

*American Society for
Clinical Laboratory Science*



*Student
&
New Professional
Guide to ASCLS*

Revised 2009

Disclaimer: This guide is intended to be quick reference only and is not intended to take the place of ASCLS Standard Operating Procedures or Bylaws that can be found on the web along with other complete society resources at www.ascls.org.

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ASCLS Mission & Vision Statement

ASCLS serves as the voice of all clinical laboratory professionals, creating a vision for the advancement of the clinical laboratory practice field, and advocating the value and the role of the profession to ensure safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient-centered health care.

ASCLS Core Values

- Promoting the value of the profession to healthcare and the public;
- Uniting the profession to speak with one voice;
- Advocating on behalf of the profession;
- Promoting professional independence;
- Enhancing quality standards and patient safety;
- Ensuring workplace safety;
- Providing professional development opportunities;
- Promoting expanded roles and contributions of clinical laboratory professionals to the healthcare team;
- Increasing the diversity in the profession and expanding the voice and role of under-represented individuals and groups.



ASCLS – The Voice, Value, & Vision!

The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

- Promotes the **VALUE** of the clinical laboratory science profession in all arenas possible
- Strives to be the **VOICE** for the laboratory practitioner in the workplace, the classroom, the community, the legislative arena and all for the good health of the public
- Is actively defining the **VISION** of the future of the profession



Pledge to the Profession

As a clinical laboratory professional, I strive to:

- Maintain and promote standards of excellence in performing and advancing the art and science of my profession
- Preserve the dignity and privacy of others
- Uphold and maintain the dignity and respect of our profession
- Seek to establish cooperative and respectful working relationships with other health professionals
- Contribute to the general well being of the community

I will actively demonstrate my commitment to these responsibilities throughout my professional life.



Code of Ethics of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Preamble

The Code of Ethics of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) sets forth the principles and standards by which clinical laboratory professionals practice their profession.

I. Duty to the Patient

Clinical laboratory professionals are accountable for the quality and integrity of the laboratory services they provide. This obligation includes maintaining individual competence in judgment and performance and striving to safeguard the patient from incompetent or illegal practice by others.

Clinical laboratory professionals maintain high standards of practice. They exercise sound judgment in establishing, performing and evaluating laboratory testing.

Clinical laboratory professionals maintain strict confidentiality of patient information and test results. They safeguard the dignity and privacy of patients and provide accurate information to other health care professionals about the services they provide.

II. Duty to Colleagues and the Profession

Clinical laboratory professionals uphold and maintain the dignity and respect of our profession and strive to maintain a reputation of honesty, integrity and reliability. They contribute to the advancement of the profession by improving the body of knowledge, adopting scientific advances that benefit the patient, maintaining high standards of practice and education, and seeking fair socioeconomic working conditions for members of the profession.

Clinical laboratory professionals actively strive to establish cooperative and respectful working relationships with other health professionals, with the primary purpose of ensuring a high standard of care for the patients they serve.

III. Duty to Society

As practitioners of an autonomous profession, clinical laboratory professionals have the responsibility to contribute from their sphere of professional competence to the general well being of the community.

Clinical laboratory professionals comply with relevant laws and regulations pertaining to the practice of clinical laboratory science and actively seek, within the dictates of their consciences, to change those which do not meet the high standards of care and practice to which the profession is committed.



Member Testimonials

The most influential factor for success in my CLS career has been active membership in ASCLS. Most significant events in my career are somehow linked to membership in this organization. ASCLS has had a dramatic affect on my job advancement at the University of Texas Health Science Center. My activities and leadership in ASCLS were important factors in being promoted to distinguished teaching professor with tenure, developing my leadership skills and building a highly respected and renowned Department of Clinical Laboratory Science. When I first joined ASCLS decades ago, I took advantage of the great state and national meetings where I rubbed elbows with leaders in our profession that I held in high esteem. Gradually my network of friends grew and I was mentored into some of those leadership positions. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be President of ASCLS but others had confidence in my abilities and encouraged me to step up to the plate. It is my aim to do the same for our new members so they will realize the benefits of belonging to their professional organization where they have a voice, can follow their vision and are valued for who they are and what they can become. With ASCLS you will find your network of friends will encompass the world. It is a guarantee for success.

*Shirlyn B. McKenzie, Ph.D., CLS (NCA)
2006-07 ASCLS President*



I joined ASCLS in 2002 as a student member. I was “volunteered” to be the state Student Forum Chair because no one else stepped forward. I enjoyed many opportunities from that time on. I always took the chance to reach out to fellow students and to employees at my clinical site and discuss the wonderful benefits of membership in ASCLS. In 2004, I had a chance to meet with then president-elect Shirlyn McKenzie, who has believed in me all along. During her presidency, I was appointed to the position of official representative to the Health Professions Network for ASCLS, I served on the GAC, Product Development, and the NPC. I recently completed a trip to Russia with a CLS delegation led by Shirlyn, where we shared our knowledge and expertise with our Russian CLS counterparts. This was an opportunity of a lifetime and would not have been possible without my active membership in ASCLS. I work with approximately 180 other laboratorians in my current position, and I never miss an opportunity to promote both the profession and ASCLS.

*Linda P. Whaley CLS (NCA), MT (ASCP)
Region VI, Illinois*



I got involved with ASCLS when I joined my University CLS society and my state society. After holding office there, I decided I wanted to be more involved and tried to become more active on a national level. ASCLS has given me not only a great group of friends and peers to exchange ideas with, but also an outlet to make a difference in my profession. MY PROFESSION IS MY PASSION!! ASCLS allows me to directly impact my profession and the direction it is headed by attending major meetings and events such as Legislative day and the National Meeting. I believe that you get what you give, and when I give of my time and efforts to ASCLS I get it back 10 fold!! If we do not stick up for ourselves and our profession, then who will? I feel lucky to be a part of such a wonderful organization!!

