



**ASCLS-IA Board Meeting
Summer/Fall**

**Date: October 14th, 2017
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Conference call**

Please bring: Any committee reports

Agenda

Agenda Item	Responsible Person	Time Allotted
Call to Order	Vonnie Hinrichsen	5
Secretary's Report	Bridget Greiner	5
Treasurer's Report	Sue McGuinty	10
President's Report	Vonnie Hinrichsen	10
Committee Reports	Committee Chairs	40
<i>A Annual Meeting</i>	Lindsey Davenport-Landry	
<i>B By-Laws</i>	Theresa Fruehling	
<i>C Governmental Affairs/Political Action</i>	Theresa Fruehling	
<i>D Historian</i>	Vonnie Hinrichsen	
<i>E Leadership Development</i>	Rebecca Dill-Devor	
<i>F Membership</i>	Vonnie Hinrichsen	
<i>G New Professional Committee</i>	Sarah Beerends	
<i>H NewsScope Editor(s)</i>	Judy Jackson	
<i>I Nominations and Awards</i>	Lindsey Davenport-Landry	
<i>J P.A.C.E. Coordinator</i>	Kim Von Ahsen	
<i>K Promotion of the Profession</i>	Vonnie Hinrichsen	
<i>Subcommittee: Career Recruitment</i>		
<i>Subcommittee: Professional/Public Relations</i>		
<i>L Scholarship</i>	Sue McGuinty	
<i>M Webmaster</i>	Kim Von Ahsen	
Old Business:		20
New Business:		30
• Spring Meeting with CLMA		
• Calendar:		
○ Decide on dates for Fall and Winter Board meeting		
• Open discussion		
Adjournment		



ASCLS-IA Board Meeting

Date: October 14, 2017
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Conference call

Minutes

<p>Board Members Present:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vonnie Hinrichsen, President <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Taylor, President elect <input type="checkbox"/> Lindsey Davenport-Landry, Past President <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bridget Greiner, Secretary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue McGuinty, Treasurer <input type="checkbox"/> Mitchell Owens, Board Member 3rd Year <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Dill-Devor Board Member 2nd Year <input type="checkbox"/> Shawn Froelich Board Member 1st Year <input type="checkbox"/> Open, First Year Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Open, Student Forum</p>	<p>Other Member's Present:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Theresa F. <input type="checkbox"/> Mick Williams <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Guests:</p>
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Call to Order
 Meeting called to order by Vonnie Hinrichson at 7:07 pm

Secretary's Report
 Minutes from the Winter Spring Summer \ Fall were reviewed with:
 Following Changes:

No Changes

Hearing no further additions, changes, or deletions to the Secretary's Report;
 The minutes were accepted by President as printed/posted corrected

Treasurer's Report
 See report.
 Treasurer's report was reviewed with:
 Following Changes:

No Changes

Hearing no further additions, changes, or deletions to the Treasurer's Report;
 The Treasurer's Report was accepted by President as printed/posted corrected

President's Report

PURPOSE: To update the board and membership on activities at all levels.

ACTIVITIES:

State Level

1. Planning for the next Spring meeting has been in process. Meeting will be in Des Moines at the Holiday Inn by the airport. Dates for this meeting are April 3-4th, 2018. This is a Tuesday-Wednesday meeting. The committee has been having conference calls bi-weekly to keep abreast of the decisions needing to be made.
2. Cedar Valley Science Symposium will be the weekend of November 11th. Thank you to Theresa for planning and pulling that together.
3. ASCLS-IA had 5 members attend the National meeting in San Diego in July/August. I attended the Mentoring session and would like to try and fashion a program for Iowa based on what was talked about at national.
4. Membership issues continue to be of concern. I am planning on looking at our roster a little closer to see what we can do as leaders to reach out more to the membership and make them feel connected to the association.
5. A calendar for this year has been put together and would like feedback as to meeting dates, etc. so they are dates satisfactory to all of our needs.

Regional Level

1. Region Fall board meeting will be held in Des Moines November 11-12th. Kim Von Ahsen is our region director and will facilitate the meeting. Thanks, Kim, for planning this meeting!

