

Clinical Laboratory Scientists of Alaska
Board of Director's Meeting
January 17, 2004
Teleconference

The meeting was called to order at 09:10 am by Sheri Kulhanek.

Roll call indicated the following individuals were present:

Sheri Kulhanek	President
Mary Lashinski	President-Elect
Lana Assyd	Treasurer
Sue Myers	Secretary
Kim Ruechel	District Director-Arctic/Interior
Cathy Price	Government Liaison
Heidi Mannion	UAA Representative
Gloria Kragness	NMLW
Ryan Carroll	Student Member
Sharlane Donaldson	Industrial Liaison
Karen Martin	Webmaster
Teresa Johnson	
Marsha Souser	TAT Editor

Sheri called for additional items for the agenda:

Minutes from the Fall meeting

The minutes to the fall meeting had been e-mailed to all of the board and committee members. Two typographical errors were noted.

Treasurer's report: Lana Assyd

- All work has been completed for updating the signatory forms. Lana is still waiting for Sheri and Sue to sign the signatory forms.
- Lana has checked into starting a corporate VISA account that gives mileage for Alaska Airlines. Discussion indicated that there would be an annual fee of \$150.00 to have this account and an additional \$50.00 for each additional card that we request. A \$50 fee would be assessed every time we add a new card holder. Discussion included the potential of having a single card with only one name on it. All requests for money could be passed through this individual. We could also have a travel agent assigned to take care of all travel arrangements; this agent would have our VISA account number. Further research needs to be done. Lana will continue to investigate and will report at the next meeting.
- There will be an external audit in May, 2004. Books have been updated and sent to the CPA for filing taxes.
- Lana requested that all recipients of CLSA checks cash them promptly. This makes for cleaner bookkeeping.

- Treasurer's books indicate we have the following assets:
 - Checking: \$3289.89
 - Savings \$2870.05
 - Super MM \$35,530.53
 - Total \$41,690.47
- Proposed budget for 2004 comes to \$41,515.00
- Budget for 2003 operating expenses were \$35,802.00

Board Reports:

President Elect: Mary Lashinski

- Mary is available for helping with the 2004 conference if needed.
- Mary attended the North West Medical Laboratory Symposium.

Past President: Carolyn Johnson

- Carolyn is available to help Sheri wherever possible.

Arctic/Interior District: Kim Ruechel

- Kim attended the AABB Annual meeting in October.
- Fairbanks Memorial Hospital will be taking their first UAA MLT student for a blood bank rotation.

Central District: Jim Whitecavage

- Jim would like to bring together POL's and hospital laboratory professional's in order to gain a better understanding of the field needs.
- Jim is working on contacting vendors to put together a seminar in Anchorage.
- Jim contacted the State Health Department in Fairbanks to arrange an infectious disease seminar in March 2004.

Southeast District: Rod Beers

- No report
- Rod no longer lives in the southeast. Sheri has contacted Toni Collins to see if she would be interested in finishing out this term.

South Central District Director: Jody Johnson

- The South Central area had an outbreak of Bordetella Pertussis. The Homer hospital worked closely with the State Health Dept.
- Jodi is requesting information from other laboratories regarding who they allow to order tests in the laboratory, i.e., naturopaths, chiropractor, midwives.
- Jodi will be available to give a presentation at the spring meeting on Direct Access Testing, a program that the South Peninsula Hospital has instituted.

Region IX Director: Heidi Smith

- Membership at the national level has slowed down. She is concerned about losing the momentum we had generated. Sharon Morey, the regional Membership Chair, suggests we appoint two to three people assigned to each lapsed members to help regain some of these individuals. Information that should go to these individuals includes the work ASCLS does, personnel shortage information, White papers written, government contacts and work we have done in Washington.
- Heidi encourages everyone to purchase Laboratory Week supplies from the Trexco Associates firm since ASCLS gets a part of these profits.
- George Fritsma has been appointed FOCUS editor for the ASCLS journal.
- ASCLS has been asked to participate in the 'information gathering process' for individuals at risk for cardiovascular disease. Pass on any information to Heidi.
- Heidi is looking for nominations for the MDC representative and the Nomination Committee.
- Board reports are due to Heidi by February 14-this is a drop dead date.

