



Six Rivers Chapter

CLMA

THE RESOURCE FOR LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS

CHAPTER CHATTER

Greetings!

As you will read below, the Six Rivers chapter had an extraordinary year, under Paul Labbe's diligent and committed leadership. We continue to grow as a chapter, attracting new members and encouraging more participation in various committees and programs, and look forward to an equally rewarding year ahead. We welcome your participation, ideas and concerns; so please contact any board member if you are interested.

Joyce Dicks
Six Rivers CLMA Chapter President

Annual Report – December 2004

The Six Rivers Chapter is a dynamic team that has accomplished the following through the guidelines of our Strategic Plan:

Strategic Initiatives:

- ✓ Our annual Strategic Planning session was held in November 2003 with the new board and participating members to update the chapter strategic plan for 2004-05
- ✓ Incorporation of the new CLMA logo and initiatives in membership were accomplished during the spring and summer of 2004.
- ✓ Active participation by our SRC members in education seminars, national organizational initiatives, and policy setting discussions throughout the year.
- ✓ Recognition of SRC by the National CLMA at the Atlanta 2004 conference with two Chapter Excellence Awards: Education, and Leadership & Administration.

Communication Initiatives:

- ✓ Monthly broadcast e-mail messages to all members on timely topics that include upcoming educational seminars, national lab week promotions, membership survey information, and management and policy issues.
- ✓ Quarterly production of the Chapter Chatter newsletter highlighting events through committee article updates and pictures of social events.
- ✓ Monthly SRC board meetings via teleconference utilizing technology to bring our geographic area closer, and ensuring ongoing focus of our strategic plan.

Educational & Collaborative Initiatives:

- ✓ SRC Spring Conference in Dayton on February 19, 2004 with three dynamic speakers and awarding of 2 SRC scholarships to CLS students totaling \$3,000.
- ✓ National Fly-In at Washington D.C. with Joan Longberry representing SRC.
- ✓ Ohio River Valley Conference on April 27-29, in Dayton with SRC representing 38% of the attendees of this regional conference.
- ✓ National CLMA Conference in Atlanta, GA in March attended by 20% of the SRC membership.
- ✓ Annual Fall SRC meeting at Deer Creek State Park in October.

Financial Initiatives:

- ✓ Annual financial report filed with the national office
- ✓ Lab Week Candy promotion raised funds for our annual scholarship program
- ✓ Silent auction and associated raffles also raised funds for the scholarship program.
- ✓ Assisted national office in chapter participation in the new CLMA Political Action Committee (PAC) fund through promotion with our chapter members.
- ✓ See separate annual financial report demonstrating the SRC is financially sound

Thank you to our outgoing board members, Cynthia Griffith, who is our new President-Elect, and Pam Oliver, who also served as our Membership Chair. Welcome to our new board members, Kathy Good, and Lisa Littleton! Our continued success is dependant on not just these new leaders, but also every member of Six Rivers. Please continue to be active, participatory members to ensure the continued strength of our chapter in education, leadership and networking.

Thank you for a successful 2004!

Paul Labbe
Outgoing President, SRC
Paul.r.labbe@questdiagnostics.com
www.sixriversclma.org

Fall Conference – September 23-24, 2004

Our chapter Fall Conference at Deer Creek was a terrific event, featuring leadership, management and motivational speakers as well as our Silent Auction and 13 vendor exhibits. Those who could arrive early enjoyed a cookout and evening of networking.

Friday's program began with Cherie Peterson, Training Specialist, ARUP Laboratories, presenting her perspective on creating a customer-focused organization and sharing successful service excellence strategies. Paul Jones, local singer, comedian and professional speaker, spoke about his battle with bi-polar disorder; while Gary Milburn, Quest Diagnostics-Nichols Institute, discussed what the future holds for the clinical lab industry in a mini-space odyssey "2020 – George Jetson goes to the doctor."

Our Silent Auction raised over \$300 for the scholarship fund, and featured handcrafted jewelry and homemade pies! Marianne Otte won the raffle drawing for our membership survey, and Cynthia Griffith won a registration to the 2005 CLMA/ASCP Annual Conference.

WATCH FOR OUR BROADCAST MONTHLY E-MAIL!

OUR WAY OF LETTING YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR SIX RIVERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES ARE DOING.....