National Level

1. As stated at the National House of Delegates, membership categories are being discussed and will be restructured to fit our society better. The members of this committee will continue to work on these categories to vote on at next year's meeting.
2. Added to the website are leadership modules which are designed to help members taking on new leadership roles to know what is expected of them. They can be found by searching Leadership Resources. There are many informative resources found at this location.
3. The Legislative Symposium is scheduled for March 19-20th in Alexandria, VA/Washington DC.
4. The 2018 Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago July 29-Aug 2, 2018

President's report was reviewed with:

Following Changes:

No Changes

Discussion:

A. Annual Meeting: Vonnie has been to one conference call. Lindsey and Kim will have more information on this. Will report more at next meeting. Contact them for more information via email, possibly.

B. By-Laws: Mick Williams, Theresa F, Doug

Transition period, Doug has volunteered to fill this position. Mick is helping with this transition. Header for report was changed.

C. Governmental Affairs/Political Action: Theresa F

PURPOSE: Keep members informed about issues effecting the clinical laboratory profession and encourage members to donate to PAC in order to enable our voices to be heard in Washington, D.C.

ACTIVITIES:

- Receive email updates from Region 6 Chair for GAC and PAC about activities and issues
- Region 6 GAC representative Paula Garrott:
 - Any issues/ updates need to be sent to her for her upcoming report
- Region 6 PAC representative and National Chair Linda Hickok
- Please refer below for summary of current minutes from GAC: main focus- edits of letter to PAMA
 - **Legislative Update – Patrick Cooney, Legislative Consultant**

Congress came back last week and there has been quite a bit going on in addition to a revived health reform effort. There are two separate efforts moving forward on health care reform. The first effort, led by Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC), is promoting a piece of legislation that is similar to previous legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. The second is a more credible effort led by Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) promoting a bipartisan solution to help reform the individual market issues. It seems to have

more potential because there are both Democrats and Republicans who want to fix, at least for now, how the individual market works.

There has also been some activity on trying to reauthorize some of the health training programs within the Public Health Service Act. There was a hearing in the Energy and Commerce Committee late last week on that issue. The House and the Senate have produced their annual appropriation bills for the Labor, HHS, and Education Departments. The bills are dramatically different from each other, and far away from what the President proposed; thus, they will probably continue funding at the current level for the foreseeable future.

The Senate Finance Committee came out with a proposal last week to get CHIP reauthorized for 5 years at a cost of \$8 billion dollars. This week the House Committees expressed an interest in wanting to add Medicare provisions to this effort. The situation is being watched to see what this means for the clinical laboratory.

- **Regulatory Update – Jim Flanigan, ASCLS Staff Liaison**

Last week ASCLS joined more than 60 healthcare organizations to send a letter to Congressional leadership urging them to move forward on their legislative solution addressing those impacted by the Executive Order rescinding DACA. For the most part the feedback was good, and ASCLS is responding to any negative feedback.

PAMA: We are anticipating that we are getting closer and closer to when CMS will be publishing CLFS rates, and hopefully publishing links to any and all of the codes. When this happens, all members of the GAC will be alerted. We will need to understand exactly what it is that CMS is proposing, the change in the CLFS, how bad it is, and what the issues are and the committee will then determine how we want to respond. We will likely need to provide comments to CMS on the proposal. If it turns out we will need to pursue a legislative remedy to what we anticipate will be bad news, we will work with other laboratory groups to figure out what legislative remedy we want and will mobilize the ASCLS membership.

The “report language” in the Senate Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill that deals with PAMA “encourages CMS to continue to work with stakeholders to address data accuracy concerns and ensure the report data appropriately represents the full spectrum of laboratories, including hospitals, independent, and physician office laboratories that are paid under the Medicare CLFS.” We support that language, but it does not have the force of law and does not require CMS to do anything, but it does tell CMS that the folks on Capitol Hill are watching.

During a meeting of the ASCLS Annual Meeting Steering Committee in Chicago, it was noted that the GAC meeting was packed with people who were not necessarily GAC members, but were very interested in government affairs and the committee itself. The steering committee asked if it would be possible for the GAC to provide a forum to update the membership on government affairs instead of having a GAC meeting on Sunday evening. While the members of the GAC thought it was a good idea to have an educational meeting on government affairs for the general membership, they felt there was a need for a separate GAC meeting to address the business of the committee. It was suggested that the educational meeting be immediately followed by the committee meeting. The time identified for the educational meeting for members was 4-5 p.m. on Sunday to be followed by the GAC meeting from 5-6 p.m.

