

## President's Message

### Meighan Sharp

**Greetings to all!**

**I am honored and thrilled to serve as  
your 2022-2023 ASCLS-Michigan  
President!**



My mother and I have had this phenomenon throughout my life that we have called, “The Month of Change”. The month of change is that certain time of year, usually around the same time, where certain challenges and opportunities present themselves (either positive or negative) that have an impact on your life. As I embraced August as my “month of change” by beginning my term as your President, I look forward to sharing ideas and having discussions with you all as we transition into a new era of ASCLS.

Many exciting changes are happening with ASCLS. We will transition back to seeing each other in-person again for our ASCLS-Michigan Board of Director’s Meetings. Our governance structure at the National level is changing by transitioning from a Region Director to a Regional Council. Ways of bringing activities and concerns to the National Board are changing too. New rules will allow state society Presidents to report to the Board directly.

Changes are coming with my strategic plan released on September 1st. My plan is to mirror the three strategic pillars of ASCLS: Community, Knowledge, and Advocacy. We will build a strong sense of community among its members and others within the laboratory profession. We will deliver knowledge in creative and innovate ways by reaching the widest possible audience of laboratory professionals so they can navigate their roles in a fast-paced healthcare environment. And we will advocate for our profession by showing those the importance of laboratory science and its role in healthcare.

*Continued on next page*

<b><u>Inside This Edition:</u></b>		<u>President's Message</u>	<u>Pages 1-2</u>
<u>2022-23 Board of Directors Listing</u>	<u>Page 3</u>	<u>Legislative Symposium</u>	<u>Pages 4-5</u>
<u>Impact and advocacy</u>	<u>Page 6</u>	<u>Save the Date, Annual Meeting</u>	<u>Page 7</u>

Dates to keep in mind (and add to your calendar) as we manage these changes and transition together during this 2022-2023 term:

- September 26-27, 2022: Legislative Symposium, Hilton Alexandria Old Town, Alexandria, VA
- January 20-21, 2023: Emerging Laboratory Managers Collaborative Conference (ELMC<sup>2</sup>), Virtual
- March 2-4, 2023: Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC), New Orleans, LA
- April 2-4, 2023: ASCLS-Michigan Annual Spring Conference, Westin Southfield - Detroit, MI
- June 26-30, 2023: Joint Annual Meeting, Providence, RI



**American  
Society for  
Clinical  
Laboratory  
Science  
Michigan**

### ASCLS-Michigan *Newslinks*

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[www.ascls-michigan.org](http://www.ascls-michigan.org)

for a complete listing and contact information for all ASCLS-MI board members and a wealth of other information on the Society.

