

Chapter Chatter

Volume 6, Issue 1

January/February 2006

Special points of interest:

- Annual Report for 2005
- Fall Conference 2005
- Make a difference!!

Greetings from the Prez!

A belated Happy New Year to you all! In case you did not notice, your Board has been somewhat remiss as we neglected to publish last quarter's newsletter; however, not for lack of news. We beg your forgiveness and promise to do better in the future. Now for a chapter update... First, with record member participation in the online balloting process, we elected our new Board members. I am delighted to welcome Craig Boyd, Treasurer, and Marshall Spalding, Board Member At Large. Renee Cuevas-Downs, Secretary, and Connie Lang, Board Member At Large, were re-elected to a second term. Thank you to our outgoing board member Audrey Kerby. And a very special thank you to Sandy Frommeyer, who leaves the board after serving as treasurer for two consecutive terms!



**Joyce Dicks, President
Six Rivers Chapter CLMA**
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Annual Report – December 2005

The Six Rivers Chapter (SRC) of CLMA 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 2005 with the new board and participating members updating the chapter strategic plan for 2005-2006.
- Active participation by our SRC members in education seminars, national organizational initiatives, and policy setting discussions throughout the year.

Membership Initiatives:

- Initiated welcome communication to all new members via phone calls, new member packets, and personal visits.
- Developed list of key contacts in all chapter hospitals to assist in recruitment.
- Targeted additional vendor membership; added four (4) new members.
- Promoted CLMA's "Get a Member" campaign.
- Achieved committed vendor participation in the membership committee, thus providing valuable contacts for potential members.
- Monthly phone call reminders to lapsing members.
- Consistently maintaining base of 101 – 108 members.

Professional Outreach Initiatives:

- Awarding three (3) scholarships early in 2006, one (1) for \$1000 and two (2) for \$500 each.
- SRC Scholarship Application Form revised and distributed September 2005 to CLS/CLT programs within our chapter's geographic area.
- Committee members committed to contact a least one school or group in their area by December 31, 2005, to explore opportunities to promote the clinical laboratory profession

Annual Report (con't)

Communication Initiatives:

- Monthly broadcast email messages to all members on timely topics including upcoming educational programs, national lab week promotions, and management and policy issues.
- Website enhancement including a "What's new" page, committee chair contact information, and posting a dynamic calendar of events with the opportunity for members to submit educational events sponsored by their hospital/facility.
- Quarterly production of the Chapter Chatter newsletter highlighting events through committee article updates and pictures of social events.
- Innovative approach in seeking member input and satisfaction via an online survey tool. Initial survey response was over 50% of members.
- Monthly SRC board meetings via teleconference utilizing technology to bring our geographic area closer, and ensuring ongoing focus of our strategic plan.



Educational Initiatives:

- Ohio River Valley Conference, April 27 – 28, 2005, held at Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, KY; annual collaborative meeting with other CLMA chapters and Ohio Valley AACC.
- Spring meeting, June 23, 2005, held at Childrens Hospital, Columbus, OH. Focus was customer service and volunteerism with Robert Therrien, CLMA Board Member presenting.
- Small Group Meetings launched summer 2005 in 3 of 4 chapter geographic areas, including Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati, in an effort to bring educational programs and networking "closer to home."
- 2005 Annual CLMA Conference in Chicago, IL attended by various members. Board representatives participated in the Council of Chapter Leaders meeting.
- SRC Fall Conference at Deer Creek State Park, October 6-7, 2005.

Health Care Policy Initiatives:

- Promoted HC policies favorable to the clinical lab industry through CLMA PAC promotion, participation in CLMA HC Policy Committee, and direct responses to CLMA and legislators on current issues.
- Represented at the Washington, DC Lab Coalition meeting in January 2005; met with legislators.
- Members at CompuNet Clinical Labs collaborated with the Wright State CLS Program in developing and presenting pilot program to introduce clinical lab science to students at Vandalia Butler high school, Dayton, Ohio.
- Members at CompuNet Clinical Labs helped sponsor and judge the Montgomery County HS Science Fair.
- Initiated contact with area legislators regarding action on legislation and extended invitations to visit an area clinical lab.
- Members active in area compliance officer groups in Cincinnati and Dayton.
- Met with OSCLS and AMT members to review current lab personnel licensure issues.