ASCLS has signed a contract to extend our stay at the Hilton Old Town Alexandria, VA for two more years. The hotel will expand the space used for educational programming during the symposium. We have been approached by the American Society of Microbiology asking to join the group of organizations who sponsor the Annual Legislative Symposium.

- **DAIA – Kathy Hansen, Advisory Member**

The working group met via conference call in August at which time they polished up the comments on the middle third of the bill - Section 4. The group is meeting again tomorrow to look at the draft comments for the remainder of the bill, sections 5 and 6, and do a final review of section 4. The comments will go to congressional offices by the end of the month.

- **LATEST CALL TO ACTION:** Should have received an email asking to sign on to a letter being sent to CMS regarding their latest plan for impending laboratory cuts:

"The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is proposing more than \$600 million in cuts to laboratory reimbursements beginning January 1, 2018, with total cuts rising to as much as \$1.5 billion annually compared to current reimbursement levels by 2020. These cuts are part of a flawed implementation of the Preserving Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) passed in 2014.

Over ten years, the cuts may total as much as \$13 billion, which is more than three times the estimate of \$3.9 billion Congress originally anticipated.

The impact of cuts to the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule (CLFS) will fall disproportionately on nursing homes served by local hospitals, small independent laboratories, and laboratories in physician offices, as well as Medicare-dependent hospitals and community hospitals in rural areas.

We need the entire laboratory community to take action now! *Follow this link for more detailed information and to easily contact your elected representatives.*

*Having committed the agency to a deeply-flawed data collection process, **CMS has now drafted a distorted fee schedule built on questionable data collected from just five percent of the laboratories in the United States.** CMS admits that just 1.85 percent of data was collected from laboratories serving rural areas.*

*Cuts to the CLFS will have a ripple effect through private insurers and other government payors like Medicaid, which use the CLFS to set their own rates. The outpatient laboratory service system in the United States could see a reduction in total annual reimbursements by as much as 25 percent over the next three years. **The result will be a dramatic reduction in available testing and access to laboratory services for patients and clinicians.** The cuts will also result in a near elimination of capital investment in the latest technologies needed to improve care.*

Congress must act to prevent their constituents from losing access to these critical, life-saving medical services.

Deeply Flawed Approach by CMS

Based on the implementation by CMS, Congress could have called this law the Preventing Access to Medicare Act. Choices made by the agency throughout this process were designed to lock out entire service sites and limit patient access to appropriate laboratory services. CMS chose to:

- *Define which laboratories would report data in the narrowest possible terms, resulting in 90% of reported data coming from independent laboratories. Hospitals and physician office laboratories provide 44% of Medicare services but represent just 8.5% of the reporting entities. Less than 1 percent of hospitals and physician office laboratories reported data. In 2016, HHS Office of Inspector General predicted 3,500 laboratories would report data, but 55% of that number actually did.*
- *Change reporting requirements and deadlines multiple times and then ignore concerns that reported data lacked any verification process, resulting in a data set that includes erroneous data points, dramatic outliers and magnitudes of difference between the calculated mean and median.*
- *Ignore the intent of Congress and publish rates for some highly used codes that will cut actual reimbursement by as much as 40% next year. For those HCPCS codes without a National Limitation Amount (e.g. 80061 Lipid Panel), CMS failed to set a reasonable benchmark for what laboratories are currently being reimbursed, and instead, proposes implementing the full cut in a single year.*

The laboratory community has warned CMS and Congress during this entire process that the implementation was improperly managed. The agency's own analysis shows significant numbers of reporting entities don't appear to meet the definition of applicable laboratories. The analysis also show entities that submitted inaccurate data. CMS exhibited a pattern of excluding data that would have increased the weighted median, but included questionable data that lowered the weighted median.

In September 2016, The Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General shared its concern about a lack of data validation. "Absent processes to verify whether applicable labs report their data or to verify the quality of data that

labs report, CMS may set inaccurate Medicare payment rates for lab tests. **PAMA required CMS to set Medicare payments rates for lab tests by using a market-based approach...** If CMS does not have appropriate safeguards to ensure that all applicable labs report complete and accurate data, it may result in new Medicare payment rates that are inaccurate." (OEI-09-16-00100)

It is worth noting that CMS, trying to blunt criticism, performed "simulations" of broader reporting of data and claims that additional reporting would have not made a "significant impact." However, the simulations ignore the fact that unreported data would likely be at higher payment rates, making the simulations entirely useless as a predictor of the actual market. The reported "simulations" are designed to distract Congress and the public from the mistakes the agency made during implementation.

