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For additional photos, please see our website—the link is to the right of this column :)
Western District Councillor’s Message

November 2019

As another AMT’s 81st Educational Program and National Meeting comes to an end in Chicago, Illinois at the Chicago Hilton Hotel 720 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, IL 6060, July 1-5, 2019.

I hope everyone that had the opportunity to go to Chicago was able to walk around the city and see some of the amazing things they offered, especially Navy Pier. They had a great show for the 4th of July.

Here is some important information I need to share with you:
• The convention was a great success and had over 401 attendees.

• One new officer was elected to the National Board.
  
  ○ President: Jeannie Hobson, Vice President: Christopher Seay, Secretary: Deb Westervelt, Ken Hawker: Treasurer, and new to the board: Kathy Sutton.

• 2020 Convention will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. July 13 -17, 2020; at the Hyatt Regency. Plan on hot air balloon riding.

• 2021 Convention will be held in the Southern area, location to be announced.

• Honor Roll state societies, you truly are an inspiration to us all.
  
  ○ I am so proud of the work the Western District has done—Honor Roll recipients for the Western district are: California, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Rocky Mountain societies.

• Congratulations to the following award winners: 1st place Journal: Juanito Naval, MT - New Mexico; 1st place Newsletter: Nicole Weiss, RMA, RPT, AHI - California; 3rd place Newsletter: Henry Oh, Ph.D., MT, AHI - Utah.

  Distinguished Achievement Award: Terry Ann Else, Ph.D., MT - Nevada; Lisa Gabaldon, RMA, AHI - New Mexico;

  Exceptional Merit Award, Henry Oh Ph.D. MT, AHI, Utah; Nicole Weiss RMA, RPT, AHI - California;

  Pillar Award, Lucy Leyva, RPT - Wyoming;

  Silver Service Award, Marilyn Albertsen, MT - Oregon;

  GEM Award, Barbara J. Garrido, RMA - Colorado;

  Marty Hinkel, MT - Wyoming; Sharalyn (Sharon) Paff, RMA - California.

As always, it is an honor to work with you all. Looking forward to seeing and working with this great district in the coming months!

Hope you all had a great time.

Sheryl Rounsivill RMA, RPT, CMAS, AHI
Western District Councillor

Nevada News
President’s Message
November 2019

Can you believe the year is almost over??? We had a very successful Fall Scientific and Business meeting at Northwest Career College in Las Vegas on Friday, September 27. The college had a great room for our meeting! And all the speakers’ topics were diverse and interesting. We are looking forward to a spring meeting here in Las Vegas that will be a joint meeting with the other Western District state societies—it will be held March 27-29, 2020. Be sure to mark the dates on your calendars for this fun meeting (where you will receive CEIs), and look for more information on it in your email in the near future! The hotel will be chosen soon for the meeting.

Last July, NVSSAMT sent a record seven delegates to AMT’s national meeting in Chicago! Remember, any member in good standing who attends a Nevada state business meeting is eligible to be chosen as a delegate to the AMT national meeting that follows. And the meeting in July 2020 will be in Albuquerque—not as far away to travel!

And, just a reminder that our website has moved to be at AMT’s website. The link is: https://www.americanmedtech.org/Be-Involved/State-Societies/Nevada-State-Society And remember to check our Facebook page for current information as well—we try to give you updates there, or just post the occasional relevant "news" item.

Be sure to read the delegate reports that follow—those will give you more information about what we did while at the national meeting.

Also, if you would like to attend our next state board meeting, it will be held Thursday evening, March 26, 2020.

May you have a happy Thanksgiving, a wonderful Christmas, and a blessed New Year!

Juanita Stocke, MT(AMT)
President, NVSSAMT

2019 NVSSAMT Delegates!
Delegate Reports

Dr. Terry Ann Else, PhD, MT(AMT)

The 2019 AMT National Meeting was filled with high quality talks and workshops. The speakers were the top experts in their fields. The first day of talks included the keynote speaker who provided techniques in motivating individuals and to understand how to interact with one another by using the means of treating others as you would like to be treated. He provided real life examples of how individuals went the extra mile in providing excellent service and extending kindness to others. This talk was followed by an informative presentation on the gut microbiome and how microbes affect our health by producing key metabolites that we need (vitamins and aromatics).

The bulk of the week included talks from a wide variety of topics and disciplines to enrich and educate everyone in the AMT. The dementia talk showed us how to interact with those suffering from dementia like Alzheimers and how to continue to communicate and provide the dignity these people deserve. We learned about food microbiology and botulism – that is how to can and preserve food safely. A very interesting presentation used visuals in the form of participants each dressed up to look like a microbial pathogen and we had to guess what its identity was. This was not only informative but very entertaining and engaged the entire audience.