**Editor:** Paul Guthrie  
1506 Bacon Avenue  
Portage, MI 49002  
[pfgu3@aol.com](mailto:pfgu3@aol.com)



# ASCLS-Michigan Board of Directors '22-23

**Please consider volunteering for any vacant position by contacting a BOD member.**

Position	Name	Email
<b>Elected Positions</b>		
<b>Executive Committee</b>		
President	Meighan Sharp	<a href="mailto:MeighanMSU@aol.com">MeighanMSU@aol.com</a>
President Elect	Kyle McCafferty	<a href="mailto:kyle.mccafferty1@gmail.com">kyle.mccafferty1@gmail.com</a>
Past President	Mariane Wolfe	<a href="mailto:marianesetyabudi@gmail.com">marianesetyabudi@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	RJ Benson	<a href="mailto:maxbjornsen15@gmail.com">maxbjornsen15@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Julie Hall	<a href="mailto:hallju@gvsu.edu">hallju@gvsu.edu</a>
Executive Secretary	Stephanie Mabry	<a href="mailto:stephanie.mabry@outlook.com">stephanie.mabry@outlook.com</a>
<b>Additional Elected</b>		
Developing Professional Forum Rep	Katelyn Farrar	<a href="mailto:Kfarrar@oakland.edu">Kfarrar@oakland.edu</a>
Ascending Professional Director	Alaina Nido	<a href="mailto:nidoat@aol.com">nidoat@aol.com</a>
District 1 Reps	Angela Adamski	<a href="mailto:angela.adamski1@gmail.com">angela.adamski1@gmail.com</a>
	Lindsey Haveman	<a href="mailto:Lindsey.Haveman@spectrumhealth.org">Lindsey.Haveman@spectrumhealth.org</a>
	Kathleen Hoag	<a href="mailto:hoagk@msu.edu">hoagk@msu.edu</a>
District 2 Reps	Roslyn McQueen	<a href="mailto:rosmcq@aol.com">rosmcq@aol.com</a>
	Claire Danielson	<a href="mailto:cedaniel@mtu.edu">cedaniel@mtu.edu</a>
	Allison Young	<a href="mailto:Allison.Young1@outlook.com">Allison.Young1@outlook.com</a>
District 3 Reps	John Ko	<a href="mailto:Jjk889@gmail.com">Jjk889@gmail.com</a>
	Joann Guan	<a href="mailto:guanjoanne@outlook.com">guanjoanne@outlook.com</a>
	Caitlyn Madden (Crone)	<a href="mailto:cpcrone1@gmail.com">cpcrone1@gmail.com</a>
Government Affairs		
Chair	Michelle Russell	<a href="mailto:russmich@msu.edu">russmich@msu.edu</a>
Chair Elect	Caitlyn Madden (Crone)	<a href="mailto:cpcrone1@gmail.com">cpcrone1@gmail.com</a>
Nominations		
Chair	Alicia Kuzia	<a href="mailto:aliciakuzia@gmail.com">aliciakuzia@gmail.com</a>
Chair Elect	Christina Lim	<a href="mailto:lim@oakland.edu">lim@oakland.edu</a>
Member (2nd year)	Sandy Cook	<a href="mailto:cooks@ferris.edu">cooks@ferris.edu</a>
Member (1st year)	(Vacant)	
<b>Appointed Positions</b>		
Audit	Kyle McCafferty	<a href="mailto:kyle.mccafferty1@gmail.com">kyle.mccafferty1@gmail.com</a>
Awards Team Coordinators	Linda Goossen	<a href="mailto:goossenl@gvsu.edu">goossenl@gvsu.edu</a>
	Barb Mannor	<a href="mailto:mannortb@aol.com">mannortb@aol.com</a>
Bylaws	Roslyn McQueen	<a href="mailto:rosmcq@aol.com">rosmcq@aol.com</a>
Career Recruitment	(Vacant)	
Finance	Mattie Brechbiel (2nd yr of term)	<a href="mailto:brechbim@gvsu.edu">brechbim@gvsu.edu</a>
Handbook	(Vacant)	
Historian	Carey Loveland	<a href="mailto:loveland@msu.edu">loveland@msu.edu</a>
Leadership Development	Kristina Martin	<a href="mailto:wesenerk@gmail.com">wesenerk@gmail.com</a>
Membership	Caitlin Madden (Crone)	<a href="mailto:cpcrone1@gmail.com">cpcrone1@gmail.com</a>
PAC	Suzanne Butch	<a href="mailto:suzanne.butch@gmail.com">suzanne.butch@gmail.com</a>
PACE	Angela Adamski	<a href="mailto:angela.adamski1@gmail.com">angela.adamski1@gmail.com</a>
Professional and Public Relations	(Vacant)	
Publications	Paul Guthrie	<a href="mailto:guthriep@bronsonhg.org">guthriep@bronsonhg.org</a>
Social Media	Sydney Klausing	<a href="mailto:Sydney.Klausing@redcross.org">Sydney.Klausing@redcross.org</a>
Scientific Assembly Coordinator	Dana Vaughan	<a href="mailto:vaughada@gvsu.edu">vaughada@gvsu.edu</a>
Clin Chem/Urinalysis SA Chair	Yuikari Nishizawa-Brennen	<a href="mailto:nishiza1@msu.edu">nishiza1@msu.edu</a>
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Generalist Chair	(Vacant)	
Heme/Hemostasis Chair	(Vacant)	
Point of Care SA Chair	(Vacant)	
Immunology/Immunohem Chair	(Vacant)	
Lab Informatics Chair	(Vacant)	
Fab Five SA Chair	(Vacant)	
Molecular Diagnostics SA Chair	(Vacant)	
Phlebotomy SA Chair	(Vacant)	
Microbiology/Public Health SA Chair	(Vacant)	



## Legislative Symposium

### – How YOU can make a difference and let your voice be heard!

Caitlyn Madden, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> ASCLS-MI GAC Chair Elect

As medical laboratory professionals, many of us know that the work we do is more of a “behind-the-scenes” type of career. Many times, laboratories are out of sight of the public and even other healthcare professionals and as such, we often find ourselves saying that no one knows who we are or what we do. Maybe you feel that because of this, we don’t have a say in decisions affecting our work or that our voices are neglected because we are not always recognized as an important part of the healthcare team. But I’m here to tell you of a great way to not only shed light on our profession, but to have your voice heard and make an impact on the legislative decisions that affect medical laboratory scientists as a whole. And the best part? You don’t even have to leave your home!

