



# The Pipette Line

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

### View from the Desk of Lisa Anderson



What does one think when they see or hear the word membership? For some the first thing may be how much is it going to cost? For others it may be what can I gain from being a member? The word can have multiple definitions in different contexts. Generally it is most often used to describe clubs, groups, organizations or teams in which as an individual you are an active part. As a member, you share common goals or interests with others of the membership that can lead to change or growth personally as well as to the associated entity.

I would like for you to think back to when you first joined the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. Did you join because someone who was a member asked you to? Did you join because you thought it would look good on your professional resume? Did you join because you saw it as an avenue to keep up your skills and learn new knowledge? Or did you join because you wanted to make a contribution to the profession by using your skills or talents? For whatever reason, it brought you into a professional organization that supports and advocates for clinical laboratory science practice and education.

As a member, you receive benefits that can assist you in earning continuing education, personal services or discounts, access to publications and important information about government affairs that impact our profession. As with any membership, some benefits outweigh others and individuals have differences as to which benefit is of most value to them. One thing most of us can say is we would rather do things together as a group or team instead of by ourselves. Many of us enjoy the enthusiasm that develops when a group of people "gather", whether it's for lunch with friends, a family-gathering or a state, regional or national meeting. The benefits of being a member of this organization allows us opportunities to network and gain friendships with others that share our common goals and interests.

So what exactly does this mean to you? You are a member of a professional organization that depends on its members to change and grow. It can begin with support and involvement in the state society, progressing to the regional level and then to national. I appeal to you to take an active role and contribute what you can to the organization. Even the smallest things do not go unnoticed. Membership is a journey of gradual increasing endeavors that only you can control what it develops into for you. If you are interested in sharing your talents and skills or just getting more involved, please contact me or your district director.

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**Application for Membership  
webpage**  
[http://www.ascls.org/  
membership/index.asp](http://www.ascls.org/membership/index.asp)

## The Pipette Line

**Editor:** *Bonnie Gum*

The Pipette Line is a quarterly Publication of the **American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Georgia** for its members.

Note: Copies of complete board minutes and committee reports are available to members on request from Bonnie Gum, ASCLS-GA secretary. Address all correspondence to

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## News From the CLBBTB Committee Joeline Dillard Davidson

The Committee met January 11, 2007 at the Public Health Laboratory, Clairmont Avenue, Atlanta. New members were introduced: Connie Stanfill is the microbiology representative, and Matthew Fries, M.D, is the physician representative. Election of officers was delayed until the next meeting.

Committee bylaws were reviewed. It was decided to amend the bylaws related to meeting attendance. The amendment would require the Department to contact the professional organization represented by a member who is absent 2 meetings in a row without making arrangements for an alternate to attend. The organization will be asked to nominate another member. A draft prepared by Carletha Durham will be on the March agenda.

The examination review subcommittee has not received necessary information from the Department to do the examination review. An effort is being made to find the previously used questionnaire.

Definitions in the Rules and Regulations were reviewed. "Other personnel" was identified as being confusing to laboratorians. The Committee decided that language could be added to the interpretative guidelines to better clarify the types of tasks appropriate to assign to laboratory "other" personnel. The discussion included adding references to totally automated systems, plating, and those tasks where personnel are not required to make evaluations or critical judgments.

The next meeting will be March 8, 2007 at 10 AM at Houston Medical Center, Warner Robbins, Georgia. It is anticipated this will give those in the southern area an opportunity to attend the meeting.

### Member News

What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas? Well, for the most part. I couldn't bring this dashing old fellow from Ceasors Palace back with me but at least I got a picture. The caption must read "Bonnie's Newest Beau". While I was there I got to hear Celine Dion in concert and play the slots.



## AWARDS

### SPONSORED BY American Society Clinical Laboratory Science-Georgia Honors Tributes Rewards Recognition

#### CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR

To recognize a ASCLS-GA member for outstanding achievement in the profession

Award: engraved Silver bowl and a certificate suitable for framing.  
Nomination by ASCLS-GA members

#### GLORIA F. GILBERT AWARD

To recognize a ASCLS-GA member who demonstrated interest in goals and purposes of ASCLS-GA and made significant contributions to societal activities in current year or over the past years

Award: plaque or plate and a certificate suitable for framing. Nominations by ASCLS-GA members and others

#### CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROFESSION AWARD

To recognize ASCLS-GA members for outstanding contributions to the profession as demonstrated in the workplace and/or through one of the following profession activities: providing continuing education, fostering public awareness of the profession, research or other professional activity

Award: professional framed certificated presented at the ASCLS-GA Annual Meeting.  
Up to one award in each of the following areas may be given: Generalist, Hematology, Chemistry, Immunoematology, Microbiology

#### KEYS TO THE FUTURE

To identify, honor and reward newly-active ASCLS-GA members who have demonstrated leadership potential through successful direction of a task force, project, committee, etc, the outcome of which was successful, creative or otherwise of high quality

Nominations are by ASCLS-GA members and others. Award: recognition at the ASCLS-GA annual meeting with a certificate

#### OMICRON Sigma

To recognize ASCLS-GA Members for their commitment to the professional growth and development of the society

Award: recognition at the ASCLS-GA Annual meeting with a special ribbon.  
Nominations are made by ASCLS-GA members

Application Deadline is February 28, 2007. For more information and application forms, contact ASCLS-GA awards committee chair Hassan Aziz  
azizhass@mail.armstrong.edu



**59th Annual ASCLS-GA Meeting  
SES-AACC Spring Meeting  
April 12-13, 2007**

**Harry S. Downs Continuing Education Center  
Clayton State University  
Morrow, GA**

## ASCLS-GA Slate of Officers

The ASCLS-Georgia Nominations Committee Invites ASCLS-GA members to submit nominations and/or volunteers for the following offices for 2007. Voting will occur at the state business meeting April 13, 2007.

