

# The Kansas Scope Spring/Summer 2023



Low temperatures and strong winds didn't stop ASCLS-KS members from bundling up to participate in this year's 5k

Increasing Visibility of the Laboratory Science Profession, 2023  
ASCLS-KS 5K, ASCLS-KS Annual Meeting



# Table of Contents

The President’s Corner.....	3
Doing Nothing is Not an Option.....	5-6
2023 ASCLS-KS 5K Run.....	7-8
2023 Legislative Symposium .....	9
2023 ASCLS-KS Annual Meeting.....	10-11
2023 ASCLS Joint Annual Meeting Awards.....	12

# The President's Corner

Beckie Hetrick

Looking back on the past year, many things were accomplished. Thanks to all! It was a great year! The leadership group began 2022-2023 year with face-to-face meeting in August which included some goal setting for the upcoming year. It was a good start to the new society year. One of the major tasks completed was the constituent society assessment provided by ASCLS. The self- assessment was used to help ASCLS discern the state of constituent societies and assess areas of improvement. One of the major areas of risk for constituent societies is the registration as a corporation within a society's state.(ASCLS has used this type of information in the leadership workshop being presented at the 2023 Joint Annual Meeting.) It was confirmed that our registry as a non-profit corporation had been completed on a timely basis and fees paid per the State of Kansas. Many thanks to Linda Hickok, our registered agent for completing the required paperwork.

A financial review of the society's assets was completed. Jan Hudzicki and Jean Cooper are to be thanked for their very thorough review. As there are several accounts, they spent quite a bit of time on the review. It was found that our finances were in good shape, but they did share a few ideas about ways to improve clarity and accountability which have been implemented.

The Spring Educational Meeting was very successful and was held at Camp Aldrich Retreat Facility in Great Bend. Many thanks to Karen Gunther for all her help in working with Barton Community College (BCC). BCC was very responsive to our needs, and everyone enjoyed spending some time at the retreat facility. Many thanks to our vendors for their support either by providing speakers or exhibiting. Thanks to all who presented. There was a great program which provided 10.5 hours of PACE® educational credit.

The lack of credentialed, quality staff is cited by most laboratories as the biggest issue facing their facilities, so it was a big topic of discussion at the Spring Meeting. There was a presentation using the ASCLS powerpoint about the naming of practitioners of our profession to provide clarity about medical laboratory professionals. It is hoped that all will begin to use the new credentials. If you have any questions about this, the powerpoint can be shared. The group at the Spring meeting brainstormed possible actions also for reaching out to middle and high school students who might be interested in learning about our profession. More to come on that later.



# The President's Corner

Beckie Hetrick

The annual business meeting was held on May 2, and new officers were installed. Per Jennifer Jones (Past-President) who presented the slate of potential candidates, the following members have been elected:

**Secretary:** Letycia Nuñez-Argote

**Board Members:** 3-year term: Kasey Edwardson

2-year term: Drew Jones

Richard Harmon was elected to complete Letycia Nuñez-Argote's Board term

**Representatives at Large:** Jessica Kinney, Karen Gunther, Yan Zheng

**Delegates for the Society to the 2023 Joint Annual Meeting:** Letycia Nuñez-Argote and Kasey Edwardson

Our leadership group this year includes some members who are new to their positions. Thanks to all who are serving in the leadership group, and I look forward to working with all of you. As I will be President one more year, I will begin asking people to consider committee and scientific assembly positions for the upcoming year.

Membership numbers are about the same as in previous years. Some ideas to attract new members to the society were also discussed. While it is preaching to the choir for many of you reading this, if one looks at the accomplishments of this past year- the support provided by ASCLS is so evident. Please be sure to renew or JOIN ASCLS this year. There is a lot of legislation that involves the laboratory, and obviously there is a great need to help attracting more people to our profession while supporting those who are currently practicing.

Take care and have a great summer!

# Doing Nothing is not an Option

Heather Santaniello, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>MB(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, ASCLS Political Action Committee Chair, ASCLS Ascending Professionals Forum Councilor-at-Large

Visibility of this profession is crucial. Workforce shortages and burnout has been a struggle for this profession for years. The way we solve this problem long term is to promote the profession and make it visible. Most of us got into medical laboratory science because we like helping people but would rather help from the background. Unfortunately staying in the background and unknown to the world is no longer a viable option. It is essential we place our beloved profession on the map.