The awards banquet dinner recognized many people who have labored to see AMT successful over the years. Our state society, Nevada, was one of a number of states that made the Honor Roll. I was nominated and awarded with the Distinguished Achievement Award. I was very honored.

In addition to the talks, we had our day of business meetings. My day started with attending the Western District meeting. One of the highlights of this meeting was suggesting a Western District regional meeting to be held possibly in the next year or 2. The delegates present were enthusiastic and work is underway to begin the planning. I attended the AMTIE and Town Hall Meetings where committees presented their reports and concerns/issues were addressed. The day concluded with the AMT business meeting. Among the key activities was the election of new officers and Board of Directors. This election was successful and resulted in the re-election of the current AMT President and one of the Board of Directors, and the election of a new Board of Director.

Our meeting concluded on July 5 with a State Leadership Workshop. Much information was shared on basic yet essential means of how state societies should do their banking, where to find forms to complete essential functions like approval of speakers, use of AMTrax, and the functions of all officers/Board of Directors at the national and state levels. This turned into a satisfying conclusion for the AMT National Meeting 2019.
**Susan Deang, MT(AMT)**

My O My… Things I Missed

This is my first time attending AMT National Meeting and I regret that I missed the previous meetings. This meeting gave my profession the sense of importance and pride it deserves—a licensed MT through AMT. The event location, education programs, speakers, keynote speaker (outstanding), board members and all personnel involved in organizing this event are excellent. The best part of being an AMT member at the national meeting is like knowing everyone as a family though we have different disciplines. I met many friends and have exchanged likes and dislikes. Friends I met will be one of the reasons I will be attending more AMT national meetings.

As far the educational programs outside my discipline as MT, there were far more interesting and informative programs such as: “A glimpse Into the World of Dementia”, “Hypertension: Diagnosis and Treatment” of this common condition that I enjoy the most. These programs helped me understand how to deal with friends or relatives that have dementia; and the information on how to prevent and maintain good blood pressure instead of having high blood pressure (which is common in society) is a plus.

I would like to thank our Nevada State Society president Juanita Stocke for allowing me to be a delegate and to experienced things I missed from a great organization (AMT).

**Ronaldo Deang, MT(AMT), CLS(CA), CSH(ABHI)**

Believe It… My Experience Was Amazing

Being a first-time attendee—and a delegate—to the AMT national meeting, it was an amazing experience and something to be proud of. Also, as a licensed CLS from the state of California, and a certified Histocompatibility Specialist (CHS) through the American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ABHI), I’ve been through many regional and national meetings, but AMT has a different vibe. The organization, selection of meeting location, the educational programs are outstanding and YES, the fun part was the motivational speaker Chip Madera. Above all are the friendly people.

Even though I’m in a specialty laboratory (Tissue Typing Laboratory) as a Quality Specialist, HLA laboratories preferably employs MTs. HLA is like a Blood Banking concept. It was highly recommended by my Director for me to attend this meeting due to its excellent educational program that talks about QA, Proficiency, Inspection and Analytical Testing. I have verified and reconfirmed our QA and learned new things that I can bring to my Laboratory to better our preparation for CAP inspection and certification for our new extended laboratory.

I would like to give special thanks to our Nevada State Society president Juanita Stocke for her guidance and continued support to be engaged in the world of AMT.

**Guess the Microbes!**
Flo Simon, MT(AMT)

Monday morning, July 1, 2019. I don’t know but I was excited and anxious to start the day to listen to different, interesting topics. But before that, the Opening Ceremony and Remarks began with a welcome message from Jeannie Hobson, AMT President, followed by a Keynote Address by Chip Madeira, “Exceptional Experiences: Every Patient, Every Time”; General Session, “Drug-Like Molecules From the Microbiome”.

In the afternoon, I picked this topic: “No Can Do: Food Botulism Toxin Poisoning from Home Canning” presented by Cherry-Ann Da Costa-Carter. She discussed case studies on how improper home canning went terribly wrong and led to life threatening outcomes. In the evening, the Welcome Party was at the Continental Ballroom. It was a fun night, and it was good seeing familiar faces even if they don’t know me. The food was great.

Tuesday morning, You can’t miss this topic, “Pre-Analytical Best Practices in Blood and Urine Collection” presented by Jean Tenuta. We learned/reinforced our knowledge of proper collection and handling of blood and urine samples so that the results generated most accurately reflect in vivo status in the patient. Collection devices may alter results; this session brought awareness of best practices and materials to avoid. Another interesting one was “Spinal Cord Injuries”. This was followed by Committee Meetings and Meet the Candidates and Resolutions Committee presentations. As a first time delegate, I was not aware of what topic they were given, but they all did a good job.

