

Board of Directors Meeting  
Feb 1, 2003  
Brooke Army Medical Center

Attending:

John Wentz, President  
Becky See, President-elect  
Duncan Samo, Past President  
Joan Aldrich, Secretary  
Candace Schaper, Treasurer  
Christina Thompson, Board of Directors  
Dave Falleur, Board of Directors  
Karen Murray, Board of Directors  
Phil Kostroun, Nominations Committee Chair  
Melissa Bowen, PF1 Member

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. following a continuing education talk by Linda Speights: "Congestive Heart Failure and the Role of B-type Natriuretic Peptide".

II. Roll Call

The Secretary called the roll.

The Board observed 15 seconds of silence in respect for the Shuttle tragedy that occurred today.

III. Presidential Appointments

There are no new presidential appointments to announce.

IV. Board reports

President - John Wentz (written report is attached)

1. Most activity has been communication on behalf of TACLS (see report).
2. The last check (\$803.52) for the Dallas meeting has been received giving a net loss for the meeting of approximately \$3000.
3. Frost Bank has offered no-fee checking to districts of TACLS according to the representative from the downtown Dallas branch.
4. ASCLS membership updates obtained from Mike Bristol of ASCLS have been forwarded to the membership development chair and the exec. secretary of TACLS.



Board of Directors - Karen Murray

1. Has concerns about attendance at the TACLS meeting in Austin this spring. She will not be sending faculty and students (as she usually does) due to the Texas state deficit.

Board of Directors - Christina Thompson (written report is attached)

1. She has called many people from the lapsed member list. A few responded positively.
2. TAMUCC faculty and students are all coming to the TACLS meeting in Austin since it is so close.
3. Public Service Announcement by Webshark looks like a possibility. Cost is reasonable (estimate \$3000 - \$5000 if done in Houston).
4. Supplied information to area labs with shortages. They may develop scholarships instead of sign-on bonuses.
5. Has enthusiastic students this year. But some universities are raising the minimum number of students to make a class. Her program is apt to be closed if she doesn't have 10-15 full-time students next year (12 month program).

Student Forum Representative - Sandy Wortham (written report read by Becky See)

1. She has researched and polled students about the Student Bowl regarding problems and strengths. Suggestions: a) give answers to a neutral person (Becky See volunteers), b) switch questions with another state (Illinois will trade their Power Point pool of questions next year), c) include new areas for student participation, e.g., case studies or posters to allow for individual achievement by students

Note: Power Point allows the team to read the question which eliminates the risk of forgetting a section due to verbal reading of the question.

Volunteers of unbiased student bowl workers will be solicited using the Tacs website and February issue of TACLS News and email to all. Volunteer list should be sent to Becky.

Student Bowl is being done by Karen McClure this year.

Duncan will contact CLT educators to determine interest in renewing their participation in student bowl. Duncan volunteers to handle the CLT part of the student bowl.

Methodist only has 4 students in this year's class; how to allow participation by small programs?

Dave is planning to present plaques for the best student poster at this year's meeting.

## V. Reports of Commissions and Committees

### Commissioner of District and State Affairs - Karen Murray

#### 1. New member packet

Her group is designing a cover for the jacket for the new member packet. It is a bi-fold jacket with pockets inside. Cost varies by volume. Final cost estimate will be available at the spring TACLS meeting.

If money is needed for this project during the current fiscal year then the excess dollars budgeted for the PSA can be used.

The **Board of Directors approves** preparation of 5000 copies for approximately a 3-year supply of packets.

The material in the packet lists value and benefits of membership. The packets are customized for each district with 7 pieces of information: letter from TACLS president, letter from district president, letter from governance committee with legislative contacts, web site contact, description of upcoming meetings, newsletter contact, etc.

She suggests sending them not only to new members, but also to current members 2 months prior to renewal. Combined list of active (paid) and renewed members (including recent graduates) is approximately 1000 per year; adding students and recent grads estimates about 1300 per year.

TACLS will do the mailing, sorted by district according to address. Consider also letting districts have extras to put in lunch rooms, waiting rooms, etc.

Note: only about 10 postcards announcing the spring TACLS meeting were returned for bad address.

2. Problems in district 13: Activity in district 13 was revived 2 ½ years ago. Needs and interest of local laboratorians were surveyed: they want focus on public awareness and salary awareness, and don't perceive a need for more local continuing education. A web-site listing local salaries for the past 2 years has caused problems. The salary competition has resulted in laboratory managers prohibiting & threatening staff against participation in TACLS. Since the core of reactivation of the district is the MT school, the employer/lab managers are biased against the MT school.

The suggestion was made to move the salary information to the TACLS web site to defuse antagonism against the MT school.

## Nominations Committee - Phil Kostroun

### 1. The slate of candidates for election at the spring TACLS meeting:

Christina Thompson for President Elect  
Candace Schaper for Treasurer  
Dave Falleur for Board of Directors  
Karen Chandler for Board of Directors

### 3 positions on Nomination Committee to be elected. Candidates are:

Sandra Tijerina  
Sandra Cabrera  
Sandra Wortham  
Melissa Bowen

### Nominees for Member of the Year:

Christina Thompson  
Duncan Samo  
Sandra Tijerina  
Thomasine Newby

note: Bylaws say no more than 3 people may be candidates; Christina Thompson declines the nomination

Nominees need to submit their personal information to the Nominations Committee. The nomination for Member of the Year must also include a letter from the nominator that justifies the nomination.

BTW - John Wentz needs to forward last year's Member of the Year to ASCLS for candidacy for the national award.

