



save
the
date!

new
professionals
mixer
FEB 22ND
TABLE ROCK
BREW PUB
BOISE

legislative
symposium
MARCH 15TH
ST LUKES
MAGIC VALLEY
TWIN FALLS

spring
convention
MAY 1ST-3RD
IDAHO STATE
UNIVERSITY
POND STUDENT
UNION BUILDING
POCATELLO

leadership
retreat
JUNE 7TH
HAGERMAN

leadership
academy
JULY 1ST
APPLICATION
DEADLINE

FOCUS

ASCLS-IDAHO NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2014

Busy As Can Be

Message From Our President

Hello ASCLS-Idaho!

It is a beautiful winter day,
with 6 inches of much
needed snow in Twin Falls.

It is nice to be past all the
holiday season hustle and
back to our normal busy-
as-usual routine.

I don't know about your
laboratories, but mine has
been very busy. There is
no post-holiday slow down
in testing for us.

ASCLS-Idaho has been
busy as well this winter.
We held Board Meetings

in December and January.
Our next Board Meeting
will be in conjunction with
the [ASCLS-Idaho Legisla-](#)

[tive Symposium](#) on March
15th in Twin Falls. We will
have a face-to-face meeting
in the morning at St Luke's

(continued on page 8)



New Professionals Mixer

Hosted by Stephanie Wyler, New Professionals Chair

Undoubtedly you have two
questions right now.

One... "WHAT is a New
Professional?"...**and two**
... "WHEN is the Mixer?"

Well, you certainly are
lucky because I have the
answers to BOTH of your
questions!

Answer number one, a
"New Professional" is

someone who has been in
the profession **less than
five years**. ASCLS is con-
cerned about the needs
and desires of these in-
coming professionals.
They have created a [com-
mittee](#) to specifically ad-
dress their needs. Stepha-
nie Wyler is Idaho's com-
mittee member concerned
with reaching out and

mentoring these young and
talented members.

And that brings us to our
second answer: The mixer
is a great "getting to know
you" opportunity. Come
out [this Saturday, FEB 22nd](#)
and hang out with us at the
[Table Rock Brewpub](#) in
Boise. Let's get together
and party!

Let's Talk Legislation

ASCLS-Idaho 2014 Legislative Symposium



The [2014 State Legislative Symposium](#) will be held March 15th in Twin Falls. This Symposium provides great education on legislative and regulatory issues important to Idaho laboratory professionals. Debbie Shell,

ASCLS Government Affairs Committee Member, will update attendees on national issues impacting laboratories, including issues to be discussed on the Hill during the 2014 ASCLS Legislative Symposium in

Washington, D.C. State licensure for laboratory professionals and other issues of local interest will also be discussed, along with an update on the Idaho Legislature's 2014 session. We would love to see you there!

Licensure...

Who Have You Talked To Today? Report by Debbie Shell

Over the last few months, we have shared template letters and talking points for ASCLS-

Idaho members to use in [contacting their legislators](#) about licensure for laboratory professionals in Idaho.

We hope that all of you have taken a few minutes to

[send these letters](#) and then to contact your legislators by phone or in person

to discuss this issue.

The only way we can get this information to legislators is if we all work together to convince them how important this legislation is for the quality of laboratory testing throughout Idaho and

the safety of people in their districts.

One example of a success story is the work of Diana Thompson, one of our members in the Sun Valley area. She has done a great job of contacting legislators and convincing them that this legislation is important for their constituents. She has shared the draft bill, and keeps in touch with them to answer their questions. We're hopeful that they will support our bill. Great job, Diana!

We will be discussing the progress of our bill at the [ASCLS-Idaho Legislative Symposium](#) to be held in Twin Falls on March 15. We hope that everyone will join us to discuss li-

censure and other legislative and regulatory issues impacting all of us.

If you haven't yet [contacted your legislators](#), please do so! The template letters and talking points are available online. Please feel free to contact [Debbie Shell](#) or any of the Board members with any additional questions you may have. We would love to help you talk to your legislators.

It may take several tries and some persistence to have a chat with your legislators, but they do appreciate hearing from you. It is their job to learn about our jobs!

Talk to a legislator... today!



**Don't
let our bill
languish...
talk it up!**

Some Thoughts About Saws

ASCLS-ID 2014 Spring Convention Theme

I have to be honest...at first I didn't understand our theme for the Spring Convention...and then I found these thoughts... about saws and such...

THE PLASTIC SPOON:

A dull chain saw is about as useful for cutting wood as a plastic spoon. To cut quickly and safely, saws must be sharpened often.

I DON'T HAVE TIME:

The woodsman is walking through the woods when he comes across a young man feverishly trying to cut down a tree. The older and wiser woodsman stops and watches for a moment as the young man saws laboriously at the trunk again and again. "That must be a really hard tree," he comments. The young man replies, "Nope. I'll get it down eventually." "Why is it taking you so long to cut it down, though?" asks the woodsman. "You're working so

hard."

"My saw is dull," comes the answer.

"Why don't you sharpen your saw?" asks the woodsman.

"Well, you see," the young man replies, "I don't have time."

THE TRAGEDY OF THE DULL SAW:

In the section on making a briar pipe, the author suggests using a saw to remove the initial waste from the briar block. He remarks:

"Briar is a very hard wood, as you have undoubtedly discovered, and this precludes the use of an ordinary wood saw. Instead, a hacksaw must be used to make these and all subsequent cuts."

If by "ordinary wood saw," he means a dull one, he is undoubtedly right. However, briar is no harder than some of our native hardwoods, and is often softer than hard maple or hickory. It seems Goldring had no idea that hand saws

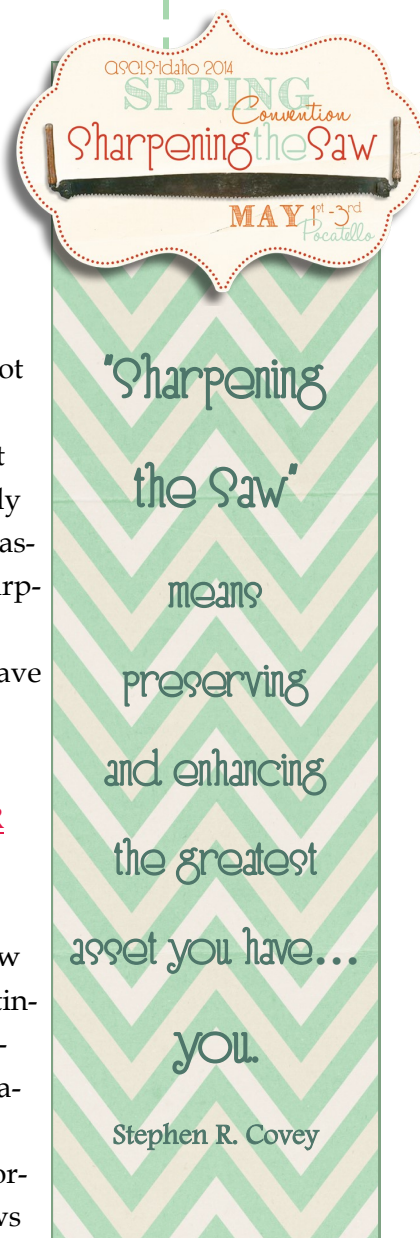
could be—or should be—sharpened, so he found the disposable blades of the hack saw more effective on the briar.

A sharp hand saw cuts briar very easily, in fact. It's a pity that misinformation like this got into print, but it's doubly a pity that Goldring evidently never had the pleasure of using a sharpened hand saw. I think he would have enjoyed it.

THE QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE:

A good carpenter knows a sharp saw is essential. It distinguishes the craftsman from the amateur, exceptional quality from the ordinary. Sharp saws speak of care, precision and the quest for excellence.

...and now I get it!



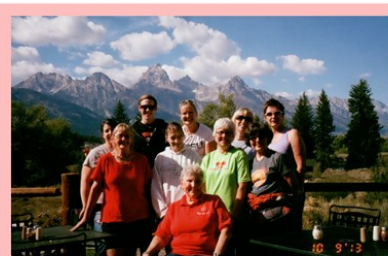
R8LA...Acronym 4 Cool

Report by Holly Weinberg, Region VIII Leadership Academy Coordinator

It's time to think about applying for the next class of the Region VIII Leadership Academy! We are looking for motivated candidates for the 2014-2015 class. Do you have a desire to further develop your leadership skills? Has your leadership potential been recognized by constituent society officers, board

academic sessions as well as a great afternoon ac-

sults of their project at graduation which takes place at the Region VIII Summer meeting one day prior to the beginning of the national meeting. This year, the meeting will be in Chicago; the 2015 meeting



will be in Atlanta. The Region VIII Leadership Academy (R8LA) is open to all interested ASCLS members in the 5 Region VIII states. Some of the topics covered during the Academy year include: communication and leadership styles, parliamentary procedure, convention planning, advocacy, networking, mentoring and coaching. We have an excellent faculty representing leadership across our Region. R8LA is a unique opportunity to learn life-long skills that will help in all aspects of life; personal and professional. Are you interested? Do you know someone who would be a perfect candidate? Applications are now available – reserve your spot in the 2014-2015 R8LA Class!

will be in Atlanta.

The first class of the Region VIII Leadership Academy is halfway through the academic year and they have set their sights on graduation at the National meeting in Chicago in July. The Academy opened in September in Jackson just prior to IMSS. We had several

members or others in leadership roles? Have you demonstrated leadership potential by participating in leadership activities within constituent society organizations? If you answered YES to any of these questions and you are currently a member of ASCLS, we want YOU!

activity bicycling to Moose for lunch. The Jackson sessions ended with a brainstorming session helping the interns identify a project to work on through the year. The purpose of the project is to identify a need in the Region and/or individual states in the Region and create something that will address and fulfill that need. This year's class has a very exciting project underway that will be a great boon to our states. The year continues with 6 Saturday sessions scheduled between October and June. In the spring, the Interns are encouraged to share information about their project and the Academy at their state spring conference. They then do a final presentation of the re-



If you are
interested
in joining
the R8LA,
contact

Holly
Weinberg

Tribute to a Bench Tech

Spotlight on William C. Black

I have to admit that I have always been a little jealous of those techs that get promoted off the bench to be managers, supervisors and directors. Achieving the fame that is lab management was my goal...but then I met Bill Black...a bench tech.

Bill taught me what it means to be a bench tech...a GOOD bench tech. He showed me why it is imperative to have highly trained, dedicated and smart individu-

als on the bench day after day, through all hours of the night. He helped me realize that I love being where I am...on the bench. He taught me all this...not by word...but by example.

Bill is a dedicated family man, a true friend and a good person. He is not fancy but you know you can always count on him to be there... no matter what.

Let me give you an example: As the bench tech/manager of a small

lab, Bill found himself hospitalized one weekend. Knowing that his other two employees were out of town, Bill headed to the lab—IV pole in tow—and continued to work the bench throughout the weekend, determined to provide quality care to the residents of his small town despite his own illness.

Bill has worked the bench for nearly 40 years now (1975-2014) and Idahoans—and myself—are better for it. Thank you, Bill. We will miss you!



Working the
bench is...
SWEET!

Your Voice

What Are Your Plans for National MLPW?

We want to know what your plans are for [National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week](#)! Go to our [Facebook](#) page and tell us what you have done, are doing or wish you could do! Let's celebrate in style this year!

One of my favorite celebrations was the year Pat Madsen made a timeline on butcher paper that went the length of our big hallway. It showed

the beginnings of EIRMC...when two hospitals became one. It had major changes in testing noted...like the day we stopped doing Bleeding Times...in 2010! It had the dates employees were hired...and retired. Pictures were posted next to employees names. The timeline was a little sketchy at first, but as the week went on...everybody added their two cents and

slowly, an amazing record of our time together emerged. Marv Miller added his iconic artwork, friends remembered friends who had come and gone and memories were recorded. It became a major work in progress...one that has been re-posted every year since then. A new piece of butcher paper is added and the story just keeps growing. I look at that and it makes me proud to be a Medical Laboratory Professional!



Add your
comment
on our
Facebook
page to
let your
voice be
heard

Patient Safety Tips

Written by Heather Chapman

Member of the Patient Safety Committee

*Article reprinted from
ASCLS Today.*

This is a new column from the ASCLS Patient Safety Committee to share tips and techniques on how to use the current and new patient educational tools we have developed to improve the effectiveness of medical laboratory testing.

A common scenario occurs frequently—a patient sees the physician for an annual physical exam. The physician instructs the patient to return another day for a fasting glucose and lipid panel. The patient is told to fast the day before the blood collection. The patient returns a few days later to the physician's office for the blood collection. When the laboratory receives the sample and spins it down, the serum is lipemic. The Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) decides the specimen is unacceptable for testing because it is evident the

patient had not fasted. When the MLS phones the physician's office to inform them about the unacceptable specimen the phlebotomist who collected the specimen confirms they did not verify the fasting status of patients. Unfortunately the patient has to be notified of the situation and return for a second fasting blood collection.

Without proper instructions, patients do not fully understand the importance of fasting and staying hydrated before having their blood collected. Medical laboratory practitioners understand that patient preparation is an important part of specimen collection. Without it there will be erroneous test results and an added burden will be created for the patient because he/she has to return to have blood drawn for a second time. The Patient Safety Committee has created flyers to help solve this problem. The first flyer that should be

shared with patients (and their providers, e.g. physicians and nurses) is the Patient Safety Tips Venipuncture flyer. It describes the procedure, before and after care, and helps a patient understand the procedure. Depending on the laboratory test(s) to be performed, the patient may also need to receive the ASCLS Patient Safety Tips Fasting brochure. It describes the fasting requirements when lipid panels or glucose tests need to be performed. Urging physicians and phlebotomists to distribute these flyers to patients will help medical laboratory scientists ensure the quality of patient test information and improve patient safety.

These flyers may be accessed at: <http://ascls.org/patient-safety/patient-safety-tips-tools/63-patient-safety-2>. The brochures are provided in English and Spanish.

The
ASCLS
Patient
Safety
Committee
is develop-
ing flyers
for your
use!





love ...these great offers
from ASCLS!

Your ASCLS Membership

Pro-Rated Membership Rates

- Missed the deadline? No problem! ASCLS now provides pro-rated membership rates from November through February. This cost-savings measure allows you to renew your membership today for a fraction of the cost so you can begin enjoying the benefits of your ASCLS membership right away!

Gift A Member

- Can't decide what to get for that special someone in your lab? What about the gift of membership in ASCLS! This is a marvelous way to mentor that First Year Professional or the coworker that just needs that final push to get involved and share their wealth of knowledge through the ASCLS member community. Go to www.ascls.org/giftmembership to purchase a membership for a friend today!

Member Rewards

- Earn credit toward your membership dues simply by referring new members to ASCLS! You can earn a \$10 credit for each professional referral and \$2 for each student referral. To be eligible, make sure to add your name and ASCLS member number to the new member application. Happy Referring!

Spring Convention Bonus

- Kill two birds with one stone when you register for the Spring Convention and join ASCLS at the same time! By taking advantage of this great educational opportunity you will receive 15 months of membership in ASCLS for the price of just 12! Don't miss out on this added bonus...register for the convention and join ASCLS today!

just got even better!

Questions, Comments & Submissions

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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



President's Message

(continued)

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Magic Valley, followed by the Legislative Symposium that afternoon. We invite all of you to come attend both the Board Meeting and the Symposium.

The Spring Convention team has been busy planning the next convention. Nikki Kern and Dee Johnson are working with their team to have a wonderful "Sharpening the Saw" experience. [Check out our website](#) for the most up to date convention information. The convention will be held in Pocatello May 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Make sure you mark this on your calendar. You do not want to miss it!

ASCLS-Idaho is currently working on a legislative bill which will institute licensure for laboratory testing personnel in Idaho. We are asking all of our members to [contact their legislators](#) and invite them to tour our laboratories and see the kind of work that we do. [This article](#) is an excellent demonstration of the importance of Medical Laboratory Scientists. We deserve to be recognized for our contribution to the health care team.

Membership is another area we are busy working on. You can help! Invite a co-worker to join ASCLS, come

to Legislative Day and bring a friend. Let your co-workers know why you love being a member of ASCLS-Idaho!

The New Professionals are having a get together February 22nd at the Table Rock Brewpub in Boise. How fun!

The [web page](#) is going through some changes, so check us out. We are also on [Facebook](#).

Have a great Winter-Spring. Hope to see you at the Leg Day, the Spring Convention, or maybe on the ski slopes.



Michele