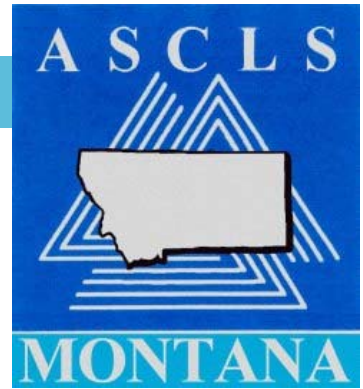
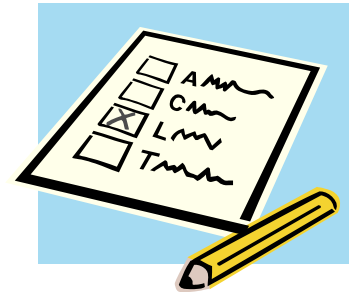
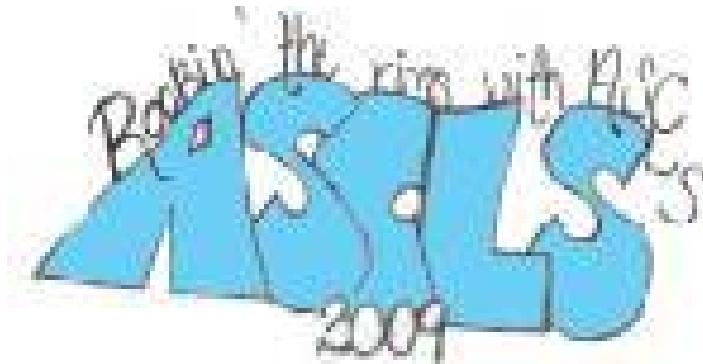


Montana Laboratory News



Spring 2009



ASCLS-MT 2009

Rockin' The Rims

Billings will be host this year to the ASCLS-MT annual spring meeting. The dates are Wednesday, April 22 to Saturday, April 25. The location is at the Holiday Inn – Grand in Billings West, off of I-90 at exit 447. The Holiday Inn has rooms blocked for ASCLS-MT until April 20th.

Wednesday evening will be a chance to see the exhibits and student posters with appetizers and a no host bar.

Thursday evening will be the silent auction with proceeds to benefit the Children's Miracle Network.

Friday night we will be entertained by the *Clintons*. The Clintons perform pop, rock and country music. Proceeds from the Friday social will go toward scholarships for students who have completed their undergrad studies at a Montana institution and are accepted into an internship program.

It won't be all fun and games! There are Speakers of Note: Elissa Passiment from ASCLS will be there to present an update on ASCLS issues and activities, and Farogh Nazari, who spoke at Jackson Hole last fall is with us again to tell us how to create Raving Fans.

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Annual ASCLS-MT Election

Check your e-mail for the ASCLS-MT ballot that was distributed through the member listserve. The ballot was distributed electronically this year for the first time. The Election will take place at the General Business Meeting on Friday, April 23. Contact Amy Steinmetz, Nominations Chair, at asteinmetz@billingsclinic.org if you did not receive a ballot, and would like your vote to be counted on April 23rd.

Offices to be filled and nominees include:
President Elect: Vivian Schaffer
Treasurer: Robyn Temple-Smolkin
Board of Directors: Amy Steinmetz
Awards and Scholarships: Martin Guthrie
Nominations Committee:
District 1 – Keri Taylor
District 3 – Brenden Collins
District 5 – Lana Hamilton

Brief biographies are found on pages 3-4.

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President

Joni Gilstrap
1245 Ave E
Billings, MT 59102
406-252-6337 (H)
406-657-4046 (W)
jgilstrap@billingsclinic.org

President-Elect

Vicki Rice
124 Colter Loop
Helena, MT 59602
406-459-4978 (cell)
406-459-4978 (cell)
Vicki.rice@gmail.com
Vicki.rice@va.gov

Past-President & Leadership Development

Linda Masin
2425-21st Street West
Billings, MT 59102
406-259-8798 (H)
406-247-6330 (W)
lmassin@billingsclinic.org

Secretary

Chelsea Wallace
Billings, MT 59102
406-696-2656 (H)
406-657-4060 (W)
wallace_chelsea@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Vivian Schaffer
3305 Pine Hills Drive
Helena, MT 59602
406-475-3075 (H)
406-444-3444 (W)
gvschaffer@mt.net

Membership & Professional Development

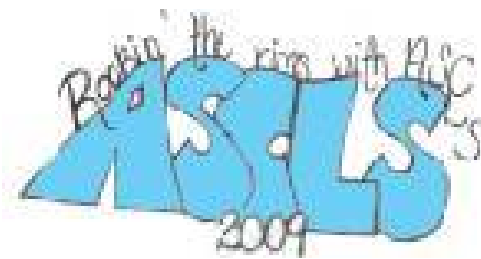
Carrie Biskupiak
1336 Beaverhead Road
Helena, MT 59602
406-442-5561 (H)
406-444-3444 (W)
c.biskupiak@bresnan.net
cbiskupiak@mt.gov

Education/P.A.C.E.

