

Greetings and Gratitude from Beckie Hetrick from KSCLS - December, 2015

Holiday greetings to all of you from KSCLS and its leadership. We are off to a busy start, and I have many things for which to be grateful.

The leadership group has seen some new great additions, and we hope that they will enjoy working with helping KSCLS to thrive in the coming year. Calvin Murphy and Kevin Staats have agreed to join the leadership group, and we welcome them. We also have Eric Rosa as the New Professional and Scott Waddell from Wichita State University representing the students. Welcome to all, and a big thank you to those who are in all our leadership positions.

The Leadership would also like to make sure that we have contact with all the students in various education programs in the state of Kansas. We tallied approximately 126 students in Kansas! Isn't that marvelous? Thanks to our educators who do such a fine job with those programs.

If you are reading this, you probably have noticed that the KSCLS website has been updated, and looks great. Thanks to Jean Brickell for all that work!

ASCLS continues to advocate for all laboratory professionals on the legislative front. You probably have seen the following message: As we told you last month, the PAMA legislation included a provision to allow CMS to make changes to the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule (CLFS). However, the proposed rule was not released until September 25th, instead of June 30th as the law required, making the proposed timeline for implementation unrealistic. Representatives Pascrell and Meehan in the House and Senator Brown in the Senate are circulating letters that request that CMS make appropriate changes to the implementation timeline in the final rule to provide laboratories reasonable time to comply and avoid financial penalties. The letters also request that CMS broaden its definition of applicable laboratories to ensure the data reflects market prices. We need as many legislators as possible to sign on to these letters. ASCLS has joined with the College of American Pathologists (CAP), the American Clinical Laboratory Association (ACLA) and the National Independent Laboratory Association (NILA) in this effort. If you would like more information, go to <https://www.votervoice.net/ASCLS/campaigns/43698/respond>.

Plans are underway with Wheatlands Chapter CLMA for a phenomenal meeting in April 26-27, 2016 in Manhattan at the Hilton Garden Inn. Come discover what is happening in the laboratory world! If you would like to help in planning and making the meeting a great success, please reach out to me or Ruby Brower about how you might help. This is the same time as

National Medical Lab Professional Week, so what a great way to celebrate the profession.

We are planning to meet in Wichita at Wichita State University for our winter leadership meeting on Feb. 6, 2016. Watch for details, and we would love to see any KSCLS or potential KSCLS member who is interested in learning more about what KSCLS is doing.

The ASCLS Legislative Symposium will be held in Washington, D.C., March 14-16, 2016. This is an opportunity to become informed about national laboratory issues, and an opportunity to speak with your legislators about those issues. It is always informative and exciting to participate in the legislative process by lobbying your legislators.

All of this activity leads to the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia July 31- August 4, 2016. (You may have seen different dates, but the meeting time had to change due to the Democratic National Convention being held there.)

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all the members of the leadership group who always are willing to help get it done. It is most appreciated.

Wishing you all safe and happy holidays and a very Happy New Year! If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me or anyone in the leadership group.