I’m talking about the Laboratory Legislative Symposium. If you haven’t heard of it, allow me to give you some background information. This two-day event is held in Washington, D. C. every year and is a coming together of laboratory professionals from ASCLS, the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), the American Medical Technologists (AMT), the Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT), the National Society for Histotechnology (NSH), and the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists-USA (PAMET-USA). Attendees spend the first day learning about lobbying and how to do it. They are given information on current legislature that could affect our profession and educated on how to discuss it with their congressional representatives. In addition, they are also given information to leave with the legislative staff. By the end of the day, they leave feeling prepared to meet with their legislators on Capitol Hill the second day of the event.

“But Caitlyn, I thought you said I didn’t need to leave my home!” Yes, that’s true! One great aspect of the Legislative Symposium is that they offer a virtual attendee option. You’ll still receive access to the same great educational sessions that those in Washington, D. C. are attending. Afterwards, you can use the provided information and schedule virtual meetings with your legislators and/or their team virtually.

“Okay but I don’t really know who I would need to meet with or how to schedule anything like that myself.” Allow me to help! When I attended the Legislative Symposium for the first time in 2021, it felt really overwhelming. Even though I was given a lot of great information during the educational sessions, I still wanted to see what it was like before I was able to schedule something on my own. One of the nice things for me was that other Michigan members who were meeting with their congressional representatives allowed me to sit in with them during both their in-person and virtual meetings. If you reach out to others from ASCLS-MI who plan on attending, you may be able to coordinate something together.

However, if you feel ready to take action on your own or begin reaching out to people, there are ways that you can find out who your specific legislator would be. The best way to start? Just Google it! A very quick Google search allowed me to find my congressional representatives in a matter of minutes. I was directed to





<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member> and I was able to not only get a list of congressional members, but links to their contact information as well. And conveniently, everything to set up a meeting or contact them was online!

"So, what exactly do I get out of this?" Great question! You get to bring our profession of Medical Laboratory Science into the eyes of people who not only make decisions affecting our line of work, but who can also tell others about us as well! You get to use your voice to make a difference without having to commit an extreme amount of time or effort. You get to advocate for the needs of our profession. And you can use this information going forward time and time again. You gain confidence, skills, knowledge, and the ability to network with legislators, other ASCS members, and other laboratory professionals from other societies who are also looking to make an impact in the profession. And honestly, one of my favorite things about Legislative Symposium is knowing that I have the ability to make a difference on a national level.

And it's not just one time per year that advocacy is important. In fact, ASCLS has an entire section of their website dedicated to advocacy and issues, with multiple tabs containing excellent resources and knowledge available year-round. When you check out the ASCLS home page, make sure to hover over the tab labeled <https://ascls.org/advocacy-issues/> to learn more about licensure, workforce shortages, the Political Action Committee, and more!

I don't know about you, but I tend to hear a lot of complaints from laboratory professionals about how they wish we were seen, or they wish people knew what we did, or how decisions that affect our line of work were made with no consideration for the lab itself. Knowing that, I would like to end with a quote. The following is a line from the ASCLS bulletin on August 17, 2022 regarding nursing personnel performing high complexity lab testing that I found to be highly relevant. "If you've just thought to yourself, 'someone should do something about this,' we agree. YOU are that SOMEONE."

This year's Legislative Symposium will be held September 26-27 at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town in Alexandria, VA. For registration, additional information, and accounts from previous attendees and what this event meant to them, visit <https://ascls.org/legislative-symposium/> today!

**ASCLS is proud to work with American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT), American Medical Technologists (AMT), the National Society for Histotechnology (NSH), and the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists-USA (PAMET-USA) on the Legislative Symposium each year.**

Through this ASCLS tradition that originated in 1989, the members of these organizations meet with their representatives and senators on Capitol Hill as a unified front on behalf of our profession. Each year these leading organizations urge their members and leaders to come to Washington to provide a visible and informed voice, and make our concerns known inside Congress.