*Crystal Powell-Smith, CLS(NCA), MT(ASCP)
Region VII*



ASCLS has played a major role in my life since I have become a member four years ago. Pursuing a degree in clinical laboratory science can be a difficult endeavor due to the fact that our profession is laced with intricate and complicated information that the student must master. Being a member of ASCLS can make this difficult road a smoother one by introducing you to new people who are either in your shoes or say that they have been in your shoes and understand how tough it all is. This networking also builds friendship opportunities that make you feel connected to your field and causes you to perform better and become a top clinical laboratory scientist as you enter your first year as a professional. Once the daunting challenge of student life is over, ASCLS helps recent grads by having a first year professional membership category that grants the new grad all the CE credits they now need to keep up their certification and/or licensure. ASCLS has created many great professional opportunities and has introduced me to some amazing people.

*Kyle Riding
2007-2008 New Professionals Committee Chair*



ASCLS has positively influenced my professional experience. ASCLS not only provides the many continuing education opportunities needed for certification maintenance, but a network of dedicated members of both young and seasoned professionals to answer any questions you might have about the organization or profession as a whole.

*Sharon Bobryk
2005-2006 National Student Forum Chair*



History of ASCLS

By: Karen Karni, ASCLS Past-President

The history of our professional association, the American Society for Medical Technology (ASMT), now known as the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), reflects its many contributions to the profession and practitioners in clinical laboratory science. **Organized in 1933 and incorporated in 1936**, the Society faced many of the same growth challenges encountered by other health professionals. Its first efforts were in "credibility," that is, being known as a society holding the highest standards. Thus, early on members were required to be certified by the Board of Registry of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP). For ASMT, the 1930s saw the inception of a journal, the establishment of a Constitution and Bylaws, the emergence of state charters, and education of the public about the profession.

In the **1940s**, new issues evolved regarding professional independence, obtaining commissions (officer's status) with the Armed Services, representation in credentialing involving the Board of Registry of ASCP (certification), and the accreditation of education programs by the Board of Schools. Membership grew, largely due to the Society's advocacy of properly educated and credentialed personnel. While earlier national meetings were held in conjunction with physician groups, by 1947 ASMT held its first independent convention. Laboratory personnel were in short supply, and educational programs grew.

In the **1950s**, attempts were again made to achieve professional status with the Civil Service and the Armed Forces, together with attempts to upgrade educational certification qualifications. Major contributions included the advancement of scholarship in the field (e.g., via the first paper on quality control) and the formation of the ASMT Education and Research Fund to advance research efforts.

In the **1960s**, considerable controversy emerged primarily involving the ASCP Board of Schools and Board of Registry functions, which many believed impinged on the professional roles of ASMT members and others in the profession. Qualifications for the clinical laboratory scientist (medical technologist) now included a baccalaureate degree (1962); in addition a new category of laboratory technician emerged. ASMT joined the International Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists, and for over four decades this association has been looked to by other nations as the standard in laboratory science associations.

In the **1970s**, ASMT grew considerably (over 30,000 members in 1976). Professional Acknowledgment for Continuing Education (P.A.C.E.) was introduced for validating and documenting continuing education and NAACLS was formed as an independent accreditation agency. Together with Central Michigan University, ASMT provided graduate programs for laboratorians to earn master's degrees in administration or education. The ASMT launched its Future Directions Plan and Statements of Competence. Our representatives testified many times before congressional committees. ASMT initiated the formation of the National Certification Agency (NCA) to advance "certification for the profession, by the profession." It also provided many opportunities and venues for continuing education, including self-assessment exams, monographs, and regional programs.

In the **1980s**, greater involvement occurred in national politics, and an attempt to unify two laboratory organizations, ASMT and AMT was unsuccessful. The Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC) was initiated, as well as the Legislative Symposium, the only meetings of their kind sponsored by a laboratory organization. ASMT also moved its offices from Houston, Texas, to Washington, D.C., to become more involved in influencing legislation to advance the profession.

In the **1990s**, ASMT became ASCLS and joined forces with the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) in presenting one of the largest annual meetings of laboratorians in the country. It provided input to the National Labor Relations Board, which in 1995 recognized medical technologists among its "professional employees." Thus, in the past seven decades this professional organization has contributed much to the profession: in advocacy, standards setting, education (professional and continuing), personal and professional development, and much more. The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) continues today as the "preeminent laboratory organization" representing laboratory personnel, advancing their interests--both individually and collectively!



ASCLS Organizational Structure

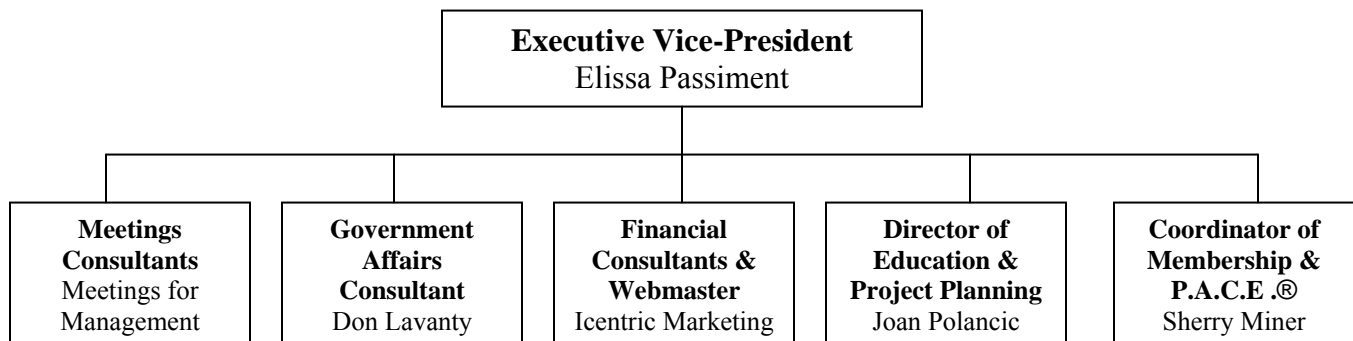
The greatest strength of ASCLS is its members, and the structure of the organization reflects this strength. The members of ASCLS ultimately control the direction and activities of the organization.