And the winner is? ...The Awards Banquet, and take note there is a Live Band! Awesome night.

Wednesday, hot topics: It’s the talk of the town, “Facing the Opioid Crisis”, “Emerging Clinical Applications for Medical Cannabis”. Here’s my favorite, “Red Cell Morphology” by Dr. Georgia McCauley. We get to identify abnormal cells by using Play-Doh. Fun!

Thursday involved district meetings, and AMTIE/AMT Annual Business Meetings. I got the chance to vote in the election of the AMT Board of Directors. Congratulations to the winners!

Last but not the least, I went to watch fireworks at Navy Pier! Beautiful!

Naomi Marquez, MT(AMT)

“If you had always assumed that Chicago earned its nickname as the Windy City from the chilly gusts coming off Lake Michigan, you would be wrong. The city is windy, according to most local legends, because of the hot air coming from politicians.” A quote by Jeff Zeleny from the New York Times in which he erroneously believes Chicago’s famous nickname originated with windbag politicians in the 19th century. Chicago was where AMT’s 81st Educational Program and National Meeting were held from July 1-5, 2019, at the Chicago Hilton at 720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL. The hotel, built in 1927, has the grand ballroom (where our general sessions were held) that still has its original structure and its enormous chandeliers. I’m just in awe of its beauty and grandeur. NVSSAMT had our most well attended meeting this year with 7 delegates from our state.

Day 1- July 1: The Opening Ceremony and Remarks were followed by the Keynote Address by Chip Madera entitled “Exceptional Experiences: Every Patient Every time” and his General Session later in the afternoon titled “Courageous Leadership: Inspiring Others In Times of Change” were topics that transformed my mindset in the workplace. Another topic later in the day was “A Glimpse into the World of Dementia” made me understand Alzheimer’s disease in a different perspective and positively communicate with persons who have dementia. The day ended with the Welcome Party for a fun night socializing. Tasty Chicago treats were served. We had a State Society baskets exchange by raffle drawing and danced the night away. There was also a photo booth set up that
we took advantage of to have souvenirs for the group.

Day 2- July 2 was designated for breakout sessions of our interest. I went to the workshop for Antibody ID which turned to be a comprehensive approach rather than just a review as indicated. It would be hard to understand for MTs who have had minimal exposure to the Blood Bank department. The next session I attended was “Name That Organism” which was fun and interactive; a new and exciting way to introduce and describe microorganisms by people who wore costumes that depicted their identity. In the afternoon, I attended the Convention and Mentors Committee Meetings followed by Meet the Candidates and Resolutions. The Awards Banquet and Convocation was held later that evening. NVSSAMT has been consistent with its Honor Roll award every year for meeting all the requirements as a state society. The occasion was extra special because we had our own Vice-President Terry Else receive the Distinguished Achievement Award.

Day 3- July 3: The day’s General Session on the Opioid Crisis and the use of Cannabis for treatment were both interesting topics. The highlight of my day was that I had a chance to go for an Urban Adventure Cruise hosted by Mercury Chicago’s Skyline CruiseLine where I experienced Chicago’s Epic Skyline, historic buildings, and modern marvels. I also had a chance to see the Bean at Chicago’s Millennium Park.

Day 4- July 4: The whole day was for delegates to attend the District Meetings, AMTIE Annual Business Meeting, Town Hall Session, AMT Annual Business Meeting and the AMT Board of Directors Organizational Meeting as part of the requirements to fulfill our duties as delegates. This year will be the last that AMT will be scheduling the meetings during the fourth of July. I also had the chance to attend the AMT President’s Sweet Suites Reception for the first time held in the Conrad Suite on the 30th Floor. It had a great view overlooking Grant Park and Lake Michigan from its spacious balcony.

Day 5- July 5: The whole day was for State Society Leadership Training. I was able to learn the role of each officer in the state society and had a great time with fun and games after the lectures.