Workforce shortages are being addressed by taking people with biology degrees and thrusting them into jobs they don't have the necessary tools to succeed in. This endangers not only patient care but damages the reputation of our profession. We need a long-term solution, not a quick fix that doesn't ensure the best quality of work. How do we execute the long-term goal? How do we make a profession meant for the background of patient care come forward? It's not an easy task or a one-person job. It will take all of us to succeed. Everyone must do their part—no matter how small—for this to work.

What have you been doing to help us meet this goal? Talking about it to everyone you meet is not something that should be brushed aside as if it doesn't matter. It does matter! You may have to tell the same person multiple times, maybe even several times, but you must do it. Educating people about the profession is important, and the younger generations are the key to how we address the workforce shortage. Middle schoolers, high schoolers, and college students who haven't decided on a major.

These are all the people we need to reach to succeed. Our focus should be on informing and promoting the profession to these groups. What have you done to do this? What could I do to do this? These were the thoughts racing through my head when I was thinking of ways to help promote the profession. What did I do about it? I came up with an idea and I took the initiative and made my idea into a real thing, and then I acted.

**The idea: A trifold brochure which highlights the profession in terms that are understandable to the younger generation and people in college with no medical background.**

After two months, one of the first versions of the brochure was complete. After getting a few copies printed, I shared them with my constituent society. The support and feedback helped me fix typos, add contact information, and solidified that this was important to follow through with.

Once I was satisfied with the final product, I ordered 50 copies. I also posted a digital copy on my social media accounts and asked if any of my teacher friends could help me get it into local high schools. One of my friends responded and offered to distribute them in her school district. I sent her a digital copy so she could send them out to the high schools in her district, and when my first 50 copies arrived, I set aside some for my friend. Then I got to work finding a way to get the rest into more schools.

I started with sending emails to the counselors of the school district I went to, and my kids go to now, because it was familiar territory for me. Their school websites were easier for me to navigate, and I felt staying in my comfort zone for the first batch would give me the courage to push forward and extend the invitation to other districts. I sent each of the five high schools in the district an email identifying myself and asking if I could bring them copies of a brochure which highlights the clinical laboratory profession. It was a simple email with two sentences—that's it.

Throughout the week I slowly started to get responses from them saying it would be great and to drop them by the office. I received responses back from four out of the five high schools. So, at the end of the week, I drove to each one of those four schools and dropped off the brochures. I then immediately ordered 100 more copies with express shipping.

While I was waiting for these to arrive, I sent out emails to two local community colleges. I also reached out to two more districts, which had six high schools each, and three high schools responded.

# Doing Nothing is not an Option



Author Heather Santaniello created a trifold brochure which highlights the medical laboratory science profession in language targeted to the younger generation. She then distributed them to local high schools and community colleges.

I documented my accomplishments each time on social media, and the same teacher friend who gave her school district digital copies tagged one of her teacher friends in a school district about 30-45 minutes away from my local area. She sent her friend the digital copy so she could send it to the two high schools in her district. Around this time one of the local community colleges responded and I mailed them a bunch from the batch of 100.

The next goal for these brochures is to get them in rural districts out in western Kansas, the Missouri side, and eventually nationwide. It's a big goal, but even if I don't succeed in achieving the bigger goal, the small accomplishments that were made so far are impactful. Doing nothing is not an option! Trying is the best shot we have to succeed in fixing the workforce shortage long term. The more people who know about this profession, the more people who will potentially enter this field, creating a ripple effect of positive outcomes—from CLS programs, to employers, to professional societies.

Once I was satisfied with the final product, I ordered 50 copies. I also posted a digital copy on my social media accounts and asked if any of my teacher friends could help me get it into local high schools. One of my friends responded and offered to distribute them in her school district. I sent her a digital copy so she could send them out to the high schools in her district, and when my first 50 copies arrived, I set aside some for my friend. Then I got to work finding a way to get the rest into more schools.

I started with sending emails to the counselors of the school district I went to, and my kids go to now, because it was familiar territory for me. Their school websites were easier for me to navigate, and I felt staying in my comfort zone for the first batch would give me the courage to push forward and extend the invitation to other districts. I sent each of the five high schools in the district an email identifying myself and asking if I could bring them copies of a brochure which highlights the clinical laboratory profession. It was a simple email with two sentences—that's it.