Executive Office

The Executive Office of ASCLS includes the full-time employees of the organization and is under the direction of the ASCLS Executive Vice-President. These individuals are responsible for the completion of the business activities of the society which are directed by the ASCLS members through the ASCLS Board of Directors (BOD).

Executive Office Organizational Chart



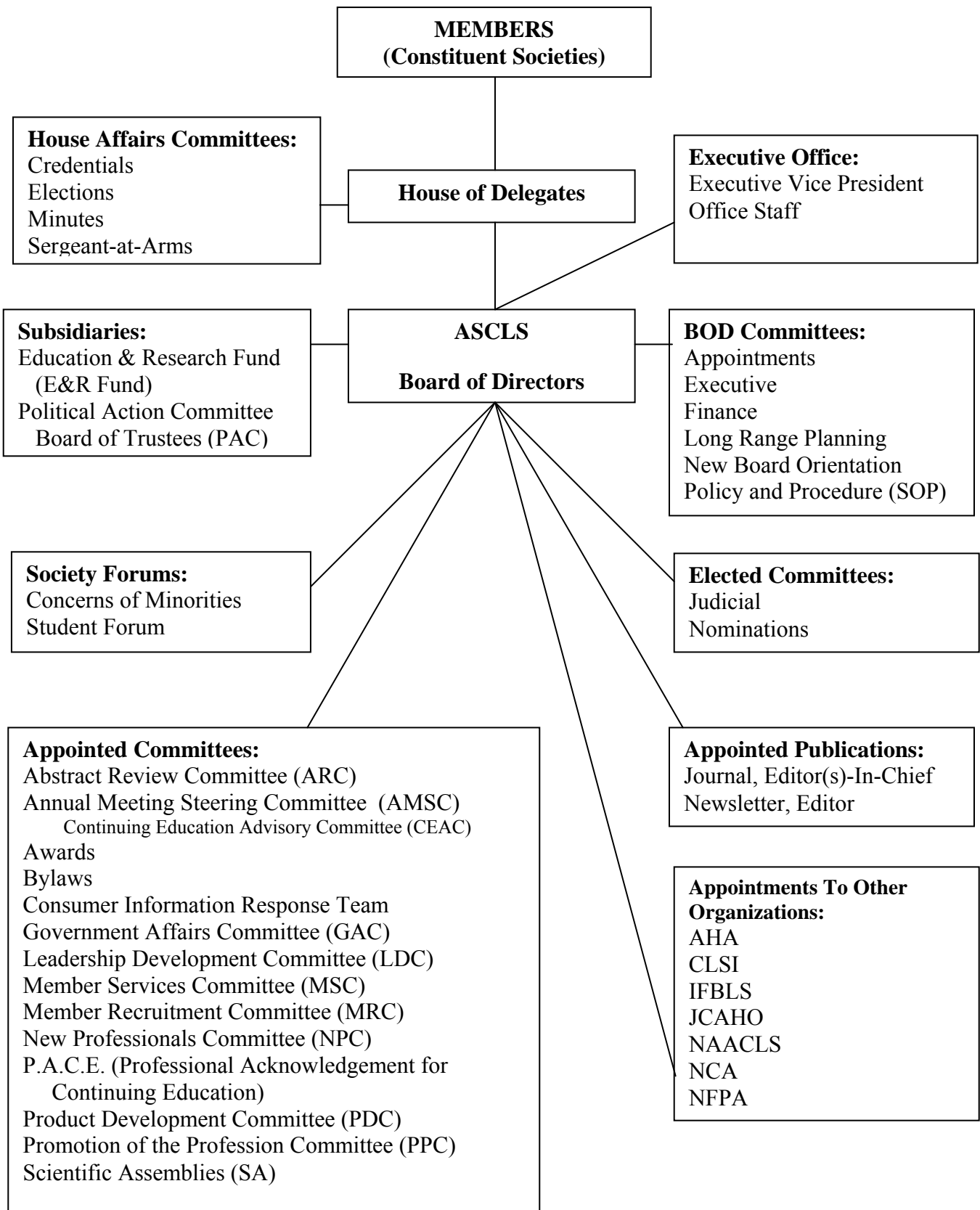
ASCLS Board of Directors

The ASCLS Board of Directors (BOD) is made up of the elected officers and positions of the Society and is held responsible for the management of the affairs of the Society. Members of the BOD include: President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary/Treasurer, 10 Regional Directors, First Year Professional Director, and Student Director. (16 total)

The President of the Society serves as the presiding officer of the Board of Directors and the Secretary/Treasurer serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board. In the absence of the President, the President-elect assumes the responsibilities of the presiding officer. As defined by society bylaws and standard operating procedures, the chief administrative officer (Executive Vice-President) is also a non-voting member of the Board.



ASCLS Organization Chart



ASCLS State & Regional Structure

The Society, realizing that a national framework alone cannot adequately meet members' individualized needs on the local and state levels, has established ten geographical regions in the country. Each region has its own governance structure, including the elected Regional Director who is a member of the ASCLS Board of Directors (BOD). Within these regions are the State Societies that also elect officers, have a defined Board of Directors and assigns representatives to the regional boards or councils. The State constituent society's, in accordance with their chapter bylaws, may further organize and maintain local chapters or districts.

This national to state chapter structure has proven successful in allowing the Society to address the concerns and needs of its members at every level. Under the direction of the ASCLS BOD, the Society is equipped to use its resources to address issues and concerns that affect the membership on a national level while remaining available to support its regional, state, and local societies.