Coordinator
Susan Brown
Yellowstone Pathology Institute
2900 12th Ave. N., #295W
Billings, MT 59101
406-238-6059 (w)
susan.brown@ypii.com



Remember to renew your license by May 1st. If you are a few credits short of the 14 required, the meeting in Billings will be a great place to collect those you need and perhaps a few extra to carry over for next year.



Rocking the Rims

(cont'd from page 1)

The program includes sessions in finance, cardiac markers, gel technology in Blood Bank, a new technology called Luminex applicable to chemistry and microbiology, circulating tumor cells. Other sessions will involve micro, coag, hematology, molecular diagnostics, newborn screening, and transfusion medicine.

Go to the ASCLS-MT website to download the registration. The deadline for early registration is April 15th. By the way, you may notice that if you join ASCLS you will not only become a member, but be able to attend all three day's sessions for less than attending the three days as a non-member. Meals and breaks are included in the registration except for the Friday evening social event.

Call 1-888-465-4329 or 248-7701 to reserve a room at the Holiday Inn-Grand.

Senate Bill 287 Threatened the Clinical Laboratory Profession

By Carrie Biskupiak

Thanks to the quick and effective action of several representatives of your ASCLS-Montana board and their leadership, the threat of SB 287 is over. This bill was introduced in the Senate as a "consumer freedom and access to services" on behalf of unlicensed health care providers. Senator Joe Balyeat was asked to carry this bill on behalf of non-licensed providers which included message therapists, herbalists, cultural healers and many other eccentric service providers. SB 287 was touted as being in the consumer's best interest since it would allow these "specialized" service providers to treat people without the threat of penalty or sanctions. However, it was far from being a simple bill that would help the public. In fact it was a dangerously worded bill that would have opened the door to non-licensed practitioners to essentially practice medicine, **including laboratory sciences**, without any accountability including sanctions or penalties. To add insult to injury, if this bill had passed, the cost of changing board and administrative rules would have cost approximately \$250,000 and this cost would have been borne by an increase in fees for licensed health care professionals!

SB 287 very quietly flew under the radar when introduced in the Senate and easily passed through the committee hearing and was ultimately transmitted to the House for consideration. It was at this time that a few of your fellow colleagues

Continued on Page 5

Meet the Candidates

President Elect Vivian Schaffer

Vivian came to Montana in 1997 after working 12 years at a hospital in Phoenix, AZ. In 1998 Vivian was hired at the Montana State Public Health Laboratory and worked mainly in the areas of serology and molecular biology until her retirement in November of 2008. Shortly after starting work at the PHL, Vivian joined ASCLS and has served on the Awards and Scholarship committee, Board of Directors, and for the last 4 years has been ASCLS-MT treasurer. Vivian has two daughters, one married and living in Helena and the other in Missoula going to school. She has one grandson, Joshua. Her husband is also retired so they like to travel whenever possible and spend time in Arizona during the winter months.

Treasurer

Robyn Temple-Smolkin PhD, CLSpMB (NCA), CLCP (NCA)

After receiving her PhD in Molecular & Cellular Biology from SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY and postdoctoral training in transplant immunogenetics at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, PA, Robyn relocated to Helena with her family in 2005. Robyn began working at

Shodair Children's Hospital where she developed and implemented a clinical pharmacogenetics testing program for Shodair Children's Hospital. After leaving Shodair, Robyn began working as a consultant for Mountain West Pathology. Together with her colleagues, Robyn developed and launched Big Sky Diagnostic Labs where she currently serves as the Director of Laboratory Operations.

Robyn has recently served on the ASCLS-MT Nominations Committee for District IV, having relinquished that position in order to run for Treasurer. Besides ASCLS, Robyn is also a member of the Association for Molecular Pathology and currently serves on AMP's Membership and Professional Development Committee.

Board of Directors Amy Steinmetz

Amy completed her undergraduate studies at Montana State University receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology. She was accepted into the University of North Dakota Medical Technology Program in 1999 and did her internship at the Billings Clinic.