Throughout the week I slowly started to get responses from them saying it would be great and to drop them by the office. I received responses back from four out of the five high schools. So, at the end of the week, I drove to each one of those four schools and dropped off the brochures. I then immediately ordered 100 more copies with express shipping.

While I was waiting for these to arrive, I sent out emails to two local community colleges. I also reached out to two more districts, which had six high schools each, and three high schools responded. I documented my accomplishments each time on social media, and the same teacher friend who gave her school district digital copies tagged one of her teacher friends in a school district about 30-45 minutes away from my local area. She sent her friend the digital copy so she could send it to the two high schools in her district. Around this time one of the local community colleges responded and I mailed them a bunch from the batch of 100.

The next goal for these brochures is to get them in rural districts out in western Kansas, the Missouri side, and eventually nationwide. It's a big goal, but even if I don't succeed in achieving the bigger goal, the small accomplishments that were made so far are impactful. Doing nothing is not an option! Trying is the best shot we have to succeed in fixing the workforce shortage long term. The more people who know about this profession, the more people who will potentially enter this field, creating a ripple effect of positive outcomes—from CLS programs, to employers, to professional societies.



# 2023 ASCLS-KS Lab Week 5k

Thank you to everyone who braved the cold and wind to attend the third annual ASCLS-KS Lab Week 5K



Wayne Robinson, Jacob Treece, and Megan Neill



Leah Ade prepares signage for the 2023 ASCLS-KS 5K run.



# 2023 ASCLS-KS Lab Week 5k



Heather Santaniello and Mary Touch strategize as they prepare to destroy their competition



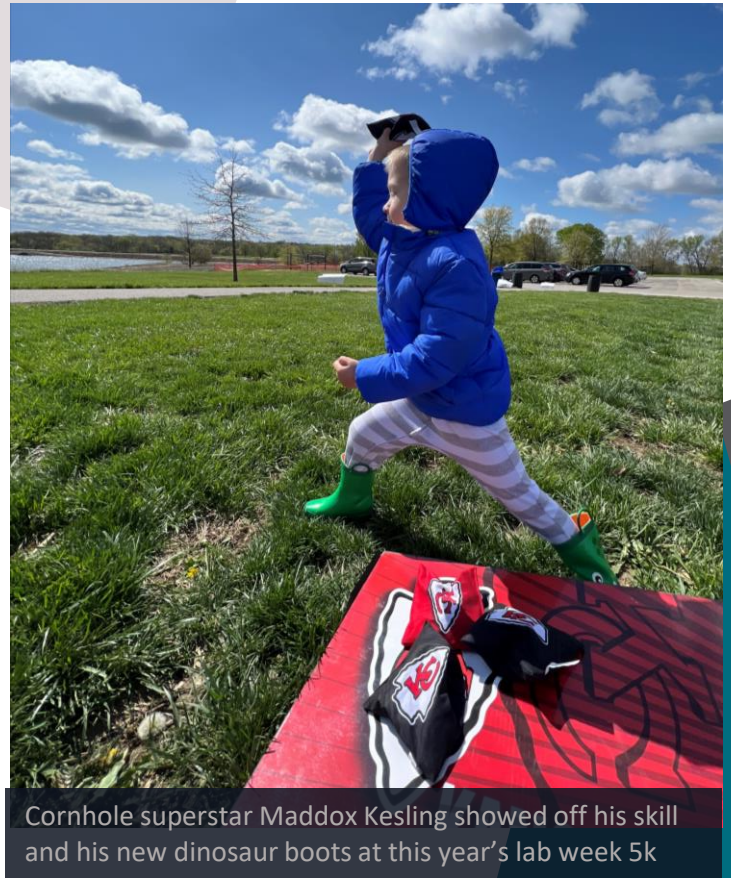
Low temperatures and strong winds didn't stop ASCLS-KS members from bundling up to participate in this year's 5k



KUMC CLS students put on a bake sale to raise money for scholarships



Megan Neill, Jennifer Jones, Renee Hodgkins, and Heather Santaniello all received lab week T-shirts courtesy of OriGen Biomedical



Cornhole superstar Maddox Kesling showed off his skill and his new dinosaur boots at this year's lab week 5k



# 2023 Legislative Symposium

**Who:** Open to ASCLS, ASCP, CLMA, AMT, AGT, NSH, and PAMET-USA members.

**What:** Learn the how-tos of lobbying. Attendees are coached on presentation techniques so they can effectively talk to their congressional representatives.