Up to date chapter information at www.sixriversclma.org

New Members

Six Rivers Chapter Officers & Board Members

PRESIDENT

Joyce Dicks (513-325-6325)

jdicks@shrinenet.org

PRESIDENT ELECT

Cynthia Griffith (513) 420-5029

cynthiagrif@aol.com

SECRETARY

Renee Cuevas-Downs (614-722-5389)

CuevasR@childlab.com

TREASURER

Sandy Frommeyer (937) 297-8354

Sandy.e.Frommeyer@questdiagnostics.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Paul Labbe, 937-297-8204

paul.r.labbe@questdiagnostics.com

BOARD

Kathy Good, 513-872-6034

kgood@shrinenet.org

Lisa Littleton, 614-722-5318

littletonl@childlab.com

Connie Lang (740) 356-8228

langc@somc.org

Audrey Kerby (513) 853-5821

ajkerby@health-partners.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communication

Renee Cuevas-Downs

Membership

Jenny Murray

Education co-chairs

Wanita Ruppert, Jade Wilson

Healthcare Policy

Paul Labbe

Strategic Planning

Paul Labbe

Professional OutReach

Jim Reynolds (Chair)

Visit our chapter web site for all the latest info!

www.sixriversclma.org

Eric Burgess
Hospital Territory Manager, LabCorp
Dublin, Ohio

Krucita Caesar
Lab Manager, Providence Medical Laboratory
Dayton, Ohio

Carole Lopez
Technical Manager, Compunet Clinical
Laboratories
Dayton, Ohio

Crystal Morris
Phlebo & Spec Processing Supv, Fairfield Med Ctr
Lancaster, Ohio

Jeffrey Richey
Marketing Rep, South Bend Medical Foundation
Ashland, Ohio

Lynn James
Laboratory Manager
Wilson Memorial Hospital

Don't Forget to renew your CLMA
membership – Get new members

CHAPTER CHATTER- published quarterly, usually in
February, May, August and November as an educational
service to members. The deadline for material
for publication is the 15th of the month preceding the
month of issue. Articles are welcome!

Contact:

Barb Keehn, (937) 297-8303

Barb.a.keehn@questdiagnostics.com

2004 Member Interest Survey Summary

In 2004 we had an improved return on our member survey, 22 of the 120 Six Rivers Chapter members responded as compared to last year's 13. We sent out a mass e-mail and then mailed out the remaining ones to members without e-mail.

One of the most common themes was more educational opportunities (small group meetings) in the local area for members, especially in the south central Ohio region. In the past Six Rivers has had several local meetings, for example ones were held in Columbus and Middleton, and there seems to be a greater need for these types of local meetings in areas where educational opportunities are far and few between.

Other suggestions were:

- Teleconference sponsorship and inviting membership at large to come to these meetings.
- Input should be from those not usually heard or that do not participate as much.
- Increase individual involvement.
- Providing updates on topics that impact the practical aspects of lab management (web based ordering/resulting, CPT codes changes, changes in reimbursement by payers, etc.).
- Focus meetings-POCT, Compliance, billing, education for lab managers.

For 2005 the Six Rivers board members have planned to organize local (small group) meetings throughout the year to provide educational opportunities to all members. Surveys will now be more user friendly with the help of www.surveymonkey.com and the website will include additional local and regional education opportunities and information.

Political Action Committee Update:

CLMA established a Political Action Committee (PAC) in 2004 as a means to work with a number of sister laboratory organizations and pool their resources, as appropriate, on health care policy making processes. ASCLS, CAP, AAB all have Political Action Committees that gain support from their membership through contributions, and CLMA's goal for the first year was reached through membership support. PAC Contributions may be made by CLMA members and CLMA employees. Contributions are personal and are not tax deductible, and therefore a chapter cannot contribute. We ask that all Six Rivers CLMA Members consider supporting our profession and our organization through contributions to the CLMA PAC. Contribution forms may be accessed on the CLMA web site under the Members Only at: <http://www.clma.org/CLDR/files/ContributionForm0304.pdf>

The Powers of the CLMA PAC

- a) The committee may raise funds, and from such funds make contributions to persons in political work. Contributions will be made primarily to candidates for federal elective office without regard to the party affiliations.
- b) The Committee may receive gifts and grants of money or property, invest and reinvest, collect income, and disburse funds. No part of the net earnings of the Committee shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to any member, or officer or director of this organization or any private individual (except reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Committee affecting one or more of its purposes).