Committee Reports:

Membership Chair: Mary Lashinski

- CLSA membership went down a bit, we have 95 current members. This is the same trend they are seeing nationally.
- Mary intends to contact lapsed members to see why they are not sending in their renewals and reminding them how easy it is to renew on line.
- Mary included a current list of members with her report.
- Mary requested names of individuals that she may be able to help to encourage to join or renew. She would like ideas on membership incentives. Discussion included monetary rewards to go toward future conferences or possibly other items that could be given as a thank you for joining or getting members to join.

Professional/Public Affairs: Sheri Kulhanek

- **Sheri attended a science fair at a local elementary school and spoke to students and faculty regarding the laboratory science field.**
- Sheri has contacted the CMN foundation and informed them of the conference date and our plans to conduct a fundraiser. They have offered to provide assistance for this activity.
- The CMN fundraiser will probably follow the same format as last year.
- Sheri will be sending out a letter to the board members and others who have helped in the past to assist in obtaining items for the fundraiser.
- Sheri is open to any recommendations/suggestions for making the CMN fundraiser better.

Student Member: Ryan Carroll

- Ryan is recruiting students for volunteering for the CMN fundraiser at the spring conference.
- The school store has been raising funds since August for student's admissions fees.
- Ryan is currently looking for donations for the fundraiser from the UAA culinary, massage, pottery departments.
- Ryan is willing to find volunteers to help with making the hospitality bags.
- Ryan wants to increase awareness of ASCLS to help membership.

UAA Representative: Heidi Mannion

- UAA had 5 students complete the MT program, 1 student completed the MLT program and 9 students completed the phlebotomy program.
- UAA received a donation of a Vitros750 as well as several other instruments that will be useful in orienting students to automation.
- Heidi has been recruiting speakers for the conference and has attached a preliminary conference schedule. She is still looking for several speakers and is requesting any information that anyone may have.
- PACE information has been collected for the speakers that Heidi has lined up already and she will pass this information on to Pam
- Heidi is requesting interesting slides and case studies for the students

Education Coordinator/Web Master: Karen Martin

- Karen has been keeping up with the web site. She will publish the preliminary conference schedule and meeting minutes this week.

Turn Around Times: Marcia Souser

- Marcia is preparing to publish the next newsletter and is asking for articles.
- Marcia is concerned about the mailing list and would like to know how to minimize missing any individuals.

Industrial Liaison: Sharlane Donaldson

- Sharlane listed the CLIA websites for individuals to view the final CLIA rules.
- Sharlane listed a few companies that have been in the news lately:
 - Abbott who has decided to purchase I-Stat
 - Wampole has legal action against it by Trinity Biotech
 - Roche CoaguChek strips have new lot numbers out that are not affected by their recent recall.
- Alaska Scientific has just celebrated their 14th anniversary.

Awards/Historian: Alicia Morgan

- Award certificates and plaques will be ready for the Annual conference
- Historical items are being stored at Alicia's house. She would like to have a sorting party to reduce the unnecessary items. She recommends fishing season.

National Medical Laboratory Week: Gloria Kragness

- Gloria will create a display ad for the Fairbanks newspaper
- Gloria is compiling a packet containing examples of ways NMLW has been celebrated in Alaska and will distribute this to laboratory facilities in February.
- Gloria will purchase ASCLS posters and distribute them to smaller laboratories. She recommends that pictures of local lab workers be attached to the posters to enhance public awareness.
- She will obtain proclamation from the Governor to send to laboratory facilities.

P.A.C.E.: Pam Jett

- All reports have been submitted to the national PACE office
- Pam has submitted the PACE bill to Lana.
- Pam intends to take care of the PACE needs of the 2004 conference.
- Pam is resigning her position as Alaska PACE coordinator

Bylaws: Shellie Smith

- Shellie will be presenting two sessions at the spring conference.

Government Liaison: Catherine Price

- The laboratory industry successfully lobbied against the “lab co-pay” clause in the Medicare Prescription Bill.
- The laboratory industry has a five year freeze on the Medicare Fee Schedule.
- Catherine will be going to the Legislative Symposium this year. The board has requested that she attempt to reduce the cost of the high ticket price by using her personal mileage accrual.
- Due to the high cost of tickets, Catherine will be the only CLSA member going to Legislative day.

