



FOCUS

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Maintaining my membership in ASCLS has been easy for me through the years. It was always important to me to be involved in an organization that supports my profession. It was not always possible to be an active, involved member. Family commitments and full time work left little time or energy for much more than a renewal every July. As President I reach out to all of you to thank all of you for your membership.

We have had a very busy fall so far. We had our first Board meeting in August with a full agenda. I am grateful to my new Board and all that they have to offer. We are working on a number of projects.

In September we met with the ISU students at the Pocatello, Idaho Falls, and Meridian campuses. It was such a pleasure to meet with the students. Many of them have become new members. We are so proud of their accomplishments and that they have chosen the MLS path. We look forward to working with them in the future.

Good luck to the new graduates! I hope you have all found jobs and you are settling into your new roles. Soon you will have passed your ASCP Boards and can put all that study-

(Continued on page 7)

LICENSURE
RECEPTION
February 2

LEGISLATIVE
SYMPOSIUM
March 26

SPRING
CONVENTION
April 21-23

ASCLS-ID
LEADERSHIP
MINI-ACADEMY
June 11

NATIONAL MEETING
AND AACC EXPO
July 31-Aug 4

IMSS
Sept 29-Oct 1

WHO DOES THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE WORK FOR?

For us, of course! The citizen legislators in each of our districts are elected by the citizens of that district, and are paid by the taxpayers of Idaho. Although they meet in formal session for just a few months of the year, legislators are frequently called upon to do legislative work throughout the year, including meeting with constituents. They also do committee work, meet with lobbyists and other special-interest groups, and investigate/read mounds of materials sent to them by businesses, district residents, and many more.

So, if you haven't contacted your legislators yet, or you've sent a letter or maybe two, but haven't made the phone call for a discussion about our licensure effort, it's time to put your legislators to work! We know that they are busy and have lots of ideas and requests coming their way, but that just means that we have to take the time to make sure that they put our request toward the top of their "to-do" lists, and that they understand our issue by educating them about how important we feel it is for only qualified laboratory personnel to perform laboratory tests.

If you need help knowing what to say to your legislators, please let someone on the Board of Directors know, and we will help you in any way we can. One idea for meeting with legislators would be to "pair up" and work with another ASCLS-Idaho member or two in your district. It's always much easier for two or three people to talk to legislators, so no one has to "go it alone". That could even be done with a conference call with multiple legislators and multiple laboratorians.

Remember, our primary goal is to protect the safety of our patients, and one of the best ways we can do that is to be sure that anyone that's putting out lab results is qualified to do that. That means a license, so that regardless of where those lab results are produced, the patient knows that they are receiving high quality, reliable answers to their health issues.

Thank you so much to those of you who have already spoken with your legislators- when we asked groups who have recently passed licensure legislation, they stated that the most important activity they engaged in to further their legislation was one-on-one contact with legislators. It's critical that we take their advice and make sure that we all contact our legislators today!

CAN YOU HELP US WITH OUR LICENSURE EFFORT?

The ASCLS-Idaho Board of Directors is looking for anecdotes to help us in our licensure efforts. Do you remember an instance where a patient received the wrong diagnosis because of erroneous lab results produced by an unqualified person performing the laboratory tests? Have you ever had to repeat tests that had already been performed by nonqualified personnel because the physician

suspected that they were not correct, and when you ran the tests, the results were significantly different than the first results, changing the treatment or diagnosis for the patient?

If you have experienced these or other similar situations where erroneous lab results were reported by unqualified personnel, with the correct results later reported and changing treatment

and/or diagnosis for the patient, we would love to hear from you. Of course, all patient and laboratory names and other possibly identifying information would need to be eliminated. Just a short story about what happened in a generic format would be a great way to share with legislators the problems we see when unqualified personnel work in clinical laboratories.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED...



The following is the invitation sent to legislators across the state of Idaho. We encourage our members to attend this reception as well if they are able to do so.

The Idaho Chapter of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science is pleased to invite you to a clinical laboratory tour and reception to be held on February 2, 2016 at St. Luke's Boise Medical Center, 190 E.

Bannock Street near downtown Boise. We ask you to take the opportunity to observe a dynamic, behind-the-scenes clinical laboratory, as well as talk with the laboratory professionals there, and become familiar with the reasons licensure for laboratory professionals is critical.

RECRUITING FOR THE SOCIETY



I am always so truly thankful that ASCLS Idaho offers the opportunity to attend and represent our state society at the national convention. This year was filled with education, social opportunities, and fond memories. There is one memory that really stood out this year, and I would like to take a minute to share that with everyone.

It was getting to be lunch time at the vendor sessions. Everyone in attendance received a box lunch and then you had to find a spot to eat. There were several round tables around, but most were full. A small group of us sat down, and I chose a seat next to a lady I had

never met. The group I was sitting with and I had a few questions about the AACC educational credits. I turned and asked this nice lady if she knew the answer. From there we just started talking. She was from Florida, and was here for the vendor sessions for AACC. I told her that I was attending ASCLS convention, and then she started asking me questions about the society. I was so surprised at how easy things were rolling off my tongue.