The General Role and Responsibility of the Board Members

Typically PAC Board Members play a role in several areas of the PAC's Operation. These roles include:

1. **Fundraising.** Like members of many boards, the role of PAC Board Members is participatory. CLMA Board Members are expected to play a role in generating the funds to operate a successful PAC. Generally this role involves helping to design and coordinate fundraising activities, actively soliciting individuals eligible to donate, and setting an example by making a donation.
2. **Expenditures.** Members of the Board are expected to participate in decisions to contribute to political candidates and elected officials. Concurrent with the CLMA's mission to be a bi-partisan advocate for our industry on Capital Hill, members will participate in deciding the most effective and efficient use of contributions to advance our agenda. Just as the PAC attempts to avoid partisan and personal criteria for contribution decisions, so too should the Board members.
3. **Advice and Administration.** Members of the Board will advise and participate in the setting of board policies and procedures. Members will work with the Board's staff liaison and Treasurer to assist in development of PAC materials and will be expected to attend PAC functions as well as political functions where PAC donations will be contributed. Board Members will represent the PAC to the Association, to the Industry and to Elected Officials and will be expected to protect and promote CLMA interests when doing so.

Clinical Laboratory Coalition Report - 109th Congress Planning Session

I was honored to represent AMT for the 1st session, 109th Congress Planning & Strategy Session held in Washington, D.C. January 11th.

I took the opportunity to go in early to visit Abby Kral, Health Legislative Assistant for Senator Mike DeWine and Jo Heaton, Health Legislative Assistant for Congressman Michael Turner. I addressed concerns and left position papers on Competitive Bidding, Co-Payments, CPI freeze, and increasing the specimen draw fee. They were both very receptive to my concerns.

The Coalition meeting was for the purpose to plan, strategize and prioritize on issues anticipated to come up in the 109th congress. The Budget is likely to be delivered to congress within three weeks and there is good likelihood the Co-Payment for Lab services will resurface. Don Lavanty, Attorney for ASCLS and well-known speaker predicted it would have a 60 – 70% chance of passing in this congress. The Competitive bidding demonstration occupied considerable discussion time along with CPI freeze, Fee Schedule Revision, Personnel Shortage, Specimen Collection increase, and a couple bills introduced last session concerning Quality. H.R. 5311 Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment which would have required unannounced inspections, & "Medicare Hospital Accreditation Act of 2004 (S.B. 2698 & H.R. 4877) which would eliminate the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) special accreditation status as set forth in the Medicare statute. Another very disturbing report was made on a recent meeting ACLA had with Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC). MedPAC is recommending to CMS that "CMS require those who perform lab tests to submit values on claims or separately using common vocabulary and messaging standards." The coalition was very concerned. The intent is to monitor physician performance, not necessarily monitor laboratory quality but can you imagine the implications for the laboratory to provide the results with every claim submitted?

The coalition developed levels of importance for key issues and designated key leadership as follows:

1st tier level issues: Co-Pays, CPI Freeze, Competitive Bidding Demo

2nd tier level issues: Fee Schedule Revision, Personnel Shortage, Specimen Collection Fee, Florida Competitive Bidding, Substantially in Excess rule, MedPAC –provision of values to CMS (

The designated organizations and leaders will develop position papers and template letters to be ready as the need arises. All coalition members will actively participate in grassroots efforts as led by their membership and leadership. The goal is to be more proactive in educating congress on these issues perhaps before they ever

surface. They may do this through Fundraisers, visits to district and DC offices, letters and e-mails, and fly ins for grassroots members of the organizations. Two will be planned in 2005. Each organization was asked to contribute \$ 3,000.00 to a pooled fund for advocacy purposes.

The Florida Medicaid Competitive bidding proposal is of national concern because (1) it is a bad proposal and (2) it could set a precedent for other states to follow. Why is it a bad proposal? To list a few: 1) One bidder takes all; (2) it will create access issues, no one laboratory has the necessary infrastructure to services the whole State yet the bidding process is based on CPT codes, nothing built in to develop PSCs, couriers, etc; (3) it requires the winning lab to create electronic interfaces with at least three major data users, as well as referring physicians; (4) Hospital non-inpatients and ESRD patients are exempt yet capitated rates will be based on number of Medicaid patients (could be duplicate payments); (5) 97 independent labs will not be able to serve Medicaid patients; it calls for a \$ 1.00 co-pay from Medicaid patients just to list a few. Supposedly, if no bids are received by April 1, 2005, Medicaid fees for all independent laboratory procedures will be reduced by 10% and labs providing testing services to Medicaid patient must transmit results electronically to an internet-based pharmacy-ordering system. This may be the best for everybody involved but still difficult for smaller labs to come up with electronic capabilities mentioned.