Financial Initiatives:

- Annual financial report filed with the CLMA executive office.
- Lab Week candy promotion sale raised funds for our student scholarship program.
- Silent auction and associated raffles also raised funds for scholarships.
- Promoted chapter participation in the CLMA PAC fund.
- Chapter continues on a sound financial footing

We are also quite proud of Paul Labbe who was selected to run for election to the CLMA Board of Directors; and encourage all members to cast your ballot!

Thank you for a successful 2005. Please contact any board member or committee chair for information or willingness to get involved! We need you.

Joyce Dicks
President, SRC

Program and Education Committee Update: Fall Conference Wrap-Up

On October 6/7, at Deer Creek Resort and Conference Center we held our annual two day get-away and conference. We had the great pleasure of getting a visit from Lea Owens, Membership Relations Specialist from the CLMA national office.



Thursday night was our networking dinner (which was actually a cookout) with John Hauss as head burger and hot dog turner! About 30 vendors and members came and caught up with one another and Lea got to meet everyone. We even tried roasted marshmallow Peeps!

After the fun night, it was time to get back to business with our full schedule of vendor exhibits and speakers. To align with our theme, “Don’t Gamble with Safety—Protecting Our Patients, Protecting Ourselves;” we had three speakers who talked about quality assurance and safety in the laboratory. Cindy Manning, B.A., MT (ASCP), R.N. (Manager, Transfusion Services at ARUP Laboratories) and Teresa Darcy, MD, MMM (Associate Professor, Medical Director of Clinical Laboratories at University of Wisconsin) covered the topics of quality and how to always look for ways to improve processes in your laboratory. “The Safety Lady,” Terry Jo Gile provided an entertaining interactive session on laboratory safety.

There were a total of 22 vendor registrations sent in. We are so appreciative of our vendor support! If you see any of the vendors below, please thank them for supporting our chapter!

Antek Health-ware	emdeon Business Services (formerly WebMD)	Medical Chemical Corp	Beckman Coulter, Inc.	HemoCue Inc.	Roche Diagnostics
ARUP	Fisher Healthcare	Medical Electronic Systems	CareEvolve	LabCorp	South Bend Medical Foundation
BD	Global Focus Marketing & Distribution	Orchard Software Corp.	Dade Behring	Misys Healthcare	Specialty Laboratories
B&B Microscopes	Grant/Riverside Laboratories	Quest Diagnostics	Telcor, Inc.		

The meeting also included a silent auction to support the Clinical Laboratory Sciences program student scholarships. We were able to raise \$792 (a record!) for the scholarships. With monies from the 2004, we are able to award two \$500 scholarships this year.

It was a wonderful meeting and everyone enjoyed catching up and the scenic venue. Thanks to all who helped and participated in making the conference a great success! Check out the Six Rivers website for pictures of the event!



Small Group Meetings

Did you know that the Six Rivers Chapter membership area covers Central and Southern Ohio, Northern Kentucky and Southeastern Indiana? During our last member survey folks responded that they would prefer to have meetings close to where they work and live. Makes sense, right? So, the Program Committee, along with the Six Rivers Board of Directors, is introducing the concept of small group meetings.



What are small group meetings? We have regionalized the chapter in to four areas, Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus and Southeastern Ohio. In each of these regions, there are leaders who have volunteered to organize events for their local members, using both CLMA and vendor support. We are hoping that this will encourage you, at the local level, to be more involved in your chapter, and to make it more convenient for you to attend the wonderful educational and informational programs the members put together.

Who are the leaders of these groups?