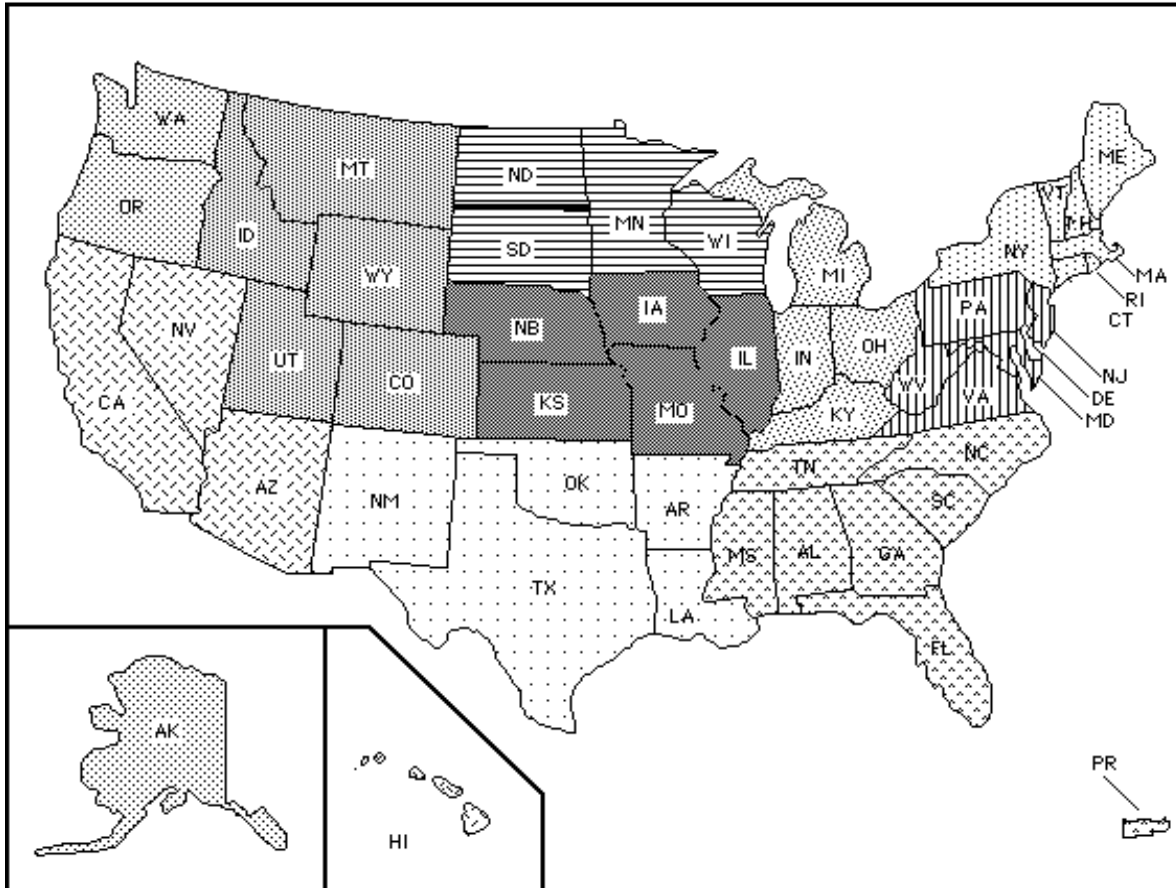
No other association for clinical laboratory professionals can match the activities of ASCLS at the local, state, regional, and national levels. Each level offers members many tangible benefits including scientific and leadership references, resources, continuing education offerings, advocacy for it professionals and a professional network mechanism that links you to your ASCLS professional family at all levels.


Regional Areas Table

Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV	Region V
Connecticut Maine Vermont New York Central New England: New Hampshire Massachusetts Rhode Island	Delaware District of Columbia Maryland New Jersey Pennsylvania Virginia West Virginia	Alabama Florida Georgia Mississippi North Carolina Puerto Rico South Carolina Tennessee	Indiana Michigan Kentucky Ohio	Minnesota North Dakota South Dakota Wisconsin
Region VI	Region VII	Region VIII	Region IX	Region X
Illinois Iowa Kansas Missouri Nebraska	Arkansas Louisiana New Mexico Oklahoma Texas	Colorado Idaho Montana Utah Wyoming	Alaska Oregon Washington	Arizona/Nevada California Hawaii

ASCLS Regions Map

ASCLS Regions




 = Region I

 = Region IV

 = Region VII

 = Region II


 = Region V

 = Region VIII

 = Region III

 = Region VI

 = Region IX

 = Region X

ASCLS Committees

There are a number of committees within ASCLS that are held accountable to accomplish goals and strategic actions identified by the organization and its grassroots members. Committee structure is governed by the Society's Standard Operating Procedures. Committee membership can be either through appointment or election process. All ASCLS members are encouraged to volunteer to serve on these committees or assist the committees in accomplishing goals for ASCLS. Volunteering to serve on these committees is an excellent way to be recognized, enhance your leadership development, provide valuable input to help shape the future of the profession and expand your professional network to include professional leaders throughout the nation.

Appointed Committees

House Affairs Committees: (Appointed for the Annual Meeting)

Minutes - Assist the secretary/treasurer in recording the proceedings of various meetings held within ASCLS, including the House of Delegates (HOD) sessions.

Credentials - responsible for certifying and tallying delegates and alternates at the House of Delegates. Appointments are made by the President for each annual meeting.

Elections - Appointed for each annual meeting: conducts all elections of the HOD.

Sergeant-at-Arms - Responsible for logistical support of all major meetings held at the annual meeting, liaison among all committees for traffic flow, security, and seating.

ASCLS Committees & Forums:

Annual Meeting Steering (AMSC) - A new member would need to work alongside existing society members for several years, since this committee plans the scientific sessions and workshops for the annual meeting. Committee coordinates these activities with the Continuing Education Advisory Council (CEAC), BOD, and executive office staff.

Awards -Coordinates all activities related to publication, description, nomination and selection for ASCLS awards. Also involved in presentation of these awards at the annual meeting.

Bylaws -Another big job for which a new member would need to become active early as a volunteer and commit time to the society: receives all proposed changes to the ASCLS bylaws and articles of incorporation and prepares these amendments for consideration at the HOD. This committee also examines, considers, and approves appropriate proposed changes for our constituent societies.

Continuing Education Advisory Council (CEAC) – Is a subcommittee of the AMSC and works on recommending topics and speakers for the annual meeting.