Overall, another successful week for AMT to pull off such a meeting; from the choice of hotel for the venue, to the sessions and workshops, Welcome Party which was so organized, to the Awards Ceremony. The leadership trainings were very helpful for me to take with me and apply in my own workplace. I’m looking forward to another fulfilling learning experience again next year in Albuquerque, NM. Hope to see you there!
Juanita Stocke, MT(AMT)

This year’s meeting was at the Chicago Hilton just a couple of blocks from beautiful Lake Michigan—with Millennium Park nearby in-between. Monday morning the meeting officially began with the Opening Ceremony and the presentation of the colors. Dr. Paul Brown had the Invocation and John Sherer led us in singing “The Star-Spangled Banner”. This was followed by the Keynote Address by Chip Madera entitled “Exceptional Experiences: Every Patient ... Every Time”. We learned that we can make a difference in our patients’ lives by our helpfulness, attitudes and smiles. Besides the general sessions, some of the sessions I attended were on various topics, from a couple of game-style sessions—using the Kahoot It! app—on hematology and other topics, learning about foodborne botulism toxin poisoning from home canning, blood bank antibody identification, the problem of contaminated blood cultures, and even learned about the “Green Crystal of Death”. And I won’t forget the “Name That Organism” session! I was impressed that Taffy Durfee was able to get so many different members to dress as various organisms—and stay long enough to tell us about themselves as organisms (and then willingly pose for photos)!

Monday evening was the Welcome Party, complete with the State Giveaways. Ours was won by Deborah Westervelt of Missouri! Tuesday afternoon the national committees met, and I met with the Membership Committee. There, we discussed various potential ways to increase our AMT membership. Next up was “Meet the Candidates,” where we were able to find out who is running for the AMT Board this year and what they hope to accomplish if elected, and ask them a few questions. Then, Tuesday evening was the Awards Banquet and Presentation. Our Vice-President, Dr. Terry Ann Else, very deservedly won the Distinguished Achievement Award! Our state society is very proud of her and pleased to have her as part of our organization!

Wednesday morning I attended the State Presidents’ Forum. It is always nice to meet with the other states’ presidents or representatives. Thursday morning began with all of us NVSSAMT delegates attending the Western District meeting. We had the opportunity to learn about AMT’s various committees and sign up for ones that we would like to be on. Next on the agenda was AMTIE’s Annual Business Meeting, followed by the Town Hall Session where the membership (us) was allowed to ask various questions of the Board members and AMT. In the afternoon, we all lined up by state and went in the Grand Ballroom for AMT’s Annual Business Meeting. We reviewed all the Committee’s reports and Bylaws Amendments, and finally voted for the Board member candidates. Our AMT President for this year is again Jeannie Hobson, and our Vice President is Chris Seay. It is always exciting to see who our next year’s national board members are!

Wednesday evening some of us walked to Millennium Park and saw (and photographed!) the famous “bean” sculpture, as well as walked down to Lake Michigan and back. And, for the first time, I went to the Sweet Suite Reception on Thursday evening—in Jeannie Hobson’s very lovely penthouse suite. Such great views of the lake and skyline! We saw a few fireworks, but the main ones happened later in the evening. I always enjoy attending the annual meeting, and am looking forward to next year’s meeting in Albuquerque!

Lurleen Chivrell, RMA, RPT(AMT)

I would like to thank Juanita Stocke, MT, from the lovely State of Nevada for encouraging me to attend the National AMT meeting this year. I would also like to thank the entire American Medical Technologists for planning this awesome event in the windy city of Chicago, Illinois.

This was my 1st AMT National Meeting and I have got to tell you, it was AMAZING! I was blessed to learn alongside a diverse group of AMT peers. This gave me the opportunity to meet and network with other allied health professionals from a variety of different medical professions. I had the opportunity to meet some amazing people and I attended some inspiring educational sessions.
The opening ceremony and keynote address were held in the gorgeous Grand Ball Room of the Hilton Chicago. It was an absolutely beautiful and stunning architectural building. The keynote address was presented by Chip Madera, MS, CSP. Mr. Madera was a very motivational speaker; he was encouraging and comical and kept the audience laughing. His words of wisdom touched my heart when he spoke about his Disney World story.

Please find Lurleen’s complete Delegate report on our website: https://www.americanmedtech.org/Be-Involved/State-Societies/Nevada-State-Society and go to the Newsletters page

Please enjoy the Phobia Puzzle! And search for the key on our website 😊: https://www.americanmedtech.org/Be-Involved/State-Societies/Nevada-State-Society
Save the Date

American Medical Technologists
82nd Educational Program and National Meeting

Hyatt Regency
Albuquerque, NM

July 13-17, 2020

Learn more at www.americanmedtech.org

Inspirational Corner

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...”

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV)
Mark Your Calendar!

2020

March 26       NVSSAMT Board meeting, Las Vegas
March 27-29    Western District Regional Meeting, Las Vegas
July 13-17     AMT National Meeting, Albuquerque, NM
September      Board Meeting, Scientific & Business Meeting, Reno

Our Mission:

To promote the National Standards of healthcare and laboratory sciences within the state.

To provide opportunity for increasing technical knowledge of our members.

To support both National and State organizational goals.