Soon after graduation she began working at the Billings Clinic as a generalist on the evening shift. Since then she has had many roles including day shift generalist, Education Coordinator for UND Students and Education and Training Coordinator for new employees at

MLN Editor

Susan Keeney
1207 Ave B NW
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-453-7255 (H)
406-455-5439 (W)
skeeney@bresnan.net

Circulation & Webmaster

Susie Zanto
2 Capital Court
Helena, MT 59601
406-442-5776 (H)
406-444-2839 (W)
Da_zzzz@yahoo.com
szanto@mt.gov

District I Chair

Dawn Nagle
P.O. Box 618
Circle, MT 59215
406-485-2053
406-653-2100
nagles@midrivers.com

District II Chair

Karen Myers
9425 Crystal Springs
Havre, MT 59501
406-395-4514 (H)
406-395-4486 (W)
myersmt@mtintouch.net

District III Chair

Jayne Lehman
Billings, MT

District IV Chair

Eleanor Harvey
5 Paradise Ranch Road
Livingston, MT 59047
406-333-9099 (H)
info@carrollsbands.com

District V Chair

Lana Hamilton
6405 S. Meadowwood
Missoula, MT 59803
406-251-3456 (H)
lane@bigsky.net

Region VIII Director

J.R. Constance
720-339-3646
jrc@rodricom.com

Board of Directors

Connie Buchanan – 2nd year
3136 Lampman Dr
Billings, MT 59102
406-656-2111 (H)
406-238-2930 (W)

Jeannine Pembroke – 1st year
2945 Rocky Pine Drive
Helena, MT 59601
406-447-7910
horse6114@aol.com

Nominations Committee

District I

Keri Taylor
877 Prairie Elk Dr
Wolf Point, MT 59201
406-485-2869
osukeri@yahoo.com

District II

Rhona D'Antuono
3617 8th Ave South
Great Falls, Montana 59405
406-453-4939 (H)
liquird@montana.com

District III

Amy Steinmetz
1226 Colton Blvd
Billings, MT 59102
406-245-7836 (H)
406-657-4076(W)
asteinmetz@billingsclinic.org

District IV

Robyn Temple-Smolkin
201 E. Lyndale Ave
Helena, MT 59601
406-461-8089
rtemplesmolkin@aol.com

District V

Lana Hamilton
6405 S. Meadowwood
Missoula, MT 59803
406-251-3456 (H)
lane@bigsky.net

Meet the Candidates

Amy Steinmetz (cont'd)

Billings Clinic. She currently works as a System Specialist for the LIS department at the Billings Clinic. She became active in ASCLS as a member of the nominations committee in 2005 and has held this position for the last 4 years. She was also appointed as the Student Liaison helping to get students involved in the organization. She has attended many ASCLS functions including the national meetings in Chicago and Washington DC and also Legislative Days.

Awards & Scholarships

Martin Guthrie

Martin Guthrie is from Missoula, Montana. No additional information was available at press time.

Nominations Committee

District I: Keri Taylor

Keri Taylor is from Wolf Point, Montana, and has served on the Nominations Committee the past two years. No additional information was available at press time.

District III:

Brenden Collins

Brenden works as a generalist on evening shift at the Billings Clinic laboratory. After graduating from MSU-Bozeman with a degree in Microbiology: Clinical Laboratory

Brenden Collins (cont'd)

Science, he started working as a Med Tech in June of 2007. Brenden joined ASCLS as a student during his clinical rotations and has continued his membership since graduation.

Presently, he is on the planning committee for the 2009 ASCLS-MT State meeting.

District V:

Lana Hamilton

Lana has worked as a generalist on the evening shift @ St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, MT since 1977. She has worked with Linda Bronson on the ASCLS nomination committee the last two years and has been the District 5 Chair for one year. For many years she has been an ASCP state representative involved mainly in helping to provide continuing education for local laboratory professionals.

Make Plans to Attend IMSS in Jackson Hole this September. Colorado is the host state, and ASCLS-Colorado members have a great program planned.