Government Affairs Committee (GAC) - This committee assists ASCLS in achieving objectives of influencing the formulation of appropriate public (governmental) policy on health care issues vital to the profession and the public. Meetings are not frequent; attendance at the Legislative Symposium and the GAC meeting at the annual meeting are highly encouraged.

Leadership Development Committee (LDC) - Cultivates members to encourage those individuals who have indicated a talent and interest in serving in professional leadership positions. For this committee, the Region Director appoints one representative from their respective region at the end of that director's first year.

Member Recruitment Committee (MRC) – Focuses on recruitment of new members into the Society and works on developing materials and programs to strategically market ASCLS to non-members.

Member Services Committee (MSC) – Focuses on member retention program, services for members, and programs to contact lapsed members by reiterating the Voice, Value and Vision that the member has gained access to. This committee is composed of members who are appointed by Region Directors in the same way that Leadership Development committee members are appointed.

Professional Acknowledgment for Continuing Education (P.A.C.E®) - Serves to accomplish the goal of the P.A.C.E. program which is to create a combined provider approval and education documentation system for creating educational programs for interested allied health professionals. This committee works with the ASCLS Coordinator of Membership & P.A.C.E.

Promotion of the Profession Committee (PPC) - Another great committee if you value promoting our professional image and securing the future of our profession and organization.

Product Development Committee (PDC)- This committee coordinates the development of new and maintenance of current publications and products for clinical laboratory professionals. If you are interested in education as a career or would like to bolster our image and professional standing, this committee is extremely important and worthwhile to become involved in.

Scientific Assembly (SA) - Get involved as a student in one or more of the Assemblies! Members are able to designate up to two professional assemblies according to area of interest.

Student Forum – This Forum coordinates the involvement of students in the organization. Provides mentoring and a promotes the valuable voice of students in the future direction of the Society.

New Professionals Committee (NPC) – A new but extremely important committee in ASCLS. This committee represents those who have been in the profession fewer than five (5) years. Provides a voice for new professionals in the nation to assure ASCLS activities are structured to meet the needs of new professionals.

ASCLS Board of Directors Appointed & Elected Committees

(Committee membership only comes from the Board of Directors)

Appointments - Works closely with the President, BOD, and other leaders in ASCLS to identify potential candidates for appointed positions for the next year.

Long Range Planning - Coordinates the long-range planning activities to accomplish long-term goals and help steer the society's future.

New Board Orientation - Updates the BOD manual and orients new board members.

Policy and Procedure - Review all policies and procedures and position descriptions, and revise these documents as needed.

Executive -Manages ASCLS affairs in general and carries out duties assigned by the BOD.

Finance - Monitors ASCLS income and expenses, and submits recommendations to the BOD regarding financial policies and budget proposals.

Elected Committees – Members Elected by the House of Delegates (HOD)

Judicial - this committee functions only on matters assigned by the bylaws or those matters referred by officers or recognized committees within ASCLS.

Nominations -This committee advertises vacant positions within the society and secures nominees for these positions. The committee also evaluates qualifications of the candidates.

New Professional and Student Members – Committee Opportunities & Responsibilities

Committee Opportunities:

The ASCLS Appointed Committees on which new professionals or students may serve:

- Awards
- Bylaws
- Government Affairs
- Leadership Development
- Member Recruitment
- Member Services
- P.A.C.E.
- Product Development
- Political Action
- Patient Safety
- Promotion of the Profession

Committee Member’s General Responsibilities:

1. Represent the New Professional or Student members voice by communicating the needs and concerns of new professionals or students in regard to the activity of the respective committee; and, contributing new professional or student input to the committee when requested by the ASCLS Committee Chair.
2. Keep the NPC or SF informed via the FYP or SF Director of their activity and input while serving on the committee.
3. Attend the respective ASCLS Committee meetings when possible; to increase participation and input from the NPC or SF and to broaden understanding of committee activities.
4. Respond to Committee requests for input or action in a timely manner.
5. Send copies of all correspondence to the FYP or SF Director, and the Chair of the ASCLS Committee on which you are serving.
6. Maintain a current file of all activities and correspondence.



Membership Classes, Rights & Privileges

Membership in ASCLS is open to all persons interested in the clinical laboratory sciences and consists of the following classes: professional, collaborative, emeritus, student and honorary. The membership classes that are applicable to Students and New Professionals are:

Student

Students are entitled to serve as voting members of the House of Delegates (HOD) when serving as official delegates from a constituent society at the annual meeting. Students have all other rights and privileges of the Society with the exception of holding elected Society positions with the exception of the elected Student Forum officer positions, Student Forum Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer.

Professional

Membership in the Professional category is open to all persons certified or engaged in the practice and/or education process of the clinical laboratory sciences, including those with an active interest in supporting the purposes and goals of this Society. Professional members are entitled to all rights and privileges to include voting, holding office and serving in any formal capacity recognized by the Society. New professional is the term to define the group of ASCLS members that are “new to the profession” (less than 5 years experience in the practice) of clinical laboratory science. Membership benefits and dues are dependent on the level of professional membership:

- **Professional I:** Entitled to all benefits rights and privileges to include voting, holding office and serving in any formal capacity recognized by the Society plus receives the award-winning journal, *Clinical Laboratory Science*
- **Professional II:** Entitled to all benefits rights and privileges to include voting, holding office and serving in any formal capacity recognized by the Society.
- **First Year Professional:** Is a special professional membership category open to persons who have graduated within the last 12 months from an accredited program in laboratory science. Prior student membership with ASCLS is not a prerequisite. This membership status is valid for only 1 year to assist recent graduates by offering a discounted dues schedule. After 1 year in this category, members are upgraded to Professional membership. Entitled to all benefits rights and privileges to include voting, holding office and serving in any formal capacity recognized by the Society.



ASCLS Meetings

Annual National Meeting

All meetings at the ASCLS Annual Meeting are open to any member who chooses to attend, unless specified in the Annual Meeting Program. The ASCLS Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, national committee meetings, and forums/scientific assemblies invite all members to attend these “society governance” meetings. These meetings allow members to become more informed of activities, goals and strategic actions of the society.

If you are a state society delegate to the Annual Meeting, you must attend the House of Delegates (HOD) session, and vote in the elections for society officers, directors, and elected committee positions. You should also attend the “Meet the Candidates” and the ASCLS Issues Update so that you can become more informed about the issues that will be addressed in the HOD.

What is the “House of Delegates”? The House of Delegates has the ultimate authority within the society regarding the election of officers, board members, directors, and elective committees, and adoption/amendments to bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. The House of Delegates approves professional standards for the society and position papers on topics of interest to members. During the House of Delegates, newly elected officers are inducted and awards from the ASCLS Board of Directors are given, commendations to members are given from the floor, and a preview of the next year’s meeting location is presented. This meeting is very similar to the political conventions that are held every four years to decide on party positions and candidates for national office. The voting members of the House of Delegates are the President and President-Elect of each constituent society (or their alternates), delegates designated by each constituent society, and the members of the Board of Directors of ASCLS.

Legislative Symposium

Each year since 1989, ASCLS has hosted a Legislative Symposium in Washington, DC where our members have taken issues to members of Congress to discuss and to advocate for the profession.

Legislative Day is an annual conference held in Washington in March of each year and is now hosted collaboratively by ASCLS, CLMA, and ASCP. For two days prior to the event, various governance meetings are held, such as the BOD Interim meeting. This meeting is open for members to attend and learn what professional areas the society is currently engaged in. On Monday, everyone attends a full-day educational session which covers the current hot topic issues facing the profession and prepares attendees for their visits with their legislators on Tuesday. The legislative issues are broken down and made clearer for those of us who are not legislators. Presentations are made that discuss the position of ASCLS on certain topics, and why ASCLS has taken this position.

Role-playing is used to teach attendees how to effectively present the professional issues to your state Senators and Representatives. On Tuesday morning, everyone travels to the Hill to talk to the congressional representatives from their respective states. Usually the delegate meets with each Senator or Representative’s Health Care Liaison. This is the person that deals only with health care issues. During Monday’s session you will have been provided with ‘leave-behinds’. These are short, succinct summaries of the position of ASCLS on specific issues. These are especially helpful if you cannot see a particular person.

State & Regional Meetings

ASCLS State Society and Regional meetings are also scheduled throughout the year to ASCLS members at discounted rates. These meetings provide an excellent resource of scientific and leadership development continuing education, allows members to get involved in ASCLS at their state and regional levels, and provides wonderful networking opportunities.



Tips For Attending National Meetings

- Professional attire is recommended.
- Plan on attending as many of the society governance, committee and/or leadership sessions as possible.
- Make registration, hotel and transportation arrangements well in advance. Refer to the meeting program when making these arrangements to ensure ample time to attend all functions.
- When making hotel reservations, use the hotels designated in the meeting program. Special rates have been obtained by ASCLS.
- Check with the Hotel to coordinate travel arrangements to and from the airport, if needed.
- If you are interested in a roommate and are having difficulty finding another student or others that wish to share a room, contact your constituent society President or Student Forum Representative for assistance.
- Attendees of the Annual Meeting usually acquire large amounts of literature and souvenirs. When packing, leave room in your luggage for these materials on your return. Another suggestion is to bring a "bookbag" with you.
- Remember, meetings are a great opportunity for networking. Use these functions to make new friends, discover new ideas and expand your professional and personal horizons. Get the most from your time - use it productively!



Quick Reference Links to Events, Meetings & Continuing Education Offerings

National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week www.ascls.org/about/national.asp

ASCLS National Meetings & Conferences www.ascls.org/conferences/index.asp

ASCLS Regional & State Meetings www.ascls.org/conferences/Conference_View.asp

ASCLS Continuing Education & Products www.ascls.org/conferences/Conference_View.asp

ASCLS Education Connections & Bookstore www.ascls.org/publications/edconn.asp



Membership Benefits & What's In It For You

Membership Benefits:



Continuing Education

A commitment to learning to enhance personal and professional growth is a crucial element of being a professional. It is important that all professionals take advantage of continuing education opportunities to fulfill requirements to prove continued competence in the practice and to meet certification agency requirements for recertification. Membership in ASCLS gives you access to national, regional, state and locally offered quality educational opportunities at reduced registration fees. You will also receive CE credits through the P.A.C.E. program. P.A.C.E. (Professional Acknowledgement for Continuing Education) serves as a quality assurance program for continuing education programs that are available to clinical laboratory professionals. ASCLS sponsors many P.A.C.E. approved programs, audio-conferences, workshops, and online course offerings to its members. CE credit for recertification, licensure renewal or in your workplace can also be found through FOCUS articles, which are convenient mail-in examinations published in every issue (four times per year) of the ASCLS journal *Clinical Laboratory Science*. Members can read and study articles on selected topics, correctly answer follow-up questions, and earn 1.5 to 5.0 contact hours per FOCUS section.



Annual Meeting and Clinical Laboratory Expo

ASCLS hosts an Annual Meeting in July, which is held concurrently with AACC. The Clinical Laboratory Exposition brings hundreds of vendors, cutting edge technology, technical workshops and symposiums to a single site for ASCLS and AACC members. This meeting is held in a different city each year and is a great opportunity to network and meet other clinical laboratory professionals like you. ASCLS members can receive discounts on fees for registration for this meeting.

There are also state and regional meetings held throughout the United States that provide continuing education, exhibits, and leadership opportunities. Visit the ASCLS website or State Society websites for information on these meetings.



Government Affairs & Advocacy

Professionals and professional associations must be aware of the legislative, compliance and regulatory environment that controls how we practice our profession. ASCLS and its ASCLS Government Affairs Committee is committed to informing clinical laboratory professionals of these issues and are poised to respond to any potential impacts. Current issues impacting the profession and how ASCLS advocates for you can be found on the ASCLS website at: www.ascls.org/currentevents/index.asp

ASCLS has a Legislative Consultant who is part of the Executive Office staff. This individual monitors activity in Washington, D.C. that affects ASCLS and the profession. This consultant also attends meetings on Capital Hill and presents ASCLS's point of view on these topics.