**When:** October 23-24 2023

**Where:** Hilton Alexandria Old Town, Alexandria, VA

- The symposium will also be available virtually

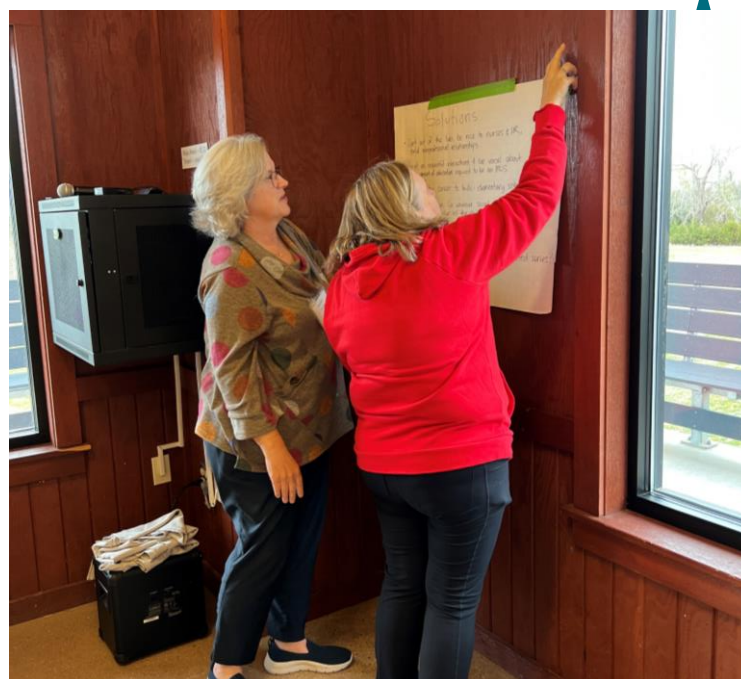
**More Information:** <https://ascls.org/legislative-symposium/>

# 2023 ASCLS-KS Annual Meeting



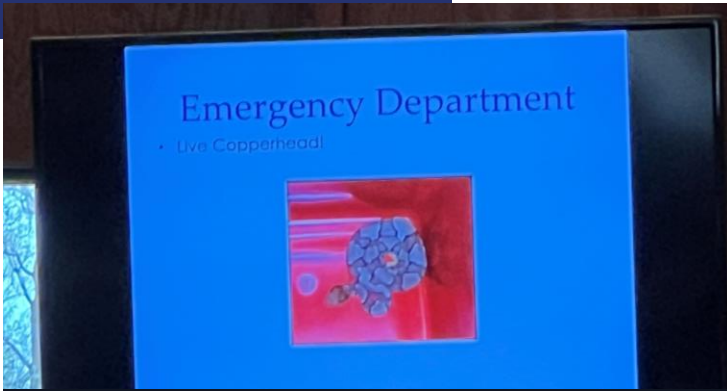
This year's ASCLS-KS Annual Meeting was held at Camp Aldrich near Great Bend, KS

The Spring Educational Meeting was held at the Camp Aldrich Retreat Facility in Great Bend. Many thanks to Karen Gunther for all her help in working with Barton Community College.



ASCLS-KS Past President Jennifer Jones and ASCLS-KS President Beckie Hetrick prepared an interactive session where participants brainstormed ideas for how to increase visibility of the laboratory science profession





Dr. Jennifer McKenney's opening keynote speech touched on the interesting challenges associated with rural healthcare.



Ryan Kennedy from Sysmex presented on both hematology and urinalysis



Past President Jennifer Jones shows off her Certificate of Recognition for 25 years of ASCLS membership



Camp Aldrich offered ample space for this year's ASCLS-KS Annual Meeting



# 2023 ASCLS Joint Annual Meeting Awards



ASCLS-KS President Beckie Hetrick accepted a number of awards for our excellent membership retention rates



ASCLS-KS Past President Jennifer Jones received the Constituent Society Member of the Year award. Congratulations Jennifer!