Region	Leader(s)	Location	Phone	E-mail
Cincinnati	Joyce Dicks	Shriners Hospital	513-872-6325	jdicks@shrinenet.org
Columbus	Jade Wilson	Columbus Children's Hospital/ChildLab	614-722-5376	wilsojad@chi.osu.edu
Dayton	Jane Tester	Wayne Hospital	937-547-5939	jane.testers@waynehospital.com
	Lynn James	Wilson Memorial Hos-	937-498-5349	ljames@wilsonhospital.com
Southeast-	Connie Lang	Southern Ohio Medical	740-356-8228	langc@somc.org

How do I know which group I am in? In the fall you would have received an invitation to a "Back to School—Back to CLMA" event in your area. Everyone chose to center their meeting around sponsoring an audio conference. The goal is to have one meeting a quarter, so if you missed this first meeting, look for the next meeting invite for 1st quarter of 2006! This invitation will explain which area you belong to and welcome you back to CLMA, if you have not been able to attend other meetings. If you are already an active member, come see some folks you have not seen in awhile, or new members who may have joined our group.

If you would like more information regarding small group conferences, please contact me at wilsojad@chi.osu.edu.

Jade Wilson, Program and Education Co-chair

Did you know?

Six Rivers refers to the

- Ohio River
- Licking River
- Little Miami River
- Great Miami River
- Scioto River
- Olentangy River

And covers over 16,000 square miles!

The resource for laboratory professionals.

Laboratorians Making a Difference

SIX RIVERS CLMA

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Laboratorians make a difference every day with the care and services they provide. We are looking for those stories where your interaction with a patient, caregiver or co-worker exemplifies the caring nature of our profession. We are looking for stories that touch the heart.

If you have any such story that you would like to share we would love to hear it and to share it through the newsletter. Please contact Kathy Good at (513) 872-6034 or kgood@shrinenet.org for further information.

Here is our first story...

Comfort zones, we all have them. For some it may be a place like their home or workplace, for others it may be the daily routine, nothing unknown. Have you ever considered leaping out of your comfort zone to offer aid to someone in need? Jean did.

Jean, a laboratorian for over 25 years, had an opportunity to help people who were less fortunate, people thousands of miles away. Jean was a participant in a medical mission to Honduras through the organization Shoulder to Shoulder, Inc. (www.shouldertoshoulder.org). The goal of the non-profit, non-government organization established in 1996 is to "improve health outcomes in poor communities through primary health care, public health, dental care and education".

Jean began her journey several months before the actual trip helping to organize and gather donations for personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, tooth paste and shampoo. She prepared personally by taking preventive medications and making sure that everything at home was in order. She was leaving her two teenage daughters behind to offer some much needed assistance to a rural mountain community.

The October trip took several hours. The jungle bus ride seemed to go on forever. They arrived at the mountain clinic, also established by Shoulder to Shoulder and got to work. The waiting rooms were packed with people with simple ailments, farming accidents and general health concerns. Some traveled for several days on foot to see the medical team. In addition to some basic laboratory procedures, Jean helped prepare preventive medication packets and assisted other care providers.

Several days were spent in mountain schools offering preventive vitamins, parasite control and health screenings. The children's faces are what Jean remembers most. Their excitement over the strangers bringing gifts of toothbrushes and vitamins was evident in their smiles. Jean recalled a tiny patient that she'll never forget.

The newborn infant was tiny, weighing less than 4 pounds. The baby girl's mother was unable to care for her in the vital first few days of her life. "She was the tiniest, cutest little thing I've ever seen", said Jean. Jean and a medical resident shared the responsibility of caring for the baby, feeding her infant formula with a syringe until the mother was able to begin feeding the infant herself.

Jean often wonders how the infant is doing after her precarious start in the world. Chances are, she is doing fine in her own little mountain hut comfort zone. By taking the opportunity to step out of her comfort zone to the uncertain terrain of Honduras was a once in a life time experience that Jean will never forget. It is amazing what we take for granted in our daily activities. When a gift of a toothbrush will bring a smile to a child's face, maybe it doesn't take anything extravagant to make a difference. Maybe all it takes is you.

Six Rivers Chapter

CLMA 

THE RESOURCE FOR LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS