



# FOCUS

## MESSAGE FROM OUR (PAST) PRESIDENT

With the summer coming to a close, so does my year as your ASCLS-Idaho President. Looking back, I am so proud of all the things ASCLS-Idaho has accomplished, and none of it would have been possible without the support of our members! Together we provided exceptional opportunities for continuing education through our State Convention, our Leadership Mini-Academy and our Legislative Symposium. We provided a name for ASCLS-Idaho in our community by raising money for the Children's Miracle Network of Boise and Salt Lake City, and offered to help with Rake Up Boise (even though mother nature just did not agree with us this year). A strategic plan was created and information was provided to our membership to help move our licensure effort forward. We recruited new members, both students and professionals. Last but not least, we served Region VIII by being a part of the Board, IMSS planning committee, and providing two amazing interns for the Region VIII Leadership Academy.

During my final days as ASCLS-Idaho President, I was very

*(Continued on page 6)*



IMSS  
Oct 1-Oct 3

RAKE UP BOISE  
November 14

LEGISLATIVE  
SYMPOSIUM  
March 26

SPRING  
CONVENTION  
April 21-23

ASCLS-ID  
LEADERSHIP  
MINI-ACADEMY  
June 11

# MEMBERSHIP matters!

## WHOOPS...YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS LAPSING!

Isn't it embarrassing to find out you have food on your face...or toilet paper stuck to your shoe...or your ASCLS membership has lapsed? I hate it when that happens to me! But don't worry, a good friend will always help you out in an embarrassing situation like that...after all...that's what friends are for!

As a friend, I am here to give you a friendly...non-judgmental...reminder to go online at [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org), check the status of your ASCLS Membership and renew it right away if you

have accidentally let it lapse.

I know summer can be a hectic time...and that pesky little renewal notice often gets pushed aside by vacation brochures and summer plans. But now that school is back in session and the camper has been winterized, take some time to get your ASCLS business back on track...after all...there is a lot in store this coming year that you certainly don't want to miss out on!

[CLICK HERE TO RENEW!](#)

## JOIN MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Did you know that your ASCLS Membership matters? Well, it certainly does. It matters to the ASCLS organization...and it should definitely matter to you! ASCLS has established a group called *Membership Matters* as a way to disseminate information to the ASCLS community from the National Office and BOD as well as share information on grassroots recruiting efforts. To join this group:

1. Log into the [ASCLS website](#) with your email address and password.
2. Click on the link *ASCLS Member Community* under the *Participate* banner.
3. Click on the *Groups* tab at the top of the page.
4. Search for 'Membership Matters'.
5. Join the group by clicking on the green plus sign (+).

Once you join, you will receive emails and updates for this group and will be able to participate in the discussion about why and how an ASCLS Membership matters...to you!

## CATCH THE WAVE...SOON!

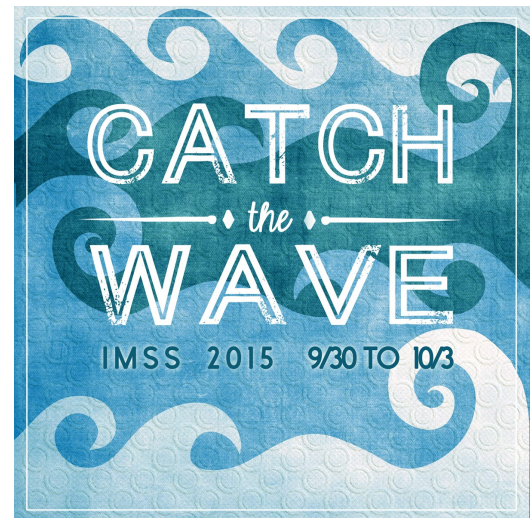
### IMSS JUST A MONTH AWAY!



With the weather getting a little chillier...I'm sure you're thinking that it's time to grab your surf board and head for the mountains to Catch the Wave!

IMSS will be held October 1-3 in sunny Jackson Hole Wyoming. All educational opportunities will be held at the Snow King Resort and you will be able to find the vendors just down the road at the Snow King Sports and Events Center. A shuttle will be provided to get you to and from the various events.

The program booklets are in the mail and on their way but if you are itching to get registered right away...feel free to register online at [EZRegister.com](http://EZRegister.com). You can find all the information you will need about IMSS on the [Intermountain States website](http://Intermountain States website) and Facebook page. We are certainly hoping that you...and a bunch of your friends... will come Catch the Wave with us at IMSS! It is promising to be a great event! Later, Dude!



