on and make the Society work for all of us.

We have set ambitious goals for the year ahead but with such a high level of commitment, I know that we will accomplish much.

We are here to serve you and ASCLS. Our convention co-chairs have already started working on next April's State Convention and will be asking for volunteers to help plan and coordinate the conference. Volunteering in the many fac-

ets of ASCLS is a worthwhile and enjoyable way to give back to your profession. ASCLS is a grass-roots organization that only functions because of you. It truly is a volunteer organization that needs the support of all the members to survive.

ASCLS is your voice on Capitol Hill, advocating for you. Your membership and volunteering efforts are what make the difference. Thank you to all of you who have stepped forward to help out. If you are not currently serving and are interested in extending a help-

ing hand and taking a more active role in our Society, please don't hesitate to contact me; there are many ways to participate. All of the Committee Chairs have room for Committee members. If serving on a committee interests you, step up and let me know - we'd love to have you!

Holly