Publications, Resources & Webpages

ASCLS has two publications, *Clinical Laboratory Science* and *ASCLS Today*. *Clinical Laboratory Science* is an award winning bimonthly journal that showcases the latest developments in research, education, and government affairs in the clinical laboratory profession. *ASCLS Today* is a newsletter that is published once a month and keeps readers updated on the profession and activities of the state, regional, and national organization.

ASCLS also offers an excellent website at www.ascls.org. The website is filled with professional information, resources, and links to valuable education offerings, products, and services for ASCLS members.

ASCLS *eNewsbytes* is a weekly electronic newsletter provided to members which is filled with briefings on hot scientific topics in the news for that week. The briefings also give quick links to the complete articles.

Additional newsletters, websites and electronic information sharing resources are offered to members from their respective ASCLS Region and State society.

Personal Services & Benefits

ASCLS members can save on credit cards, hotel rooms, and car rentals. Members can also participate in ASCLS insurance programs and take advantage of group rates on health, professional liability, life, disability, and automobile insurance. For additional information on these personal benefits visit the ASCLS website at: www.ascls.org/membership/benefits.asp

Professional Networking, Leadership Development & Mentoring

ASCLS takes pride in its programs that promote professional networking for members at not only the local level but also within its regions and at the national level. Just by being an ASCLS member you are connected to a professional family of over 10,000 members, which include some of the leading clinical laboratory science professionals in the nation. Your professional network spans all levels of the profession including educators, authors, managers, researchers, technical specialists, regulatory and accreditation specialists to name just a few.

ASCLS invests in its members through offering Leadership Development opportunities. The ASCLS E-Mentoring Program is designed to promote the exchange of practical skills and professional knowledge between experienced members of ASCLS and those either new to the profession (students or new professionals) or those taking on new leadership roles. The ASCLS E-Mentoring Program will create a valued relationship between mentor and mentee to allow for the free exchange of advice and guidance related to ASCLS itself, leadership roles, or the profession as a whole. Additional information on the E-mentoring program can be found on the ASCLS website at: www.ascls.org/leadership/ldc/index.asp The ASCLS Leadership Academy is another exceptional program offered to ASCLS members. This program is designed to prepare ASCLS members for current and future leadership roles in the organization by providing a structured program of study of critical leadership topics. Additional information on the Leadership Academy can be found at: www.ascls.org/members/Academy/index.asp



ASCLS Membership - What's In It For Me?

By: Lezlee Koch, ASCLS Region V Director 2006-2009/Proud ASCLS-SD Professional Member Since 1974!

Job satisfaction comes from working alongside people I respect and enjoy. But circumstances change. Personnel come and go. The professional chemistry that worked so well one year may not be there the next. There is, however, one sure way to guarantee I'll always be surrounded by colleagues who are stimulating, positive professionals and that is to renew my membership in the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS).

To be a true professional I know I must be a professional member in an organization that promotes and advocates for my profession. Just by being an active member in ASCLS is an attestation that I am a true professional not just a laboratory worker and my membership instantly widens my circle of professional contacts and friends to a family of 10,000! □□ASCLS membership dissolves the barriers that cut me off from peers across town and across the nation. It opens the doors to many opportunities for advancing my career. Among all the associations serving the many specialties within clinical laboratory science, ASCLS is unique. ASCLS is led by clinical laboratory science professionals just like me - professionals who understand the demands I face and my desire for professional recognition - and not physicians or other healthcare professionals. ASCLS brings together the concerns of all clinical laboratory science professionals. ASCLS, through its members, speaks for the whole profession in a voice strong enough to gain respect and recognition for my contribution to health care. In other words... as an ASCLS member instead of speaking as a single practitioner, my voice, my value and my vision rings out with the strength of 10,000 voices. I know I am heard and that what I do brings true value to health care.

The top benefits I receive everyday from my ASCLS membership and that I don't receive just working in the profession includes:

- I have multiple opportunities to actively participate in and be an advocate for regulatory, legislative, educational and professional issues related to and impacting my chosen profession.
- I have access to additional cost-saving membership benefits that are not available to me through my employer; professional publications, insurance programs, credit cards, travel, hotel rooms, car rentals, etc.
- I have a very large voice that promotes only the highest professional standards.
- I continuously receive current information on legislative, regulatory, and professional issues through publications and electronic information sharing. This knowledge allows me to grow and become more valuable in what I do every day.
- I have opportunities for professional development, affordable continuing education offerings & career enhancement that is not available through other means.
- I have access to thousands of leaders in the profession who can assist me in my career, answer questions for me when I don't know who to ask or help me in my everyday professional tasks.
- I have professional support 24-7 at my fingertips or with a click of a mouse
- I have professional identity and I know I am connected with something larger than my own life

Bottom line... It's my life, it's my choice, I am the captain of my own ship and I choose ASCLS membership as it provides me a professional path to an awesome professional journey, happiness and success. My ASCLS membership allows me "to serve, to care, to give back to my profession and to make a difference... is there anything greater or more beautiful in this world?" I think not!





Student Forum

&

New Professionals Committee



Every organization is only one generation away from extinction.

We must recruit members who are willing to be active participants in achieving the goals of ASCLS.

We must seek out fresh perspectives so that we can grow and continue to be relevant in the changing world of laboratory science.

We must invest in the idea of an institutional legacy in order to survive.

We must make sure that everyone who joins ASCLS can easily get answers to their questions and have guidance to become active.

--ASCLS Student Forum
--ASCLS New Professionals Committee

What Is The Student Forum?

The Student Forum is an approved “forum” of ASCLS designed to coordinate the involvement and interest of students in the field of clinical laboratory science, to provide students with a voice in their professional society, and to educate students in the concepts of professionalism as expressed by ASCLS in its philosophies, policies and procedures. All ASCLS members that qualify for student membership status are automatically part of the Forum lead by the elected Student Forum officers - Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Officers are elected at the Student Forum meeting during the Annual ASCLS meeting. In addition, there are subsections of leadership including the 10 regional representatives and each constituent society has a student representative.

