

LSCLS Fall 2020 Board Meeting Agenda  
Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:00pm CST

1. Call to order by James Gardner at 6:02 PM  
Members on the call: Norma Bivona, Lee Ellen Brunson-Sicilia, Jennifer Bushnell, Kristin Butler, Luke Caruso, Cheryl Caskey, Deborah Fox, James Gardner, Karrie Hovis, Patsy Jarreau, Claude Rector, Cheyenne Reyes, Karen Williams
2. Minutes – Spring 2020 – because quorum was not reached, minutes will be voted on later via online poll.
3. Discussion regarding 2021 Spring Meeting in New Orleans, which is currently still scheduled. Planning Committee has been discussing options about how/whether to move forward in light of the pandemic. Vicki Johnson from ASCLS helped negotiate the contract with Marriott, had two meetings with them in October. Vicki has laid out options for us as to how to proceed:
  - a. Hold meeting as usual, but with a 10 person in-person attendance minimum and a clause stating LSCLS will not pay a penalty for not meeting hotel room block or food/beverage minimums.
  - b. Hold a hybrid meeting, both in-person and virtual.
  - c. Hold a strictly virtual meeting.
  - d. Try to push the meeting back to 2022, if ASCLS-MS is willing to relinquish their 2022 meeting dates.

All options were discussed. Vicki has told Karrie that our situation is not unique; many others are having same issue. Karrie sent a poll to MLS/MLT programs to see if travel bans are in place; the majority do have bans in place, which would further decrease attendance in 2021. New Orleans mayor is currently not allowing large gatherings, and this may very well still be the case in early 2021 based on current COVID trends. Will be difficult to find speakers and get people to commit to attending. If the meeting is cancelled for 2021, awards will still be given and mailed and elections will still take place, just virtually or remotely.

Planning committee recommends to push meeting back to 2022 rather than break contract with Marriott and pay fees that we don't have (up to \$80,000), but the Board needs to vote on it. Once the Board votes, the long process of negotiations will begin via Vicki, and we may or may not get everything we ask for. It will likely be March before negotiations are complete. The consensus of those present was to push the meeting to 2022, but because quorum was not reached, James will hold a vote at a later date via online poll.

4. Treasurer's Report: Joette could not attend this meeting but she says that financially, we will be okay if we have to push the meeting back. Patsy: Finances are fine – we haven't been able to do much during this time, so we haven't spent much.
5. Discussion about CE offerings if the meeting gets pushed back: Could we have speakers record sessions and post online via LSCLS site so that members could still get CE? Clinical Laboratory Personnel Committee provides 12 CEs yearly free of charge, have recorded those presentations

for 2020 and they have been posted online to be listened to later. Could post links to free CEs on LSCLS website or to the ASCLS Connect page.

6. Nominations Committee Report: Jennifer still wants to push for online nominations; paper nominations are expensive to prepare and mail and no one really responds via snail mail. Jennifer has played around some with SurkeyMonkey and it appears to be a viable option. Wisconsin society has used it successfully.
  
7. Region VII Report: Claude – Fall Board Meeting was held recently. So far, CLEC is still scheduled for 2021 in Denver but will be a hybrid meeting; presenters will give presentations from home if necessary but will meet if they can, depending on what's going on at the time. Many educators cannot travel right now. A new meeting has been created: Emerging Laboratory Managers conference, Jan 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be held virtually and will focus will be to create managers-to-be. Intermediary virtual House of Delegates meeting will be held on January 17<sup>th</sup>, with delegates that were named in 2020 for the virtual meeting. Won't be as formal or as long as normal HOD, but voting will occur. Leg Day will likely not happen this year. Hilton is willing to allow us to get out of that contract. Discussed impact of COVID on actual programs – some are closing (Community College of Portland), University of Hawaii wanted to eliminate MLS and keep MLT. Numbers of applicants seem to be decreasing. Diversity Inclusion Council wants to work with the Board to be involved in future activities, to ensure diversity throughout the society. Regional governance: a survey was sent out to assess uniformity of regional leadership – who votes, when they vote, and finances. National is questioning whether we need to have regional accounts. State membership dues structures vary widely. Looking at standardizing state membership dues, so that each member pays the same amount to their state. No real movement yet on committee uniformity, to put all committees under larger umbrellas. Still having trouble finding a managing editor of the ASCLS Journal. Worried about national membership without state meetings, as well as the value of national societies moving forward.
  
8. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned by James at 7:02pm

Submitted by Lee Ellen Brunson on 4/12/21