Intermountain States Seminar
2009
Jackson Hole, Wyoming
September 16-19, 2009



TETON MOUNTAIN MYSTERY

<http://imss.asclsregionviii.org>

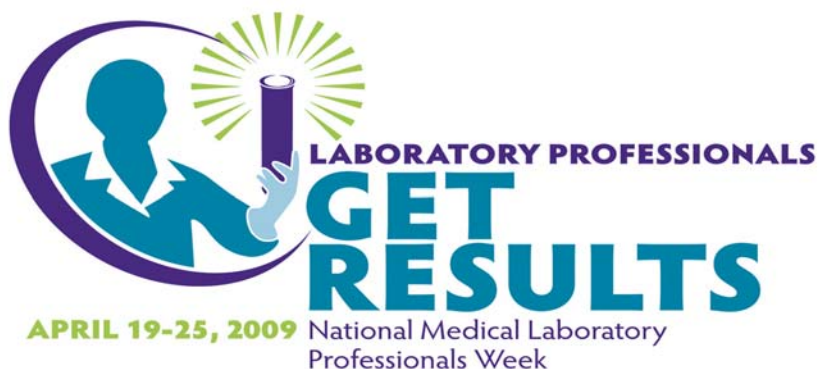
Clinical Laboratory Profession Threatened

By Carrie Biskupiak (cont'd from page 2)

became aware of the bill and the threat that it posed to all licensed laboratory practitioners and hired Mona Jamison to represent ASCLS-Montana in the fight to defeat this harmful legislation. Mona was actually the attorney who ASCLS-Montana hired several years ago to help the association on the issue of licensure for Clinical Laboratory Scientists. Personally I had the opportunity to experience the legislative process first hand. I participated in several strategic planning sessions with representatives from the respective hospitals, doctors, nursing and other licensed health care organizations. When it came time for the hearing in the House Business and Labor Committee, Mona Jamison was well prepared to represent the laboratory profession. The testimony from people on both sides of the issue was passionate and at times heated. Mona Jamison led the way in opposition of the bill and gave persuasive testimony that set the tone for all the other licensed health care professionals and their organizations that followed.

Following the committee hearing, discussions with several members of House Business and Labor gave us a sense of comfort that the bill would be defeated. However, it was not until the committee took executive action several days later that the bill was tabled on a 14-4 vote. It is interesting to note that Mona and I were the only representatives of licensed health care professionals present at the time of this executive action and this fact did not go unnoticed by the committee members.

I am proud to have been a part of the effort that helped defeat this bill. Your association was represented incredibly well by the hired lobbyist, Mona Jamison. We asked you, our members, to contact your Representatives and ask them to oppose this bill. I believe this "grassroots" effort was a major factor in our success. The formal position statement from the ASCLS-Montana board also contributed to the effort. Not only did we stand united with hospitals, doctors and other health care professionals in opposition to this bill, we led the way in defeating this bill! My thanks go to Kathy Martinka, Joni Gilstrap, Vicki Rice and other officers of ASCLS-Montana in protecting our honored profession.



New Professionals Board Member

Cara Ryan
3390 Canyon Dr. D20
Billings, MT 59102
cryan@billingsclinic.org

Liaison for Students

Amy Steinmetz
1226 Colton Blvd
Billings, MT 59102
406-245-7836 (H)
406-657-4076 (W)
asteinmetz@billingsclinic.org

Awards and Scholarships

Michelle Nelson-2nd year
3186 Viola Lane
406-248-9168 (W)
406-248-9168 (H)
mnelson@bloodsystems.org

Renee Kloser- 1st year
Missoula, MT 59801
406-721-5600 (W)
406-728-6397 (H)
neerayr@yahoo.com

Finance and Audit

Robert Senecal
5770 Sunset Rd
Helena, MT 59601
406-422-0095
Rob3@bresnan.net
rsenecal@stpetes.org

Govt. Affairs/PAC Coordinator

Linda Masin
2425 21st Street West
Billings, MT 59102
406-259-8798 (H)
406-247-6330 (W)
lmassin@billingsclinic.org

By-Laws

Barbara Hudson
412 N. 23rd
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-994-5664
406-586-9440
bhudson@montana.edu

File Custodian

Rhonda Craver
8787 Huffman Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715
rcraver@montana.edu

Calendar of Events

April 19 – 25, 2009	National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week
April 23 – 25, 2009	ASCLS-MT Annual Spring Meeting, Billings, MT
July 21 – 25, 2009	ASCLS 2009 National Meeting, Chicago, IL
September 16 – 19, 2009	Intermountain States Seminar, Jackson, WY
October 21 – 25, 2009	Northwest Medical Lab Symposium, Seattle, WA
February 25 – 27, 2010	Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference, Biloxi, MS
July 27 – 31, 2010	ASCLS 2010 National Meeting, Anaheim, CA

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Susie Zanto, Circulation
2 Capital Court
Helena, MT 50601