## COME RAKE UP BOISE...AGAIN!

# 11-14-15



If at first you don't succeed...try, try again! And that is exactly what we are going to do! Last year, our ASCLS-Idaho President, Melissa Dumoulin had a great idea to help with [Rake Up Boise](http://Rake Up Boise), a wonderful organization that helps provide yard winterization to hundreds of disabled and elderly individuals who struggle to do this

themselves. This is a great way to get out there...talk about what we do...and show our faces to the communities that we serve.

The date for this year's Rake Up is November 14th...so mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information on this wonderful opportunity to get out there and do some good in the world!

# LABORATORY LICENSURE

## WE NEED YOUR HELP.....

In our previous ASCLS-Idaho newsletter, we outlined our strategy for getting a licensure bill for laboratorians passed in Idaho this coming year. The ASCLS-Idaho Board of Directors have developed a timeline and a “to-do” list for all of us to follow to accomplish this goal. We will use this newsletter and our wonderful ASCLS-Idaho website to share resources and ideas for member participation.

So, the first item on our “to-do” list is for all of us to contact our state legislators and get acquainted with them. Using the [asclsi-daho.org](http://asclsi-daho.org) website and the [Idaho state legislative website](#) makes contacting them pretty easy! We’ll be sending each member an email outlining instructions on how to do this in August, 2105. We’ll ask that members send each of their 3 legislators a letter, telling them who you are and what you do as a laboratory professional. We will provide a sample letter that you can use as a template to revise and personalize to our specific work situation. Our goal is to have every legislator contacted during August and early September. A second letter will also be provided in September to use in September and October as a follow-up letter to your 1<sup>st</sup> letter, and that will ask for support for our licensure bill.

Also as a part of our “get to know your legislators” effort will be a request that each of us speak to our legislators in September or October, either by phone or in person. An offer of a lab tour would be great if you can get your lab manager to approve it! We all know how little most members of the general public know about what we do, so this would be a perfect opportunity to educate our entire legislative body about our importance on the healthcare team and how complex our work is. Many of our legislators are very approachable (they work for us!) and work most of the year in regular jobs in our communities.

Your Board of Directors understands how difficult this can be for many of us introverted lab professionals. But, licensure is so critical to patient safety that we must all move a little out of our comfort zones to accomplish this important task. In future email’s we



## .....ONE STEP AT A TIME!

will provide answers to likely questions that you may be asked by our legislators. And, the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section on the [asclsidaho.org](http://asclsidaho.org) licensure tab will also answer many of those questions. Remember, you are the expert about the clinical lab, and can explain how important quality results are to patients and physicians, and how only with proper education and training can these high quality results be produced.

In the meanwhile your Board of Directors will be gathering data about the number of people performing lab tests in Idaho, determining an approximate cost for a license, and meeting with organizations (Idaho Hospital Association, Idaho Medical Association, etc.) that may have comments about licensure for laboratorians. We will also be asking key members to assist us in finding physicians and hospital administrators to support our licensure effort. More about that later!

Here is a timeline of the steps we will take..with your help!

- **AUGUST 2015:** Email to members describing how to contact legislators, including template letter
- **AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2015:** Members send letters to all Idaho legislators
- **SEPTEMBER 2015:** Email to members asking them to send a follow-up letter to legislators, including 2<sup>nd</sup> template letter and answers to frequently asked questions
- **SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2015:** Members send 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to all Idaho legislators
- **SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2015:** Members meet with legislators in person or by phone to ask for support for our licensure bill. Lab tour for your legislators, if possible!

Please get ready to spend just a little time this fall to help in this effort, and remember..... Every voice counts!



*Article submitted by  
Debbie Shell*

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(Admin. Secretary)

## PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CON'T)

excited to be leading our delegation to Atlanta for the AACC/ASCLS National Meeting. Diana Thompson, Diane Stumpf, Marj Montanus, Hollie Hatch and I were thrilled to represent ASCLS-Idaho at several national committee meetings and at the House of Delegates. We also attended the graduation of our Region VIII Leadership Academy interns, Diana Thompson and Marj Montanus.

As I close my final letter, I just want to say a huge thank you to all of the ASCLS-Idaho members. It is not always easy being a laboratory professional, but ASCLS has provided an opportunity for me personally to see the value in our profession, and understand that we do have a voice and what we do truly matters to the medical community. Thank you all for your support over this past year, and I look forward to the great things Diana Thompson will do next year!!!!

*Melissa*

*Be Informed...Stay Connected...Get Involved @ [asclsidaho.org](http://asclsidaho.org)*

## OUR MISSION

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.



# Questions, Comments & Submissions

The ASCLS-Idaho FOCUS Newsletter is published quarterly and is made available to all ASCLS-Idaho members in electronic format. Rights to edit for content and length of material are retained by ASCLS-Idaho. All ASCLS-Idaho members are invited to submit articles for publication.

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