Respectfully Submitted,
John W. Sherer, MT(AMT)
Chair, Federal Government Affairs Committee

Ohio River Valley Clinical Laboratory Management Association/AACC Regional Conference and Exhibition

**Ohio River Valley Clinical Laboratory Management Association/AACC
Regional Conference and Exhibition**

**“Tides of Change in Healthcare”
April 26 - 28, 2005**

Keynote: Motivational Leadership - Keeping your head above water - Kent Rader

Pre-Conference Workshop
3 General Sessions
8 Breakouts

Technical
and
Management Topics

Vendor
Exhibits



Networking Dinner
Newport Aquarium

Poster Presentations
(With prizes)

**The Drawbridge Inn
2477 Royal Drive
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017**

**For more information:
www.ohiorivervalley.org**

Celebrate National Laboratory Week April 24 - 30, 2005

Six Rivers Chapter



Looking for an inexpensive way to recognize each and every staff member?

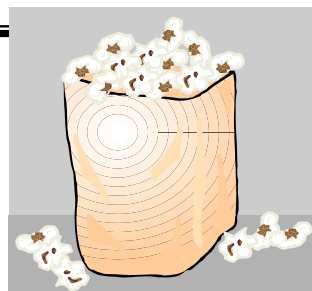
Look no further!

Your order also helps support CLMA educational efforts!

Six Rivers chapter of CLMA is sponsoring a
National Laboratory Week

Coffee, Candy & Popcorn Sale

Break-time favorites with a personal message for just \$1.00 each



For more
information,
contact

Connie Lang
(740) 356-8228 or
langc@somc.org



Celebrate National Lab Week
April 24 - 30, 2005

Have a Break on us!

Special Thanks from Your Name Here

See attached order form:
Order by 4/8/05 for delivery prior to Lab Week



Candy Sale Order Form

Candy Type	Quantity Ordered	Cost/bar	Total Cost
2.25 oz M&M		\$1.00	
2.40 oz Snickers Bar		\$1.00	
3.0 oz Skittles		\$1.00	
2.40 oz Reeses' Cup		\$1.00	
2.24 oz KitKat		\$1.00	
Boston's Best Gourmet Coffee - Columbian		\$1.00	
Boston's Best Gourmet - Decaffeinated		\$1.00	
Boston's Best - French Vanilla Creme		\$1.00	
Microwave Popcorn packet		\$1.00	
Total			

Please PRINT personalized message below: _____

If you would like the message printed on the example with your name inserted, please just indicate your identification here: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Send Check and completed order form to: **Connie Lang**
Make checks payable to *Six Rivers CLMA* 1805 27th Street.
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Questions? Call Connie Lang (740) 356-8228 or E-mail langc@somc.org

Announcing!

**Assuring Laboratory Excellence:
Our Vision / Our Value**

ASCLS-Ohio Educational Conference
May 11 - 13, 2005

Quest Conference Center
Columbus, Ohio

Save the dates and make plans NOW to join your clinical laboratory colleagues from across the state at the ASCLS-Ohio Annual Educational Conference and Meeting in Columbus on May 11-13, 2005. The Quest Conference Center is easily accessible from all parts of Ohio, as it is conveniently located at exit 121 (Polaris) off I-71 North.

The conference/meeting is expected to attract attendees from all over Ohio because of the tentative plans that include:

- Two and one half days of current “hot topic” seminars
- Over 35 hours of Continuing Education
- Special programming and dinner for educators
- Student-centered sessions
- Student Jeopardy-style “academic challenge”
- Board of Directors and Member Business Meetings
- Networking opportunities
- And much more . . .

This annual conference will once again be affordable, convenient and guaranteed to provide many educational and career enhancing benefits to all attendees. **For further information, please contact:** *Lucy Randles, Program Chair (330-666-5813 or HCA Lucy@aol.com) or Joan Longberry, President (614-267-3450 or JFLongberry@cs.com).*

You can check for conference details and updates that will be posted on the ASCLS-Ohio website at www.oscls.com. Program brochures will be mailed in early March.

↳ **Enhance your clinical laboratory career . . .**

↳ **Network with colleagues . . .**

↳ **Learn “cutting edge” information that will increase
your practice knowledge and marketability!**

Mark your calendars / Tell your colleagues! We hope to see YOU there!

Ohio River Valley/AACC Meeting information at
www.ohiorivervalley.org

Upcoming Meetings

2005 Conferences

2005 CLMA/ASCP Annual Conference, March 5 - 8, 2005, Chicago, IL

2005 Ohio River Valley CLMA/AACC Spring Meeting, April 26-28, 2005, Watch for more information at
www.ohiorivervalley.org

ASCLS–Ohio Educational Conference , May 11-13, 2005, **Quest Conference Center, Columbus, Ohio**

2005 AACC/IACC Annual Conference, July 24 - 28, 2005, Orlando, FL