Student Forum Officers

Student Forum Chair – Serves as Student Director to ASCLS Board of Directors:

- Highest-ranking official of the Student Forum.
- Presides over all meetings of the ASCLS Student Forum at the National Meeting and Legislative Symposium in addition to attending and serving as a voting member of the ASCLS Board of Directors (Student Director).
- Communicate the needs, concerns, and opinions of the student forum to the board of directors and all CLS students in the country.
- Writes or assures that bi-monthly articles for ASCLS Today are submitted from the Student Forum
- Recommend students to ASCLS President for national committees
- Student Forum Vice-Chair and Secretary assist in achieving charges and completing duties for the Student Forum
- Hold a student fundraiser at the national meeting.
- The chair ultimately agrees to a four year commitment:
Student Director → FYP Director & NPC Vice Chair & serves on AMSC→
NPC Chair & serves on CEAC → NPC Past-Chair

Student Forum Vice-Chair:

- Second highest ranking official of the Student Forum.
- Needs to become familiar with the duties of the Chair and assumes those duties in their absence.
- Serves as a member of the Student Board of Representatives and as a voting member of the Student Forum at its Annual Business Meeting.

Student Forum Secretary:

- In charge of recording the proceedings of all meetings of the Student Forum Board of Representatives and the Student Forum.
- Works closely with the forum officers to assist in their duties.



Additional Student Forum Information

Check out the ASCLS website:

Student Forum Page: www.ascls.org/student/StudentForum.asp

Student Forum Manual: www.ascls.org/student/StudentForum.asp

Member Login “Our Library”: www.ascls.org/publications/Library/index.asp

New Professional (NP) & First Year Professional (FYP): What's the Difference?

First Year Professional (FYP):

This membership class was created in 2004 as a way to ease the transition from student member to Professional I or Professional II member. If you've just graduated and maybe you haven't found a job yet, the FYP membership class gives you a wonderful discount the first year after you graduate but still allows you full professional membership benefits.

New Professional (NP):

New Professional is the term used to define the group of ASCLS members that are "new to the profession" of clinical laboratory science. This group of members includes First Year Professional members and all Professional I or II members with less than 5 years experience in the practice.

In defining this group of members and through the formation of the New Professionals Committee, ASCLS strives to assure that the activities of the Society addresses the interests and needs of new professionals at the national, regional and state levels of the Society.

New Professionals Committee (NPC)

The New Professionals Committee (NPC) was created as a way for all new professionals to come together to share ideas, give input to the Society about new professional's needs and learn how to access resources that are uniquely available to ASCLS members. As a new professional, ASCLS realizes that even though you're out of school, you may still have questions about the way ASCLS provides benefits to its members or leadership development programs that are available to you through membership.

The primary purpose of the NPC is to coordinate the involvement and interest of new professionals in the practice of clinical laboratory science and to provide them with a voice in their professional society.

NPC Composition, Appointment Term and Leadership

Committee Composition: The total committee membership is fourteen (14) members of which ten (10) are the Regional NPC members, one (1) is the ASCLS FYP Director, one (1) is the NPC Chair, one (1) is the past-NPC Chair, and one (1) is the NPC Advisor.

Committee Member Appointment, Term and Leadership:

New Professional Definition: new clinical laboratory science professional with less than 5 years experience in the practice.

NPC Regional Committee Members: Three (3) year term; three to four (3-4) members appointed annually; members may only serve for one (1) term. Members are appointed by the Regional Director during their first year in office; the regional NPC chair's term begins during the second year of the Regional Director's term.

Committee Leadership: Includes Chair, Vice-Chair and Past-Chair. The ASCLS FYP Director will serve as the Vice-Chair; the Vice-Chair may succeed to the NPC Chair position through the appointment process; the NPC Chair will succeed to the NPC Past-Chair position. Term is one (1) year for each.

The NPC holds at a minimum at least one annual committee meeting in conjunction with the ASCLS Annual Meeting. Additional meetings and communications of the committee may be held via conference call and emails throughout the year. Any member of the Society may attend the Annual Committee Meeting or offer assistance to the committee in achieving its goals and setting strategic action plans.

Additional New Professional Committee Information

Check out the ASCLS website: www.ascls.org

New Professional Committee Members:

www.ascls.org/members/leadership/Leadership%20Directory/committees/pub-npc.pdf

ASCLS Bylaws & Standard Operating Procedures, Position Descriptions and Resource Library (must login as member)

www.ascls.org/publications/library/index.ASP



Regional Representative to the Student Forum or NPC

Each regional representative shall be a member of the Society and hold membership in a constituent society within the region that each represents. The respective Regional Director, in consultation with the Student Forum Chair or FYP Director, shall appoint the Regional Representative. When a Regional Representative is unable to attend the Annual Business Meeting of the NPC, the respective Regional Director in consultation with the Student Forum Chair or FYP Director may appoint an alternate.

The following are a few example of the responsibilities of regional representatives; however, each region has a specific position description that is available.

- Volunteer for and assist with ASCLS NPC or Student Forum tasks and projects to assist in achieving committee goals.
- Serve as a mentor and resource to NP and Student Forum representatives and members in all states within region. Encourages all NP or Students to become involved in ASCLS.
- Provide feedback to the ASCLS NPC or Student Forum, ASCLS FYP Director or Student Director, Regional Council and Region Director about state and regional NP or Student Forum activities.
- Communicate needs, concerns, and opinions of the region's NP or Student members to the ASCLS NPC or Student Forum, Regional Council and Region Director. Communicates all national and/or regional NP or Student Forum related information to the state NP or Student Forum Representatives, as appropriate.
- Work with the Region Member Service Committee representative on member retention and with the ASCLS Member Recruitment Committee on member recruitment
- Keep the Region Director informed of correspondence to the national NPC or Student Forum and the State NPC or Student Forum Representatives.
- Write articles for national, regional or state publications as requested.
- Shall make a valiant effort to attend the Regional meetings, Legislative Day, and National meetings, and if cannot attend, work with Region Director to find another regional NP or Student member to attend meetings.