POL: John Perry

- No report

Nominations and Elections: Carolyn Johnson

- The following board positions need to be filled at the general meeting this year:
 - President-Elect Kathleen Douglass
 - Treasurer Lana Assyd
 - Arctic Interior District Director Teresa Johnson
 - Nominations and Elections-2 members
 - South East District Director (to finish out Rod Beers term)
- CLSA needs to publish a “Call for Nominations” to the general membership. This was recommended to be done via e-mail. Teresa Johnson will send this out
- Bios of all nominees should be published in the Turn Around Times.
- Teresa Johnson and Bill Segler are working on additional nominees and ballots

2002 conference Committee: Carolyn Johnson

- Conference Theme is “On the Edge”
- The Anchorage Sheraton has been secured for the meeting April 21-24, 2004
- Art Services North has been contacted to set up booth exhibit space
- Extensive discussion regarding the conference took place indicating that we may be falling behind previous deadlines. The conference committee regrouped at the request of the President and the board of directors. The following individuals have volunteered for conference committees:
 - Lana Assyd Exhibit Chair/Facility Chair
 - Heidi Mannion Program Chair
 - Teresa Johnson Registration Chair
 - Sue Myers Moderator Chair
 - Hospitality chair will be performed jointly by Sheri Kulhanek, Ryan Carroll and the combined efforts of all the board members.

- At this time, items and individuals still needed include:
 - Any items for the hospitality bags.
 - Door prizes
 - Volunteers to sit at the registration desk.
 - AV chair/AV equipment
- Heidi is checking on the possibility of having a beer or wine tasting at the Sheraton in conjunction with the banquet.
- Lana is checking with the Sheraton regarding renegotiating the contract and reservation deadlines.

Unfinished Business

Licensure

- Heidi has the model licensure bill from National.
- Heidi recommends that our attempts toward licensure remain low profile to eliminate being blocked by special interest groups.

CLSA Banners

- Additional money has been placed in the district budgets to purchase banners. This item is still being researched.

District Mapping

- Discussion included what a fifth district would be composed of, should it be classified “rural” Alaska or a certain geographical area of Alaska.
- Sheri recommended that we invite the members from the rural areas of Western Alaska to the spring board of Directors meeting to receive their input.

New Business

ASCLS Annual Meeting

- The national conference will be held at the Hiatt in Los Angeles from July 27 – July 31. The theme is “CSI-LA”
- Five delegates usually go to the conference, President-Elect, President, Past President, student representative and one additional individual. Anyone interested in attending should contact Sheri.

Legislative Day 2004

- Catherine Price will be attending.
- This is an important event that should not be missed or taken lightly. We have a huge impact on our lawmakers.
- We have had a great impact with our responses to the “rapid response” mailings

Scholarships

- Dade Berhing is giving out 500 \$1000.00 scholarships. The information for these scholarships is on the ASCLS web site.

NAACLS

- NAACLS is working on a recommendation to require entry level education into the field to be placed at the Masters Degree level. There has been considerable discussion regarding this and the impact it may have on employment and recruitment. Information regarding this issue can be found on the ASCLS website.
- Heidi has looked into this extensively. It was suggested that she combine this topic with the licensure topic to be presented at the spring conference. Watch for a special presentation of these two topics on the program.

Professional awareness

- Sheri read an article from Barb Brawn regarding misleading information about laboratory scientist that was published in an article regarding the nursing shortage. This media coverage portrayed the laboratory in a dimension that was not fully correct or appealing. The national office is preparing a statement to be sent in to the publishers of this media article.
- It is requested that any similar media coverage that you may see or hear be passed along to the national office so that we may respond to it and correct any misleading or incorrect information at the source.

President's report: Sheri Kulhanek

- Sheri contacted the Barrett Inn to set up a file for the CLSA in the event we use that facility again for future meetings.
- Sheri attended the Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium. She was pleased to see approximately 10-15 Alaskan members present at the meeting.
- Sheri has contacted the Anchorage and Convention Visitors Bureau concerning booth space at the American Indian Society for Engineering and Science (AISES) convention in October 2004. Any information Sheri receives will be forwarded to the board of directors.
- Sheri has requested meeting planners from the Visitors Bureau in anticipation of the 2005 spring conference.
- Sheri has personally contacted several lapsed members to consider renewing.
- Sheri is working on the CLSA awards list.
- Sheri is recommending everyone to visit both the ASCLS and the CLSA websites frequently.

Professional awareness

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Sue Myers, CLS (NCA)
CLSA Secretary