One Question that she asked really stood out in my mind. She asked why are you a member of ASCLS? There was no question in my mind. I

told her, I am a member because ASCLS offers opportunities for great continuing education, they provide a voice for the laboratory on Capitol Hill, and I love to socialize with other professionals who face the same working struggles I do.

This lady was a microbiologist and was working with others in her lab to prepare for IQCP. I told her one of the best things about ASCLS is there are members from all areas of the lab. We share our ideas, and offer suggestions on how to prepare for changes in regulations.

After our conversation she said she would stop by the ASCLS booth. I don't know if Florida received a new member that day, but I really felt proud that I shared how wonderful our society can be. Even though the convention was months ago, I will still treasure this memory, and hopefully I will have the opportunity to have more conversations like this in the future to help grow our society.



IT'S GOING TO BE AHHHH-MAZING!!

Filled with **fantastic speakers...TREMENDOUS EDUCATIONAL**

OPPORTUNITIES...spectacular entertainment and

EXTRAORDINARY VENDORS...the 2016 ASCLS-Idaho Spring Convention

can only be summed up in one word. **AMAZING!** We've got magi-

cians to thrill us, masters to teach us and much, much more! Admit it...this

convention is a **MUST SEE EVENT!** Request your time off

now and join us April 21-23 in Boise at the Grove Hotel!

Legislative *symposium*



ASCLS-IDAHO LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM 2016
ST. LUKE'S MAGIC VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Twin Falls, Idaho
March 26, 2016
1:00-4:00pm

ASCLS-Idaho is pleased to present the 2016 State Legislative Symposium. 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 discussed on the Hill during the 2016 ASCLS Legislative Symposium held in Washington, D.C.:

- Workforce Initiatives
- Clinical Lab Fee Schedule data submission for PAMA
- Laboratory Developed Tests (LDT's)

State licensure for laboratory professionals and other issues of local interest will also be discussed, along with an update on the Idaho Legislature's 2016 session.

Registration Fee
Postmarked by
March 12th:

Member	\$15
Student	\$10
Non-Member	\$25

Onsite Registration:

Member	\$25
Student	\$20
Non-Member	\$35

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND FEES TO:

Debbie Shell
5812 W. Buckskin Rd.
Pocatello, ID 83201

LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM 2016 REGISTRATION

Name _____ Email Address _____

ASCLS Member? Yes ___ No ___ ASCLS Member# _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone # _____ Home Phone # _____

Enclosed is my payment of \$ _____ (Make check payable to ASCLS - Idaho)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CON'T)

ing behind you. We hope you will maintain your ASCLS membership and become involved in our society.

November was a busy month for us. We had another Board meeting on the 7th. We also enjoyed an interesting talk on Genomics and Nanotechnology by Dr. Kois on Nov. 13th. We followed that with our new annual Rake Up Boise project. Melissa Dumoulin, our past President, started this tradition and we hope to continue it indefinitely. Please refer to our award winning web site or Facebook page for pictures of this fun event. Thank you to those that participated in either event.

The Spring Convention planning committee is already hard at work. The convention will be in Boise on April 21st-23rd at the Grove Hotel. It is a great opportunity to meet up with other Medical Laboratory Scientists and attend some great lectures. Quynh Pham is our General Chair this year and I am sure she would love to hear from you!

Licensure is top priority for us this year. We have just sent out our second letter to our respective Legislators. Thanks to Debbie Shell for all her hard work with this effort. See her article in this newsletter for more information.

The planning has also begun for the Intermountain States Seminar in Jackson Hole, WY beginning on Sept. 29th, 2016. Our meeting last month was a great success. It's a wonderful time and always good to meet other peers from the Region VIII states. The speakers were excellent. It was also the beginning of the new Region VIII Leadership Academy for 2015-2016. We are fortunate to have two students this year from Idaho. Diane Stumpf from Rexburg and Melva Pagan-Alvarez from Hailey. It's a great opportunity to learn about the workings of ASCLS and it also gives you the tools to be a leader whether it is in ASCLS or at your own hospital or clinic setting. They will present their project at the ASCLS National meeting in Philadelphia the first week of August 2016.

In closing, I hope you will consider coming to a Board meeting or any event we have planned for the year. It's a great way to meet some really fun, hardworking professionals who love to share their stories. Thanks again for your membership and I hope to meet you at one our meetings or events.

♡ Diana

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LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

You don't want to miss out on even one minute of the fun that ASCLS-Idaho has to offer...so be sure to "LIKE" us on [Facebook](#) so you can Be Informed about changes, Stay Connected with our ASCLS friends and Get Involved in the many educational and fun activities we offer throughout the year.

Be Informed...Stay Connected...Get Involved @ 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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