# Maximizing your membership – Impact and Advocacy

Caitlyn Madden, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> ASCLS-MI Membership Chair

If you're reading this article, I imagine you already have an idea of some of the great benefits ASCLS membership has to offer. After all, you took the time to either join or renew your membership because you found it to be a valuable investment. And as the ASCLS-MI Membership Chair let me start by saying: THANK YOU! I wanted to take a moment to not only reflect on what your membership means to ASCLS, but also what it could mean to you personally.

Have you ever felt like you wanted to make a difference, but maybe you couldn't commit due to the goings-on in your life? What if I told you that just by being a member of ASCLS and nothing more, you ARE doing something! One of the great things about ASCLS is that we are a grassroots organization. What does that mean? Well, if you google the word "grassroots" the definition that comes up is "ordinary people regarded as the main body of an organization's membership." How does that pertain to us? In ASCLS, our membership is the foundation of what we do. As a grassroots organization, ASCLS relies on its membership to make decisions, vote on leadership, and use their voices to make an impact on the society as a whole. By being a member, YOU get to make a difference!

So, what do you get out of it in return? Great question! I hope to answer this with each edition of Newslinks, with separate articles focusing on what I find to be the most meaningful benefits of membership within ASCLS. Also, allow me direct you to the ASCLS YouTube page where you'll find a series of videos made by the 2021-2022 Leadership Academy

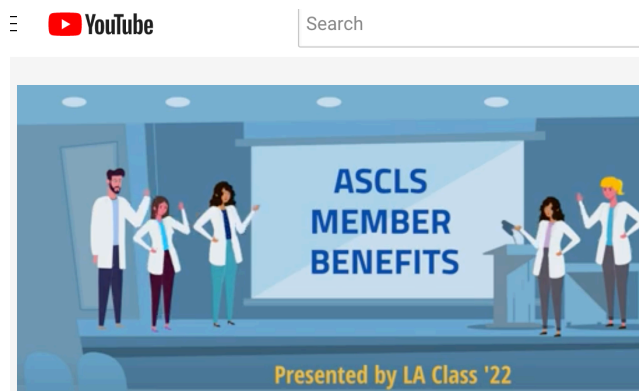
class. One of which (voiced by yours truly) outlines some of the many great aspects of membership. Here's the link if you'd like to check it out: <https://youtu.be/3xF4fro39jQ>

In this article, I'd like to focus on advocacy in particular. This is especially important with the approach of the Legislative Symposium in Washington, D. C. September 26-27. For more information on this highly educational event, please visit <https://ascls.org/legislative-symposium/>.

Let's talk about advocacy. Advocacy is defined as "any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others." So how does this pertain to your membership? Because ASCLS is an advocate for YOU! ASCLS not only advocates on behalf of all laboratory professionals, but provides their members with the tools and education to be advocates (or as we like to say, LABvocates) themselves. In addition to the Legislative Symposium, information is provided year-round and is always available on the ASCLS website. Just look for the tab labeled "Advocacy-Issues" on the home page to learn more about issues such as licensure, workforce shortages, upcoming legislature that could impact our profession, and more.

Often times as laboratorians, we may feel that we are unseen and unheard. However, ASCLS seeks to not only shine a light on our profession, but to speak up on our behalf as well. And the best thing of all, in my opinion, is that they encourage all of us as individuals to do the same! ASCLS continuously keeps us informed and provides us with ways that we can make an impact, whether that involves commenting on upcoming proposals or meeting with congressional representatives during Legislative Symposium. They lobby for legislature that would impact my career and empower me to use my voice to make a difference. I don't know about you, but I find it inspiring to be part of a society that promotes the needs of my profession and encourages me to do the same.

In addition to the previously mentioned membership benefits video, there is another video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTxUn08cXyc> that focuses specifically on advocacy. I highly encourage you to not only check it out, but share it with others.



Be sure to check out the two videos linked in this article



SAVE THE DATE!

**ASCLS-Michigan  
2023 Annual Conference**

April 2-4, 2023  
The Westin Southfield Detroit  
Southfield, MI

[www.asclsmi-conference.org](http://www.asclsmi-conference.org)

American Society for  
Clinical Laboratory Science



Paul Guthrie  
ASCLS-MI *Newslinks* Editor  
1506 Bacon Avenue  
Portage, MI 49002-7166



Visit  
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