### 2. **Error in the Minutes** of last meeting of the Board of Directors.

Nominations must be published 30 days (not 60 days) before the spring meeting in a separate mailing.

## Membership Development- Melissa Nedry

Ellen Sanderson and Debbie Faubion volunteer to assist with calling lapsed members.

Commissioner of Education - Karen McClure

Education Committee

Doramarie Arocha has resigned from Education Chair and needs to be replaced.

Spring meetings

2002 meeting in Arlington (John Wentz)

The books for the 2002 Arlington meeting are now closed

2003 meeting in Austin (Dave Falleur)

Registration forms for the 2003 Austin meeting will be going onto the web site this week. Preliminary program will be mailed about February 15.

Institutional badge will cost \$350 for 3 people, \$550 for 5 people, \$950 for 10 people. Institutional badge attendees don't get lunch tickets.

Need more suggestions for exhibitors (e.g., business cards) and then will send the file to next year's chair. Now have 4 vendors (3 vendors and 1 employer). Exhibitors are also being invited to sponsor a coffee break in exchange for a free table, or sponsor a lunch for free something else.

Mixer on Thursday night is poolside (cost to the convention \$1,000).

AV would cost approximately \$500 per day for each laptop/projector setup. Everybody that can, please bring theirs for use at the meeting.

2004 meeting in Houston (Becky See)

Logo is prepared and will be available for view at the spring meeting.

Working on a speaker for the keynote address.

Committee is meeting monthly.

Commissioner of Governance - Christina Thompson

ASCLS Legislative Day in March will be attended by John Wentz, Duncan Samo, and Becky See. CLMA is in DC at the same time.

Thomsaine Newby has established contact with her state representative regarding lack of licensure. It is time now to start working on a bill for the following session of the Texas legislature.

TACLS will have legislative visits on Wed, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We need to discuss and prepare information and discussion points, e.g., personnel shortage, quality, patient safety, national safety/bioterrorism.

#### Bylaws Committee - Joan Aldrich

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws and SOP have been approved by the ASCLS Bylaws Committee. They will be posted on web site and also sent to Dave Falleur for inclusion in the monthly TACLS News.

#### Commissioner on Public Relations - Vicki Freeman

#### Awards Committee - Ellen Sanderson

Ellen needs information about names of awardees and prices for plaques and pins.

#### Publications Committee - Dave Falleur

TACLS News is now a monthly one page newsletter sent to all members. The previous problem with quality of photos is now resolved.

Lots of people didn't receive the last mailing. Dave suggests sending an email direct to Executive Secretary Teresa Guerra if there is a glitch in mailing. (Perhaps she has multiple mailing lists with old addresses for some members).

He continues to need submissions for publication (ex: local activities, awards to members, etc). Please send newsworthy information with or without photos to Dave.

Articles for the next issue are needed by Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. The March issue will contain pre-convention information. The May issue will have post-convention news and photos.

#### Old Business

#### Reviving non-active districts

Districts 13 and 16 are active.

District 4 is on "idle" but alive. A good meeting in November had 15 attendees. Planning a joint meeting of Districts 13 & 4 this spring.

Nacodoches activity is still pending.

Steve Speights is working on getting San Antonio active again.

#### Contacting lapsed members (see above)

## Public Service Announcement

An ad hoc committee of Houston members and Christina Thompson will form and meet/brainstorm with Webshark. We'll go ahead with the production; TMA may help later or participate in another PSA later.

Need to include both small hospital and big medical center in the PSA. Also need to show young professional members in the video.

Could also use it as streaming video on the TACLS web site.

Look into 1-800-valmorgan for advertising NMLW at theaters.

Spring meeting 2005 - ask McAllen (Karen Chandler) to be host.

## New Business

Problem - Resistance to late renewals of membership because full-year price is required for only part of a year's membership.

ASCLS membership renewal is once a year instead of by anniversary date. South Carolina suggested monthly renewal dates last year but ASCLS Executive Office stated that they can't afford the manpower for monthly renewals. Suggest quarterly renewals as a compromise.

Membership begun at the annual spring meeting extends through the following year, (3 months free) but application must be sent in a group from the meeting committee i.e., can't join for this extended price from home.

What about another Texas Resolution? What about including a membership in the spring meeting mailing and then allow joining from home for the following year?

John Wentz and Joan Aldrich will craft appropriate language and email it to the Board of Directors for approval. After approval, the Resolution will be sent to Shirlyn McKenzie in time for presentation to the spring ASCLS Board of Directors meeting in late February.

Working with TMA - John Wentz will continue conversations with Dr. Allison of the Texas Medical Association on mutual efforts regarding the laboratory personnel shortage.

Legislative visits on April 2 - John Wentz will email the Board and Advisory Committee to solicit participants and an item list for discussion with state legislators.

A free TACLS pin will be sent to each new member (including student members). Contact John for a supply.

PACE voucher will be coming from ASCLS PACE Committee (Sherry Miner). Someone from UTHSC-San Antonio is using our PACE provider number, probably TNT. Provider number costs us \$500 per year. San Antonio has been notified to get its own number.

Check on getting retroactive PACE for this morning's BNP talk.

#### VIII. Announcements

Pre-convention Board of Directors meeting will be on Wed, Apr 2 in the evening in John's room at the hotel.

Dave will renew his contact at CLIA to obtain a list of all Texas labs. This list will assist in preparing a survey of information about the personnel shortage. Also it might be utilized to advertise the state meeting.

Need to glean high-complexity labs from the list.

Karen Murray has a complete mailing list from THA and will check its age/usefulness.

New address for Candace Schaper (distributed to Board of Directors, and Executive Secretary).

Minutes submitted by Joan Aldrich  
Secretary