President-elect- Barbara Russell

Secretary 2007-2008: Bonnie Gum

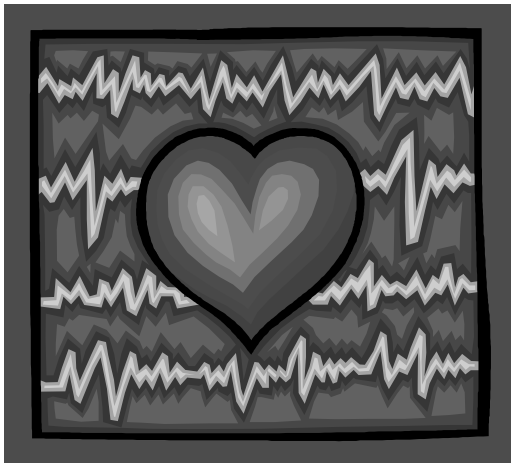
District IV Director 2007-09: vacant (Macon area)

District V Director 2007-09: vacant (Columbus, LaGrange, Americus Area)

District VI Director 2007-2009: vacant (Atlanta, Marietta Area)

District VIII Director 2007-09: vacant (Gainesville Area)

Nominations Committee: 2007-2008 Hassan Aziz, Darcell Thaxton, 3rd member vacant



### February-Heart Health Awareness Month

February is designated as American Heart Month. The American Heart Association has instituted a campaign, “Go Red for Women,” to encourage women to pay attention to their hearts and help them live longer, stronger lives by reducing their risk of cardiovascular disease.

Did You Know. . . .

- Heart attack, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases claim the lives of more than half a million women each year, more than the next seven causes of death combined and nearly twice as many as all forms of cancer, including breast cancer.
- One in five females in the United States has some form of cardiovascular disease and 63 percent of women who died suddenly of coronary heart disease had no previous symptoms of this disease.
- Heart disease prevention for Men and Women: know your cholesterol values, exercise, stop smoking, lose weight.



**House Bill 352**

By: Representatives Sheldon of the 105th, Butler of the 18th, Carter of the 159th, and Ehrhart of the 36th

To amend Chapter 12 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to control of hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, so as to revise certain provisions relating to the assessment of the newborn screening program; to revise certain provisions relating to approved laboratories to perform screening testing; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Essentially this bill would ammend the current program to allow other than the state laboratories to perform neonatal screening as stated in the following section of the bill. Note the text in red will be deleted for Cahmptter 12 Title 31 and the underlined text will be added should HB 352 be passed.

(g) The department shall allow any laboratory **licensed in Georgia and authorized** certified pursuant to the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 263, that is licensed to perform screening testing of newborn infants in any state **using and uses** normal pediatric reference ranges to conduct the analysis required pursuant to this Code section as an alternative to the state operated newborn screening laboratory. The testing performed by such laboratory must include testing for newborn diseases as required by law or regulation and shall provide test results and reports consistent with law and with policies, procedures, and regulations of the department.

The question put to our legislators--is this a wise use of our tax dollars considering the amount of money spent in the last few years to upgrade instruments and equipment for the state laboratory?

**If you would like to share your views to be published in the Pipet Line, send them to gumb@bellsouth.net.**

House Bill 276

By: Representatives Setzler of the 35th, Hill of the 21st, Brooks of the 63rd, and Loudermilk of the 14th

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 10 of the O.C.G.A., relating to commerce and trade, so as to provide a short title; to provide for definitions; to set forth the purposes of the Biometric Information Protection Act; to provide for civil and criminal penalties; to provide for venue; to prohibit the use of genetic information for the issuance of life insurance; to prohibit the use of genetic information in employment decisions; to prohibit the use of biometric information in enrollment decisions in educational institutions; to provide for information on public and private identification and access cards; to define certain unfair business practices for preferential treatment of customers that reveal biometric information; to prohibit the implanting of biometric sensors or personal location tracking devices; to provide for the release of biometric or genetic information to legal authorities; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

This one is designed to protect our DNA from the insurance companies who want to charge us an extra premium if we are genetically disposed to certain diseases. Brave New World. . . you have arrived.

**September 30, 2006**

**ASCLS-GA Board of Directors  
Augusta, GA**

**February 22-24, 2007**

**Clinical Laboratory Educators' Conference  
Louisville, KY**

**March 19-20, 2007**

**ASCLS/ASCP/CLMA Legislative Symposium  
Washington D.C.**

**April 12-13, 2007**

**Annual ASCLS-GA State Meeting  
Morrow, GA**



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