Congress may have anticipated these issues. Within the law, Congress directs the General Accounting Office (GAO) to perform a study of the PAMA implementation that examines payment rates across laboratory settings (including laboratories that furnish low volume services), the response from private payors, the impact on beneficiaries, and whether the data "accurately reflects market prices." Congress should accelerate the timeline for this report.

The wide-ranging impact these cuts will have on the entire healthcare system are too grave to base them on incomplete and unverified data. Congress must seek a delay and direct GAO to study the implementation immediately.

Solution

Through the chairs of the Senate Finance, House Ways and Means and House Energy and Commerce, **Congress must communicate to the Administration that these misguided cuts must not be implemented.** Delay is critical until CMS can work with stakeholders to demonstrate the agency can properly collect and validate data that accurately reflects the market."

CONCERNS:

REQUESTS FOR ACTION:

Sign on to the letters. Not sure on response from each office. Add \$194 billion in next 10 years with Trumps proposal. Theresa will let us know when it will be good to call congressional leaders. Right now they are overwhelmed with constituents calling in. PAMA letter with 20 other health groups with changes. Expect the unexpected. No one knows what will come next. ASM joining in on leg day symposium? And sponsor? Not potentially a problem. Brings in more members to rally on the hill. More to join in on the common goal. Reach out to Robert Humble, president of med school body. Jim Flanigan says to go ahead and call congressional leaders. Talking points: Theresa will get them and send out more info after Monday night's call.

D. Historian: Vonnie H.
Nothing to report.

E. Leadership Development: Rebecca Dill-Devor

PURPOSE: The Leadership Development Committee cultivates members to encourage those individuals who have indicated a talent and interest in serving in a leadership position.

ACTIVITIES:

*Participated in first conference call with National Leadership group. Manual to find? Sarah will forward link to Becky.

CONCERNS: New to this position so I don't know what has been done in the past or what we need done in the future. I would like to send out a blast email to the membership to gauge interest and to see if I can garner names for consideration for leadership roles.

REQUESTS FOR ACTION:

*How can I get my hands on the current members list? Vonnie will contact someone to get list and forward on.

F. Membership: Vonnie

Going to get ahold of membership roster. Contact lapsed members. Make a personal approach to people to see where we stand and make things better. Hold one day events around the state? Events at UIHC? MERF? VA? Small scale meeting, 1 speaker, 30-45 min time slots. CE credits? Different subjects by path residents? Theresa can email UIHC staff about contacting path resident's for speaking. Open to anyone; put a plug in for ASCLS and membership.

Grand Round openings:

Nov 30

Dec 12

Dec 25 and 28?

G. New Professional Committee: Sarah B

H. NewsScope Editor: Kearstyn W and Judy Jackson
Lindsey, Bridget submitted. Vonnie working on article

I. Nominations and Awards: Lindsey
Find Secretary to fill Bridget's position since she is President Elect-Elect

J. P.A.C.E. Coordinator: Kim

K. Promotion of the Profession: Theresa F
Contacting lapsed members from roster
STEM: Coe College – Amy, Darcy, Heidi, Becky – Open Doors Open Minds on Thursday.
Wartburg: 3 people signed up – Amy and Theresa; 5 would be better if they can get this. January.
STEM event Oct. 26 from 1-3pm – University of Iowa; Theresa and Angela, possibly Becky.
STEM event Dec. 7 from 1-3pm – UI; Theresa and Angela; Vonnie can help as well with supplies and presenting.

Subcommittee: Career Recruitment

Subcommittee: Professional/Public Relations

L. Scholarship: Sue M
Report will come out after the 1st of the year. Make one email address to send forms to.

M. Webmaster: Kim

Old Business

New Business

1. Annual Spring meeting w/ CLMA
2. Calendar:
 - a. Winter meeting dates
 - b. Regional board meeting Nov. 11 & 12
 - c. Sunday, Nov 12 – afternoon? Send out a Doodle for time.
3. Open Discussion

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Vonnie at 8:28pm